

Friendship Force of CR/IC Minutes of General Meeting, January 19, 2014

The Meeting convened at 2:30 P.M at the Marion Heritage Center.

Tressa presented the idea of "Working Guidelines" that she and the board are working on to make transition easier in the future for new officers and board members.

Vic presented what has been done about the upcoming Open World exchange. He reported that we have an incoming Open World Group from Russia, February 28-March 8. There will be 5 ambassadors and the facilitator. The theme is "Governance". Our annual World Friendship Day meeting will be on March 2 at 2:30 pm. Dessert will be served. The meeting will include presentations by the visiting Russians.

Diane talked about incoming and outgoing exchanges:

Incoming Oregon, May 14-20

Audrey talked about the incoming Oregon exchange in May. Plans are being formulated. She sent a sign up sheet around asking for host families, dinner hosts and day hosts for that exchange. She got a good response.

Outgoing Cincinnati, July 21-27

Steve W. announced the Cincinnati club has developed a global exchange about the Underground Railroad and is using our exchange for a practice run for them.

Incoming Japan stopover, June 11-13

This exchange will be rest time mostly with few activities.

Outgoing Sacramento, October 15-21

Marian announced that it is a long way off yet but 13 people have shown interest already.

Esther said that all the L.E.O. meetings are set up except for 1. She sent a sign up sheet around for that meeting. Steve Williams talked about the February L.E.O. meeting. It will be at a new restaurant in Springville called Sally's on Board way. He said the food is very good and the owner very accommodating. She is offering a special of an 8oz. sirloin + shrimp + scallops for \$15.00. If you wish to sign up, please contact Steve. Let him know if you want the special.

Members who attended the World Conference in New Orleans presented an overview of the information presented:

- We need to be more proactive in order to get more exchanges.
- FFI website has a list of all clubs in the US and the World.
- We need to come up with theme ideas to entice people to want to come to Iowa.
- FFI is not a sightseeing club. We need to show who we are and share our Iowa cultures.
- We need new ideas and to share those ideas. If you have an idea, email it to Dianne K.

- Engaging the next generation, we need to figure out a way to attract younger members to our club or risks of dying out. It has happened to other clubs. One idea was to sponsor "Tandem Clubs", helping young people start their own club under our guidance. They are interested in different exchanges, for instance shorter, as in weekend and high adventure. Will this work with our club?

How can we generate more interest in our activities? Attract new members? It was agreed that not enough people know about us or about what we do. Meetup.com, a networking site was mentioned. For \$12 per month we can sign up and advertise our club activities. It was agreed we would try it for 2-3 months starting with the February L.E.O. in Springville.

We need to do more with technology and social media: email, Facebook, texting and Twitter. It was decided that we would try a club account on Facebook to help communicate with members and attach people who might be interested.

The meeting adjourned and we all enjoyed coffee, lemonade and two kinds of traditional New Orleans king cakes made by Tressa.

Approved at the General meeting on 3/2/14