

Yours in Friendship September 2009

Be sure to include the Tri-Club Picnic that we're hosting on September 20th in your plans this month. The Dubuque and Quad City Clubs will be joining us.

Calendar:

September 13th – Board Meeting, 3:30 at 3:30 at Gander Mountain off Edgewood Rd. SW. The classroom/meeting room is inside the store toward the left and back.

September 20th – Tri-Club Picnic, 4:00 pm, Monticello City Park at 800 N. Maple St. The Jones County Pork Producers will be cooking pork burgers and ice cream will be provided from the Jones County Dairy Producers for \$5/person. Condiments for the sandwiches and ice cream will be provided. **Please bring a salad or vegetable to share and beer, wine or pop if you choose. Iced tea, lemonade, plates** napkins and utensils will be provided. CR/IC members and should RSVP to Jack Knopp at jpkjlk@q.com before September 11th.

If you want to make a fun day of it, float the Maquoketa River at noon for only \$30 for a two-person canoe. This is one of the nicest float trips in eastern Iowa. Bus pickup/delivery and float is about 3.5 to 4 hours depending on the water level. Right now Steve and Jack say it would only take about 30 minutes so hopefully the water will slow a little by then. It's a very safe trip. Call or e-mail Jack Knopp at 319-465-4402 or jpkjlk@q.com for more information and to RSVP.

October 16th LEO- 6:00 p.m., Tatyana's Kitchen, 224 W 1st St., in Mount Vernon. This is across from the fire station in a brick home. Parking is available in the rear near the bank. Tatyana, from the Ukraine, prepares a Russian cuisine and international pastries. At dinner, she will tell us how she came to the States. She is opening her café especially for us on this Friday night.

Choose one of the following four options when you make your reservation

1. Cabbage rolls with potatoes
2. Pork rolls with asparagus
3. Russian steak with cheese and onions on top
4. Salmon in puffed dough

A salad is included with all the choices.

Cost: Dinner: \$9.90, Beverage: \$1.50; Dessert: \$ 4.00

Bernita Walker will be hosting. Please call Bernita by **Monday, October 12** to make a reservation and tell her your choice for dinner. Call 563-886-3098 or email bernitaw1300@iowatelecom.net

November annual meeting: This was originally scheduled for November 8, but will probably be moved to the 15th because of the Tucson exchange. Date, place and program will be announced.

Upcoming Exchanges:

Tucson, AZ – November 2009 Marian Wetjen is the ED.

Tentative dates are November 4 - 9. Tucson holds a big Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) parade and celebration on the evening of the seventh that they are eager to share with us. Marian is working on the flights to Tucson and it looks like the group may be leaving from Des Moines with a cost of about \$350 for the flight plus exchange fees. There are still openings so please contact Marian if you are interested. mwetjen@q.com or 363-0586

New Zealand – April 14-30, 2010 Kapiti Coast and Christchurch, New Zealand.

Phyllis Seidl at seidlgerald@msn.com is the Exchange Director. The week at Kapiti Coast will have the additional interest of being a joint exchange with a group from Tasmania visiting at the same time. **Phyllis sent this information on flights and cost:**

New Zealand FFI exchange fees (estimated):	\$590.00	
Air Fare Cedar Rapids to N.Z. & return via United and Air New Zealand - including flight from Christchurch to Wellington: (CR to NZ, includes FFI fees)	2315.00	
For those interested in Melbourne Extension and some undetermined costs.	243.00	additional plus tax

The following is necessary as quickly as possible:

1. Your Ambassador Application and a check for \$200 made out to Friendship Force and sent to Phyllis in order to lock in our air fare as much as possible.
2. Those interested in a Melbourne extension should be aware that they will need a short term visa and an Australian Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) document before departure from the US.
3. I still need to find out whether there is a limit to how long you can stay in Australia, or whether all Aussie travelers have to be on the same schedule. I suspect that as long as you use Air NZ you dont need to be on the same schedule, but I will find out.
4. I don't think we need to have a meeting at this time, but if you have any questions call Phyllis or Jerry Seidl at 377-5619

The Christchurch and the Kapiti Clubs are anxious for us to get all things confirmed. We are too.

Azerbaijan – Our club has a great opportunity in Baku Azerbaijan. This will be two weeks of fun on the Caspian in September 2010. Write to Steve Williams swill1234@msn.com to express interest. We should have ambassadors from many clubs on that trip.

Membership questionnaire:

Please take a few minutes to complete the following questionnaire. You may sign your name, or not, as you choose. Forms can be emailed to Audrey Bradford at audrey.b@mchsi.com or can be mailed to her at 1126 Forest Glen Ct. SE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52403.

FF CR/IC Membership Questionnaire

What do you think are the most important activities of FF CR/IC? (Mark as many as you wish.)

- International outgoing exchanges
- International incoming exchanges
- Domestic outgoing exchanges
- Domestic incoming exchanges
- Cultural experiences and learning
- Socialization
- Other _____

What do you most enjoy about your FF CR/IC membership?

- International outgoing exchanges
- International incoming exchanges
- Domestic outgoing exchanges
- Domestic incoming exchanges
- Cultural experiences and learning
- Socialization
- Other _____

Meetings and activities:

How many times a year would you like the general meeting to include:?

- Pot lucks? _____
- Catered meals? _____
- Ethnic meals? _____
- Dessert and beverage only? _____
- Other? _____

How much are you comfortable paying for:

- | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|
| Catered meal? | \$5 | \$10 | \$15 | \$20 | \$25 | more |
| Catered ethnic meal? | \$5 | \$10 | \$15 | \$20 | \$25 | more |

How well is the current LEO practice working for you? (1= not at all; 5 = extremely well)

1 2 3 4 5

Suggestions for doing LEO's differently _____

How happy are you with your current involvement in FF CR/IC?

- I'm too involved, it's taking too much of my time.
- I'm pretty involved and ok with it.
- I'm not very involved right now but doing as much as I want at this time.
- I'm not involved as much as I would like to be but don't know how to get more involved.

How do you feel about the communication you receive from your leadership? (Yours in Friendship Newsletter and supplemental updates)

____ Too much? (What should be cut down or out?) _____
____ Just right
____ Not enough? (What should there be more of?) _____

Is the current distribution of information working for you? (e-mail or posted mail)
____ Yes, it works fine
____ No, it isn't working (What is needed?) _____

What kind of fundraising activities do you think FF CR/IC should be doing?
____ Selling to ourselves -- like annual white elephant
____ Selling FF related products – FF shirts, luggage tags, etc. to our membership.
____ Selling FF related products – FF shirts, luggage tags, etc. outside our membership.
____ Seek out external sales venues – Farmer's Market, Marion festivals, etc.
____ Freedom Festival volunteering
____ Other ideas _____

Do the business meetings meet your needs? Yes No
Are you on the board? Yes No
Are you interested in serving on the board? Yes No

In which kinds of activities would you participate if FF CR/IC offered them:
____ Visits or programs with other cultures in our community?
____ Active/ physical activities?
____ Other? _____
____ Selling FF products at Farmer's Market, other community venues.

The \$5000 Rockwell grant is intended to "promote Cedar Rapids exchanges and cultural enhancement." How would you like to see this money spent? Are there ways that you strongly feel the money shouldn't be used?

Should any be used for "scholarships" to aid members on exchanges?

Should we offer free memberships to some local diversity/cultural organizations?

What suggestions do you have to improve FF CR/IC? What ideas do you have for programming?

What skills do you have that you could use to help our club?

What else should Darby and Audrey know to help them lead our club?