



friendship force

BIG CANOE -  
NORTH GEORGIA

November  
2022  
Newsletter

a world of friends is a world of peace

<http://www.ffbcng.org>

### Coming Events

November 13, 2022, at 2:00	Monthly meeting at Beach Club in Big Canoe
December 11, 2022	Holiday party at home of Sherry and Dan
February, 2023	Multi-club Callaway Gardens retreat
April 7, 2023	Open World Program
April 25, 2023	Outgoing journey to Greater Orlando, Florida
May 29, 2023	Incoming journey from Siberia
2023	Incoming journey from San Antonio, Texas
October 2, 2023	Friendship Force World Conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia

**Sign up for the Friendship Force International web site:** To sign up, connect to [https://my.friendshipforce.org/en/users/sign\\_in](https://my.friendshipforce.org/en/users/sign_in), then click SIGN UP.

The club has established the policy that all ambassadors on journeys and all hosts must provide proof of vaccination and at least one booster for Covid-19.



### A Few Words From Sherry

We had a great meeting at the Muirfield Clubhouse. Fred M. deserves our thanks for arranging for the facility, as does Peggy A. for arranging for the delicious food. We all enjoyed Ryan M.'s stories that accompanied a wonderful variety of wines. I want to buy all of them!

Our new members, Nancy and Tom L., joined us at the wine tasting and were officially welcomed to the club. Jeanette and Phil W. brought Cathy and Dirk E. to the meeting, and we are hoping they will become members. Fred M. brought Arlene and Dave V. who are neighbors of his in Muirfield.

Let's keep growing!

### Upcoming Meetings

November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday due to Thanksgiving. We will be having a pizza party at the Beach Club in Big Canoe from 2:00-4:00. Everyone is asked to contribute \$5 for your share of the meal. Bring your own drink of



choice. The club will provide the pizzas and paper goods. There will be a business meeting, entertainment to follow. If you're new, just ask at the gate for directions to the beach club.

December 11<sup>th</sup> – 2:00-4:00 - Holiday Party at Dan and Sherry's house. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.



### Upcoming Journeys Orlando

The Journey Coordinators are recruiting members of our Big Canoe/North Georgia Friendship Force Club to what sounds like a very interesting domestic journey to the Greater Orlando club. Following is a brief description of the possible journey from April 25 - May 2: There is room for 12 more ambassa-

dors. Contact Alan or Mary Ellen if you would like to be one of them.

**Winter Park-** pontoon ride to view three lakes connected by canals, now home to million dollar homes, and then visit the Morse Museum

Florida is home to 700+ **springs** and is on top of a limestone aquifer. We will visit Kelly Park which has a 1/2 mile long natural lazy river which is crystal clear, 74 degrees, and never more than 3 feet deep. Tubing or snorkeling will be offered and possibly kayaking, canoeing or paddleboarding at a nearby river.

An all day trip will be offered either to the ocean for a **beach day, Kennedy Space Center, or SeaWorld.**

**Orlando** is centered around Lake Eola with sculptures, a museum which tells the history of Florida, and the symphony hall with its three performing arts venues.

A pontoon ride on the **St John's River** may show alligators, ibis, and other wildlife.

Along with welcome, farewell, games, and dinner hosting to get to know ya'll. P.S. Most of us are transplants.

Alan 770-893-9109 (Mobile phone),  
Mary Ellen 706-253-4891 (Landline)

## Siberia

As you may remember, our club was asked to host a journey from the club in Mongolia in 2023. They will not be visiting us. Oyuna Sengeeva is the FFI Regional Support Manager for Arme-

nia, Azerbaijan, Baltic States, Moldova, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, Republic of Georgia and Mongolia. She asked that our club accept a journey from the club in Siberia, Russia, in their place

Oyuna was born in Siberia but now lives in the United States. The president of the Siberia club is her mother. Oyuna is well acquainted with many of the ambassadors. With our board's approval, we accepted the journey, which will include four nights with our club and four nights with the Huntsville club.

At the September meeting, some members expressed concern about hosting ambassadors from Russia while our country is supporting Ukraine against the Russian invasion. A lengthy discussion followed, with the majority of the members approving the journey.

As Bob A. discussed in his presentation at the meeting, governments may disagree, but Friendship Force members can still agree to meet and share their culture. Our organization declares "a world of friends is a world of peace" and this journey will give our club the opportunity to live that message.

If the ambassadors from **Siberia** are approved for US visas, their visit with us will be on or about **May 29, 2023.**





## Open World Program

The Open World committee (Barry K., Bob A. and Sherry W.) submitted two proposals for consideration, stating that we could host either of them but not both. It is likely that the first choice will be approved. The program for Azerbaijan is "Community-level Extracurricular Programming for Promoting Social Change", with the delegates arriving on **April 7, 2023**. "The program will introduce participants to how U.S. communities use extracurricular youth programming in the areas of art and sports to improve social cohesion and engagement at the local level."

## Callaway Gardens Retreat

A repeat visit to Callaway Gardens is an attractive idea but may be delayed until 2024 if both of the above journeys occur as planned.

## 2024

The following dates have been established for 2024 journeys:

Outbound request form submitted:  
January 1, 2023

Journey proposals distributed:  
April 14, 2023.

Acceptance/change requests: May  
1, 2023

## World Conference

Mark your calendars. FFI is organizing a World Conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia next year (October 2-5, 2023). Pre and Post conference excursions will also be offered. Details to follow.



## Election

The Nominations Committee submitted the following candidates for election at the November Meeting:

President—Barry K.  
1st Vice—Tim A.  
2nd Vice—Rich G.  
Secretary—Mary Ellen J.  
Treasurer—Sherry W.

Submitted By  
Bob A.





## Dues Time

Hi everyone! Yes, it is time to renew your club membership to the Friendship Force of Big Canoe/North Georgia. Since FFI has delayed increasing their dues, we are also able to keep our club dues the same next year--a very reasonable \$35 per person. Attached is a renewal application form; please complete and send in with your check (FF Big Canoe/North Georgia) to Robert Logan at the address on the renewal form.

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thanks!

Bob A.  
Membership Chair



## BEWARE OF BOGUS EMAILS

Club officers and board members will never send you an email asking you to buy gift cards on behalf of the club. If you receive an email that looks suspicious, check out the sender's email address, not the sender's name. If the email address is not what you expect, do not answer the email.

To minimize the chance of this happening, we have been making efforts to mention only the first name and last initial in club publications that are open to the public. For those of you who contribute to the newsletter, please help in this effort by never including a member's full name.

Member information such as address, phone number and email address are included on our website in the members only section. A username and password are required to access it. If you do not have that information, ask Sherry or Ray at the next meeting.



## TRAVEL WITH OTHER FRIENDSHIP FORCE CLUBS

If another Friendship Force club has an under-subscribed journey, it will be included in the Journey Catalog on myfriendshipforce.org. You are welcome to join the journey if a seat is available.

### Check the FFI Journey Catalog

In your myFF account, go to **HOME**.

In the carousel at the top, move the arrow keys until you see the FFI Journey Catalog.



Click on the FFI Journey Catalog. Browse through the journeys listed on the FFI Journey Catalog to view the journey details. Contact the Journey Coordinator for empty seats and you may be on your next journey very soon!



### December Birthdays

- 8 Tom F.
- 14 Dan Z.
- 15 Barry K.

- 16 Monique V.
- 20 Leroy Y.
- 24 Dan H.



### Cares and Concerns

No cares or concerns to report this month. Isn't that wonderful? Remember to inform our cares and concerns lady, Jeannette W., if you learn of any illnesses or other reasons for care or concern.



### Next Issue

We want input from you. Have you been on a journey with another club? Have you traveled on your own? If you have any information that might be of interest to other club members, send it to your newsletter editor:

Ray Bowyer  
 raybowyer@earthlink.net  
 770-366-3736



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BIG CANOE -  
NORTH GEORGIA

*2023 Membership Application*

*Name(s)* \_\_\_\_\_

*Address* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Telephone#* \_\_\_\_\_

*Cell Phone (s)#* \_\_\_\_\_

*Email Address(es)* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Birthday: Month* \_\_\_\_\_ *Day* \_\_\_\_\_

*Birthday: Month* \_\_\_\_\_ *Day* \_\_\_\_\_

*Membership Dues*     \_\_\_ \$35 per year Individual

                             \_\_\_ \$70 per Year Couple

**Return To: Robert Logan, Treasurer, 741 Oakdale Rd, Canton, GA 30114**