

YOURS IN FRIENDSHIP

FROM THE CEDAR RAPIDS/IOWA CITY
FRIENDSHIP FORCE CLUB

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2013

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

It looks like the “lazy, hazy days of summer are upon us” as we move into August. We have been working hard, but this month we get to pause and enjoy the Tri-Club picnic. This year it is hosted by the Quad Cities Club and will be held August 18 in Rock Island, Ill. Please **call 309-738-2590 to make your reservation by August 8th**. We had amazing attendance last year at Stone City, so let's be sure to return the favor and support this event. Due to the Tri-Club picnic, we will not have a LEO in August.

You probably thought the July 14th general meeting would be a boring topic - fees and changes by FFI. However, the meeting was well attended and all had fun participating in the game that Tressa and her committee devised. Thank you Tressa, Marian Wetjen, Margaret Miller, and Dianne Karal for making it a fun day. Check out the minutes at www.friendshipforceccric.



Meet the 5th President and CEO of Friendship Force International. Her name is Joy DiBenedetto. She brings years of global experience with her from her years at Atlanta based CNN and CARE, the non-profit based in Atlanta that works to end poverty in the world. Joy began her work at FFI on July 15. She will be formally introduced to members at the world conference in New Orleans. To read more about DiBenedetto go to The Friendship Force International website.

Remember... Call in your reservation for the Tri-Club. See you there!

Veta and Richard



Call Cheryl and John Elliott at 319-396-4762 or email at elliottjno@aol.com if you are able to host for incoming Fortaleza, Brazil – September 22 to the 28.

Contact Tressa Youngbear if you would like to volunteer to be on the nominating committee for next year's officers.

Phone: 319-350-4143 or email: ityoungbear@gmail.com

Friendship Force International News.....

- 1. Beginning in 2014 the FFI ambassador fee will be increased by \$15 a week:** The current ambassador fee of \$125 for exchanges originating outside the USA will be increased to \$140, and for exchanges originating from the USA, from \$150 to \$165. Over the long term the board would like to see the difference between the US and the rest of the world eliminated, but for now will keep the same \$25 difference that has been in effect for many years.
- 2. 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.
- 3. There will be no changes in any of the other FFI fees:** The fees for Domestic Exchanges, European Interclub Visits and Stopover Hospitality programs are the same as before.
- 4. The host fees will remain the same:** The standard host program fee will remain \$100, but host clubs may increase this fee as necessary. The FFI Board instructed the FFI staff to work with clubs so they understand and are able to carry out the current policy, which encourages them to charge more than \$100 if it is necessary to provide a full host program for the visiting ambassadors. If more than \$100 is required, however, the host club must inform the ambassador ED of this at the beginning of the planning process. We want the host fees to be as low as possible, but it is better for clubs to charge more than \$100 than to reduce the quality of the host program or place an excessive financial burden on the hosts.

All FFI fees will continue to be based on the US dollar. For many parts of the world the value of the dollar has declined in recent years, reducing the impact of the fee increase.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS.....

Friendship Force Tri-Club Annual Picnic



Hosted by the Quad Cities Club

August 18, 2013

Blackhawk State Historic Site

Singing Bird Lodge - North Side of the Park

1510 46th Avenue, Rock Island, IL

Gather at Noon Lunch at 1:30

Menu: Subway Sandwiches, Chips Whitey's Ice Cream & Soda

There will be a Presentation at 2:30 by RUDY VALLEJO

He is a member of the Kickapoo Indians of Kansas

He will share Indian History and Dance

An Indiana Teepee and Artifacts will be on display

Cost - \$7.50

Call 309-738-2590 or e-mail kathleenk@mchsi.com

Hiking Trails available & the Hauberg Museum will be Open

2014 Midwest Regional Conference

The Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee is pleased to announce May 1-4, as the dates for the 2014 Midwest Regional Conference in Milwaukee. This will be a general conference so all members are encouraged to attend. They will gain valuable information from the workshop speakers, be able to network with other Midwest members plus have a fun Saturday afternoon of activities around Milwaukee.

CALENDAR of EVENTS - (print this page as a reminder)

August 4	Board Meeting (Note: NEW DATE)	Location - Hiawatha Library
August 18	Tri-Club Picnic	Location - Rock Island, IL
Sept. 15	General Meeting 1:00pm The program: "Indonesia" Steve Williams, Host	
Sept. 22-29	Incoming Fortaleza, Brazil	ED: David Detwiler daviddetwiler@msn.com
Oct 6	Board Meeting	Location TBD, Hildebrands
October 9-17	Outgoing to Virginia	ED: Tressa Youngbear ityoungbear@gmail.com
October ?	L.E.O. Location TBD	Connie Williams, Hostess
November 10	Annual Meeting & Elections	Veta & Dick Hildebrand, Hosts
Nov 22-25	FFI World Conference	Location - New Orleans
December ?	L.E.O. Location TBD	Host & Location TBD
May 1-4, 2014	Midwest Regional Conference	Location - Milwaukee

BOARD MEMBERS 2013

Richard & Veta Hildebrand, Co- Presidents

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**In friendship
Richard & Veta Hildebrand
Tressa Youngbear**
