



# 2013

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# YOURS IN FRIENDSHIP

FROM THE CEDAR RAPIDS/IOWA CITY  
FRIENDSHIP FORCE CLUB

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE....

What a surprise we got! We sent an invite to FFT's new President and CEO, Joy DiBenedetto, to be our guest speaker at our annual meeting and she accepted! What a way to end our year as Co-Presidents. Make sure to read the information about our Annual Meeting below.

A big "Thank You" to Steve Williams and his fellow exchange members for providing a great program on their exchange to Indonesia at the September 15 General Meeting. A DVD highlighting the places they visited, their hosts, and life in general - everything from street scenes to toilets. A display was set up which included beautiful batik apparel from Indonesia and members spoke of the highlights of the trip. To top it off they provided treats we all enjoyed.

Another big "Thank you" to all who supported the Fortaleza Exchange either through hosting, day hosting, or attending and providing food for the welcome and farewell events. E.D. David Detwiler introduced "Meela," who served as the interpreter throughout the week to the relief of some of the hosts! By week's end, our Fortaleza guests had become close friends. One guest said, "What surprised her the most was the openness and friendliness of the American people. She had always thought them "distant" and "fast." Again, "peace one person at a time" was at work!

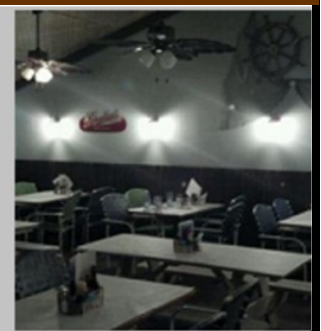
We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Annual Meeting on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>.

Yours in friendship  
Veta & Richard

**L.E.O. - October 23 at Smuggler's Wharf @ 6:00 PM**

**Address : 87 16TH AVE SW**

**Connie Williams, Hostess, [cmw1226@yahoo.com](mailto:cmw1226@yahoo.com)**



## ANNUAL MEETING



Celebrate our club's very successful year at our Annual Meeting on November 10th at Lowe Park.

Our guess speaker is Joy DiBenedetto, President and CEO of Friendship Force International.

The business meeting will start at 5:00pm with dinner at 6:00pm. Cost for the dinner is \$13.

## ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS at the ANNUAL MEETING

Elections for the 2014 Club Officers will take place at the Annual Meeting on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>. The follow is the slate of officers to be nominated:

President: Tressa Youngbear

President Elect: Co - Cheryl & Dale Moore

Treasurer: Stephanie Schulte

Secretary: Barbara Cole

Nominations will also be taken from the floor.



## November Is 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.

Bring your check to the annual meeting or mail to:

Marian Wetjen, 2009 Linmar Dr.NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402.  
We are looking at an exciting year of activities so renew today!

## THE VOTE IS IN.....

At the September general meeting, a vote was taken on where our club would like to visit and make new friends – here are the results:

Canada: 28, Germany: 15, England: 13, Australia: 5, New Zealand: 4, Brazil: 3, Slovakia: 3, Austria: 3, Netherlands: 2, Costa Rica: 2, Mexico: 2, Ireland: 1, NZ/Austria: 1, Japan: 1, Sweden: 1, S. Africa: 1, Scotland: 1, Italy: 1, and two counties that could not be read got one vote each.

We will submit the 3 highest scores for 2015 exchanges. We will also try and make contact with the other counties listed to start relationships for future exchanges at the World Conference in November.

## WITHOUT VOLUNTEERS - THESE EXCHANGES GO AWAY!!!



We need volunteers for the following exchanges in 2014:

- 1) Incoming Mid-Willamette Valley, Oregon - May 14 -20<sup>th</sup>
- 2) Incoming Japanese Stop Over - June 11 - 13<sup>th</sup>
- 3) Outgoing Sacramento, California - Oct 15 - 21<sup>st</sup>
- 4) Outgoing Cincinnati, Ohio - July or September

Experienced and non-experienced are welcomed to volunteer. Training and assistance is offered to anyone who has never been an exchange director but wants to give it a try. It is a great way to help our club be successful.

Contact Dianne Karal: [toy4di@msn.com](mailto:toy4di@msn.com)

## 2014 Midwest Regional Conference

The Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee is pleased to announce May 1-4, as the dates for the 2014 Midwest Regional Conference in Milwaukee. This will be a general conference so all members are encouraged to attend. You will gain valuable information from the workshop speakers, be able to network with other Midwest members plus have a fun Saturday afternoon of activities around Milwaukee.



## FORTALEZA, BRAZIL EXCHANGE

We had a very enjoyable exchange with our friends from Fortaleza, Brazil. We shared apple pie at a authentic Amish meal, experienced baseball at the Field of Dreams Movie Site, toured a John Deere Tractor Plant, milked cows, feed calves, viewed Grant Wood's life, visited a Basilica, the Mississippi River Museum, the Czech & Slovak Museum and Tabor House Winery.

Ludmila Puhls helped us communicate with our Portuguese-speaking friends making their exchange with us more meaningful. At our farewell meeting, Maria da "Glória" Silva Gonçalves, Fortaleza's Exchange Director, shared that she was skeptical of our exchange when we shared our itinerary, but was pleasantly surprised as the week progressed.

I have to thank all our hosting families, day hosts, and Esther Hudson, Will & Karen Mickelson, Vic & Pat Klopfenstein, Lynette Nuehring, Audrey Bradford, Laura Hoffman, Richard & Veta Hildebrand for helping with arrangements. Overall our club efforts resulted in a pleasing and successful exchange with Fortaleza. We have made new friends through our kitchen table diplomacy.

David Detwiler, Exchange Director



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

Oct 6	Board Meeting 1 to 3 pm	Location Hiawatha Public Library Hildebrands
October 9-17	Outgoing to Virginia	ED: Tressa Youngbear <a href="mailto:ityoungbear@gmail.com">ityoungbear@gmail.com</a>
October 23	L.E.O. at Smuggler's Wharf 6 pm	Connie Williams, Hostess
November 10	Annual Meeting & Elections, Lowe Park	Veta & Dick Hildebrand, Hosts
Nov 22-25	FFI World Conference	Location - New Orleans
December ?	L.E.O. Location TBD	Host & Location TBD
May 1-4, 2014	Midwest Regional Conference	Location - Milwaukee



## **BOARD MEMBERS 2013**

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**Richard & Veta Hildebrand, Co- Presidents**

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**Tressa Youngbear, President-Elect**

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**Steve Williams, Secretary**

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**Dale Moore, Treasurer**

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**David Detwiler, Past President**

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**Dianne Karal, Exchange Coordinator**

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**Marian Wetjen, Membership**

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**In friendship  
Richard & Veta Hildebrand  
Tressa Youngbear**

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