

EXPERIENCE DIFFERENT VIEWS. DISCOVER COMMON GROUND



friendship force  
MINNESOTA - TWIN CITIES



**2019 Semi-Annual General Membership Meeting and Picnic  
Saturday, July 13, 12:00 – 3:00 PM**

**Oak Hill Park, 3201 Rhode Island Avenue South  
St. Louis Park MN 55426**

**2019 Semi-Annual Business Meeting**

- FFI and Club Updates by President Jane Bardon
- Activities Review by Club Members
- Question and Answer Session

**Potluck Picnic**

- Bring a dish to share and a beverage of your choice.
- Water, plates, and utensils will be provided.
- There will be a choice of meats on the grill.
- There is a picnic shelter for eating and socializing.
- No alcoholic beverages are allowed in the park.



Set-up starts at 11:00 AM. To volunteer to help with set-up or clean-up, or for other questions, contact Cindy Cauble at [cindyc219@msn.com](mailto:cindyc219@msn.com) or 952-686-8278.

**Membership Rosters**

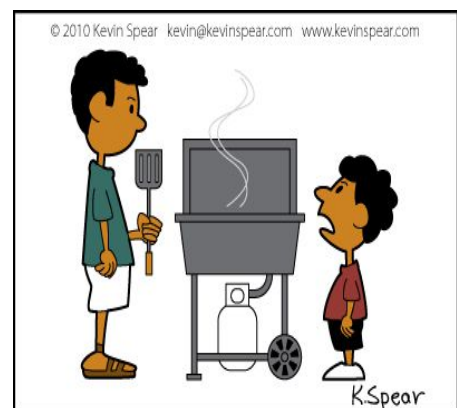
Printed membership rosters will be available – one per family.

**Directions to Oak Hill Park**

**From the east or south:**

Take the 494 West to 100North, take the Minnetonka Blvd. exit west to Rhode Island Ave. South (or left). The park is on the left.

**From the north:** Take 394 West to 100 South and follow above directions



"How's the grilling? Should I call in pizza yet?"

## Board of Directors Update

Jane Bardon, President

### MAY 31 MEETING

**Action 1:** Updated the Treasurer's job description to include the responsibility to submit Form 990 annually to the IRS to maintain the Club's 501 tax-exempt status.

**Action 2:** Approved \$600 payment to the IRS to restore the Club's 501 tax-exempt status.

**Action 3:** Approved cultural theme for 2019: "Exploring American Indian Culture"

#### Reports:

- Twenty-five Members attended the lunch and tour (21) at the Minneapolis American Indian Center on May 16.
- Rita Mays, 2020 Regional Conference General Chair, reported the hotel contract with Embassy Suites in downtown Minneapolis has been signed.
- Jane and Jack Bardon and Buck MacDonald will attend the FFI World Conference in Boulder, Colorado scheduled for July 23-26.
- Cindy Cauble and Louise Anderson will organize the 2019 Semi-Annual Meeting and Picnic to be held on July 13.

### JUNE 24 MEETING

**Action 1:** Approved incoming Journey from Los Angeles CA Club for May 2020.

#### Reports

- Tom Scott reported on the Open World program for September. Host families have been identified. Several content experts have been engaged/
- Rita Mays reported that the 2020 Committee may have a fundraising table for FFMNTC. Jane Norman is planning a pre-conference excursion.
- Discussion of proposed policy defining parameters for planning Club activities and announcement requirements.

## BOARD DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

**President:** Jane Bardon  
[janesbardon@gmail.com](mailto:janesbardon@gmail.com)  
651-484-7989

**Secretary:** Louise Anderson  
[louisemarieanderson17@gmail.com](mailto:louisemarieanderson17@gmail.com) 612-354-0927

**Treasurer:** Rose Emerick

### DIRECTORS

Cindy Cauble

John Christensen

Barb Emer – Newsletter Editor

Buck MacDonald

Rita Mays – Past President

Tom Scott – Open World Program Coordinator  
(ex-officio – non-voting)

### Non-Board Volunteers

**Historian** – Jan Lanyk

**Sunshine** – Val Hessburg

To email a Board Director, go to [friendshipforcetwincities.org/](http://friendshipforcetwincities.org/). Click on "Board Contacts" on the red menu bar, then click on the person you want to contact.

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE **August 15, 2019**

Email submissions to Barb Emer at:  
[bemer@usfamily.net](mailto:bemer@usfamily.net)

MEMBERSHIP ROSTERS WILL BE  
AVAILABLE AT THE SEMI-ANNUAL  
MEETING AND PICNIC

## FFMNTC Culture Explorations

The FFMNTC Board has named “**Exploring American Indian Culture**” as our cultural theme for this year. We started with lunch at the Gatherings Café with twenty-five members and friends and a tour of the Minneapolis American Indian Center. A couple weeks later, some members were able to attend the free, thought-provoking “Stories from the Drum” by the American Indian community at the Guthrie Theater. Next, we go to the Minneapolis institute of Arts for a special exhibit on American Indian art.



### Hearts of Our People: Native Women Artists

Minneapolis institute of Arts  
2400 3rd Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

<https://new.artsmia.org/>

### VISIT TO MIA – WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 1:00 PM

We have a new plan to visit the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and see the special exhibit: “**Hearts of our People: Native Women Artists.**” General admission to the museum is free. Although there is a \$20 admission fee for this special exhibit, **we can get in FREE by making a donation.** MIA is having a membership/donation drive July 16 – 21. To participate, call MIA at 612-870-3000. Make a donation of \$1 or more (credit card). This will make you a “MyMIA” member (with 20% off on future purchases). Ask for a FREE ticket to the “Hearts of our People” exhibit on Wednesday, July 17. They will email the tickets to you. HINT: One membership/donation can be for two people, so you can get two free tickets.

**Here’s the plan:** Meet at the Agra Culture Coffee Shop on the first floor at 1:00 PM for a light lunch/coffee. (Nametags will be helpful.) Join a public tour at 2:00 PM or view the exhibit on your own. (Audio tours are available.) After you see the special exhibit, I’ll be available to walk through the Native American Galleries with whoever is interested.

If you can join us, send me an email at [ffminnesotavp@yahoo.com](mailto:ffminnesotavp@yahoo.com) or call me at 651-484-7989, This is not a reservation, but it would be helpful to know who to expect. Jane Bardon, FFMNTC President



## JOURNEY TO CROATIA – 1999

**Lou and Mary Ann Novak of the Friendship Force of Minnesota/Twin Cities, had a dream of taking an exchange to Croatia. To do so, however, they had to find a way to establish a new program since none existed in Croatia. Here is their story.**

During a Croatian Days seminar in St. Paul, we met Dr. Branko Vukmir, General Counsel with the Croatian Investment Promotion Agency. We discussed our dream with him and he said that he had just the contact for us in Zagreb, the capital of Croatia. Imagine our surprise when I received a letter from Dr. Davor Zanella, the person who would become our exchange director in Croatia. He had the same dream of an exchange with the American People.

Over the following months, extensive planning took place on this joint venture between the Friendship Force and the Croatian Cultural Society of Minnesota. In addition to recruit and prepare the ambassadors, we had to provide Dr.Zanella the information he needed to host the first exchange to Croatia.

Twenty-seven exuberant ambassadors left for Croatia on September 21, 1999. The air was filled with anticipation for this first-time visit to Croatia. On our arrival in Zagreb, we were met by our hosts. The ambassadors were whisked away in a matter of minutes and we were assured by Dr. Zanella that all was fine. We were not only taken care of at the airport but for the rest of the week in a grandiose manner.

Our welcome party was held on the evening of our arrival. We presented the American flag, a Friendship Force banner, pictures of Jimmy Carter, our founder, as well as a picture of President William Clinton. The new Friendship Force Club of Zagreb welcomed us to Croatia with wonderful food, drinks and entertainment. One of the highlights of the evening was the piano playing of 12-year-old Nevena Cvetesic who played our National Anthem. It was a wonderful evening of camaraderie to solidify our friendships. We entertained the Croatians by singing "Take me out to the ball game" in honor of our Minnesota Twins. Imagine their surprise when we tossed peanuts and Crackerjacks to the audience!

We visited museums, the National Theater and other sights in and around Zagreb. We saw the devastation of the war at Jasenovac and had to take a primitive ferry to cross the river due to the bombed-out bridge. Seeing the children at the Carmelite Orphanage left us very emotional. Our group donated four large suitcases full of supplies including crayons, coloring books, pencils, paper, toys and candy. It was a wonderful exchange, finalized with the farewell dinner and emotional farewell speeches.

If we can bring one statement back to the American People and the Friendship Force, I think that ambassadors, Jacquie and Floyd Hagen have said it well – "For centuries the Croatian people and land have been under the occupation and domination of other peoples. Yet the spirit of freedom and self-determination has prevailed. These are a very proud people with high hopes for the future and they want Peace."

And finally, now when we are asked "Why do you want to go to Croatia?" we can reply: wonderful people, beautiful things to see and one of the most beautiful countries in the world. Our exchange was the first, but soon, Friendship Force ambassadors from other clubs will have the opportunity to make new friends in this wonderful country. We certainly are planning to go back!

**This article contains excerpts from the November,1999 issue of the FF/MN/TC newsletter. The article has been shortened due to limited space. Thanks to Mary Ann Novak for contributing material.**

**Editor's note:** Mary Ann continues to maintain her ties in Croatia and two years ago visited with the Exchange Director's wife. In 2017, Mary Ann's daughter was named one of the influential Croatian American Women.



## Open World Program - 2019

FFMNTC will be hosting an Open World Delegation from Ukraine September 6 to 14. The delegation will include five communications professionals and a bi-lingual facilitator from Ukraine. They will spend two days in Washington DC learning about the US government before they come to Minnesota. Open World will send a professional translator to work with the delegates while they are in Minnesota.

### The theme this year is

#### “Access to Public Information;”

“The Ministry of information policy of Ukraine works to ensure equal access for all to information relying on the European standards of openness and transparency in the work of public authorities. The purpose of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Access to Public Information’ is to ensure transparency and openness of public authorities and creates mechanisms for the realization of



the right of everyone to access to public information. While this law is on the books, public information is not readily available in Ukraine. This program will explore issues relating to making public information readily available, reviewing best Freedom of Information (FOIA) practices, and other aspects of making public information available with the use of advanced technologies.”

The FFMNTC Open World Planning Team includes: Tom Scott (Program Coordinator) Jane Bardon, JC Bosse, Mary Cunningham, Max Harris, Pat Helin, Buck MacDonald, Rita Mays, and Barry ZeVan. We are currently lining up home hosts and will be seeking other helpers from the Club as we get closer to September. If you would like to find out more about the program and potential volunteer opportunities contact Tom Scott at [tscott1909@gmail.com](mailto:tscott1909@gmail.com) or text/call 612-804-4102.

## REMEMBERING

- Member Doris Stacey of Hopkins passed away on May 10, 2019. Doris was one of the ambassadors on the first Croatia exchange in 1999.

## THANK YOU

- Donors: We appreciate the donations we have received this year from Ardy and John Becklin, Susanne Wolter, and Jack and Betty Cardinal.

## MEMBERSHIP

- New Member: Maribeth Raullerson-Collins. Maribeth and past president, Jim Collins, were united on July 15, 2018. **Welcome Maribeth!**
- Membership Totals: We have 10 new members so far this year. Remember, friends and potential members are always welcome at Club events. The total membership is 112 with 17 life members.

## Welcome Potluck Picnic for Ukraine Open World Delegates

**Sunday, September 8, 2019 – 1:00 to 5:00 PM**

**French Regional Park Visitors' Center - Eastwood Room**

**12605 Rockford Road, Plymouth Minnesota**

The Park Visitors' Center is on the north shore of Medicine Lake. There's free, easy parking and plenty of outdoor beach, lake, and trails to enjoy.

**Directions:**

For a map and directions, go to: <https://www.threeriversparks.org/location/french-visitor-center>



**Tentative Schedule:**

- 1:00 – 1:30 pm Set-up
- 1:30 – 3:00 pm Meet, Mingle and Eat (potluck)
- 3:00 - 4:00 pm Learn about Ukraine and the delegates' public information role.
- 4:00 – 5:00 pm Explore the park and clean up

**After the meal and socializing, delegates will share information about their country and professional interests so we can get to know them better.**

Note: This is a Zero Waste facility. The club will provide compostable dinnerware. Bring a large serving to accommodate our guests in reusable, take-home serving containers.

Volunteers are needed for set-up and clean-up. We also need someone to serve as our "Social Chair" to organize a "get-to-know-you" activity and suggest how to enjoy the park. Contact the Open World (OW) Social Committee, Buck MacDonald and Rita Mays at [ritamnffi@yahoo.com](mailto:ritamnffi@yahoo.com)

***Mark your calendars now and watch for updates!***



**FFMNTC welcomed a visitor from the Kampala, Uganda FF Club for a week in June. Yusof Kyiyimba was home-hosted by Tom and Janet Scott and JC Bosse.** The home-hosts were joined by Rita Mays and Jane Bardon as day hosts. Yusof, a school principal in Kampala visited Como Park and Roseville Library, went to church, joined a mens' club for breakfast, had lunch with an education professor, and shared a dinner at Keys Cafe in Roseville with other Club members. He is on his way to the FFI World Conference in Boulder CO.



## Exploring American Indian Culture – Pow Wow

FFMNTC is celebrating American Indian culture this year. One of the highlights here in Minnesota is the annual Pow Wow held August 16, 17, and 18 at the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community's Pow Wow Grounds located at 2975 Dakota Parkway in Shakopee, just southwest of the Twin Cities.

The Pow Wow is a traditional American Indian gathering. It is a time for renewing friendships and making new ones, dancing, singing, and celebrating. There will be multiple Grand Entries throughout the three-day event, each including a ceremonious entrance of an American Indian veteran color guard, visiting dignitaries, and tribal royalty into the dance arena, followed by hundreds of dancers. Representing dozens of tribes from across North America, dancers will compete in various dance styles and age groups while drum groups and singers provide a steady pulse into the rich heritage of American Indian culture.



Grand Entry dates and times are: Friday at 7 pm; Saturday at 1 pm & 7 pm; and Sunday at 1 pm. Cost is \$10 for the entire weekend. Children under 10 and seniors over 60 are free.

Anyone interested in carpooling or needing more information, please contact Buck MacDonald at [jbmc11@hotmail.com](mailto:jbmc11@hotmail.com) or 763-473-1721.



**Minneapolis  
American  
Indian Center**