

# CR/IC Friendship Force UPDATE

May 1, 2003

## Greetings from Your President

Pat Klopfenstein



It must be spring - the smells of spring have arrived. The smell of grass being mowed; the smell of trees in blossom and the flowers in bloom; the smell of rain and the smell of clear, fresh air are reminders of spring. Also the beauty of our countryside has developed almost over night into fields of patchwork of greens and browns. This must be Iowa! Take time to observe and enjoy!

Our club wishes to thank everyone who helped make the Heartland Conference such a great success. By everyone helping, this big project was accomplished. We thank Bernita Walker and Betty Emrich, co-chairs, for their leadership and guidance in making this a very outstanding conference. Way to go, Bernita & Betty!

Note: Vic and Pat Klopfenstein's e-mail address needs a dot between v and klopfenstein for it to be successful. [v.klopfenstein@worldnet.att.net](mailto:v.klopfenstein@worldnet.att.net)

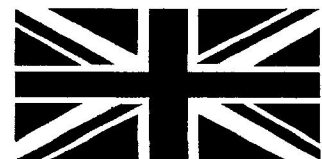
## May Board Meeting

Our next board meeting will be Monday, May 5th at 6 pm, at the Country Kitchen, 3130 16th Ave SW. Discussion items will include:

- a final report of the Heartland Conference
- ordering a Friendship Force pin for our club. Member could purchase the pin to give to their foreign guests and/or give to their hosts when visiting other countries
- the need to purchase a new FF banner for the club
- the domestic exchange with the Twin Cities,
- the out going exchange to Germany and England
- Open Russian Leadership exchange.

## Next Meeting— Sunday, June 8, 2003 Potluck

On Sunday, June 8 at 1:15 p.m. a general meeting, which will be a potluck dinner, will be held at the Marion First United Methodist Carnegie Center's upper level room. This building is the former Marian Carnegie Library located at the corner of 7th Ave and 13th Street in downtown Marion. Please use the door on 13th street. There is an elevator just inside the door.



Bring a dish to share and your own table service. Beverages will be provided. Guests are welcome. Our club member, Margaret Miller, will share cultural information on England and offer practical suggestions to make our outgoing exchange to Leicestershire in September successful.

## Demonstrating Democracy Exchange--Vic Klopfenstein

Bob Anderson, IRIS, has asked me to be a delegate on the return trip to central Europe to visit the government employees who were in Iowa earlier this year. Some of our club members hosted them as they learned how our government systems work.

Our Demonstrating Democracy Delegation will travel to Veszprem, Hungary on June 16 to meet initially with the 14 participants from Poland, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Slovakia and Hungary. Later our group will go to their cities and countries. We will return on June 30. I am extremely honored to represent our Friendship Force Club, our cities, our state and our nation. I truly believe this program will create long term linkages.

## Let's Eat Out (LEO) – July 15



The first L.E.O. event on April 16 at the Brown Bottle in North Liberty was a great success. The next gathering will be at Zazza's in the Clarion Hotel in Cedar Rapids on July 15. The evening will begin at 5:30 with social time and then we'll order off the menu before 6PM in order to get the early bird specials. To get to Zazza's take exit 17 off of I-380. The address of the hotel is 525 33rd Ave. SW Cedar Rapids. It

was great getting together to just visit and share travels. Please come and enjoy our Friendship Force group. Guests are encouraged. Please contact Marge Ferris @ 319-377-1324, if you are planning to attend.

## Membership Info

Want to join Friendship Force or renew your membership? Here's how you do it. Dues are \$32 for a family and \$27 for a single. This includes the Friendship Force magazine. You can send your check to Jerry Seidl, FF treasurer, 7709 Princeton Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402.

Address, phone and e-mail corrections? Contact Frank Stull at [fpstull@aol.com](mailto:fpstull@aol.com) or at 319 393-6254.

## Dianne Karal's view of the Heartland conference

Since the Regional Conference held April 5, 2003, was my first FF Conference, Pat Klopfenstein asked if I would share my thoughts. I enjoy meeting people with interesting backgrounds and fascinating travel stories to tell, and at the conference I had a chance to meet both. In fact, we had a chance to home host a new friend, Donna Calvert, from Wisconsin, Friday and Saturday night.

In addition to the new friends, I came away with a better understanding of Friendship Force's Mission and future plans. Susan Smith had a great message to share and her enthusiasm was catching. My husband, Mike, was able to join me for the social hour and banquet. We both enjoyed the fellowship, good food and the entertainment. We are looking forward to more Friendship Force events.

*Dianne Karal*

## Exchange to England and Germany September 2003

As of now we have 18 signed up for the exchange. We have space for three more to go to both Varel and Leicestershire, England. If you might be interested in the Varel portion only for one week, we have more spaces. For information or to register, please call Phyllis Siedl, exchange director, at 377-5619 or e-mail her at: [seidlgerald@msn.com](mailto:seidlgerald@msn.com). The exchange will leave Cedar Rapids on September 16. We will be in Varel the first week and Leicestershire the second week and return on October 1. We will be sharing this exchange with Lee County (Ft. Myers area), Florida Friendship Force club. Approximate cost is \$1,500 per person.

## Domestic Exchange with Minnesota Twin Cities

The Friendship Force of Minnesota - Twin Cities has agreed to visit our club on a domestic exchange. Details have not been set yet. Sally Nelson has agreed to be our exchange director. She will be calling upon you for assistance.

## Russian Leadership Program - Janis Schmitz

The Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Friendship Force club has been one of the groups selected to host an Open World program. This program is funded by a grant to Friendship Force International from the Center for Russian Leadership in Washington, DC. About fifteen Russian people will participate in the program in our city. The group will have an orientation from October 14 to 16 in Atlanta. Then they have a homestay in our area from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>.

Our theme for the week will be economic development and government. Pat and Vic Klopfenstein will be participating in a Leadership Training Workshop on the weekend of May 9 to 11 in Atlanta. When they return they will be able to inform us of our responsibilities for this week.

## Kudos on the Heartland Conference

The Heartland Regional Conference on April 5 and 6, was a success. Attendance included 92 ambassadors and guests for the conference and lunch, 77 for the evening banquet and 26 at the Presidents Breakfast. Highlights included:



### ***Friendship Force International Report***

- Susan Smith, president of Friendship Force International, came from Atlanta for the entire conference. She conducted two sessions on Saturday and one on Sunday and she met with members in the hospitality room Friday and Saturday evening.
- In her presentation, she spoke of the history of FFI and of its future. She explained the match process for exchanges and how we might co-operate with other clubs in our region to be more successful in securing inbound and outbound exchanges. She distributed information on the new administrative fees, which will be implemented July 1, 2003, and explained the new fees.

- There is a great need to gain financial resources, spend wisely, establish new clubs in new areas and to use more volunteers in the Atlanta office. The duties of regional representatives were discussed and how these representatives are a resource to clubs, if travel could be minimized. She said F.F.I. is listening and responding to member's concerns!
- The 2003 FFI international conference will be held in Budapest, Hungary in the fall. A Leadership Forum will take place at the conference. Home hosting will be available in Sarajevo, Bosnia and there will be tours available before and after the conference. The 2004 FFI international conference will be in Hollywood, California

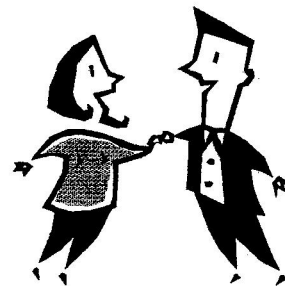
***Other conference activities***

- Jan Roelof's presentation on *Creating a More Peaceful World* was well received.
- The table discussions created a lot of ideas, which were shared with the entire group. The result was meaningful questions and many solutions.
- Bob Anderson, founder and president of IRIS (Iowa Resource for International Service) gave a personal, historic presentation concerning initiatives and how to make new ideas work.
- Susie Smith would like to feature the clubs of the Midwest in a future issue of *The Friendship Magazine*. She needs highlights from exchanges and good quality photos of hosting events.

***Comments from attendees:***

A guest wrote, "I was hugely impressed with your mission, your meeting content, your program speakers and warmth. Thank you."

A new member wrote, "I am a new member that joined Friendship Force in January. The information I picked up was very useful and I am going home very excited and fired up about being a new member. I can't wait to go on an exchange!!!"



***Many thanks***

Thank you to the eighteen volunteers on the planning committee for your attendance at planning meetings. Thanks to all of the members that made cookies and fruit breads. There were many nice comments from our guests about refreshments at breaks, the food at our meals at the Longbranch, and the service. Our guests were especially pleased at the warm welcome they received upon their arrival: being greeted and hosted by our club members. Many thanks to those who put programs together, stuffed information into the folders, and visited with our guests in the lobby and hospitality room. Special thanks to Cedar Rapids Mayor Paul Pate and Marion Mayor Vic Klopfenstein for their warm welcome to our guests. It is wonderful to have them involved with Friendship Force. Thanks to the Flutenotes, and to the Seranaders for entertainment at the Banquet.

A very special thank you to our president, Pat Klopfenstein and the chairs of the various committees: Sally Nelson, Nancy Miller, Phyllis Seidl, Paula Pearson, Margaret Miller, Jill Rinkenberger, Doris Faas, Joanne Smith, Shirley Rosencrans, board members for their support and extra help when called upon. At least 41 members of the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City club participated in some way for this conference. This co-operation and enthusiasm made the Heartland Regional Conference a SUCCESS! Our heartfelt thanks to all,

Betty Emrich and Bernita Walker, CoChairs

**2003 Board of Directors**

- President** Pat Klopfenstein (319) 377-5502 [v.klopfenstein@worldnet.att.net](mailto:v.klopfenstein@worldnet.att.net)
- Vice President** Sally Nelson (319) 857-5296 [nelsmaddie@aol.com](mailto:nelsmaddie@aol.com)
- Secretary** Joanne Smith (319) 395-9440 [jmariesm@msn.com](mailto:jmariesm@msn.com)
- Treasurer** Jerry Seidl (319) 377-5619 [seidlgerald@msn.com](mailto:seidlgerald@msn.com)
- Past Presidents** Nancy Miller (319) 393-3580 e-mail: [namrabbit@mchsi.com](mailto:namrabbit@mchsi.com)  
Shirley Rosencrans (319) 462-4132 or (319) 362-8500 (work)
- Directors at Large** Doris & Dick Faas, (319) 857-4177, [ddffarm@att.net](mailto:ddffarm@att.net)  
Margaret Miller (319) 364-2135
- Membership** Richard Miller (319) 364-2135,  
Kenny & Janis Schmitz (319) 396-4450, [schmitzkenneth@mcleodusa.net](mailto:schmitzkenneth@mcleodusa.net)  
Dick & Veryl Hansen (319) 393-9534, [culhansen@juno.com](mailto:culhansen@juno.com)
- Exchange Director (England & Germany)** Phyllis Seidl (319) 377-5619, [seidlgerald@msn.com](mailto:seidlgerald@msn.com)  
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Nancy & Steve Williams (319) 447-5761  
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- Heartland Conference Committee** Betty Emrich, (563) 886-2349  
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Feel free to contact any board member with questions or to volunteer your talents.

**Friendship Force Calendar of Events  
2003**

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Mon, May 5, 2003 6 pm          | Board Meeting, Country Kitchen, 3130 16 <sup>th</sup> Ave SW, Cedar Rapids   |
| Sun, June 8 - 1:15 pm          | General Meeting, Potluck at First United Methodist Carnegie Center, 1295 7 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Marion<br>Speaker: Margaret Miller, cultural information on England |
| Mon, July 7, 2003 6 pm         | Board Meeting, Country Kitchen, 3130 16 <sup>th</sup> Ave SW, Cedar Rapids   |
| Tues, July 15, 2003            | LEO (Let's Eat Out) at Zazza's, in the Clarion Hotel, 525 33 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids   |
| August (date to be determined) | General Meeting Picnic – "It's a Small, Small World" and White Elephant Silent Auction   |
| September 10-14, 2003          | Incoming domestic exchange from Minnesota Twin Cities  |
| September 16-October 1         | Outgoing exchange to Liecestershire, England and Varel, Germany  |
| Sun, November 2, 6 pm          | Annual Meeting at the Marion Heritage Center, 590 10 <sup>th</sup> St., Marion   |

**The Friendship Force**

Frank & Mary Stull  
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