

Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Yours in Friendship March 2011

Wow! What a great group of Russian visitors our club hosted for Open World! From the first evening Welcome Event to the Farewell Banquet a week later, it was apparent that they had a wonderful week in Iowa, made many good friends and exponentially improved their understanding of Iowans and the English language.

Many thanks to all involved, including those who hosted, drove, fed, entertained, instructed and participated in the welcome and farewell dinners. Our guests were mayors, municipal administrators and regional executives. Those of us who had an opportunity to interface with them found them interesting, fun and open to the adventure. It was moving to hear the delegation share their surprise at our friendliness and hospitality during the farewell dinner. That meant it was a real success. Thanks to Steve Williams, Vic Klopfenstein, and Will Mickelson for their work in setting up and carrying out this project (and sharing the hokey-pokey!!!).

This is also a great time to welcome new 2011 members to Friendship Force. The excitement of being a host or an ambassador must be experienced. I hope all of you have the opportunity to take part in the mission of Friendship Force during the next year. Bring a guest to the next meeting, visit us at Farmer's Market, help plan an exchange, go to the Regional Conference or witness the first presentation of the Wayne Smith Legacy Award to be given in Iowa. Wow! What a great year ahead!

Calendar

March 6: World Friendship Day, 4pm at Lowe Park. International Potluck – please bring a generous main course dish or two salads, vegetables or desserts. Beverage and paper products provided. International students and their host families have been invited. Please RSVP to cmw1226@yahoo.com or call 396-4747 by Friday, March 4th, \$5 for members, guests are free.

April 14-16: Midwest Regional Conference in Lincoln, NE

The theme is "Building the Future" and will be held at the Carol Joy Holling Conference Center, Ashland, NE. One major focus will be Theme-Based Exchanges. Regional requests each club have at least 6-8 members attend. President George Brown will be present at the conference. Optional tour "Magic Friendship Bus Into Nebraska's Cowboy Country" is available before the conference April 12-14. Further information may be obtained from Connie Williams, 396-4747 or cmw1226@yahoo.com

April 19, Tuesday at 7PM: Let's Eat Out

See you at **Gringos** 207 1st Ave NE Cedar Rapids. Please RSVP to Dick and Veta Hildebrand at rvhilde1@juno.com or call 373-0917 by Thursday, April 14th.

May 1, Sunday at 2 - 4:00 PM: Meeting location & program to be determined.

June 3 – 8: Incoming Domestic Exchange from Las Vegas

Contact Tressa Youngbear at ityoungbear@iowatelecom.net if you would like to host or be on the exchange committee.

June Presentation of Wayne Smith Award to Robert & Billie Ray for being instrumental in starting Friendship Force in Iowa A reception is being planned with time and location to be announced. Thanks to Audrey Bradford and her committee for making this a reality.

June 30 – July 6: Incoming Exchange from Tokyo, Japan

The Tokyo club is in the recruiting process and our club's exchange committee has begun planning interesting, informative and fun activities for our guests and our club members. More details as they develop. Mary Stull, Exchange Director: mcdstull@aol.com

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

Please contact David Detwiler at daviddetwiler@msn.com if interested in attending.

September 11, Sunday at 2 - 4pm: Meeting to be held in Iowa City

September: St. Louis, MO - Outgoing domestic exchange An Exchange Director is needed, please contact Steve Williams to apply. swill1234@msn.com

November: Outgoing Exchange to Costa Rica

Vic Klopfenstein, Exchange Director: vpklopfenstein@msn.com

Updates

Farmer's Market – Dates to be announced.

Freedom Festival Volunteers – Dates & events to be announced.

Friendship Force Merchandise – Please see Dave Detwiler daviddetwiler@msn.com for the following items:

Polo Shirts, Notebooks, Luggage Tags, Table Blessings and Note Cards.

Consider inviting a friend or acquaintance to our meetings and make the invitation distinctive with a hand written note card displaying the friendship force logo.

Board Members 2011

Connie Williams, President

Dave Detwiler, President-Elect

John Haack, Secretary

Dale Moore, Treasurer

Audrey Bradford, Past President

Steve Williams, Exchange Coordinator

Marty Novak, Membership

Vic Klopfenstein, Communications

Jill Rinkenberger, Activities

Marian Wetjen & Lynette Nuehring, Directors At Large

Explore, Understand and Serve in 2011!

In friendship,

Connie Williams & Dave Detwiler

FRIENDSHIP FORCE MIDWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST AND WORKSHOP

What better way to tell the story of our Friendship Force experiences than through the photographic medium. We are modeling the popular photography contest that was held at the 2010 World Conference in Washington, D.C.

Members of our local clubs are encouraged to sort through their photo files from past exchanges to find creative and entertaining photos for our Midwest Region photo contest. All submitted photos will be reviewed and critiqued during a special break-out session which will be held Saturday afternoon, April 16, as part of our Regional Conference. Awards for outstanding photos will be presented as part of the conference closing dinner on April 16. Winning entries do not need to be present to accept an award.

The judge and workshop leader will be John Nollendorfs, a Lincoln native and well-recognized mid-America photographer.

CONTEST RULES AND REGULATIONS: We will identify the same three categories in the contest that were used for the world conference:

- ✓ **Explore:** Exploring new cultures
- ✓ **Understand:** Gaining understanding by making friends across the barriers that separate people
- ✓ **Serve:** Putting friendship in action by connecting with the local community

Each photo should depict scenes, people or events that clearly reflect or define one of the three themes in action.

TO ENTER:

Select several digital, high-quality photos that were taken during an official Friendship Force activity

Select the category which best fits the photographs

Attach your photos to an e-mail that explains in which category your photo is being entered. Send the email and the photo attachment to the following email address rkrohn@neb.rr.com

All photos should be submitted no later than April 8. By submitting photos you agree that your photos may be publicized by Friendship Force with your name credited.