

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF CEDAR RAPIDS/IOWA CITY

Annual Meeting, November 9, 2008

Marion Heritage Center

The meeting was called to order and Stephanie Schulte, Co-President thanked the Activities Committee for the guest speaker covering Cultural Diversity in Cedar Rapids. An International Soup Supper was also enjoyed by all.

MEMBERSHIP: Our present membership total is 108 as we end the year. We lost 15 people and gained 15 people to remain the same for the year.

COMMUNICATIONS: Vic Klopfenstein commented about the great brochure that was incorporated for FF this year. We also have the website up and running now. It is friendshipforcecr-ic.org. He reported that 7 presentations were given around the area in 2008 and one more is scheduled in December. We submitted an article for the International Friendship Force Newsletter regarding the flooding but it was not printed. There are 4 more presentations already scheduled (but dates not set yet) for 2009.

ACTIVITIES: January 11th will be a Board and General Meeting with a program on Peru.

EXCHANGES: Berlin outgoing - 19 members went on this trip. Grand Junction had 13 members on this outgoing exchange. Peru has 18 members signed up so far. Contact Dianne Karal if you wish to go on this exchange in June 2009. The Amazon group will leave on June 8th and will meet the second group in Lima, Peru on June 12th. There will be an overnight rural tourism night for the group before flying to Trujillo and the one week home stay. We have agreed to a Los Angeles incoming exchange so an Exchange Director is needed for May 2009. You must complete an application and submit it to Tressa Youngbear. The application can be downloaded online or to receive a paper copy contact Tressa.

The Outgoing Los Angeles Exchange has tentatively been scheduled for sometime Jan - March 2010 (cold weather months here in Iowa).

IRIS: We have had two this year from Georgia (8) and Nigeria (6). Vic Klopfenstein reported that he has requested funds from Iowa Resource International Services in Ames.

TREASURERS ANNUAL REPORT: Dick Hansen handed out the report for 2008 showing both expenditures and receivables (copies attached).

BOARD GOALS: (Copy attached)

- Did not increase membership
- Did not have an incoming exchange
- Otherwise had a successful year

Tressa Youngbear and Stephanie Schultz, outgoing Co-Presidents thanked all of the board members, committee chairpersons for a successful year and everyone's contributions to the club.

Audrey Bradford mentioned the Inter-Religious Thanksgiving Service for the Homeless on Nov. 24th at 7:00 pm

Stephanie Schultz brought up the fact that within the individual membership dues \$10 per year is allocated for the International magazine subscription. It was discussed that this magazine can be read online. Discussion followed as to whether we wanted to continue with this \$10 portion for the subscription. It is presently in the by-laws so for 2009 we will have to collect it but some members felt that we should just keep the \$10 per individual membership to build up our finances within the club and then vote on a by-law change so that in 2010 we can reduce the dues by this \$10 per individual. We will vote on this by-law change at the January meeting. Tressa recommended that all concerns or questions regarding subscriptions should be addressed with Marty Novak before the December 7th Board Meeting.

The Brochure Committee have printed up FF Note cards with the new logo. They are selling them to our club members 10 for \$6.00 and to other clubs 10 for \$7.50.

A future fund-raising committee was proposed by Diane Karal. She felt that our club would benefit from adding this committee.

A discussion was held regarding having 2-year terms for Officers instead of the 1-year commitment we presently follow.

Nominations for Officers for 2009 was announced.

President - Darby Anderson

Vice President - Audrey Bradford

Secretary - Elizabeth Sauer

Treasurer - Dick Hansen

Pat Klopfenstein made a motion that all nominations cease. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

President, Darby Anderson took over the meeting and announced the Committee Chairpersons for 2009.

Activities - Connie Williams

Membership - Marty Novak (New Members Mentor - Margaret Miller)

Directors at Large - Bernita Walker and Dale Moore

Communications - Vic and Pat Klopfenstein

Historian - Janis Schmitz

Internal Communications - Mary Stull

Darby discussed her experiences at the FFI Conference in Australia. She felt it was very beneficial and she made contact with numerous FF clubs including Croatia, Slovakia, Belgium, New Zealand, and Australia.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Sauer, Secretary

Enclosures