

**Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City
General Meeting
March 25, 2007**

President Dianne Karal called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., Sunday, March 25th, at Touch of Class in Cedar Rapids. Approximately 32 members and guests attended.

Meeting minutes from February 18, 2007 were reviewed. Ed Junkins made a motion to accept the minutes. Vic Klopfenstein seconded the motion, which passed.

No Treasurer's Report was given.

Membership Chair, Margaret Miller, reported that the club had 103 paid members. One new member, Audrey Bradford, had also joined.

Vic Klopfenstein introduced his guest, Margaret Scott, who was visiting from the Quad Cities' club. She plans to travel to Japan with our club this fall.

Old Business

President Dianne informed the group that we still need a New Member Mentor. Anyone interested should see Dianne.

No formal report on the Shelby, North Carolina exchange was given, but President Dianne stated that approximately 14 people were signed up for the trip.

Margaret Miller reported on the Peru incoming exchange. Because of increased security and visa-related issues, the Peru group asked for a formal invitation to Cedar Rapids. Twenty-seven Peruvians will arrive September 13th for a week-long stay. The group will be traveling from Cincinnati. Margaret asked for volunteers for home and/or day hosts. Colleen Nieman is willing to give Spanish lessons. A planning meeting for the exchange will be held in Gander Mountain's meeting room on Monday, April 2nd at 6 p.m. Anyone who is interested in helping with the exchange is encouraged to attend. Margaret also reported that Peru will be the topic at the social event on June 10th at Family Merchant Bank on Boyson Road. This will be a potluck event with dishes from Peru.

Vic Klopfenstein reported that the outgoing exchange to Japan was going well. Up to 20 people can sign up. The trip will begin October 22nd in Tokyo, then continue for a second week in Gifu. The exchange will cost between \$2,000 and \$2,200. Insurance will be through Friendship Force. Vic explained that the two cities in Japan are very different (metro vs. rural) so participants will get a taste of both. The Tokyo club won "Best Host Worldwide" at the international conference. Mary Stull related a very positive past experience with the Tokyo club. The April 22nd General Meeting will have a Japanese theme.

Vic also reported that the club only has 24 t-shirts remaining. He said he would order more because we need smaller shirts for the Japan club.

New Business

President Dianne explained how the silent auction would work. All money raised during the auction would benefit the Friendship Force Legacy Fund. In addition, the \$25 fee for the evening provided an extra donation to the Legacy Fund.

Vic Klopfenstein reported that he received a nice booklet at the international conference that featured pictures of Steve and Nancy Miller, as well as Vic with two Russian guests. The book also listed major donors to the Legacy Fund. The Cedar Rapids/IC Club was listed as a “Shining Star” for donating \$1,500-\$2,999.

The business meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

After dinner and the silent auction, an announcement was made that we had raised \$376.75 from the silent auction, plus \$268.98 from dinner proceeds, totaling \$645.73. With the club’s match of \$500, we will donate \$1145.73 to the Legacy Fund.

Secretary
Darby Anderson