



YOURS IN FRIENDSHIP

FROM THE CEDAR RAPIDS/IOWA CITY
FRIENDSHIP FORCE CLUB
www.friendshipforcecr-ic.org

January 2, 2016

January

2016

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

Happy New Year! I'm looking forward to a new year filled with interesting experiences in Friendship Force. I encourage you to figure out where you can get involved.

We're starting off the year with a general meeting on Sunday, January 10 at the Ladd Library (Cedar Rapids Library, west side). We'll learn more about how to participate in global and themed exchanges and get the most from the experience. We'll also get to enjoy warm conversation and connecting with club members over refreshments. This is a perfect time to invite a guest to learn more about Friendship Force. See details on page 2.

The board held its first meeting on December 7 to plan the club year. The next board meeting will be January 4. Details are falling into place for outgoing exchanges to Wessex, England (June) and Lansing, Michigan (July) and incoming Sacramento, California (October). We'll also have our first themed exchange, Crazy for Quilting in late September. See the full 2016 calendar on page 3.

We have Let's Eat Out (LEO's) planned for February, April, May, July and September. Do you have a favorite restaurant where you'd like to host a LEO? We still need coordinators for February and May. These are fun, casual events that encourage conversation and camaraderie.

Mark your calendars for the Midwest-Great Lakes Regional Conference to be held in Davenport. It begins the evening of April 28 (Thursday) and runs through April 30 (Saturday). There will be workshops and presentations on various topics related to Friendship Force. It is chance to meet and learn from club members in these two regions. Whether you are new to Friendship Force or an experienced member, you will find value in this conference. More details will be in the next newsletter.

We continue our relationship with the Open World program, which is funded by the Library of Congress. There are tentative plans to have a group arrive the second half of September from the Ukraine for a program on secondary education. This should be a very interesting learning experience. We thank Vic Klopfenstein for leading this program.

All of these activities require many hands to create a successful experience. Find an area that fits your interests and jump in. Contact the exchange director or Connie Williams (exchange coordinator) or me for LEOs.

I know we are off to a great start for 2016!

Mary Stull, President

Club Dues—2016



It is time to renew your membership for 2016. **Dues will again be \$30 per person.** If you didn't get a chance to pay your dues at the annual meeting, you can send a check for \$30 per person to our membership chair:

Marian Wetjen at 2009 Linmar Drive NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

General Meeting—January 10

We're starting the year off at the Ladd Library (Cedar Rapids Public Library) at 3750 Williams Blvd SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404, from 2 to 4 pm. The community room is at the back of the library. We'll enjoy dessert and drinks provided by Shirley Rosencrans' activities committee.

The program will be on global exchanges and traveling with other Friendship Force clubs. Several of our members have participated in or led these types of exchanges. They will be sharing their experiences and tips on how to make the most of the exchange.

We'll also have updates on exchanges and other activities in 2016.



“I'm In!” Campaign



At the 38th annual Friendship Force International 'World Conference' in Vancouver, Cecile Latour, FFI Board Chair, presented the critical need to upgrade the Friendship Force data management system. She issued a challenge to all clubs and members to help meet this need.

The data management system provides resources for the FFI website and services to clubs. The FFI data management system is so outdated (almost 10 years old) that a crash could happen any day. The annual operating budget does not have the resources to accomplish this upgrade.

Our club met the challenge of the “I'm In!” campaign to support Friendship Force International's great need to upgrade its data management system. Our club's total contributions were \$720, which included club member gifts and \$350, which was excess from the 2015 Midwest Leadership Conference. We can be very proud of our support of this critical need.

2016 Midwest & Great Lakes Regional Conference



Mark your 2016 calendar for the Midwest-Great Lakes Regional Conference! It will be April 28-May 1 at the brand new Holiday Inns and Suites Davenport, 4215 Elmore Avenue, which has easy access to I-80. The Quad Cities club is the official host and will be welcoming members from 20 clubs in 9 states. The theme is Building Bridges with Friendship. The conference will begin with a 5:30 reception on April 28. Most of the 29th and 30th will be workshops and presentations. There will be a President's meeting first thing on May 1. Optional area activities will also be available. All are welcome!

Update on Exchanges

When we host a Friendship Force exchange, we introduce others to who we are and how we live. Please make hosting part of your New Year's resolution. We will be in need of home hosts, dinner hosts and day hosts for several exchanges and Open World events in 2016. Thank you all!

Outgoing exchange to Wessex, England—June 5-12, 2016

Marian Wetjen is serving as the exchange director for this exchange. We have a full exchange, with a waiting list. Please contact Marian at mjwetjen27@yahoo.com if you have questions.



Outgoing domestic exchange to Central Iowa — July 16 & 17, 2016

Our friends in Ames have kindly extended an invitation to visit them on the way to the Friendship Force All Iowa Picnic on July 17 in Des Moines. Whether or not you are a proud ISU alum, you are welcome to join in. Contact Connie Williams with suggestions for activities in Ames, as they have requested our input. An Exchange Director is needed.



Incoming exchange from Nashik Riverside, India - July 2-8,

2016. Subhash Budgujar, the Nashik Riverside ED, has confirmed Cedar Rapids to be the first week of their club's visit to the Midwest. We can expect 21 ambassadors, so do please agree to host or attend the events of this exchange. Steve Williams and Dale Moore have agreed to work with this exchange. Let's all be involved, then send our new friends on to Madison, WI for an excellent second week.

Outbound domestic exchange to Lansing, MI, Sept 11-17, 2016

This is a return exchange with 20 ambassador spaces. Our club hosted Lansing in 2015. Taking applications for exchange director and ambassadors. *



Open World— group from Ukraine to study secondary education tentatively coming in September.

Themed Exchange: Crazy for Quilting, September 30-October 5, 2016

Cedar Rapids will host the first 5 days; Ames club will host from Oct 5-9. If you have interest in day hosting, home hosting or dinner hosting, or would like to serve on the committee for this, please contact Connie Williams, cmw1226@yahoo.com.



Incoming domestic exchange from Sacramento, California— tentative October, 2016.

Sacramento wants to visit our club this fall! Please consider applying for Exchange Director, helping on the committee or hosting in some capacity. Contact Connie.. cmw1226@yahoo.com .

2016 will be a wonderful year!

*link to ED application: <http://www.friendshipforcecr-ic.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/EDapplication.pdf>

Welcome to our Newest Members Mary Tarbox and Bob Nicholson

We would like to welcome our newest members, Mary Tarbox and Bob Nicholson, who joined Friendship Force at our annual meeting. Bob was formerly Vice President and Dean of Students at Mount Mercy College and is now retired. Mary is currently Director of Nursing at Mount Mercy College. They have been actively involved with international students, appreciating the courage and grace these young people display.

Bob and Mary have been married for twenty years and are long time residents of Cedar Rapids. Bob is originally from Pittsburg and Mary from Fort Dodge. Bob has also lived in Steven's Point, Wisconsin.

Some of Bob and Mary's favorite travel destinations are Asia, Turkey, Ireland and Iceland. They have also enjoyed an Avalon riverboat cruise on the Danube. Bob and Mary are interested in seeing Portugal, Morocco and South America. They are looking forward to involvement in Friendship Force by hosting and traveling as ambassadors of Cedar Rapids and Iowa City.



Your board for 2016



The first board meeting of the year was held December 7 at Frank and Mary Stull's home. Members present were (back row from left) Jerry Burke, Carol Burke, Stephanie Schulte, Shirley Rosencrans, Mary Ann Nelson, Larry Nelson, (front row from left) Dean Thomas, Jean Thomas, Alice Wilkinson, Mary Stull, Marian Wetjen, and Connie Williams. Dale and Cheryl Moore were not able to attend.

2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan 4, 2016, 6:30 pm	Board Meeting	Mary Stull's home 3000 27th St SW, Cedar Rapids
February	Let's Eat Out (LEO)	Date & location to be announced
March 6, 2016 pm 1-3 pm	General Meeting—Potluck and Celebration of International Friendship Day	Shueyville United Methodist Church
March 21, 2016, 6:30 pm	Board Meeting	Mary Stull's home 3000 27th St SW, Cedar Rapids
April	Let's Eat Out (LEO)	Shirley Rosencrans-Date & location TBD
April 28-May 1, 2016	Midwest & Great Lakes Regional Conference	Quad Cities, Davenport, IA
May	Let's Eat Out (LEO)	Date & location TBD
May 16, 2016 6:30 pm	Board Meeting	Mary Stull's home 3000 27th St SW, Cedar Rapids
June 5-12, 2016	Outgoing exchange to Wessex, England Exchange is full with a waiting list	Marian Wetjen, exchange director
July 2-8, 2016	Incoming exchange from Nashik Riverside, India	Steve Williams & Dale Moore, Exchange Directors
July 16-17, 2016	Overnight visit to Central Iowa Club, Ames	ED—Taking Applications* see page 3
July 17, 2016	Annual All Iowa Picnic	hosted by Des Moines club
July 25, 2016 6:30 pm	Board Meeting	Mary Stull's home 3000 27th St SW, Cedar Rapids
July	Let's Eat Out (LEO)	Connie Williams—Date & location TBD
August 7, 2016	General Meeting	Details to be announced
August 29, 2016 6:30 pm	Board Meeting	Mary Stull's home 3000 27th St SW, Cedar Rapids
Sept 11-17, 2016	Outbound domestic exchange to Lansing, MI 20 ambassadors spaces to apply for.	ED—Taking Applications* see page 3
Sept 23, 2016	Open World group from Ukraine to study secondary education.	
Sept 30-Oct 5, 2016	Inbound themed exchange - Crazy for Quilting Committee, day hosts, home hosts & dinner hosts needed.	Connie Williams, exchange director
September	Let's Eat Out (LEO)	Jerry Berke—Date & location TBD
Mid-October, 2016	Inbound domestic exchange from Sacramento, CA 20 ambassadors	ED—Taking Applications* see page 3
October 17, 2016 6:30 pm	Board Meeting	Mary Stull's home 3000 27th St SW, Cedar Rapids

BOARD MEMBERS 2016

Mary Stull, President

319-393-6254 mcdstull@aol.com

Dean & Jean Thomas, Co-President elect

319-830-5092 jeanthomas521@gmail.com;

Carol and Jerry Burke, Co-Secretary

563-927-5568 jtbgales@uahoo.com; jburke1113@mediacombb.net

Stephanie Schulte, Treasurer

319-350-5279(cell) ssschulte08@gmail.com

Dale & Cheryl Moore, Past Presidents

319-362-6252 mooredale@imonmail.com

Connie Williams, Exchange Coordinator

319-396-4747 cmw1226@yahoo.com

Marian Wetjen, Membership

319-363-0586 mjwetjen27@yahoo.com

Dale Moore, Communications

319-362-6252 mooredale@imonmail.com

Shirley Rosencrans, Activities Coordinator

319-462-4132 sarosencrans@yahoo.com

Alice Wilkinson, 2nd Year Director At Large

319-366-0625 alicew.memaw@gmail.com

Larry and Mary Ann Nelson, 1st Year Co-Director At Large

319-362-8078 mrlwnelson@yahoo.com; mrsmanelson@yahoo.com

In friendship

Mary Stull

Dean & Jean Thomas