

Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City
Yours in Friendship
November 2010

Thankfully, you will see no campaign commercials in this newsletter! The change from the 2010 officers to the 2011 officers took place quietly and seamlessly at the November Annual Meeting this past Sunday evening. Special thanks to all who made the evening a success, including Margaret Nelson and Jill Rinkenberger for planning and preparing the dinner meeting and Dianne and Mike Karal for a great job of wrapping up the Silent Auction. It was an evening of good fellowship and fun.

We are grateful to Bernita Walker, Liz Sauer, Margaret Nelson and Darby Winger for their contributions of time and talent during 2010. You have been a joy to work with. And we all recognize and thank Audrey Bradford for leading us thoughtfully, representing us graciously and being committed to the service of Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City. It has been a very good year.

A note from Audrey:

Thank you Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City for a great year as president. Many of you have helped me at various times and I appreciate your guidance. I learned two main things about our club and Friendship Force International from my experiences this year.

One is that Friendship Force International is exactly the kind of organization I hoped it was. FF members want to improve the world, make worldwide friends and promote understanding and acceptance of differences. It's wonderful when this involves exciting travel and home stays with warm, fascinating people.

The second thing I learned was that Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City is an ideal model of a local organization. I appreciated getting to go to the regional leadership conference in May and the international conference in October. After each of these, I was even more proud to represent Cedar Rapids/Iowa City. We have a club that is active and involved: Nearly 90% of our members participated actively in at least one exchange or activity this year.

We have full exchange schedules because we create positive exchange experiences and are seen as both good guests and good hosts. Our board operates smoothly and effectively without personal conflicts or agendas. Our budget is extremely sound and well managed. We support Friendship Force International financially and philosophically. We continue to maintain our membership numbers. We provide activities that encourage thinking while having a good time. You could all add your own experiences to this list.

I wish for Connie Williams and Dave Detwiler the fun and excitement of leading another positive year for our club, and I hope they enjoy the support of all of you.

Thank you,
Audrey Bradford
Past President

Calendar

January 9, 2011, Sunday at 2-4 pm: General meeting at HyVee Community Room, Edgewood Rd NE, Cedar Rapids. Steve Williams presents on Global Exchange, Azerbaijan. Please bring guests!

February, 2011 Let's Eat Out – date, time & place to be announced

March, 2011 World Friendship Day

April 2011: Midwest Regional Conference in Lincoln, NE

June 30 – July 6, 2011: Incoming Exchange from Tokyo, Japan
Mary Stull, Exchange Director: mcdstull@aol.com

August 26-30, 2011: FFI World Conference, Hamburg, Germany

November 2011: Outgoing Exchange to Costa Rica
Vic Klopfenstein, Exchange Director: vpklopfenstein@msn.com

Updates

Annual dues are \$20 per person - Please send your check to Marty Novak, Membership Chair, at 1253 Belmont Pkwy NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

Hosts are needed for Let's Eat Out (LEO) in February, June, August and October. Please contact Connie Williams at cmw1226@yahoo.com if you are willing to host. Hosts choose the date & restaurant, get RSVPs & make reservations.

Annual Meeting News

By unanimous vote, Dave Detwiler (President-Elect), John Haack (Secretary) and Dale Moore (Treasurer) will join Connie Williams (President) for the 2011 year. Other board members include Marian Wetjen (Director at Large), Marty Novak (Membership Chair), Vic and Pat Klopfenstein (Communications Co-Chairs), Steve Williams (Exchange Coordinator) and Audrey Bradford (Past-President). The Silent Auction was a huge success, results to be published in the minutes of the November meeting.

Change of the bylaws article 9 section 1 regarding finances was brought up for discussion and voted in at the November meeting. The following would be added "New members joining after June 30th will pay half the annual membership dues for the balance of that year." This would not apply to renewals of membership.

*Thanks to all of you for allowing me the pure pleasure of representing our club at the International Conference, much networking was done and many friends were made. The Midwest region was well represented, bringing 50 of the 500 attendees to Washington, DC. Our focus as a region and as a club will continue to be that we...
Explore – Understand – Serve.*

Always in friendship, Connie Williams