

**Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City
General Meeting
July 15, 2007**

President Dianne Karal called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m., Sunday, July 15th, at Lowe Park's Arts and Environment Center in Marion. Approximately 40 members and guests attended.

Guest, Shelby Foley, was introduced. She is the Master Gardener for the Arts and Environment Center.

Meeting minutes from June 10, 2007 were reviewed. Victor Klopfenstein moved to approve the minutes. Margaret Miller seconded the motion.

Winston Edson presented the Treasurer's Report. The Exchange Fund has \$1,713.23. The General Fund has \$7,761.95. The IRIS Host Escrow account has \$2,187.50 and the Promotions Fund has \$2,797.58. Total assets are \$14,460.26.

Membership Director Margaret Miller reported the club now has 103 members.

Old Business

President Dianne reported that Darby Anderson had volunteered to research costs involved with having a Web site and brainstorm general content for it.

Vice-President Tressa Youngbear reported on Club Promotion. She spoke to Jim Ketchum at Cornerstone Press about printing brochures. He is eager to help and is donating his company's graphic design services. We will work with him to create two brochures: a "who we are" piece and a "why visit us" piece. Tressa asked for volunteers to help with the brochures. The goal is to have the brochures done by the annual meeting.

President Dianne is working with Mary Carson on a membership photo directory. All members need to get their picture taken.

New Business

Our club will host an IRIS exchange from Russia July 24th-28th. We are not responsible for programming, but a potluck is planned for Friday, the 27th, at 6:00 p.m. at the Klopfenstein's. This event is open to all hosts. Information on the delegates is now available for the hosts.

Victor Klopfenstein reported that 10 or 12 people are going on the Shelby, North Carolina exchange. They are leaving July 28th and most people are driving there.

Vice-President Tressa Youngbear discussed the social activity for August. The Meskwaki Powwow will be August 12th at 1:00 p.m. Members are encouraged to carpool to Tama and then meet at the Youngbear's camper. Food will be sold during the event at concession stands. Tressa advised members to bring lawn chairs or cushions for the bleachers. She handed out directions and an informational sheet about the event. Camping is first-come, first-served and electricity is not guaranteed. The casino has camping spots for \$15/night with electricity and water.

Tressa also reported on the Tri-Club Picnic on September 9th at 1:15. The picnic will be held in Clinton at Eagle Point Park. No other information is available at this time.

Margaret Miller discussed the incoming Peru exchange. Eight people are coming, with two more awaiting visas. They are coming from Ohio on September 13th or 14th via Greyhound bus. The welcome banquet is scheduled for September 14th. The river cruise was moved to Saturday, September 15th, and will now leave from Moline, Illinois. It will be a 2-hour lunch cruise. Members need to sign up before August 15th. The cost is \$26.25/person. Margaret also explained that the Wickiup Hill event was moved to Monday, the 17th, and will serve as the farewell potluck. Sunday will be a free day for hosts and delegates.

Victor Klopfenstein reported on his Open World training in Atlanta. Vic said this year's theme was Social Concerns/Elderly Care. Our club will host a group from Russia October 6th-14th. Vic and Steve Williams are trying to incorporate the delegates into the Midwest Conference in Dubuque. They are also working with the Area Agency on Aging on more programs. Eight delegates, two facilitators and two interpreters are signed up for the trip.

Victor also reported on the Japan exchange. Twenty people are signed up for the trip, which leaves October 22nd. Two people had to cancel so the Seidls are now going. Vic said the Exchange Director from Tokyo has already selected hosts. Because Tokyo is such a large city, most activities will be done separately with home hosts. A brief workshop on this exchange is scheduled for immediately after the general meeting.

President Dianne stated the Midwest Conference will be October 12th and 13th at the Dubuque Holiday Inn. The \$70 registration fee is due by September 1st. Home hosting is available, but limited.

The incoming exchange group from Germany has requested that they come in May. Our outgoing exchange to Germany is scheduled for June 8th -23rd. Because of the close proximity in exchanges, President Dianne asked if the membership had any objections. None were voiced. Exchange Directors Tressa Youngbear and Steve Williams will work out the details.

President Dianne discussed the annual meeting. The Board is discussing some new ideas such as dessert bars/wine tastings and different locations. Membership approved moving away from a sit-down dinner for the meeting.

Mary Carson presented information on Promise of Health's fundraiser with Old Creamery Theater. She asked members to sell tickets to the October 20th performance of "Noises Off" to raise money for cataract surgeries in Mayan villages. Mary explained that they needed to sell 200 tickets.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Secretary
Darby Anderson