

3-2001

THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE CEDAR RAPIDS/IOWA CITY

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

We are fast approaching spring and I think everyone is ready for some warm, sunny days!! There is something I have learned this winter that we truly are tough Iowans-we can indure all. When I use the word tough, I am referring to the nature of human beings-we will get the job done no matter what. This tough attitude can be carried over into our everyday life, but also to our Friendship Force Club. We all work together to get the job done whether it be hosting, preparing food for a potluck, entertaining our foreign and domestic guests, serving on a committee or the board. We cannot have a successful club without the help of everyone. So, I am asking you to renew your membership for 2001 if you have not already done so. Cost is \$32 for a family and \$27 for a single membership. Mail your check to Jerry Seidl, 7709 Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402.

POTLUCK MARCH 4, 2001

Our next Friendship Force get-together and meeting is at St. Andrews Church, Iowa City at 1pm. In order to make our club grow, not only in numbers but for a better understanding of the world around us, we need new members. So, I am asking each club member to bring a guest to the potluck. Maybe your guest already knows about FF but needs a little encouragement by having a great time with a fun group of FF members. The program will be presented by club members Gerry Stoner and Betty Emrich on Turkey. **BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING POTLUCK!!!!**

JOINT MEETING WITH THE DUBUQUE FRIENDSHIP FORCE CLUB April 22, 2001

Once again, we have been invited to a joint meeting with the Dubuque club at the Hoffman House Restaurant which is not far from the mall (they are sending an invitation with details). Social hour is at 5:30pm, dinner at 6:00pm and the cost is \$10.00 per

person. The theme is China since their club is doing and exchange in October with China. They are offering home hosting for anyone wanting to stay overnight. Richard & Margaret Miller attended the January 4 meeting with the Dubuque club and had a great time. We look forward to hearing about their evening at the potluck March 4. We will use the same plan as last time for car pooling. The Iowa City group should meet at the Radisson Hotel (formerly the Highlander) west parking lot, west entrance off Hwy 1 at 3:45pm. The Cedar Rapids group should meet at the Marion HyVee parking lot (southwest corner) at 3:45pm. The Anamosa and Tipton area group should meet at the Anamosa Wal Mart parking lot at 4:15pm. If you wish to do a homestay in Dubuque, please give me a call, Shirley, work 362-8500 or home 462-4132.

TURKEY OUTBOUND EXCHANGE

We have run into several problems getting the Turkey Exchange organized for May. Due to the higher costs of traveling at that time, illness, part of our club going to the Ukraine with IRIS program, and other commitments, we have made a decision to have the exchange go to Turkey sometime in late October. Hopefully, we will have more details for you by the Sunday potluck. Betty Emrich and Janice Schmitz, co-exchange directors, have been working frantically trying to fill the exchange, but there are just too many conflicts to go in May.

ENGLAND INCOMING EXCHANGE

I received a phone call from our dear FF club friends, Steve & Nancy Miller (residing in Florida for the winter), exchange directors, that the England club wanted to come the first week of October instead of September. The airfare would be less expensive and they felt they could get more people to come on the exchange. Since the England club is also going to Minnesota, Steve & Nancy had to talk with their exchange directors to see if the October exchange was agreeable. All is confirmed and the England club will

THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE CEDAR RAPIDS/IOWA CITY

come in October. Yesterday, I received a phone call from Pamela & John Sutton of England and they were very happy we were able to make the change for them. So, we are all looking forward to meeting our new English FF friends in October.

A WORD FROM OUR 1998 BELGIUM FRIENDS

For those of you who went on an exchange to Germany & Belgium in 1998, you will know who I mean when I speak of Els and Marietta. Els was our bus driver and my host, and Marietta was the club president and caretaker of all of us. We had such a wonderful time with their club. Well, I received an email from Els and Marietta saying they were coming to the U.S. to do an exchange with Cincinnati, Ohio and Rocky Mountain Club, Colorado. I immediately emailed them back asking if they were coming to the U.S. in 2001 or 2002. The answer is July, 2001. So, I emailed them again saying if you don't stop and visit your Iowa friends while in the states we will consider that a great loss. Another email from Marietta saying that some of their group already had made plans for a third week, but the others, including Els and Marietta, to quote: "I like the idea very much." The Belgium club has a meeting March 10 and they will discuss the idea of doing a third week in Iowa. It would be great to see our dear friends from Belgium once again.

AN EMAIL FROM SCOTLAND

While attending the International Friendship Force Conference in Madison, Wisconsin, in November, I talked with the president from the Scotland club several times. It seemed like every time I went to sit down at a table for one of the meals there would always be one seat left at a table. Coincidentally, Morag Sinclair, Scotland club president and her husband, Graham, would be at the table. I asked them if they would be interested in hosting our club in 2002.

They said yes so I thought. So, in January I emailed Morag and she responded by saying that she was no longer the club president and could not commit to our club. So, they gave me the name of the new club president, I emailed him and he said I should contact Atlanta which I will do this week. Hopefully, we have an exchange started or we will be building a relationship until they are able to accept our friendly Iowa group.

NEW CLUB PROJECTS

I have really been thinking about what our club could do as a humanitarian project. Whether it be shipping clothing to an orphanage in a third world country, keeping clean a designated section of highway, or volunteering our time for some community project, I feel our club needs to get involved. Maybe, our involvement would bring attention to the Friendship Force, thus new members.

Another project could be creating a fund for a scholarship for a young person to travel with our club. We all know the clubs are aging and that we need to get young people involved in order for the clubs to survive. At the International Conference, this topic was of great concern of all the Friendship Force Clubs. Please be thinking about a project and bring your ideas to the March 4 meeting.

MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR

March 4 - Potluck St. Andrews Church, Iowa City 1-4pm. Program-Turkey. Bring a guest!!!

June 9-10 Joint meeting and picnic with the Dubuque club at Wapsipinicon State Park, Anamosa. We will be offering home hosting for any of the Dubuque members who wish to stay over and attend the Grant Wood Day on Sunday, June 10 at Stone City.

July 15 - Club picnic at Kent State Park

Oct. - Incoming exchange from England

Oct. - Outgoing exchange to Turkey

Nov. 4 - Annual meeting at the National Czech & Slovak Museum

Dec. 2 - Xmas party at Steve & Nancy Miller's