



YOURS IN FRIENDSHIP

FROM THE CEDAR RAPIDS/IOWA CITY
FRIENDSHIP FORCE CLUB

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

First, I want to thank Veta and Richard Hildebrand for their wonderful and successful leadership over the last year for our club. It was a pleasure working with them. A big thank you also goes out to Steve Williams (Secretary), John Sauer (Member at Large) and Dave Detwiler (Past President) for serving on the board this past year and helping to guide our club's 2013 operations.

A special congratulations to Pat and Vic Klopfenstein for receiving the Wayne Smith Award presented to them by FFI CEO and President, Joy DiBenedetto. The celebration was made even more special since we were able to keep it a secret from them.

I am excited about the coming year and want to continue the momentum that the 2013 board built up to such a successful year. What would you like to see this year for activities? Send me your ideas before Dec. 14th and I will include them in the planning meeting for 2014. Remember we can't include your ideas, if you don't tell us about them.

Email me today at ityoungbear@gmail.com!

Our club is only as strong as its members and their willingness to volunteer and get involved. We trust you are proud to be a member of the CR/IC Friendship Force Club. So 2014, here we come to make new freindships, to work & play together, to be part of exciting exchanges, to increase our cultural awareness and to have fun!

Have a great month and holiday celebrations with family and friends,
Tressa

It's Membership Renewal Time !

Membership is \$25 per person, 18 years or older. Children 0-17 are free with a parent's membership. The club's membership year is December thru November.

Send check to Marian Wetjen, 2009 Linmar Drive NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402.

We are anticipating an exciting year of activities, so renew today!

ANNUAL MEETING 2013



More than 60 members attended the Annual Meeting held on Nov. 10th at Lowe Park Center in Marion. The evening started with meet & greet time with FFI President & CEO, Joy DiBenedetto. What a privilege it was to have Joy attend our meeting.

The General Meeting was lead by Dick Hildebrand with committee reports read and approved. Refer to the

member page on the club website for the meeting minutes. The year end financial report will also be posted after approval at the December 14 Board meeting. The membership also approved the slate of officers for 2014. Refer to the last page of this newsletter for a list of your entire Board of Directors.

Following the business meeting, Joy DiBenedetto spoke to the group. She shared her background including serving for 22 years with CNN in Atlanta where she lead a group who booked all of the guests that appear on CNN. Joy was recruited for the FFI President and CEO position and feels her work experiences have prepared her for this job. She feels that Friendship Force can continue to experience success in the future by continuing to improve the exchange model and by attracting younger persons to our clubs.

At the conclusion of Joy's talk, the "surprise" of the night began to unfold. First, 15 or so members of the Klopfenstein family quietly entered the room. It didn't take long for Vic and Pat to notice and begin to wonder what was going to happen. Next, Joy called Vic and Pat to the podium area and presented them with the Wayne Smith Award. The Wayne Smith Award is given to honor a member for his or her outstanding service and support to the club. Nothing could have been more appropriate than to honor these two outstanding people for their tireless service to Friendship Force over many years.



The memorable evening was topped off by great conversations over dinner provided by Catering By LJ's and dessert by Take the Cake Cupcakes.



6 Attend FFI World Conference in New Orleans



Tressa Youngbear (2014 President), Dianne Karal (Exchange Coordinator), Cheryl & Dale Moore (2014 President Elect), and Steve & Nancy Williams attended the Friendship Force International 2013 World Conference held on November 23-25 in New Orleans. This was the largest World Conference ever with over 700 attendees from nearly 40 countries.



Steve also served on a panel on Professional Programs such as Open World, Educational Exchanges, Global Exchanges, Themed Exchanges and others.

Our team was able to attend most of the concurrent sessions. Stay tuned for more details in future issues. In the meantime, sessions included information on:

- Building Exchanges
- Making Exchange Matches
- Professional Programs
- Hosting
- Dinner Party Diplomacy
- Tactics for Club Growth
- Engaging the Next Generation
- Using Social Media in Your Club
- Results of Survey with US and Canadian Clubs
- Dialogue with FFI Board, CEO, and Staff
- Midwest/Great Lakes Regional Meeting



2014 Midwest Regional Conference - May 1 thru 4

The Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee will host the 2014 Midwest Regional Conference in Milwaukee on May 1-4. This will be a general conference so all members are encouraged to attend. The schedule includes:

- Workshops (Friday & Saturday AM)
- Themed Exchange Programs (Sat. PM)
- Networking Events (Thurs & Fri nights)
- President's Meeting (Sunday AM)



Club Treasure Hunt



Over the years our club has purchased items that are being stored by our members and memories are failing us on who has what. If you are storing club items please make a list of the items and email to Tressa Youngbear at ityoungbear@gmail.com

2014 L.E.O. Hosts Needed

If you would like to host a L.E.O. (Let's Eat Out) for the club for February, April, June, August, or October please contact :

Tressa Youngbear ityoungbear@gmail.com



Tax Deduction?



Due to some confusion in our club failing to file a tax return with the Federal Government, our club as “temporarily” lost our status as a 501c3 charitable organization. We have submitted all of the necessary tax returns and other forms to gain reinstatement. While we are confident that we will regain our charitable status, it will most likely be late spring or summer of 2014 before this happens. So if you regularly deduct your dues or other donations to our club on your tax return, you should consult your tax accountant for tax year 2013.

The Difference in Hosting

Our club is involved with two different types of hosting. Here are the differences:



Open World

8 days of hosting - The participants come from a limited few countries.

Monies are provided via FFI through a federal grant to offer 32 hours of education on a chosen topic.

Hosts need to provide a room, some meals, and transportation to the meeting place each day, leaving the day free for the hosts.

Reimbursements to each host is mileage only per the rules of the grant.

Reward is the new friendships that are made with participants, getting to know members of our club better and the possibility of opening new clubs where the participants are from since they are not FF members.

Regular Exchanges

3 to 7 days of hosting - The ambassadors can be from any country or state within the US that have a club.

Monies are directly from ambassadors and totally used on activities planned for them.

Hosts need to provide a room, some meals, transportation to and participation in daily events.

Reimbursement to host - none

Reward is the new friendships that are made with ambassadors and getting to know members of our club better.



CALENDAR of EVENTS - (print this page as a reminder)

December 14	Board Planning Meeting 1-3 pm	Location: CR Main Library 1-3 PM
March 1-8	Open World on Accountable Governance	ED - Vic Klopfenstein
May 1-4	Midwest Regional Conference	Location - Milwaukee
May 14 – 20	Incoming Mid-Willamette Valley, Oregon	ED - Audrey Bradford
June 11-13	Incoming Japanese Stop Over	EDs John Giegerich & Trish Kaiser
July 14 -20	Outgoing Cincinnati (Theme Underground Railroad)	ED - Steve Williams
September (TBD)	Incoming UK Clubs	ED - TBD
October 15 -21	Outgoing Sacramento, California	ED - Marian Wetjen

BOARD MEMBERS 2014

Tressa Youngbear, President

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Dale & Cheryl Moore, Co-President Elect

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Barbara Cole, Secretary

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Dianne Karal, Exchange Coordinator

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Marian Wetjen, Membership

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Alice Wilkinson- Director At Large

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Esther Hudson – Director At Large

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In friendship

Tressa Youngbear

Dale & Cheryl Moore
