



# YOURS IN FRIENDSHIP

FROM THE CEDAR RAPIDS/IOWA CITY  
FRIENDSHIP FORCE CLUB

July 3, 2017

[www.friendshipforcecr-ic.org](http://www.friendshipforcecr-ic.org)

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July

2017

## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE....***

Greetings Friends,

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We hope you are having a wonderful summer! Thanks to everyone who attended the indoor picnic on June 4 at Salem UMC. This lovely facility was new to most of us, and church home to Myron Williams. Attendees voted on our updated bylaws, which passed with 100% approval. Everyone should have received a copy by email. There were few significant changes. The biggest is our new language from FFI replacing "exchange" with "journey" and "director" with "coordinator". It was also at this meeting that Jim and Barb Steggall officially became Co-Presidents Elect for 2017. Thank you Jim and Barb for your willingness to serve, and thanks to Mary Stull for graciously providing our newsletters for the first part of 2017.

We had a wonderful LEO (Let's Eat Out) at Cedar Ridge Winery and Distillery on June 14 that was attended by approximately 40 people. Please see story and photos on page 3.

You may recall a volunteer event last November called Justice For our Neighbors. Several of us helped serve an evening meal for immigrants and volunteer attorneys and interpreters. The attorneys and interpreters help the immigrants with paperwork related to securing citizenship. This was a very rewarding experience. I am happy to say members of our group have another opportunity to help on July 25. If you can provide food and/or help serve for several hours in the evening at Lovely Lane UMC, please contact Margaret Nelson.

In September we look forward to hosting an incoming journey from Columbia, WA and an Open World delegation from Kosovo. An Open World group from Turkmenistan had to cancel, so we are thrilled to get a second opportunity. The incoming journey participants are scheduled September 5-12 and Open World participants will arrive September 8 and depart September 16. Stephanie Schulte and Jerry & Carol Burke are Host Coordinators for the Washington Club. Steve Williams and his committee will be in charge of hosting and programming for the Kosovo delegation. Please join in the fun and say YES when you have an opportunity to help!

Looking forward to sharing more adventures with you!

In Friendship,

Jean and Dean Thomas



## General Meeting—June 4, 2017

A general meeting with a potluck lunch was held on June 4 at the Salem United Methodist Church. The updated bylaws received 100% approval by ballot vote. Thanks to everyone who worked to achieve this update.

In another matter of business, Jim and Barb Steggall were voted Co-Presidents Elect.



Jim & Dave discussing the latest Journey



The food was delicious!

## Justice for Our Neighbors—July 25, 2017

On Tuesday evening, July 25, our club will partner with the program, Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON). Our club member, Margaret Nelson has volunteered with this program for several years. You may remember that we participated in this program in November. Our participation is part of our community service outreach.

Our role will be to provide food for a dinner for about 40 people – clients (sometimes with their families), interviewers and attorneys. We also set up and clean up. We need two to four people to do the set up (about 4:30 pm) and clean up (about 7:30 pm) at Lovely Lane United Methodist Church, 2424 42nd St. NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The church is at Wenig Road and 42th Street. Three or four other club members can provide food but do not need to be there during the work sessions. **To volunteer for this event contact: Margaret Nelson, [ronmargnelson@gmail.com](mailto:ronmargnelson@gmail.com), or 319 393-1209 by July 12.**



Volunteers with Justice for our Neighbors provide assistance to immigrants who are applying for citizenship. During the evening, interviewers help clients fill out the basic paperwork so attorneys can efficiently work with them. The attorney(s) see 10 or 11 clients during the evening. For more info on JFON, go to: [www.iaumc.org/jfon](http://www.iaumc.org/jfon).

## Want to Join the Club?

If you are not yet a member, you'll want to join the Cedar Rapids-Iowa City Friendship Force club. It's as easy as sending dues (\$30 per person) to **Marian Wetjen, 2009 Linmar Drive NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402**. Then you'll be all set to enjoy fun Friendship Force activities, meetings and journeys. An application is also available on our website: <http://www.friendshipforceccr-ic.org/join-us/>



## Freedom Festival-Volunteering

Club members volunteered at the Freedom Festival Parade and Celebration of Freedom. These are fun events that enable us to meet other club members and represent Friendship Force in the community, as well as receive a \$600 donation to our Club.



## Let's Eat Out-June 14-Cedar Ridge Winery & Distillery

We had a wonderful LEO (Let's Eat Out) at Cedar Ridge Winery and Distillery on June 14 that was attended by approximately 40 members and two guests. Thank you to Marian Wetjen for organizing the event.



## Club Facebook Page

**Are we friends—on Facebook—yet?** Follow us on Facebook at [Cedar Rapids-Iowa City Friendship Force](#). See notices of future activities and photos and information on past events.

## Upcoming Journeys—Incoming & Outgoing

Thanks to the Friendship Force of Sacramento for their donation to the Catherine McAuley Center in our honor. We had a great time hosting Sacramento and appreciate their interest in the refugee resettlement programs in Eastern Iowa.

### Journey Calendar

#### Incoming domestic journey from Columbia, Washington, September 5-12, 2017

If you were on the Oregon/Washington State exchange, this is a great way to reconnect with this club. Stephanie Schulte is the host coordinator. Contact her at 319 350-5279 or [sschulte08@gmail.com](mailto:sschulte08@gmail.com) to serve on the host committee. Yvonne Pecha is the Washington ambassador coordinator. She and her husband, Herb, hosted when our club visited and they are VERY excited about this return journey.

#### Open World, Kosovo September 8-16, 2017

FF of CR/IC has been given another Open World opportunity, hosting 5 delegates from Kosovo from September 8-16. The program theme is "Multilingualism and Access to Public Information". As the dates overlap with the incoming journey from Lower Columbia, I hope all in the club will be active with offering hospitality to an ambassador or delegate. Thanks to all for your help! Steve Williams and committee met on Monday, June 26 to begin program planning and will meet again on July 17. Please contact Steve at (319) 465-3942 with questions.



#### Outgoing in-state journey to Quad Cities, September 28-30, 2017

Linda Shearer of the QC club has begun planning. Please contact Connie Williams, [cmw1226@yahoo.com](mailto:cmw1226@yahoo.com), if you wish to sign up as an ambassador or ambassador coordinator. The journey will conclude at the All Iowa Picnic on Saturday, September 30.

#### Outbound Journey to Taiwan

Our club will be visiting Taiwan from November 1 through November 15. Ambassador slots are filled however, we are taking names for a waiting list. Three people who were on the waiting list who are now going. If you have always wanted to experience Taiwanese culture, here is your chance. The first week will be with the Kaohsiung club beginning on November 1. Then we will travel by train to Taipei for a week with the Greater Taipei club. The journey will include ambassadors from our club as well as Canada, North Carolina, Kansas, Des Moines and the Quad Cities. Cost is \$900 per person plus air fare and travel insurance. Contact Mary Stull, ambassador coordinator, [mcdstull@aol.com](mailto:mcdstull@aol.com), (319) 393-6254.

Looking ahead to 2018: Our club has been given the honor to host ambassadors from Ribeirao Preto, Brazil in 2018. Dates are being discussed, but we hope summer time, possibly over the July 4th holidays. If you have any connections with or interests in Brazil, please volunteer to begin the hosting process!

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## Board Member Profile

### Connie Williams— Journey Coordinator

Hi there! I'm Connie Williams, Journey Chair for our club. I was a member when the club was formed by Robert & Billie Ray and Kitty Olsen, however, bounced in and out a few times due to work, plus 3 kids & their activities. I've served as Activities Chair, then President Elect/President/Past President.

I must say, Journey Chair is the most interesting job I've ever had. It's fun work, to meet people from around the world, then invite them to join us in Iowa. Our Friendship Force members are excellent hosts and always enjoy people, places & culture worldwide. My best life's work has been our 3 kids, Laura, Phil & Amy. After graduation, marriage and a few years in the teaching profession, we moved a few times, had our kids (one each in Clinton, Rochester, MN and Cedar Rapids) and now I'm re-certified to substitute teach. Over the years, I've worked as a licensed insurance CSR in State Farm offices, tracked insurance for mortgage loans at Aegon Realty Advisors, paid claims at Transamerica, and was on staff at the Coe College Admission Office.



Myron and I have lived on the west side of Cedar Rapids for 32 years, when his career as an editor with Iowa Farmer Today brought us here. Myron retired from correcting reporters' copy to writing his own stories of early life on the farm and science fiction. We both enjoy travel, our garden and 6 wonderful grandies!

## 2018 Regional Conference

A combined Super Regional Conference including the 30 clubs in the Great Lakes, Midwest and Southwest Regions will be held in the Greater Cincinnati area on April 20-22, 2018.

The Midwest clubs/cities involved will be Lincoln, Omaha, Des Moines, Ames, Cedar Rapids/Iowa City, Quad Cities, St. Louis, MN/St. Paul, Madison, Milwaukee, Northern IL and Chicago

The Great Lakes clubs/cities involved will be Detroit, Lansing, W. Michigan, Cincinnati, Dayton, Cleveland, W. Kentucky and Louisville

The Southwest clubs/cities involved will be Wichita Kansas, Oklahoma City, Baton Rouge, Albuquerque, Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, Houston, Georgetown, San Antonio

Mark your calendar and reach out to friends so you can connect with them at the conference. More infor-



## FFI 40th Anniversary International Conference

The Friendship Force International Conference in Manchester, England begins at 6 pm on August 24 and ends at Noon on August 28. Workshops include: Documenting Journeys with Videos, Blogs, and Photography; Journey Requests and the Planning Process; Making Friends and Making an Impact; Practical Tools to Engage the Media; Revitalizing Europe: From Vision to Action; Philanthropy 101; A Multigenerational Approach to Recruitment; Myths and Realities of Great Leaders; Q&A with the FF International Board of Directors and President; Club Best Practices. There will be a Q & A session with the FFI board and president. Our club will have three members attending. Connie Williams will be the club representative. Audrey Bradford and Lynette Nuehring also plan to attend.

Go to: <https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/index.php?eventid=209170&> to read more about it and to make your reservation.

## Additional Resources

Connie Williams and FFI recently presented Journey Coordinator training. The training covered a timeline for planning exchanges, navigating the new FFI website, using Google forms and sheets to coordinate registrations and travel insurance through FFI.

According to FFI, there have been some unfortunate instances recently where ambassadors have not had insurance and may or may not have had a signed waiver. Some members are becoming hesitant to take out insurance because the cost is higher due to age. They think their domestic carrier will be adequate. The bottom line is a very bad situation when you are visiting a club, become ill, and possibly need to come home. The Host club is put in a very difficult predicament, and sometimes has had to pay for hospital release and hope to be reimbursed later. Please encourage potential ambassadors to purchase travel insurance. Host coordinators can also ask to see copies of ambassadors' insurance.

Here is the new regional website, available for domestic exchanges:

<https://sites.google.com/thefriendshipforce.org/usclubs/home>

## 2017-2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 25, 2017	Justice for our Neighbors—Outreach to immigrant families at Lovely Lane United Methodist Church—provide meal	Margaret Nelson, 319 393-1209 ronmargnelson@gmail.com
TBD	General Meeting	
TBD	Lets Eat Out	
August 24-28 2017	International Conference, Manchester, England—celebrating 40 years of Friendship Force	Go to: <a href="https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/index.php?eventid=209170&amp;">https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/index.php?eventid=209170&amp;</a> to read more and to make your reservation.
September 5-12, 2017	Incoming Journey from Lower Columbia, Washington	Co-Host coordinators: Stephanie Schulte, 319 350-5279 or <a href="mailto:sschulte08@gmail.com">sschulte08@gmail.com</a> and Jerry & Carol Burke, 563-929-0190 or <a href="mailto:jbcburke@yahoo.com">jbcburke@yahoo.com</a>
	Open World—Kosovo Multilingualism and Access to Public Information	Host coordinator: Steve Williams (319) 465-3942
September 28-30, 2017	Outgoing to Quad Cities	Ambassador Coordinator and Ambassadors: Taking applications*
September 30, 2017	Annual All-Iowa Club Picnic, Quad Cities	Reservations to:
November 1-15, 2017	Outbound Journey to Kaohsiung and Taipei, Taiwan	Ambassador Coordinator: Mary Stull <a href="mailto:mcdstull@aol.com">mcdstull@aol.com</a> ; 319 393-6254
December 3, 2017	Annual Meeting—Longbranch Hotel & Convention Center, Cedar Rapids	Reservations to:
2018, dates to be determined	Incoming from Central Iowa, Ames	Ambassador Coordinator—Taking applications*
April 20-22, 2018	Super Regional Conference Including Midwest, Great Lakes and Southwest Clubs	Greater Cincinnati Area More details later
July, 2018 (tentative date)	Incoming from Ribeirao Preto, Brazil	Host Coordinator—Taking applications*
2019	International Conference, Puerto Rico	
New terminology:		
<b>Journey</b> —formerly an exchange		
<b>Ambassador Coordinator</b> —formerly outgoing exchange director		
<b>Host Coordinator</b> —formerly incoming exchange director		

## BOARD MEMBERS 2017



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