

Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Friendship Force
General Meeting
Marion Heritage Center
July 14, 2013

A general meeting of the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Friendship Force club was held at 2:00 PM Sunday July 14 at the Marion Heritage Center. 35 members were in attendance.

Co-Pres. Dick Hildebrand welcomed the members.

A sign-up sheet was passed around for dishes at the potluck welcome dinner for the Brazil exchange Sept. 22. A sign-up sheet was also passed around for host families for that exchange.

Dick announced the next board meeting will be held August 4 from 1-3 PM at the Hiawatha Library.

The tri-club picnic will be hosted by the Quad Cities club at noon, August 18, at Blackhawk State Historical Site, 1510 46th Ave, Rock Island IL. Lunch at 1:30 with a presentation by Rudy Vallejo of Kickapoo Indians of Kansas. Cost is \$7.50 -- call 309-738-2590. Hiking trails and Hauberg Museum will be open.

Upcoming Exchanges-Dianne Karal

- Themed Exchange is cancelled for lack of interested. Cen. IA club would like to try again.
- Fortaleza, Brazil, incoming Sept. 22-29
- Virginia, outgoing Oct. 10-17
- World Conference, New Orleans Nov. 22-25.

No international exchanges as scheduled for 2014, but several exchanges are pending, including a "stop over" from Japan, outbound to Cincinnati and Sacramento.

Finance Report-Dale Moore

General Account \$14,263.34
Exchange Account \$7,340.63
Cash in Bank \$21,603.97
Net Worth in Bank Accounts \$17,291.20

The program was a quiz contest between four teams on the Basic of Friendship Force both international and local. We were reminded of numerous facts about the organization.

Update on new stuff:

- US exchange fees will now be \$165
Europe and all others to be \$140

- Dues to FFI* (**See update below**)
Now averages \$9 per member
Will be \$17 per member
- US clubs can not conduct an exchange for the current exchange fee of \$100 per ambassador. An appeal was made to FFI. FFI decided to leave the amount the same with clubs asked to make special appeals to FFI if more is needed.

A discussion was held on international exchanges especially the fact our club has none for 2014. At the New Orleans conference, officers will make contacts to discuss the issue.

Refreshments were served, including delicious Russian chocolates and other fine desserts and drinks.

Next general meeting is the Tri-club picnic mentioned above

*** P.S. The FFI club affiliation fee will be increased from \$10 to \$15 for individuals and from \$17 to \$25 for family memberships, but this will be delayed until 2015.** The reason for the delay in this change is to give clubs enough time to make changes in their local membership dues. In considering this increase, the FFI board also recognized that most club members do not travel as ambassadors or serve as hosts each year. Of course, they do benefit from their association with and participation in Friendship Force activities. Therefore, it is reasonable to ask them to make a small annual contribution to support the global organization.