

CEDAR RAPIDS/IOWA CITY FRIENDSHIP FORCE
GENERAL MINUTES
March 8, 2009
HyVee Clubroom

Our World Friendship Day dinner was catered by HyVee.
The guest speaker was Tom Ecker who was on the committee for the Beijing Olympics.
A silent auction was held after the General Meeting.

MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING: Were read and approved.

TREASURERS REPORT: A budget has been approved for 2009 by the board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MEMBERSHIP: Marty reported that 93 members, 4 she has not heard from, 2 new members, and 13 have dropped out.
She passed out a new Membership List for 2009.

NEW MEMBER MENTOR: Margaret Miller reported that new member orientation will be Sunday, March 22 at Panera's (west side) from 2 – 4 pm.

COMMUNICATIONS: Vic Klopfenstein reported that an article regarding our World Friendship Day was in the CR Gazette and the Marion Times.
Diversity Focus has contacted Darby and they have connected their website to our website.

PROMOTIONS: Dianne reported that we will be looking into white shirts with the FF International logo for ourselves and to sell. We will be ordering Travel Journal/notebooks that we can customize to fit our needs, and also luggage tags with the new logo. Audrey B. reported about the International Blessings prayer cards to use as a fund-raiser. We are looking for feedback regarding these cards.

ACTIVITIES: LEO for April is 4/21 at Zio Johnno's in Marion.
May is a Dinner (potluck) meeting scheduled for May 14th at a park (location to be announced later).
June is LEO and will be on the website.

FUND RAISING: Volunteers are needed for this year's Freedom Festival contact Audrey B.

Tressa reported that the Rockwell grant has been sent in and she expects to hear from them in 4 – 6 weeks. Assistance of \$5,000 was requested.

EXCHANGES: Steve Williams noted that we have 15 pending exchanges to date.
Incoming L.A. – May 13 – 17. 20 members expected. Margaret Miller needs host families. Contact her if you can host for this exchange.

A discussion followed regarding the rule that there is a fee if the exchange is over 3 nights. Steve will contact International to check if we need to pay this fee.

Incoming Ukraine (IRIS)– Vic reported there are 10 people coming who speak English well. Hosts are needed for this exchange. The agenda is "Citizenship dialogue for the Promotion of Social Responsibility. Vic K. will be the Exchange Director for this
May 27 – June 2 incoming exchange.

Outgoing Peru – June 8 – 27, 2009 – 21 ambassadors signed up so far.

Incoming SW Florida - Betty Emrich reported that the tentative dates for this exchange are either 8/10 – 16 or 8/21 – 25. The ambassadors will be attending the Iowa State Fair and will be in CR either the week before the fair or the week after. The week of the fair they will be staying in Des Moines.

New Zealand/Australia -Phyllis Siedel has been appointed the Exchange Director for this exchange in 2010.

Azerbaijan – Steve reported that we have been asked to lead and exchange to Azerbaijan. He and Darby will pursue further information on this before we commit our club. Half of the members will be from CR and half from the world.

Mystery Weekend – Scheduled for October 2009 and Sally Fairchild will again be the Exchange Director for this fun event.

OLD BUSINESS: Tressa presented the new by-law change.

We are switching it back to President Elect going to the International Conference and the Exchange Coordinator will go only if the President Elect cannot go.

We will pay for only ½ of the travel expense. If the conference is a Domestic conference, then both shall attend. A motion was made to accept the wording of this by-law change. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

We are in charge of the Tri-Club Picnic. Darby has asked for volunteers to help plan this event for July, August or September. We need a date and location.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

The Silent Auction followed the General Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Sauer