

Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Friendship Force
General Meeting
Shueyville Methodist Church
March 25, 2012

Vic Klopfenstein introduced the program as part of World Friendship Day, with international students and hosts as guests.

Blessings were given from various cultures: traditional, Buddhist, India, Russian Orthodox and Hindu.

A potluck dinner was enjoyed by all.

Sherry Nicely of Wellman the regional coordinator for World Link, a high school exchange program based in Kalona, presented the program. About 150 students per year come to the US with scholarships. There are 30 in our area now. The students volunteer here as they usually don't do that at home. There are alumni organizations in the home countries so students can stay involved. One Armenian alumnus needs help for treatment in Moscow. Sherry passed around cards to sign and a box for cash. Checks can be made to World Link.

The guest students introduced themselves and their host families. Eleven students from Russia, Azerbaijan, Australia, Viet Nam (2), Pakistan, India, Indonesia (2), Turkey and Kirgizstan presented interesting facts about their country and their stay here.

Next event on the calendar is Open World Russian physicians, March 30 to April 5. Physicians, 3 female and 2 male, are coming, plus an interpreter and a facilitator. A potluck dinner will be held at 6:30 PM, Sat. March 31 at Prairie Hill Pavilion-all are invited. Bring a salad, vegetable or dessert. Meat, beverage and service will be provided. RSVP to Vic at vklopfenstein@msn.com. The second open event is the farewell dinner at Metro Buffet on Blair's Ferry at 6 PM. Each member pays for their own meal. Just to know a number, RSVP to Vic at the same email.

Business Meeting

Minutes for the past meeting were approved as posted on the club web site.

Dave Detwiler presented the treasurer's report with \$12,200.94 in the General fund and \$4372.14 in the Exchange fund. A motion was made by Tom Wilkinson and seconded by Joanne Smith-Motion carried.

Other events- Thursday, April 19, LEO at the Heights Supper Club in Monticello, 6:30 PM. Also, May 6 General meeting with Regional Coordinator Pat Meyers speaking on themed exchanges. Place to be announced.

Membership- Marion Wetjen announced that there are 7 new members bringing the total to 104.

Phyllis Seidl, Inbound Mystery ED announced the dates are June 22, 23, 24, 25. Some volunteer helpers are needed. Please call Phyllis at 319-377-5619.

Other Exchanges—Dianne Karal announced;

Connecticut inbound is cancelled due to lack of ambassadors.

Training for ED's will be held April 28 for domestic exchanges and April 29 for international exchanges. More info to follow.

Uganda, **Approximate Dates** are: September 15-October 2, Humanitarian and new Club initiative Exchange. Dianne was asked by FFI to be the ED. Five days will be spent around a school and orphanage with the remaining time spent touring.

St. Louis, Domestic outbound-Sept. 27-Oct. 1, Tressa Youngbear is ED

Niagara, Canada-international inbound, Oct. 21-28.

Meeting adjourned by Pres. Dave Detwiler at 6:25 PM.