

CEDAR RAPIDS / IOWA CITY FRIENDSHIP FORCE

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: 5 -1-2011 **Time:** 2:00 **Location:** Shueyville United Methodist Church

President Connie Williams opened the meeting with a welcome to members and their guests.

John and Cheryl Elliott introduced the two Kirkwood Community College students they are mentoring this school year. They have enjoyed being mentors very much.

Treasurer's Report:

Dale shared details about the club's treasury balances as of 4-1-2011.

General Fund Balance:	<u>\$13,805.43</u>
Exchange Fund Balance:	<u>\$5,030.30</u>
Total Cash Bank Accounts	<u>\$18,835.73</u>
Total Net worth	<u>\$19,119.98</u>

Meeting Program:

Gayle Glick from the Kirkwood Community College International Programs spoke about Kirkwood's three programs of emphasis that currently has 535 students enrolled from 90 countries. The current Kirkwood student breakdown is as follows:

Africa	225 students from 30 countries
Asia	160 students from 15 countries
Americas	77 students from 18 countries
Europe	36 students from 18 countries
Middle East	33 students from 10 countries
Caribbean	5 students from 2 countries
Oceania	1 students from 1 country

Many students come to Kirkwood to gain the training and education they need for their future careers back in their home country. Each year Kirkwood hosts a group of about 20 students from Community College Initiative (CCI) countries, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. This international program is administered by Community Colleges for International Development (CCID) at Kirkwood and funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA).

Kirkwood hosts 18 SEED International students from Central America who are studying Agricultural Business. This program is funded through the USAID SEED (Scholarship For Education and Economic Development) Program.

The bulk of the international students are enrolled at Kirkwood to start their college studies. Many students begin by enrolling in classes that help them to develop their English by enrolling in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for a semester or two before they enter into college level courses.

Gayle is always in need of community members who can spend some time with international students to serve as their mentors. This could be once a week for a few hours or 2-3 times a month during the day, evening or weekend. The Elliot's have enjoyed being student mentors and encourage members to contact them about their experiences.

You may contact Gayle Glick at 398-5293 or via e-mail at gglick@kirkwood.edu

EXCHANGES:

June 3-8 incoming Las Vegas exchange. They have 12-13 members signed-up. Tressa Youngbear is the ED and passed out a schedule of events

Mary Stull is the ED for the exchange with Tokyo, Japan. The exchange will be from June 30 – July 6 and will have 16-18 ambassadors

Work on the outgoing international exchange to Costa Rica continues with Vic and Pat.

Marian Wetjen is the E D for the St. Louis exchange. Marian noted the St. Louis club has suggested July 10-16 or August 21-27 as possible dates for their exchange.

Dave & Pat Meyer are working on a possible Romania & Azerbaijan exchange.

Regional Conference in Lincoln

George Brown from FF in Atlanta was at the conference with members from 13 other regional FF clubs. There are currently 355 Friendship Force Clubs through-out the world.

Connie Williams and Dave Detwiler served on a panel at the Lincoln regional conference that addresses some of the issues facing most clubs into the future; like how to appeal to the younger generation and grow our clubs in the years ahead.

Dave mentioned some aspects of the new Trailblazer Project for attracting new members, their growth, and mentoring. Dave mentioned all the regional conference attendees were pleased about the Ray's receiving the Wayne Smith Award.

There was discussion about the Mid West Mississippi River exchange tour that includes Minnesota, Dubuque, Quad Cities and St. Louis stops.

Legacy Award to the Ray's

Audrey says to save the date on June 28th. Plans are in place to host a reception and light buffet from 4:00-6:00 at Elmcrest C. C. for the Ray's, club members, former club members and other guests. Cost will be about \$15-18 per person. The Legacy award will be presented at Brucemore, possibly during the bands intermission unless the event is cancelled due to bad weather. If this is the case, the presentation will be held at Elmcrest Country Club.

ACTIVITIES:

May

15th New Members, 2:00 – 3:00 at Panera's, 2665 Edgewood Parkway, Cedar Rapids
Members and guests are invited to learn more about Friendship Force.

June

Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival

30th Incoming Tokyo exchange

July

5th - Tokyo Farewell dinner at Lowe Park

Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival

Lets Eat Out date and time TBD

August

26 – 30 FFI International Conference in Hamburg, Germany

28th – 12:30 Dubuque Friendship Force Tri Club Picnic

September

11th - General membership meeting will be held in Iowa City at the Iowa City Public Library. The meeting will be open to the public as per Iowa City Public Library use policy.

November

Outgoing exchange to Costa Rica – Vic Klopfenstein is exchange director

The general membership meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Some exchange committees met after the general membership meeting.

John Haack – Secretary`