

July/August 2020  
President's Message,

Greetings from your Board of Directors. We have been busy the last few months, and though it doesn't sound very glamorous, we have used the shelter time to introduce systems that allow us to be better organized and more transparent with our members. The practices we are adopting have proven successful within many Friendship Force clubs, and they can help us as an organization as we expand our membership and move forward.

Below you will find a description of practice and links to these documents on our website. Our goal is to make the website your "go-to" site for information, and very easy to use. We will provide an orientation to the FFSFBA website updates at the Annual Meeting September 12 and at other events, but I encourage you to explore for yourself in the meantime.

We have:

1. Updated **2020 FFSFBA Standing Rules** (detailed guidelines that align with FFSFBA By-Laws) and posted these on our website [here](#). These help define responsibilities of Board Members and will help the transition of new officers as leadership changes.
2. Made available upon request the **2020 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes** upon request [link](#).
3. Completed **2019 Audit** and approved the financials [link](#).
4. Posted **Photo Submission Guidelines** so members can see their journey pictures on the website [link](#).
5. Included a **Request Form for Upcoming Event Announcements** on our website. It is important to have all relevant information including dates to run announcements, and this form helps us get timely information out to you [link](#).
6. Prepared the launch of an All Club Recruitment Initiative **Share!** to attract new members, (modeled after the successful Taupo Project of Friendship Force New Zealand) [link](#).

Below are additional upcoming events, which can bring us together virtually and present opportunities to connect.

~**Recurring every Wednesday:** Happy Hour and Café via Zoom at 4 - 5:30pm [register on our club homepage - https://ffsfba.org/](#)

Every First Wednesday, we invite interested guests from our Homestay Travel Meetup group. Recent meetings have included Reunions with Members and Friends from Vancouver (formerly Senegal); Sapporo, Japan; Nairobi and Kitui, Kenya; and Iringa, Tanzania.

Stay tuned for announcements of **more reunions** for future Wednesday Happy Hours on Zoom. We hope to connect with FF members from Russia, Long Island, Denver, Australia, New Zealand, and Costa Rica.

**~Special Events:** These large events give us another way to connect with all members.

**August 16 [Sunday]** - FFSFBA Summer Event via Zoom at 4 - 6pm [register here](#)  
<https://ffsfba.org/event-3833830>

Though we can't meet in person for the Annual BBQ, we can still socialize online. We'll meet new members and catch up with old friends in Zoom breakout rooms. We'll have some club news updates and play a game or two. Please register on the FFSFBA website and join us Sunday.

**September 12 [Saturday]** - Annual Meeting via Zoom at 4:00 - 6:00pm [register here](#)  
<https://ffsfba.org/event-3945234>

This meeting includes the business of the Club but also a break out room session in smaller groups to hear from you about where we are and set goals for where we want to be one year from now. Please attend this virtual meeting to weigh in on the following:

- Vote for the Slate of elected Officers 2021 - Nominating Committee recommendations
  - President - Shirley Foreman
  - Vice President - Carol Halbe
  - Treasurer - Eric Miller
  - Secretary - Megan George
- Vote on Outbound Destination preferences for 2022 (options announced at meeting)
- Learn about recruitment and support our membership initiative - Share!
- Offer your suggestions to get the word out about Friendship Force
- Volunteer for upcoming activities, events and journeys.

I hope something you see here will energize you to connect with us. We want to hear from you by email, during happy hours or at other virtual meetings; tell us what we can do to revitalize our club as we learn to deal with the circumstances of these times.

In Friendship,  
Carol Halbe  
President@FFSFBA.org