



YOURS IN FRIENDSHIP

FROM THE CEDAR RAPIDS/IOWA CITY
FRIENDSHIP FORCE CLUB

March 7, 2015

March

2015

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

We hope you are staying warm during this cold winter season. Perhaps you have had an opportunity to get to a warmer climate for at least part of the winter. Cheryl and I spent about three and a half weeks in South America in late January and early February. The only other trip we have experienced in South America was the Friendship Force tour and exchange to Peru in 2009. This time our travels took us to Brazil, Argentina and Chile. South America is a beautiful and diverse land.

We spent a week on our own in Rio and the rest of the time was a group tour. Like Friendship Force, we met a lot of interesting people who love to travel. As we shared previous travel experiences with our new traveling friends, we would often remark about our travel experiences with Friendship Force. Perhaps surprisingly, most of our travel partners knew nothing about Friendship Force. When we explained the purpose and the exchange program, many seemed genuinely interested. We encouraged them to seek out a local club when they returned home.

We encourage each of you to share your Friendship Force experiences with your friends and persons you meet. Attracting new members to our club is not only important, but it is essential. Our club is not sustainable unless new persons are attracted to join and become active members. Membership recruitment is the responsibility of all members.

On the home front, more than 25 persons attended the LEO at Louie's Scoreboard on February 24. Thanks to Jean and Dean Thomas for putting this together. We all enjoyed a good time together.

The next event on our club calendar is a general meeting on March 22 at the Shueyville United Methodist Church. We will be celebrating World Friendship Day and have invited international students to attend. The festivities will be kicked off with a potluck lunch beginning at 1:30 PM, so bring your favorite international dish to share with all. *We also challenge each member to bring a prospective member as your guest.*

In Friendship,
Dale and Cheryl Moore

Exchanges for 2015

We have lots of exciting opportunities for travel and hosting.

May 15-23, 2015	Open World Group from Azerbaijan	Contact: Steve Williams
June 3-10, 2015	Outgoing Exchange to Niagara Canada	ED: Mary Stull
June 21-28, 2015	Incoming Exchange from Lansing Michigan	EDs: Audrey Bradford & Lynette Nuehring
July 15-21 & July 21-25, 2015	Outgoing Exchange to Mid-Willamette Valley, Oregon plus Lower Columbia Washington	ED: Marian Wetjen
October 2-10, 2015	Open World Group of Small Town Mayors from Moldova	Contact: Vic Klopfenstein

Details on exchanges:

Open World from Azerbaijan—May 15-23

Our club will be hosting an Open World seminar for delegates studying accountable governance-agri-business development. This is a great opportunity to showcase Iowa's expertise in these areas. We expect 5 mayors, 1 interpreter and 1 facilitator.

They will be attending activities related to agri-business and economic development coordinated by Steve Williams during the day. They will spend the evenings with their host family. Contact Steve at swill820@gmail.com or 319 465-3942.

More about Open World Groups:

Our club is able to host one or two of these groups of seven people each year. During the day, each group experiences lectures, tours and interaction with Iowans who work in their area.

To help with these exchanges or host, contact Steve Williams (Azerbaijan), swill820@gmail.com, 319 465-3942 or Vic Klopfenstein (Moldova), vpklopfenstein@msn.com, 319 377-5502



Incoming—Moscow, Russia—April 18-25—postponed

Due to current economic conditions in Russia, this exchange has been postponed. We'll have further information later.

Incoming—Lansing, Michigan—June 21-28



Lynette Nuehring and Audrey Bradford are the exchange directors. We need home hosts, day hosts, dinner hosts or you can help with an event. There are lot of ways to participate and meet our guests from Lansing.

Call or email Audrey at 365-5746 audrey.b@mchsi.com or Lynette at 319-560-1659 lnuehring66@gmail.com.

Outgoing—Niagara, Canada—June 3-10

Niagara club is looking forward to our visit and has planned interesting activities for us to learn about their area, meet their club members and experience Niagara Falls, Historic St. Catherines, the Shaw Festival Theatre and other features of their area.

We've sent the list of ambassadors to Niagara and are looking forward to hearing from our host families. Mary Stull is the exchange director.



Outgoing—Oregon and Washington—July 15-25

Outgoing to **Mid Willamette Valley, Oregon**, July 15-21, 2015 and an optional second week in **Lower Columbia, Washington**. Marian Wetjen is exchange director.

Marian (mjwetjen27@yahoo.com, 319 363-0586) is accepting names for a waiting list in the event there is an opening.

Incoming—Chiapas, Mexico Exchange—fall 2015



We are expecting an exchange from Chaipas, Mexico in the fall. Dates yet to be set. We are still working with the club and Friendship Force International.

Connie Williams is now accepting applications for exchange director. ED applications are available on the club website: www.friendshipforceccr-ic.org in the member section, under Governance.

General Meeting—March 22, 1:30 pm

We'll be celebrating World Friendship Day at Shueyville United Methodist Church, Exit 10 off I-380, then 1 mile east. The festivities will kick off with a potluck at 1:30. Bring your favorite international dish or experiment with a new one. International students from local colleges and high schools will be our guests and will share information on their countries. If you know an international student, invite them (and their host family) to join us. Also invite your friends, neighbors, colleague to experience this event and learn more about Friendship Force. Plan now to invite a friend to learn about our club. Also, invite a prospective member to share the fun.

Get updates on the incoming and outgoing exchanges for 2015. Learn more about the Midwest Conference in April.

News: The club's incoming and outgoing exchange matches for 2016 will be announced at this meeting.

Club to Host Midwest Leadership Conference —April 30-May 2

Our club is hosting the Midwest Region Leadership Conference in Cedar Rapids on April 30 through May 2. Each club will be sending three representatives.

We need a few more home hosts for our out of town guests. Many will be singles! This will involve hosting for only two nights, Thursday and Friday. Your guest will be in meetings Thursday and Friday. To volunteer to home host, contact Marian Wetjen, 319 363-0586, mjwetjen27@yahoo.com. Thank you to all who have already volunteered to host.

During the conference there will be two parties—our entire membership is invited to both.

Plan to attend!

- Thursday, April 30, 5:30 pm to 8 pm – Welcome Party at Squaw Creek Park, Prairie Oak Lodge: Our club is providing the lodge. The conference fees are providing wine, beer and soda. Our membership is asked to provide the food potluck style. Join the fun. Sign up with Shirley Rosecrans, 319-462-4132, sarosen-crans@yahoo.com.



- Friday, May 1 – Brucemore Party, 5 to 7 pm — Come and enjoy wine, soft drinks, and appetizers and tour the mansion and gardens. Cost will be \$15. Sign up with Cheryl Moore, 319 362-6252, mooredale@imonmail.com



2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 22, 1:30 pm	Potluck & General Meeting— Celebrating World Friendship Day Bring a guest	Shueyville United Methodist Church Exit 10 off I-380, then 1 mile east.
April 13	Board Meeting	Dale & Cheryl Moore's home, 3508 River Ridge Court NE, Cedar Rapids
Postponed April 15-23	Incoming Exchange from Moscow, Russia	postponed
April 30 to May 2	Regional Leadership Conference	Human Services Center, CR
May (TBD)	Let's Eat Out	Place to be determined Shirley Rosencrans
May 15-23	Open World Group from Azerbaijan	Steve Williams
June 3 to 10	Outgoing Exchange to Niagara Canada	ED—Mary Stull
June 21 to 28	Incoming Lansing Michigan	EDs: Lynette Nuehring/ Audrey Bradford
July 15 to 25	Outgoing Exchange to Mid-Willamette Valley Oregon 2nd week at Lower Columbia, Washington	ED—Marian Wetjen
August 3	Board Meeting	Place to be determined
August 20	Let's Eat Out (LEO)	State Fair Trip
August 29 to 31	FFI World Conference	Vancouver BC Canada
September 13	General Meeting	Place to be determined
October 2 to 10	Open World—Small Town Mayors from Moldova	Vic Klopfenstein
October (TBD)	Let's Eat Out (LEO)	Place to be determine Vic Klopfenstein/Connie Williams
Fall, (date TBD)	Incoming Chiapas Mexico	ED—Taking Applications
November 15	Annual Meeting, Touch of Class, Cedar Rapids	

BOARD MEMBERS 2015

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In friendship
Dale & Cheryl Moore
Mary Stull