

CR\IC Friendship Force UPDATE

October 18, 2004

Greetings from Your President, Sally Nelson

"What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity. They are but trifles, to be sure; but, scattered along life's pathway, the good they do is inconceivable. (Joseph Addison)"

I felt the above poem parallels the philosophy of Friendship Force. When you continue to make friends across international borders, one can only imagine the future possibilities. In the past month, club members Carl and Mary Carson have been visiting friends in Russia made through Friendship Force hosting experiences at home in Cedar Rapids. You will hear more about their trip in the future, but they were able to bring to Russia two wheelchairs for children who are among many unable to obtain wheelchairs in their own country. Then with the help of modern technology (email) Carl & Mary wrote home to communicate a need for crutches and financial support for a water heater. The need was fulfilled through donations from club members and a Russian's willingness to carry a pair of crutches home to Moscow with her. These efforts had a profound effect on a few lives in Russia. We can make a difference!

I think all who hosted the last group of the Russian Open World delegation the last week of September agreed this was a rewarding experience. They were a pleasure to host and were very eager, receptive program participants. Thank you to the many who helped make this a success through home hosting, day hosting, creating photo CD's, transportation, and arranging for speakers. Most of all, thank you Steve Williams for directing the program.

Our slate of officers has been selected for 2005 and will be voted upon at the annual meeting Nov. 14. They are: Co-Presidents - Steve and Nancy Williams, Vice-President - Vic Klopfenstein, Secretary - Doris Faas, Treasurer - Winston Edson

Much gratitude to these members for offering their services. Also remember, nominations may be taken from the floor if prior approval from the nominee is obtained.

My eternal thanks to this year's board members for their support - a president is only as strong as its board!

Annual Meeting RSVP Sunday, Nov. 14, 2004

This year's annual meeting will take place at "A Touch of Class" - lower level
5977 Mount Vernon Rd. Cedar Rapids

Time: 5:00 social hour, cash bar available, Dinner at 6:00 p.m

Cost \$16 ea (provided 50 people in attendance)

Menu: a two-meat buffet featuring Roast Beef and Chicken Marsala

Speaker: Rick Sellers, KMRY radio 1450 AM, on "The Role of Radio in Our World"

Please cut and mail this RSVP along with your check made payable to Friendship Force to Sally Nelson by November 6, 2004 at 2807 Deer Valley Dr. NW Swisher, IA 52338

Name/s: _____

No. attending _____ X \$16.00 ea. = _____ enclosed

It was truly a pleasure to meet **Ed Junkins and Mary Lukas**, soon-to-be members of our Friendship Force Club. They learned about Friendship Force through Shirley Rosencrans. Although not yet members, they live in Iowa City and jumped right in to help by day hosting a couple Russian Open World Delegates on the outing to Dubuque last month.

We were also delighted to be host to six new visitors at the open house at our home on October 10. We hope to see them back very soon! Please remember to invite interested friends to any future Friendship Force event.

Exchange Updates

Ask one of the eleven members who went to visit the Friendship Force of the Twin Cities about their experiences. I hear the "Road Rally" and Renaissance Festival were a good time. **And talk about the greatest host** - John and Paula Wirka hosted Betty Emrich for 3+ weeks after Betty's husband, Doug was hospitalized after a fall the first night they arrived. I am happy to report that Doug is in Iowa and on the road to recovery.

OUTGOING EXCHANGE TO AUSTRALIA, MAY, 2005 - Work is continuing on adding an exciting 3rd week to this exchange with the Horowhenua, New Zealand Club. Horowhenua is an area steeped in Maori history. The town of Levin, the center of the Horowhenua region, is overlooked by the Tararua Ranges and has reserves and beaches with 5 to 10 minute drives from Levin. As near as I can estimate they are about 60 miles north of Wellington. Estimated cost for the two weeks in Ipswich and Cairns, Australia is \$2500, and it is estimated a 3rd week would add apx. \$600. Please remember, these are estimates and work in progress. We should have a firm price by February. Travel agents cannot bargain for the best rates until 3 months before departure. It is possible the price could go down. Please contact Exchange Director, Phyllis Seidl (377-5619) if you are even thinking about traveling on this exchange.

INCOMING EXCHANGE FROM VAREL, GERMANY, AUGUST, 2005 - Joyce Swanson (364-6867) is the exchange director and would like to hear from anyone wishing to help in the planning of exchange activities. We are told 10-14 people are interested in coming on the exchange to Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Area the last week in August. Many members look forward to reconnecting friendships made when our club visited Varel in 2003.

MIDWEST FESTIVAL, 2005, entitled "*Midwest Magic and the Mighty Mississippi, We Welcome the World*". This festival, co-hosted by the Dubuque, Quad Cities and Cedar Rapids FF clubs is moving full speed ahead. It is hoped we will draw people from all over the world to visit our Heartland. Our club chair for this event is Shirley Rosencrans and Pat and Charlie Kress have been working on publicity. The date for this event is July 14-23, during which, two days of activities will occur in Cedar Rapids simultaneous with a Bohemian Dance Festival July 16 at the National Czech and Slovak Museum. Home hosts and day hosts will be needed for this event. We will be hearing more about it very soon, but in the meantime, mark your calendar and contact your friends around the world, inviting them to attend - this is a unique opportunity!!!!

News From FFI, Atlanta

Club Dues:

Surprising news regarding club fees - the following is an excerpt from The Leadership Forum, a publication from FFI, Atlanta:

"In 2005, the **club fees will be lowered** from the current \$10/individual, \$15/family to \$6/individual and \$10/family." While lowering the fee from \$10 to \$6 per person, the board also set a goal that fully established clubs should have fifty or more members with a minimum fee of \$300 per club. This is based on the long-time experience that an established club needs fifty or more members to remain stable and strong. Clubs that fall below this threshold in 2005 will be assessed based on their current membership.

During 2005, FFI will work with these clubs to devise a strategy for growth (or consolidation) with the hope that all our clubs will be able to achieve the desired minimum in 2006."

What this means for our club is that **our clubs memberships dues will also go down in 2005** by the same amount. 2005 dues shall be: \$31/individual and \$40/family, which will include subscription to the Friendship Force Magazine.

Friendship Magazine:

There has been a new production team assigned to work on the magazine to get it on schedule. The following schedule has been set for publications:

2004: You should have recently received issue #2. Issue #3 will be mailed late November, 2004. Issue #4 will be an expanded issue in form of an Annual Report for 2004 and will be mailed Feb. 1, 2005.

2005: Issue #1 is to be mailed by April 1, 2005, issue #2 by July 1, 2005, issue #3 October 1, 2005, and issue #4, 2005 Annual Report Issue, mailed by February 1, 2006.

World Friendship Day Celebration:

March 1, is the anniversary date for the White House announcement of the establishment of The Friendship Force by President Jimmy Carter in 1977. To honor this date, FF clubs around the world will join in our first World Friendship Day Celebration. In 2005, donations received will go to honor Wayne Smith's Legacy. Susan Smith will serve as Honorary Chair of this event. We will hear more about this event after the International Conference, but mark your calendar and be thinking about ideas you might have for an evening of fun and friendship on Tuesday, March 1, 2005.



Remember to regularly check out the Friendship Force website - friendshipforce.org

Membership Dues

If you will be unable to attend the Annual Meeting, you may pay your 2005 dues by mail. Please return the following to Richard Miller - 2011 Linmar Dr. NE Cedar Rapids, IA 52402.

Name(s) _____

Address (include both addresses if you winter south):

Phone: Home _____ Email: _____
Work (only if you wish to be called at work) _____

Please check one: Family Membership (\$40) _____
Individual Membership (\$31) _____

If you would like to order a name badge for \$5.00 each, please write a separate check to cover cost of badges ordered payable to Friendship Force. Please write your name as you would like it to appear below:

Name: _____

Name _____

Total # of badges requested: _____ X \$5.00 = _____ enclosed

Friendship Force Calendar of Events

2004:

- Nov. 4 - 7** **Friendship Force International Conference in Los Angeles**
- November 6** **RSVP due for Annual Dinner**
- November 14** **Club Annual dinner 5 pm at "A Touch of Class" Banquet Center,**
5977 Mt. Vernon Rd **Speaker: Rick Sellers KMRY radio**
- December 6** **Board Meeting - 2005 Planning session, Marion Carnegie Library, 6:30 p.m.**

2005:

- March 1, 2005** **World Friendship Day Celebration - details forthcoming**
- May** **Outgoing exchange to Australia**
- July 14-23** **Midwest Magic and the Mighty Mississippi Festival**
- August** **Incoming exchange from Varel, Germany**
- November** **Annual Meeting and club 20th Anniversary celebration**

Proposed Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Friendship Force Board of Directors 2005

*Co- Presidents--	Steve/Nancy Williams
*Vice-President	Victor Klopfenstein
*Secretary	Doris Faas
*Treasurer	Winston Edson
Directors at Large (Two Year Terms)	Gerry Stoner (12-05) Dianne Karal (12-06)
Exchange Directors (2005)	Phyllis Siedl (Australia 5/05) Shirley Rosencrans (Festival 7/05) Ron and Joyce Swanson (Germany In 9/05)
Past Exchange Directors (2004)	Nancy Miller Margaret Miller
Past President	Sally Nelson

Standing Committees Chairpersons and Special Positions

Membership	Richard and Margaret Miller
Communications	Betty Emrich
Activities	Margaret Nelson Jill Rinkenberger
IRIS Rep.	Jim and Colleen Nieman
Historian	Mary Carson
Newsletter	Frank and Mary Stull Sally Nelson

Note the officers* positions are subject to vote on November 14, and nominations may be taken from the floor subject to prior approval by the nominee.

Additional volunteers would be helpful on the standing committees:

- Membership (follow up with prospective members),
- Communications (publicity and telephoning)
- Activities (help set up for meetings, plan special activities)

2004 Board of Directors

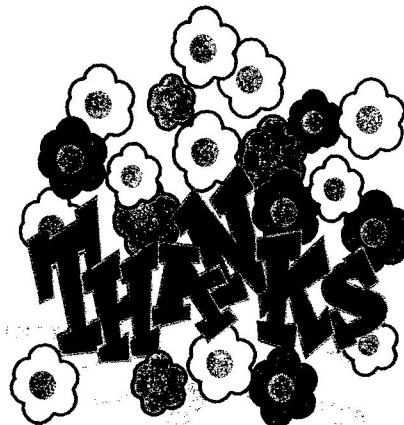
President Sally Nelson (319) 857-5296
Vice President Stephen & Nancy Williams
Secretary Joanne Smith
Treasurer Steve Miller
Directors at Large Margaret Miller, Gerry Stoner

Exchange Directors:
Scotland 5/04 Nancy Miller
Open World 2/04 Vic Klopfenstein
Open World 9/04 Steve Williams
Midwest Festival 7/05 Shirley Rosencrans
To Twin Cities 9/04 Margaret Miller
To Australia 5/05 Phyllis Seidl
Incoming from Varel Ron and Joyce Swanson
Past Exchange Director Phyllis Seidl
Past Presidents Pat Klopfenstein
 Nancy Miller

STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership Richard Miller
 Diane Karal
 Betty Emrich
 Frank and Mary Stull
 Mary Carson

Communication
 Newsletter:
 Historian:



Activities: Margaret Nelson
 Hospitality: Jill Rinkenberger
 Open World Leadership: Steve Williams
 Vic Klopfenstein
 IRIS Representatives Jim and Colleen Nieman

The Friendship Force

Frank & Mary Stull
 5819 Golden Court NE
 Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Mission Statement:

*To create an environment
 where friendships can be
 established across
 international borders.*