**FFBR Monthly Bulletin: March 2013**

**President's Note: Barbara Wittkopf**

It was so enjoyable to have 14 of our members meet February 15 for a meal together at **Hunan Chinese Restaurant**. Thanks so much to Karen Pharis for arranging this. I used that opportunity to share some informational items that appear further below. We will be having another dinner out June 20 and hope everyone will be able to attend. View a picture under Club Activities on our website:
www.friendshipforcebatonrouge.org.

This coming Sunday, March 3, is our annual **World Friendship Day** observance at the LSU International Cultural Center from 2-4 pm. Frances and Charles Bennett and others are working on an ExxonMobil grant to defray the cost of this event. We will be acknowledging them in the next newsletter. That means **all YOU have to do is come**! There is plenty of parking and there will be refreshments and entertainment. Please make every effort to attend and socialize with the international students (and possibly their hosts) who will be joining us. **Please wear your badges.**

**New Zealand:** March 14 is the final payment due for the ambassadors going on the South Island Tour. Checks should be made out to Barbara Wittkopf and may be submitted at the Board Meeting that day. Thornton Cofield will send an email of the exact amount - considering the most current exchange rate.

**Sunshine:** Dianna Harris has sent a card from us all to Kathy and Bobby Brumfield letting them know we miss them while Bobby continues to recuperate.

**International Conference:** At the last Board Meeting Bob Duncan, Local Arrangements Chair, reported that the local **Heritage Choir** will open the conference. Frances has secured the **Cajun Dancers** for workshops Sunday, November 24. Register on the FFI website. There are a limited number of discounted registration fees if you will be assisting us with registration, etc. Contact Bob for more information.

**November 26.** Add this date to your personal calendars. As part of our Home Hosting after the FFI Conference we will hold a **Welcome Party** that evening at St. Paul Lutheran Church for the conference guests who will be visiting us in Baton Rouge. Also think about hosting a dinner party November 27 for some of these guests and our club hosts and let Karen know of your intent.

**Incoming ED:** This is very important. **We will need an ED when** **Ottawa, Canada, comes to visit us next year.** Please consider applying for this position. The Board will assure that you will have mentors to assist you. It is a prerequisite in our club that you be an Incoming ED before you are eligible to be an Outgoing ED. Let Barbara know by the end of March if you would be interested in applying for this position.

**Facebook:** We are beginning to create a Facebook page. Search for Friendship Force Baton Rouge on your facebook page. Send pictures/ideas to Bob or Thornton. This is a work in progress; stay tuned.

**FF International Webpage has a new look!** Visit www.thefriendshipforce.org. Specifically click under Club Resources (top) then Leadership Resources Tool Kit. You will be able to click on the (short) video: ""Explore, Understand, Serve" which explains what FF is about.

**Next Board Meeting: March 14**. **10 a.m.** at Jones Creek Public Library. Everyone is invited to attend. We will be discussing: how we might use the new FFI video; some criteria an ED might use in selecting ambassadors especially in the event we ever have more applicants than space to accommodate everyone who wants to go on an exchange; and possible Domestic Exchanges.

**February 15: Informational Meeting** (no action was taken)

Club balance as of 1/31/13 $5,119.99 (almost all of this is committed)

Outgoing Exchange: New Zealand, April 9 - May 6, 2013

Exchanges 2014: Bergen, Norway (out); Ottawa, Canada (in)

Domestic Exchanges: the Board would like to know where members would like to visit - let them know.

World Friendship Day: March 3, 2-4. Driving instructions were sent out on email. If you need directions contact Barbara.

Badges: If you do not have a badge order one from FFI under Club Resources. Contact Barbara if you need help. They are $8.

Club's website: Submit information/pictures to Thornton. Visit:
www.friendshipforcebatonrouge.org

Register for the International Conference: November 23-25 and also the Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel.

(A copy of the year's calendar was also distributed; it is also on the club's website and appeared in last month's Bulletin.)

Send information for this newsletter to Barbara. Information to disseminate to club members should be sent to Karen.

***See you this Sunday, March 3, for World Friendship Day at ICC.***