

**"The future of this republic is in the hands of the American voter."**

**Dwight D. Eisenhower**

### **Greetings, Friends!**

*This month we see democracy in action at the polls then pause to honor our veterans. And as Thanksgiving approaches, may we recognize the many gifts we experience every single day!*

### **President's Notes from David Motherwell**

*In October eleven members were graciously hosted on a mini-journey by the Knoxville chapter. We visited the Great Smoky National Park on a beautiful autumn day during the peak of the fall foliage. Another highlight was a tour of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, which has a long history as a federally funded research and development center, since the site was chosen as part of the Manhattan Project in 1943.*

*Thanks to Judy Murnan for sponsoring the LEO on October 15 at Ari's Greek Restaurant, She treated all fifteen attendees to 'suppa,' a tasty pudding-like dessert.*

*Our **Annual Meeting** will be held on Thursday, November 7, 5:30 p.m. at the STL County Library Midtown Branch (7821 Maryland Ave., Clayton 63105). Refreshments will be served, and we'll enjoy a slide presentation on Australia and New Zealand following the election of officers for 2025. The election requires a quorum so please plan to attend.*

*Nominations will remain open through the November 7 meeting for any members who wish to be considered for any Board position. The following members have accepted nomination:*

*President: David Motherwell  
1st VP Membership: Judy Cagel  
2nd VP Social: Doris Yohe  
Treasurer: Maria Carson  
Secretary: Nancy Hofheinz*

***Holiday Dinner Update from Barbara Robinson***

*The Holiday Dinner will be on Wednesday, December 11, 6pm, at Syberg's (2430 Old Dorsett Rd, Maryland Heights 63043). We'll have a delicious buffet of beef and chicken entrees with several side dishes and dessert. There will be a cash bar, music, and much holiday cheer! You are invited to bring an unwrapped Christmas gift to be distributed by The International Institute, for our immigrant neighbors. The suggested list is attached. Gifts for small children are also appreciated. And if you'd like to, bring a Christmas ornament you purchased on one of your journeys for Show and Tell. Cost is \$39 and checks are due to Barbara Robinson by Dec 1. If you have any dietary requirements, let me know by then as well. If you think driving at night will be a problem for you, call me and we will work something out for you. (3119 Autumn Trace Dr., Maryland Heights MO 63043. 314-540-9093)*

***Movie Group*** will meet at the home of Susy Alias on Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 4:30. See the movie 'Conclave,' then bring your potluck dish and movie impressions to share at dinner. Please advise Judy Young (636-634-1458) by November 11 if you plan to attend.

***FF International Coffee Talk*** will be held on Thursday, November 14 at 11:00. This month let's try The Daily Bread Bakery and Cafe, 11719 Manchester Rd., 63131. Please call or text Doris Yohe (314-805-8932) to reserve seating. We gather to share adventures, memories and new travel ideas, and we look forward to seeing you.

**Book Club** will meet at 1:00 on Tuesday, November 19 at Des Peres Dierberg's on Manchester Road east of West County Mall. We will discuss 'Eat, Pray, Love,' a deeply personal and entertaining memoir by Elizabeth Gilbert. Her exploration into various cultural and spiritual traditions broadens her outlook and culminates in significant personal insights. Please let David Motherwell (314-727-6085) know if you plan to attend.

Our **LEO**, arranged this month by Barbara H. Robinson, will be on Wednesday, Nov 20 at 11:30. Casa Jaurez, a great Mexican restaurant, is located at 127 Dorsett Rd., Maryland Heights 63043. After lunch you might explore Creve Coeur Park or visit the casino if you're feeling lucky! Please contact Barbara H Robinson (314-540-9093) by Nov 7 if you'll join us.

### **Membership Note from Maria Carson**

Thank you for your membership and support of our club this year! We are looking forward to another wonderful year. Our ANNUAL DUES for 2025 will be \$45 and may be paid now through December 31st to Maria Carson, Membership Chairperson. Maria's address is 15957 Fox Trotter Court, Ballwin, MO 63021. Please make your check payable to Friendship Force of Missouri - St. Louis. If you have any questions or concerns, you can call or text [Maria](#) at 314-401-4034 or email her at. If convenient, you may also bring your dues payment to the December 11 Holiday Dinner at Syberg's.

As we give thanks for our bounty this month, please consider the attached wish list for the International Institute. All donations will be gratefully accepted at the Holiday Dinner.

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL!**