

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF CEDAR RAPIDS/IOWA CITY
General Meeting - January 27, 2008

Meeting was called to order by co-president Stephanie Schulte.

The following guests were introduced: Patty and Dave Detweiler, Paula and Tom Moran.

New members introduced: Shirley Gibb, John and Liz Sauer

Motion was made by Vic Klopfenstein, seconded by Jerry Seidl that the minutes of the last general meeting be approved. Motion carried. Dick Hansen reported a balance of \$2436.94 in the exchange fund, and \$13,581.03 in the general fund. Motion was made by Margaret Miller, seconded by Frank Stull that the treasurer's report be accepted. Motion carried.

BYLAWS: Copies will be sent to the Board for changes. The general membership will receive them 14 days before the March meeting when a final vote will be taken.

MEMBERSHIP: Mary Novak read names of those who have net paid dues. Memberships should be paid by February 1st. Vic volunteered to call some who have not paid.

PROMOTION: World Friendship Day will be combined with the March 9th general meeting which will be held at the American Legion Club in Marion, 7th Ave. and 31st Street. The Board meets at 2:30, the general meeting at 4:00. Committee consists of Winston and Marceil Edson, Dick and Carol Hein, Klopfensteins and Seidls. The charge is \$12.50 for dinner. (\$2.50 will be sent to National for teaching and education). A silent auction will be included, bring items you wish to "sell". Guests are welcome! Dianne showed the brochure which is available now and encouraged everyone to make them available to friends and the general public.

ACTIVITIES: This committee is a combination of two committees and will be in charge of arrangements for the general meetings. Tressa urged people to volunteer for this committee.

WEBSITE: Website is on back of the promotional folder. Darby asked for feed back from members.

NEW MEMBERS: Margaret Miller is new member mentor. She is available to new members, welcomes calls, and invites membership to be involved in activities.

EXCHANGES: Outgoing to Germany, May 14-22. Cost is \$1500, there is room for 7 more people. Plane tickets are being reserved at Carson-Wagonlit on February 4th, 5:00. Incoming Germany exchange, August 15-22. Steve Williams needs homes. Members are urged to call Steve if they can help with hosting. Mystery Week-end (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) - sometime in the fall. More information later, will not know where you are going! Outgoing exchange to South America, April, 2009, (Nor, Peru, Brazil). Need one or two exchange directors.

OLD BUSINESS: Regional presidents' meeting will be in Des Moines, May 3rd. We have a new regional manager: Lee Rockwell from Lincoln. Darby will go to the International Conference. Exact costs are not available yet.

Open World: If there is funding, it is presumed we will continue the plan. Vic Klopfenstein is co-chair, need another co-chair. Usually the exchanges are from Russia, each person has an assignment of training 32 hours. We receive \$350 per person, program is funded through the Library of Congress. There are 8 or 9 different groups that host the exchanges, usually in August or September. We do not have an option of deciding where people are from.

Discussion followed about misunderstandings with our guests. Visitors need to be informed about our way of doing things, any problems should be reported to the director immediately.

NEW BUSINESS: Handed out membership promotional material. Three suggestions were made: Include a phone number on the brochures that people can call and get information about FF; Need printed thank you notes with our club information that can be used to write thank you notes to host families; Pro-rate dues for members that only belong a few months of the year- (this is being done). Many positive testimonials about Friendship Force were given by several members.

Motion made by Mary Stull, seconded by Connie Williams that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Thulin, Sec'y