



President's Letter



As I write this, the last of the winter is on its way out and spring is beginning. The Daffodils are up and showing their sunny faces and the Tulips will be blooming soon. When I see the flowers coming up, it renews my spirit.

Lynn Avent, Marcia Thomspson and Diane Oppedal have been coming up with some interesting things our club will do when Brandon Friendship Force comes for a visit. Being the kind considerate club we are, the committee sent a letter to Brandon reaffirming our desire to host them in September. They indicated that a few of their members are still interested in visiting our club, although they didn't have enough people who would be able to travel. We will be opening our in-bound journey to other clubs to help fill out the Brandon, Manitoba club. Keep your fingers crossed. Lynn, Marcia, and Diane have worked hard, and we hope we can get enough people to make this journey a go.

Friendship Force is more than the current political climate. If you are American traveling in Europe soon, be ready for some interesting conversations. Remember, that you are an ambassador for Friendship Force and for the United States of America. We do not have to agree with the President, but we must be the ambassadors for our own **American Values**. Rick Steves included Cameron's Travels Blog on his website. Check out the following link: <https://blog.ricksteves.com/cameron/2025/03/americans-welcome-europe-2025/>. When Jerry and I were traveling in

Coming FFCI Events

Senior Expo - May 8th
9 to 3:00 pm.

Gateway Hills Hotel and Conference center

All-Iowa Picnic - June 28

Iowa Macchine Shed

11151 Hickman Road, Urbandale, IA

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates

(Put these dates in your calendar)

Board meeting - June 17 at 4:00 pm.

Board Meeting September 16 at 4 pm.

FFCI Annual Meeting

November 8 at 10 am,

New Zealand in 2023, many people were interested in our political views. We enjoyed hearing of the Kiwi's opinions and were amazed by their political knowledge. In fact, I felt they knew more than I did.

As my travel agent said when traveling; pack not only clothes, pack your patience and now pack your humor. In friendship,

Your President,

Alta Byg

Senior Expo 2025 - A Few More Helpers Needed

On Thursday, May 8th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. our club has reserved a table to help promote Friendship Force. We have 6 people who said they could be there to watch the table. We really could use a few more so people can take some breaks and still have coverage. Contact Alta Byg at altajerbyg@gmail.com to help.

Upcoming Journeys:

Below are just a few of the upcoming journeys that have space available.

Southern New Jersey to Big Canoe North Georgia – 25142 May 28, 2025

<https://friendshipforce.myshopify.com/products/big-canoe-north-georgia-usa-25142-myff?variant=49840026878258>

Discover Amazon and the Pantanal – 25318 August 21- Sept 4, 2025

<https://friendshipforce.myshopify.com/products/discover-belem-and-the-pantanal-25318?variant=49674640720178>

Utah to Nor Peru and Tarapoto, Peru – 25064 August 4, 2025

<https://friendshipforce.myshopify.com/products/25064-utah-usa-to-nor-peru-and-tarapoto-peru?variant=49835358748978>

If those journeys do not work for you, check out the following link for a list of all the upcoming journey: <https://friendshipforce.myshopify.com/pages/all-group-journeys-for-members>

Save the Date for the All-Iowa Picnic

Des Moines will be hosting the All-Iowa Picnic on Saturday June 28th, at Iowa Machine Shed, 11151 Hickman Road, Urbandale, IA. Cost will be \$20 per person. That will be the same weekend of the Des Moines Art Festival, so you may want to plan the whole day around art.

It is not too late to enter your idea for a new Tagline for FFI.

Friendship Force International is looking for a new “Action” tagline. Right now, FFI’s tagline is “A World of Friends is a World of Peace.” If you have an idea for a new tagline, send your ideas to Taryn Roberts at taryn@friendshipforce.org.

If we learn from our mistakes, why are we always so afraid to make a mistake?



SENIOR EXPO
PRESENTED BY *Seniors in Story*

THURSDAY, MAY 8TH
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
GATEWAY HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER
2100 GREEN HILLS DRIVE, AMES
FREE TO ATTEND

Friendship Force of Central Iowa is planning on having a table at the Senior Expo on Thursday May 8th from 9 am to 3 pm. We hope to use this opportunity to help spread the word about Friendship Force. Please plan on attending and if you get a chance, tell people about your experience with Friendship Force.

We still have a couple hours that we could use some more help. It would be nice to always have at least 2 people to help at the table.

Need 2 Need 2 People to Step-Up as Membership Co-Chairs

What would a Membership Chair do? Meet with potential members to discuss Friendship Force. When new members join, visit with them ~~to~~ find out what areas might interest them, how they’d like to become involved in Friendship Force. This would be a good time to review the new member booklet with them and answer any questions they might have. As far as I know, FFCI does not have a new member booklet; FFGDM provided one for our club, so we can have the Membership Co-Chairs review and create a FFCI’s New Member Booklet.

You may have noticed by now that when there is some kind of event, many Americans request that you send an RSVP, or in other words, a response. RSVP comes from *répondez s’il vous plaît* (French for “please respond”). When our members organize an event and ask for RSVP, please make the effort to respond as soon as possible to let them know either way. They are working hard to create fun, entertaining experiences and deserve your attention.