

**Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City
General Meeting
April 22, 2007**

President Dianne Karal called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, April 22nd, at Beems Auditorium at the Cedar Rapids Public Library. Approximately 40 members and guests attended. President Dianne welcomed everyone and explained that after the business meeting, the group would learn more about Japan and view slides from Nancy Miller's trip.

Jim Nieman introduced his guests, Stephanie and Bill Farrell from New York. Marian Wetjen introduced her guest, Charlotte Dozoryst. Patty and Dave Detwiler were guests of the Karals and Victor Klopfenstein introduced his guest, Margaret Scott from the Quad Cities Club.

Meeting minutes from March 25, 2007 were reviewed. Tressa Youngbear made a motion to accept the minutes. Mary Stull seconded the motion, which passed.

Winston Edson presented the Treasurer's Report. The Exchange Fund has \$1,197.23. The General Fund has \$8,020.04. The IRIS Host Escrow account has \$2,187.50 and the Promotions Fund has \$2,797.58. Total assets are \$14,202.35. Winston noted that the budget reflected dues that were paid earlier in the year.

Membership Chair, Margaret Miller, reported that two more members had joined since the board meeting earlier that day, bringing paid membership to 103.

Old Business

Discussion of a club website was tabled.

An event budget has been set at \$200/year for necessities.

President Dianne Karal stated that the Board wanted to eliminate the Scholarship Fund and replace it with the Promotions Fund. She explained that the money would be better spent in this manner. Ed Barker moved that we change the Scholarship Fund to the Promotions Fund. Frank Stull seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Vice-President, and Chair of the Promotions Committee, Tressa Youngbear stated she was investigating a variety of printed promotional pieces for the club. Anyone interested in helping with this committee should contact her.

New Business

President Dianne asked for a volunteer to plan the May L.E.O. in Iowa City. Nancy and Steve Miller volunteered to organize the event.

There will be an outgoing and incoming exchange with Germany in 2008. Vice President Tressa Youngbear volunteered as the Exchange Director for the outgoing exchange. An incoming ED is still needed. Exchange dates are tentative at this point.

Jim Nieman reported on the outgoing exchange to Shelby, NC. Twenty-three people are interested but only 8 people have officially signed up. There will be an informational meeting about the trip after the general meeting. To date, a tour of the Biltmore Estate and the BMW factory have been scheduled during the exchange. If anyone else is interested, they should contact Jim before June 1st for an application and provide a \$100 deposit. The exchange will be from July 29th through August 3rd. Transportation to and from Shelby is up to the individual.

Margaret Miller reported on the incoming Peru exchange, which begins September 13th. Twenty-seven Peruvians are interested in the exchange, but only seven have visas so far. Hosts are still needed. The June 10th general meeting will be on Peru. Margaret asked for volunteers to make food. The event will be held at the Family Merchants Bank in Cedar Rapids.

The main event for the exchange will be a Celebration Belle Cruise on Wednesday, September 19th. The cruise will leave from Dubuque at 11:00 a.m. The cruise includes a meal, snacks and live music. Margaret currently has the cruise booked for 40 people. Cost of the event is \$46 per person. The deadline to sign up is August 20th. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

Victor Klopfenstein discussed his experience at the Atlanta Friendship Force Conference. He said the ceremony was held at the Georgia Aquarium and they had whales swimming around them during the event. He said approximately 450 attended and it was a great opportunity to meet other clubs and gather information. He explained that the National organization is fundraising more and expanding into more countries. Ten to 15 new clubs have been organized. He mentioned that Nancy and Steve Miller were pictured in the national magazine and that our club was recognized as a "Rising Star" for our donations to the Legacy Fund.

Vice President Tressa Youngbear said it was truly a privilege to attend the conference. She noticed a theme throughout of "where will the club be in 30 years." She said there's an emphasis on long-term planning and possibly incorporating community service into the exchanges. Tressa attended all the promotion-related meetings and gathered a lot of good ideas. She found a lady in the D.C. area who is willing to create a brochure for us for free.

A Tri-Club Picnic will be held in September, possibly September 9th in either Davenport or Clinton. Tressa Youngbear has volunteered to be our club's Point of Contact for the event.

President Dianne has applications for the Midwest Regional Conference on October 12th and 13th in Dubuque. Home stays are a possibility.

Victor Klopfenstein stated the club will have a potluck picnic at Lowe Park in Marion on July 15th. Charlie Kress is organizing the picnic. Hayrack rides will be provided around the park.

The general business meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Secretary
Darby Anderson