

Yours in Friendship January 2009

2009 is off to a great start. Thanks to the hard work of many members and some good fortune we have a lot of activities coming up. If this isn't a year for you to travel or to host, there will still be many activities to enjoy with welcoming events for incoming visits, LEO's, fundraisers and more. Join in the fun.

NEW BUSINESS

January Meeting Recap

The Board of Directors and General Meetings were held on Sunday, January 11, 2009, at St. Andrew Lutheran Church Hall. Reports were given including the report from membership chair, Marty Novak. We have about 100 members. If you haven't paid your 2009 dues, please contact Marty to pay them right away. Her address is: 1253 Belmont Pky NE, Cedar Rapids IA 52405.

Looking ahead – March Meeting

We will celebrate World Friendship Day with our Sunday, March 8 meeting. Members are encouraged to bring potential new members to enjoy the program and get to know us. We are really excited to have Tom Ecker as our guest speaker. Tom is an Olympic historian, raconteur, noted author, world traveler and humorist, and he lives right here in Cedar Rapids. His role in the Olympics has varied greatly – from being an Olympic coach, a technical committee member, a researcher, an author, a lecturer, a tour escort and even a torchbearer. Tom will share his unique experiences of working with the Olympics and other countries and cultures. You won't want to miss this presentation!

We will also have a Silent Auction at this meeting. This is our annual fundraiser for Friendship Force International's Legacy Fund. This year \$250 will be sent to the fund. If we raise less from the auction, we will make up the difference from our treasury. If we make more than \$250, the additional amount will be added to our treasury. Please check your home for those interesting items that you no longer need or enjoy that someone else may be delighted to own. If you have a special talent, you may consider donating a project or service to sell.

By-Law Update

Tressa Youngbear and committee have done a lot of work revising the organization's by-laws. The by-law changes were discussed and all of the changes except Article VII. Section 3 were accepted by the membership. The committee will work further on revising the excluded section, which deals with the Exchange Coordinator attending the International Conference.

Friendship Force International Magazine

The magazine will no longer be sent out from Atlanta in hard copy. To get your magazine, as well as other FFI information, online: Go to <http://www.thefriendshipforce.org>. Click on "Leadership Forum" near the top of the page. As you scan down the left side, you will see a section called "FFI Publications." Click on "Sign up to receive FFI Communications." You will have to fill out a short form with your name, email and country. Click on "Submit." This will

automatically generate an email confirming your subscription. You will see that you also have the option of viewing the magazine online at any time by selecting Friendship Magazine from the list of "publications." Double click on the issue. The August 2008 is the last issue you can see now.

If you don't use email, a hard copy will be printed and sent to you.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, February 11 -- LEO (Let's Eat Out)

6 pm Thai Moon, 4362 16th Avenue, SW Cedar Rapids

Reservation to Connie and Myron Williams – hosts 396-44747 or cmw1216@yahoo.com by Monday, Feb 9.

Sunday, March 8 -- World Friendship Day

Board Meeting 2:00 pm

General Meeting 204:00 pm

Edgewood Road HyVee Club Room

Dinner \$15 per person; Reservation to Connie Williams by Wednesday, March 2, 396-44747 or cmw1216@yahoo.com. Mail checks to 3960 Johnson Avenue NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405.

Silent Auction – fundraiser for National Friendship Force Legacy Fund and local club.

New Member Orientation

Date and location will be announced

April LEO

Date and place will be announced - Phyllis and Jerry Seidl, hosts

May Dinner Meeting

Date and Location will be announced to coincide with LA Exchange

June 17 – LEO

6 pm Lighthouse Inn - Joan Jacob and John Haack, hosts

EXCHANGE NEWS

Exchanges 2009

Outgoing – Peru - June 8 -27, 2009. Dianne Karal, ED. Nineteen people are enrolled in this exchange.

Incoming – Los Angeles – May 2009, dates to be determined soon. Margaret Miller has been approved as ED and will be working with the LA group to complete plans for this visit. Volunteers for hosts will be needed.

Incoming – SW Florida (Santa Belle, Naples, Coral Gables) August 2009, dates to be determined. Betty Emrich has been approved as ED for this five-day exchange. Hosts will again be needed.

Outgoing Mystery Weekend – Sally Fairchild has agreed to be ED for another adventure. No one knows where we'll go, but we know it will be fun!

Exchanges 2010

Outgoing – LA – date to be determined. Jan-Mar 2010.

Outgoing International – Kapiti Coast and Christchurch, New Zealand, with a possible third week in Australia—March 2010. Applications will be taken for ED.

Other Exchange Possibilities

Sandhill Crane Excursion in Nebraska, March 10-18, 2009 or three-day bus tour, March 11-13. If you're interested in joining the Lincoln, Nebraska group for this tour, contact Steve Williams, Darby Anderson or Audrey Bradford.

Incoming Exchanges are still in the works for Tokyo, Grand Junction, Colorado and Omaha.

Club Website

Remember you can check our Friendship Force website at <http://www.friendshipforcecr-ic.org> for information about past or upcoming events. You can view the International website at <http://www.thefriendshipforce.org>. If you don't use email Friendship Force news will be mailed to you.

2009 will be a great and busy year for the Cedar Rapids- Iowa City Friendship Force. Please join us.

Yours in Friendship,
Darby Anderson and Audrey Bradford