

CR\IC Friendship Force UPDATE

February 14, 2006



Greetings from Your President, Vic Klopfenstein

On behalf of our club, I want to thank Steve Williams for emailing our 2007 Outbound Exchange requests in a timely manner to Atlanta. Our exchange requests are:

1. 1 week in Bulgaria and another week in Slovakia and/or Hungary.
2. 1 week in Japan and another week in Thailand and/or Taiwan.
3. 1 week in the Czech Republic and another week in Poland and/or Croatia.
4. 1 week in Costa Rica and another week in Mexico.

Let's keep in mind, Atlanta may or may not be able to fulfill our requests.

On pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter, you will find details for the Annual Midwest Regional Conference to be held this year in St. Louis, MO on April 28 - 30. I hope many of you will be able to attend and also take part in the 2-day pre-conference 'home stay.' Pat & I have registered already. This is a great way to meet fellow Friendship Force members in the Midwest and learn from each other.

Dianne Karal has an outstanding "World Friendship Day Celebration" planned for us at the Marion Public Library on March 5th. This would be a great opportunity to invite guests to learn about FF. Our club will match donations contributed that day up to a total of \$500.

I have a challenge for each of you - spread the word about FF. We really would like to increase our membership. As ambassadors or as hosts, we have experiences through FF we don't have in any other organization.

In Friendship, Vic

World Friendship Day Celebration, March 5, 2005



March 1 is the anniversary of the White House announcement of the establishment of the Friendship Force by President Jimmy Carter in 1977. Our club again plans to honor this event with fellow members around the world by hosting a silent auction w/ hors d'oeuvres.

TIME & PLACE: Marion Public Library, 2-5 p.m., Saturday, March 5

*****Please wear an item you have bought or been given from a foreign country**

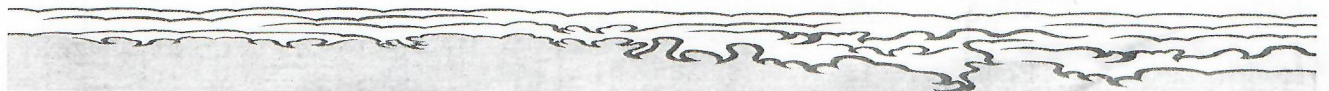
*****Bring an hors d'oeuvre /finger food item to share (& silent auction item?)**

The video of last year's activities around the world will be available to view.

One of the goals of this event is to raise funds for the Great Legacy Campaign, created to expand Friendship Force worldwide. As such, we are suggesting a per person donation of \$10 for the event; as well, there will be a silent auction. **Do you have a DVD movie that you've already viewed, a bottle of wine, a book you've read, jewelry, a Christmas ornament, or vacation memorabilia that you would like to donate? Be creative and see if you can find something to contribute to the cause. Like last year, funds raised on this day will be matched from our club's treasury (up to \$500) and sent to FFI for the Legacy fund.**

The Great Legacy Campaign Fund is used to expand The Friendship Force and ensure its strength into the future. This fundraising event is a tribute to founder, Wayne Smith, and is chaired by his daughter and former FFI President, Susan Smith. There are four important goals of this endeavor:

- 1) Establish 30 new clubs in strategic regions of the world
- 2) Train a new generation of Friendship Force leaders;
- 3) Develop unique and bold new programs, and;
- 4) Launch a new series of teacher and school exchanges.



2005 End of Year Report

Below is a synopsis of the annual report filed for 2005:

January, 2005 - The first general meeting was held at Lovely Lane Methodist Church in Cedar Rapids. The program was Justice for Our Neighbors, by Dorothy Higdon and the New Horizons Band provided the entertainment. A potluck, featuring ethnic foods, concluded the evening.

February, 2005 - Let's Eat Out was held at Croissant Du Jour. Five members represented the club at the University of Iowa Diversity Fair, on Feb. 20. A free membership was given to a lucky registrant.

March, 2005 - Twenty members attended a World Friendship Day event at the home of Mike and Diane Karal. We followed the events around the world by internet and held a silent auction. A total of \$681 was raised to support Friendship Force International.

April, 2005 - A general meeting was held at St. Andrew Church in Iowa City featuring a "Poor Man's Soup Supper" and slides and a report on Russia by our very own members, Mary and Carl Carson. April 14 - May 7, 14 Ambassadors, (seven from our club) journeyed to Australia and New Zealand under the leadership of Phyllis Seidl. The first week was spent in Lavin, New Zealand, the second in Cairns, Australia and the third in Ipswich Australia. Evaluations of the trip were very positive. Seven delegates attended the Midwest Regional Conference in Lincoln, NE. Home stays and useful information were greatly appreciated.

May, 2005 - LEO at Al and Irene's BBQ May 19 constituted the May program.

June, 2005 - A Road Rally, organized by Margaret Miller, highlighted June. Twenty members participated in the Rally and lunch at Villa Comengena.

July, 2005 - Shirley Rosencrans was director for a Midwest Festival sponsored in conjunction with the Dubuque and Davenport clubs. Our club hosted 12 ambassadors. Thirty-five Ambassadors were involved in the Festival and numerous activities were held in five venues.

August, 2005 - Sally Nelson directed our incoming international exchange from Varel Germany. Sixteen ambassadors were hosted in nine homes. The welcome barbeques and farewell dinner were well attended by members. Two hosts shared two ambassadors—a successful experiment.

September, 2005 - LEO at Carlos O'Kelly's constituted the Sept. program.

October, 2005 - Two incoming exchanges were hosted in October. Mary Stull directed the "Mystery Exchange" from the Madison WI club. Twenty-Nine Ambassadors were hosted in fourteen homes for the two nights October 7 and 8. The highlight was viewing the Grant Wood painting "American Gothic". The painting "returned home" to Cedar Rapids this fall. Vic Klopfenstein directed the Open World program with the theme of Economic Development, October 15-24. Six Russian delegates and two interpreters participated, with five families providing home hosting.

November, 2005 - The 20th anniversary celebration, including the annual meeting, directed by Mary and Carl Carson, was held at the Clarion Hotel in Cedar Rapids, November 13. Sixty-three members and six guests attended, including former Iowa Gov. Robert Ray and his wife. The Rays were instrumental in founding the club in 1985. Bill Mueller spoke of REAP, a program he founded in Russia.

In early November, President-elect Vic Klopfenstein and his wife Pat, a past president, attended the International Convention Sao Paulo, Brazil.

December, 2005 - To conclude 2005 and begin planning for 2006, a Board meeting was held Dec. 5.

Summary-A busy and successful year concluded with total membership at 106.

Respectfully Submitted Dec. 2005

Steve and Nancy Williams, Co-Presidents 2005



Exchange Updates

St Petersburg/Latvia/Helsinki - May 30 – June 17, 2006:

At this time, the exchange is full. Of the 16 who are going, 3 are from California, 1 from Indiana, 2 from Illinois, 2 are members of other Iowa FFI Clubs, and 8 are members of our club.

We have some exciting things that are being planned. We will have our regular week of home stay in both St. Petersburg and Riga, Latvia. In addition to that we had planned a visit to Tallinn for sightseeing. Guess what, Tallinn has a FFI Club and we plan to have lunch with them and they will give us a sightseeing tour of their Old Town which is a walled city! This will be special as the Old Town is well preserved and a sightseeing highlight.

In addition, I have had contact with a lady from St. Petersburg, Florida who had been at the annual Conference. Apparently she and several of her friends have contacts in Helsinki and she is trying to arrange for them to meet our members for dinner and perhaps a walking tour of the downtown area. The idea being they have talked of an FFI Club in Finland, but have never gotten much beyond talking. Who knows what might happen?

Phyllis Seidl, Exchange Director



HELP WANTED: EXCHANGE DIRECTORS!!!!

Incoming Domestic Exchange with the Friendship Force Club of Shelby, North Carolina – EXCHANGE DIRECTOR NEEDED!!!!

Jim Nieman had been working on an outgoing exchange with the Friendship Force of Shelby, North Carolina. Due to various scheduling conflicts, that has been shelved until 2007. However, their club is still planning to visit us the week of Sept 12-18. This is a great time to make some real connections with friends on the East Coast and then turn around visit them next year on our outgoing exchange! The idea is being tossed around of possibly trying to connect the outgoing exchange with the FFI Int'l Conference and anniversary celebration in Atlanta in March. (Stay tuned!)

In the meantime, an Exchange Director is needed to plan the incoming exchange in September. This would be a good opportunity for someone who has never been an ED before, as travel logistics are minimal, communication is easy and there are past Exchange Directors ready and willing to help. If you would consider this position, please call Vic Klopfenstein at 377-5502.

Outgoing Mystery Exchange – Summer, 2006? ED NEEDED!

The Board of Directors decided to open up the possibility of going on a Mystery Exchange this summer. This would be similar to the exchange we hosted last fall when the Milwaukee FF members came here (they all boarded a bus in the morning in Milwaukee for a 3-day weekend, not knowing where!). A lot of fun was had by both hosts and guests. However, in order to get this done, an ED needs to step forward in the next few weeks to start communication with potential host clubs. The planning would primarily consist of deciding the destination and arranging mode of transportation - and again, it's a great opportunity for someone new to try on an ED hat!!! Contact Vic Klopfenstein ASAP (377-5502)



Heartland Regional Conference

Friendship Force International Midwest Regional Conference “Meet me in St Louis” April 28-30, 2006

Hosted by The Friendship Force of Missouri—St Louis
Doubletree Hotel St Louis at Westport - 1973 Craigshire Dr
St Louis, Missouri 63146

Home hosting by the St Louis club is offered to early applicants for two nights prior to the conference to visit the city of St Louis, “Gateway to the West”.

Conference:

- Location: Doubletree Hotel St Louis at Westport. (See attached map.)
- Begins Friday evening, April 28 and ends Saturday evening, April 29.
- Cost of conference is \$70.00 when registering by March 15.
- Cost includes: Friday evening Welcome Reception, Continental breakfast, Lunch, Breaks, Dinner and Conference Materials
- Lodging at Doubletree is \$79.00 per night (+ taxes) per Room (Double, Queen or King). Reservations may be extended before and after the conference at the same rate. Register early and receive a reduced registration price.
- Cost of the conference is \$70.00 when registering by March 15.
- Register between March 16 and April 28 and the cost is \$75.00.

Pre-Conference Activities and Home Hosting:

- Those arriving early to the Conference may participate in the following planned activities for an additional \$22.00 per person:
 - The Gateway Arch and Museum, including the “Monument to a Dream” movie.
 - Missouri Botanical Garden
 - St Louis Cathedral Basilica – contains more mosaics than any other cathedral in the world.
 - Other options include the St Louis Art Museum, Missouri History Museum, and St Louis Zoo.
- Home hosting (offered to first 40+ registrants) begins the evening of Wednesday, April 26 and ends in the afternoon of April 28 when you check into the Hotel. Registrants who will be home hosted will be contacted by their St Louis hosts prior to the conference.

Conference Schedule:

- **Friday April 28** 5-9 PM Registration
7-9 Welcome Reception
- **Saturday April 29** 8-9 AM Registration
Continental breakfast
9-11:45 Conference
12-1 Lunch
1:15 - 4 Conference
5:30-7 Reception with Cash Bar
7-10 Dinner

If you have questions re Conference information, please contact Dolores Ebert, Conf. Chair

314-843-7642 (H)

314-401-1165 (cell)

billebert@peoplepc.com

or

Mary Widmer 314-878-7481

megato@swbell.net



**2006 Friendship Force International Midwest Regional Conference
April 28-30, 2006, Doubletree Hotel at Westport, St Louis MO
REGISTRATION**

Make your room reservation directly with:

- Doubletree St Louis at Westport 1973 Craigshire Dr. St Louis, Missouri 63146
(Tel) 314-434-0100 (Fax) 314-434-5067 Web address: <http://www.doubletreewestport.com/>
Room rate is \$79.00 (Double, Queen or King)

Important: to get this rate you must state that you are with The Friendship Force of Missouri—St Louis.

Home hosting for April 26-28 (Wednesday and Thursday nights) is offered to early registrants.

- Remember to indicate on the registration form that you wish home hosting.

If you plan to come early and wish to participate in pre-conference activities, please note:

- Cost of pre-conference activities is \$22.00 per person and includes entrance fees for: Gateway Arch and Museum, "Monument to a Dream" movie, Missouri Botanical Garden
- Other attractions are free. Lunches are on your own.

Clip on the dotted line and return with your payment to the St Louis club as stated below

Note: Please complete one form per person; couples may use one form.

I wish to attend the 2006 Friendship Force Midwest Regional Conference April 28-30. (Please print clearly.)

Name _____ Phone _____

Spouse/Partner name _____

Address _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Email: _____ Expected date of Arrival _____

Friendship Force Club Affiliation _____

Today's Date: _____

I wish to be home hosted prior to the conference by the St Louis Club: _____ (yes or no)

If "yes" to home hosting please complete the following:

Singles—please indicate roommate _____

Special requirements _____
(Accessible needs, Allergies, etc.)

Reservation for conference (select based on registration date):

By March 15: _____ reservations for the FFI Midwest conference @ \$70.00 per person = \$ _____

March 16-April 28: _____ reservations for the FFI Midwest conference @ \$75.00 per person = \$ _____

Reservation for pre-conference activities:

Pre-conference: _____ reservations for activities @ \$22.00 per person = _____

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

Make check payable to: The Friendship Force of Missouri—St Louis

Send this form w/ check to: Ralph and Laura Heathcote 1134 Westrun Dr Ballwin MO 63021-6106

If you have questions please contact Ralph or Laura Heathcote at: ralph-laura1@juno.com

636-391-8677 (Maps are available to Conference site – contact your local club president)



Membership Dues

If you have not yet paid your membership for 2006, please do so now.

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) _____

Check one: Family Membership (\$35) _____ Individual Membership (\$26) _____

Note: Membership dues include the "Friendship" Magazine published by Friendship Force International in Atlanta on a bi-monthly basis (in 2006).

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

Name: _____ Name _____

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

Rev. 10/05

Friendship Force Board of Directors 2005

President	Vic Klopfenstein vpklopfenstein@msn.com	377-5502
Vice President	Dianne Karal toy4di@msn.com	378-0084
Secretary	Doris Faas ddffarm@att.net	390-3234
Treasurer	Winston Edson wedson@msn.com	393-8053
Directors at Large	Mary Lucas (12-06) mlukas@aea10.k12.ia.us	337-3886
(Two Year Terms)	Sally Fairchild (12-07) sfairchild@gazellevillage.com	377-8611
Exchange Directors (2005)	Phyllis Seidl (St. Petersburg/Latvia) seidlgerald@msn.com	377-5619
	Jim Nieman (Shelby North Carolina)	396-5892
Past Exchange Director	Phyllis Seidl	
Past President	Steve & Nancy Williams SWILL1234@msn.com	447-5761

Standing Committees Chairpersons and Special Positions

Membership	Richard and Margaret Miller zrman@aol.com	364-2135
Communications	Pat Kress chaskress@mchsi.com	377-5055
Activities	Margaret Nelson ronnmarg@aol.com	393-1209
	Jill Rinkenberger krinkenber@aol.com	377-5077
Historian	Mary Carson mcarson484@yahoo.com	366-4545
Newsletter	Frank and Mary Stull (distribution) fpstull@aol.com	393-6254
	Sally Nelson (publication) nelsmaddie@aol.com	857-5296



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Andrew and Liz Cecil who married last September. They joined our club apx. a year ago.



On a sadder note, we mourn the deaths of past and current members:

Don Underwood

Don and Elizabeth Underwood joined Friendship Force a couple of years ago and enjoyed spending their winters in Houston, Texas. Don passed away in January while in Houston.

Bill Mueller

Bill was the speaker at our annual meeting last November and was an honorary member of our club. Bill passed away this month.

Joanne Beasler

Longtime members will remember Otto and Joanne Beasler, former members of our club. Joanne served as Exchange Director to Mexico. Joanne passed away this week after a long illness

NOTE; The Board requests that all members help keep us informed of occasions such as these so that we may share them with all members and send cards when appropriate.

***** CAN YOU HELP?** Margaret Nelson and Jill Rinkenberger do a wonderful job "behind the scenes" helping to set up for group meetings and special events. We are looking for a third person to add to this team to cover when one or both of them are unable to be in attendance. If so, please call Jill or Margaret or Vic.

**Help
Wanted**



4401

Calendar of Events, 2006

- Feb. 13** Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Grant Wood AEA – 401 6th St. SW Bldg 401, Autumn rm.
Mar. 5 FFI Anniversary Event – “Welcome To Our World”, 2:00 p.m., Marion Public Library
Mar./Apr Let’s Eat Out – details to come – hosts, Will & Karen Mickelson
April 3 Board Meeting – Grant Wood AEA – 401 6th St. SW Bldg 401 Winter Room
April 28-30 Midwest Regional Conference, St. Louis, MO (Applications forthcoming)
2-night home stays will be available on Wed. & Thurs. (Apr. 26, 27)
May 30 -June 17 Outgoing Exchg to Russia, Latvia, Estonia & Finland, ED - Phyllis Seidl
Summer Possibilities include a Mystery exchange or a car rally
July L.E.O., (host Andrew Cecil)
Board Meeting
Aug. 6 Tri-Club Picnic with Dubuque and Quad Cities FF clubs – Squaw Creek Park, Marion
Fall Host tentative Open World Leadership Exchange
Sept./Oct. Let’s Eat Out (host Margaret Miller)
Sept. 12-18 Incoming Domestic Exchange from Shelby, NC – Need ED!
Oct. 12-17 FFI Int’l Conference in Dublin, Ireland (Post Conference tour of Northern Ireland offered)
Nov. 12 Annual Membership Meeting and Election

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.*

