

Friendship Force January 2011 General Meeting Minutes

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The January General Meeting was held on Sunday, January 9 at the Edgewood Road HyVee Community Room. Twelve guests were welcomed and 44 members were in attendance.

The program was an excellent presentation and slide shows of the Cedar Rapids-led 2010 Global Exchange to Azerbaijan. Steve Williams, Exchange Director, with the help of other CR/IC club members, Gayle Bray, Jerry Seidel and Dick Fowler, shared their personal experiences and impressions of their visit to this fascinating and evolving country. Though Azerbaijan lifestyle and culture was very different for the exchange ambassadors from the US, Canada, Germany and England, the exchange hosts and their children made the trip a once in a lifetime event.

Dale Moore gave a brief Treasurer's report; minutes of the November 2010 meeting will be emailed to the membership.

Other announcements and reports are as follows:

Steve Williams and Vic Klopfenstein for Open World: Our club will host Open World visitors February 3 through 12. All twelve visitors and 2 interpreters now have home hosts. A Welcome Potluck will take place on Friday evening, Feb 4 at the Eagle Ridge Community Room (bring a dish to share, as meat, beverage and table service is provided) and a Farewell Banquet Dinner will be at the Metro Buffet North, Feb 11. Both of these events are open to the club and guests.

The FF of CR/IC nomination of Robert and Billie Ray has been made to Friendship Force International for the Wayne Smith Award.

Next LEO, Let's Eat Out, is scheduled for Tuesday, February 1st, 5:45pm at the Taj Mahal Indian Restaurant on Center Point Road.

A sign up sheet was passed around, requesting volunteers to help the Activity Committee with the World Friendship Day/General meeting on March 6. Foreign students and their host families will be invited to this international potluck.

A sign up sheet for any members interested in the April 14-16 FFI Regional Meeting in Lincoln NE was passed around.

Upcoming exchanges:

- Planning for an incoming domestic exchange from Las Vegas, Jun 3-8, has begun,

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but an additional Exchange Director is needed.

- Incoming international exchange from Tokyo, Japan was confirmed for June 30-July 6.
- Outgoing domestic exchange to St. Louis may take place this year.
- Outgoing international exchange to Costa Rica has no new information.

Gayle Bray would like contact information for admission and international study of foreign students in our area, several people volunteered information.

The meeting was adjourned.