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## Happy New Year!

2025 promises to be an exciting year for The Friendship Force of Birmingham. With six journeys already planned, we will be busy making new friends and enjoying time with old friends. Here is our schedule so far:

February 20-25 We travel to Sarasota FL to join their Club for a fun time.

April 8-13 The Greater Harrisburg, PA will journey to visit us.

May 30- June 6 We will go to visit the Mid Willamette Valley, OR Club.

July 26-August is our International Journey to Kiel, Germany

October 2025 will be our last journey of the year with the Madison, WI Club.

Please join us for the General meeting on **Sunday JANUARY 26 (NEW DATE)** at 2:00 pm at the North Shelby Library, to sign up for journeys, or get more information. Please bring guests. I hope each of you will be involved in the club in the way that is best for you. Cheers to the New Year.

Rosie

## LEO

Our next LEO will be held at Bright Star in Bessemer on February 12th at 12:00pm. Since Kathi, Elizabeth and Pat will be vacationing in Greece then, **Kathi is requesting a facilitator to substitute in their absence.** Please contact her if you can do this. Reminders and sign up will be sent closer to the event. Kathleen Wolf, kat-wolf9@aol.com or, (205)305-5650.

## Game Day

Arlene Spertus, spertus2@gmail.com or (954)551-4072. Reminders and sign-up will be sent closer to the event.

## DATE CHANGE FOR OUR NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is Sunday, **January 26th** at 2pm at the North Shelby County Library. The program will be "Pet Sitting around the World."

Those members whose last names begin with initial M-Z please bring a snack to share with the group and those whose last names begin with initial A-L please clean up afterwards.

### \*\*\*\*\* Members Only Facebook Page \*\*\*\*\*

Check out our Members Only Facebook page. We have added events to our page where things we are doing will be posted and current events listed. Details for the event will be listed with a contact person.

## Journeys

**Incoming:** Harrisburg, PA. April 8-13, 2025, Madison, WI in the fall of 2025.

**Outgoing:** Sarasota, FL, Feb. 20-25, 2025; Mid-Williamette Valley, Oregon, June, 2025 and Kiel and Schwerin, Germany in 2025.

### Trip to Germany

*FFoB will journey with FFo Kiel and FFo Schwerin July 26 through August 5. Estimated cost is \$4,000.00 including airfare. If interested, please send your completed application to Linda Burrell (205-903-6811) with a \$100.00 deposit as soon as possible but no later than 1/26 at the General Meeting. We will meet to discuss the trip after the meeting.*

*Linda*

## GREAT INTERNATIONAL NEWS!

FFI now has two websites:



- The member portal requiring a password is **my.friendshipforce.org**
- The website for the general public requiring no password: **www.friendshipforce.org**

[Visit FFI Website](#)



### ***JANUARY***

***18- CAROL BALL***

***20- CHARLES MORGAN***

***24- PAT THRASHER***

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### New Point System

You may use the following sheet, for submitting your points bi-monthly to Carol Ball, (205)790-0649 (text) or [mandcball@att.net](mailto:mandcball@att.net)

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## MEMBER'S DATA MANAGER POINTS SYSTEM MONTHLY REPORT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Month(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Executive Board Points Per Year

- \_\_\_\_\_ President – 12 Points
- \_\_\_\_\_ VP – Programs – 5 Points
- \_\_\_\_\_ VP – Membership – 8 Points
- \_\_\_\_\_ VP – Journey Coordinator Training – 6 Points
- \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary – 8 Points
- \_\_\_\_\_ Asst Secretary – 4 Points
- \_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer – 8 Points
- \_\_\_\_\_ Asst Treasurer/Data Manager – 5 Points
- \_\_\_\_\_ Past President – 5 Points
- \_\_\_\_\_ FFI Board Member – 10 Points
- \_\_\_\_\_ FFI Field Rep – 10 Points

### Committee Chairs Points Per Year

- \_\_\_\_\_ Website – 8 Points
- \_\_\_\_\_ Social – 6 Points
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hospitality – 3 Points
- \_\_\_\_\_ Welcome – 3 Points
- \_\_\_\_\_ Historian – 3 Points
- \_\_\_\_\_ Merchandising – 3 Points
- \_\_\_\_\_ LEO – 3 Points each if 2 Chairs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Social Media – 3 Points
- \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter – 6 Points

### Journeys – Points Per Journey

(Note: Journey Coordinators are members of the Board until Journey completed.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Host Coordinator – 10 Points
- \_\_\_\_\_ Home Hosting – 2 Points per guest per night – maximum of 12 Points
- \_\_\_\_\_ Day Hosting (Driver) - 2 Points per guest per day
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dinner Hosting – 5 Points
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dinner Hosting Asst. – 3 Points
- \_\_\_\_\_ Host Welcome/Farewell – 5 Points
- \_\_\_\_\_ Asst. Hosts Welcome/Farewell – 3 Points
- \_\_\_\_\_ Booklet Prep/Print (6–10) – 3 Points, (11–15) – 4 Points, (16+) - 5 Points
- \_\_\_\_\_ Outbound Coordinator – 8 Points
- \_\_\_\_\_ Assistant Inbound/Outbound Coordinator – 3 Points

### MISC

- \_\_\_\_\_ Social (Hosting at Member's Home) – 5 Points
- \_\_\_\_\_ Asst. Social Hosting – 3 Points
- \_\_\_\_\_ Day Trip Organizer – 3 Points
- \_\_\_\_\_ Attending FF Events\* - 1 Point each
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bring Prospective Member to FF Events\* - 1 Point each
- \_\_\_\_\_ \*New Member Training, Journey Coordinator Training, Game Day, LEO, Board Meeting, General Meeting, Attendance at any Inbound Journey Event.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 'Minus' for Outbound Journey – 2 Points per night

**It is the Member's responsibility to submit points bi-monthly to Data Manager.**

## **Illness Guidelines for FF of Birmingham Ambassadors on Journeys**

1. Pay special attention to Cold symptoms: wash hands and use hand gel often, and before eating. Avoid close contact with people and crowds.
2. If symptoms continue or increase, monitor temperature for fever, wear a mask in public and take a COVID 19 test.
3. If symptoms include aches and higher temperature, seek Medical advice for a flu test.
4. During this time treat symptoms with Over the Counter medications for fever, cough, sinus infections, etc.
5. Notify the Journey Coordinator of symptoms. Journey Coordinator will notify Host Coordinator.
6. Make arrangements to move out of host home to hotel, or return home
7. To facilitate possible refund for expenses, save all receipts for medications, office visits and cost of hotel. Check your insurance policy to see what they require.

## The Friendship Force of Birmingham

### Membership Form

The annual dues include: Membership in both the local club and Friendship force International, subscription to the club's newsletter and opportunities to host FFI members from other clubs and travel to and visit other clubs.

Type of Membership: New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ \$45.00 for year

Name tag: (required) \$15.00 Type: Magnetic \_\_\_\_\_ Pin \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Name tag (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Cell----- \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_

E mail \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Member that invited you \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in serving on one or more of the following committees?

Membership\_\_ Social \_\_ Hospitality\_\_ Finance\_\_ Publicity\_\_ Programs\_\_\_\_\_

Welcome\_\_ Website\_\_\_\_\_ Communications\_\_\_\_\_ Facebook\_\_\_\_\_ Scrapbook\_\_\_\_\_

Checks should be made to **Friendship Force of Birmingham**

Mail or give to: Marsha Haney, 10850 AL Hwy 174, Odenville, AL 35120

Please read the following FFI Code of Conduct and sign below to indicate your agreement to follow.

Signature- \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Code of Conduct agreement:** Friendship Force members affirm the following values:

**Welcoming:** FFI (Friendship Force International) promotes friendship amongst peoples of different backgrounds and cultures globally, regionally and locally. FFI welcomes everyone regardless of nationality, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political opinion, religion or any other difference.

**Open-Minded:** FFI seeks to foster mutual respect and appreciation of differences. Members challenge their own prejudices and approach new situations with a learning attitude.

**Adventurous:** FFI members have a spirit of adventure! They are flexible and adapt to uncertain circumstances with energy and enthusiasm.

**Positive:** FFI members always consider the needs of others and seek to give more to host communities than they take. FFI members seek to be a force for good and aim to have a positive impact wherever they go.

**Innovative:** FFI seeks to be constantly evolving; adapting to new and better ways of carrying out our goals. FFI will be responsive to cultural and social changes. FFI members are open to change.

**Peace:** FFI firmly believes that a world of friends is a world of peace. FFI brings diverse people together to discover common ground. FFI members seek to further peace in all they do. The Friendship Force Member understands that the scope of their relationship with Friendship Force International is limited to a volunteer position and that no compensation or employment-related benefits are expected in return for services provided by the Friendship Force member. The Friendship Force Member recognizes that connected with any travel there are risks of loss, damage, and injury to persons and property, and the Member is willing to assume and bear those risks. The Member also recognized that they are responsible for complying with all laws of all countries visited. Therefore, the Friendship Force Member agrees to and does hereby release, indemnify and hold harmless Friendship Force of Birmingham and Friendship Force International (which shall include the directors, officers, and employees thereof, as well as its volunteer leaders and members) from all claims, actions, and causes of action related to Friendship Force events, journeys or other activities. The Friendship Force Member understands and acknowledges that this release discharges Friendship Force of Birmingham and Friendship Force International from any liability or claim that they may have against Friendship Force International with respect to bodily injury, personal injury, illness, death, or property damage that may result from the Member's involvement in Friendship Force activities.

Mark your calendars for these 2025 Meetings

**Board Meetings**

*January 7   March 4   May 6   July 1   September 2   November 4*

**General Meetings**

*January 26   March 16   May 18   July 20   September 21   November 16*



Friendship Force of Birmingham / The Greater Birmingham area, Birmingham, AL 35244

