



IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.

Peace Through Understanding

IFYE UPDATE

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IFYE 2020 and COVID-19

Victoria Fehrmann Warren

IFYE Board President

Your IFYE Board held its regular conference call on March 15. Of the discussion items, what we should do about the program due to the global pandemic was foremost. The Board decided to wait until the April meeting to see how things are progressing before making a decision. Our European IFYE partners are doing the same. While it is possible that the 2020 program will be canceled, the Board didn't want to jump the gun without a little more time. If the world-wide travel bans and social distancing stop the spread of the virus, it may be possible to still send and receive IFYEs this year. If our government believes that the travel ban needs to continue for several more months, taking us into June, then we will, of course, comply. The health and safety of our potential outbounds, inbounds, host families, volunteers, and staff is paramount!

The 2020 National IFYE conference in Branson, Missouri, is still on. As there are still five months before the conference, it truly seems too soon to cancel it or postpone it for a year. You have plenty of time, and even if you don't get in on the early bird rate, I think you will agree that the regular rate is very reasonable! (I have registered already!)

As your friend and Association President, my prayer is that you all stay safe and healthy! Keep in touch!

Vicky

National Program Director Alan Lambert

I wish to congratulate eleven (11) individuals who have been selected as 2020 IFYEs or are in the application process. They hail from 10 different states and exhibit a variety of backgrounds and fields of study. They are beginning the IFYE orientation process with our schedule of conference calls prior to attending our National IFYE Orientation in Washington, DC from June 18 – 22, 2020. They will depart for their host countries on June 22, 2020. Five (5) IFYEs are participating in the newly offered two-month program. Three (3) IFYEs will be on a six-month program, and three (3) IFYEs will be on the three-month program. A total of 11 countries are participating in 2020.

We will also be accepting at least nine (9) inbound IFYEs from seven (7) different countries. More inbound applications are expected. The inbound IFYEs will join the U.S. IFYEs for the National Orientation in Washington, DC. Most of them are on the summer three-month program, while two are planning a six-month IFYE experience. Nine states will be hosting these inbound IFYEs.

National Program Director, Alan Lambert, and Nick Birsa, 2019 IFYE from Illinois to Taiwan and Thailand attended the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity (AGR) and Sigma Alpha Sorority (SA) Leadership Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, in mid-February. Nick shared some of his IFYE experiences briefly at both an evening general session and at a 7:30 am workshop the following morning. Attendance (booth and workshop) led to interest cards being completed by potential future IFYEs, and conversations with chapter housemothers and advisors. Follow-up visits to AGR and SA chapters at South Dakota State and Illinois State have occurred. Other

meetings were scheduled with AGR and Clovia Society at the University of Minnesota following the MANRRS Conference. However, the conference and meetings were canceled due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Presentations by 2019 IFYEs have generated positive exposure for the IFYE program when they spoke to university and community-based groups. Nick Birsa has made several presentations at Illinois State University to student groups and classes.

Alan Lambert, IFYE Program Director, has been working with Iowa State University to coordinate IFYE into their Global Resources Systems major. Currently, he is working with two (2) selected IFYE participants at ISU to assist them in meeting their international requirements to graduate in this major. If successful, this will provide ISU students with an enhanced education experience and bolster the IFYE program in the future.

NOTE: As of the past several weeks, the 2020 IFYE program is in a “wait and see” mode. Many of our participating host countries also have this mindset as none of us wish to cancel the 2020 IFYE program until more information is available. At this time, we are continuing “as if the program will continue,” but a final decision has not been made.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

2020 IFYE National Conference – Branson, Missouri

Missouri alumni are continuing to work on providing you a great conference Sept. 10-13 in the beautiful Missouri Ozarks. The IFYE Conference registration is now online and ready for everyone to begin registering. Please visit <https://ifyeusa.org/news-events/conferences/> or just click on the BRANSON sliding photo that will appear on the website to get started. You may read the conference information and then scroll down to the registration area. There are several ways to register for this event, whether it is full-time or part-time, or just to donate to IFYE, the expenses for Inbound and Outbound attendance, or to the 50-year reunion group.

Now that conference registration has begun, some may be wanting information on flying into the area. Branson has the nation's only privately-owned public airport. Unfortunately, there is only one airline currently servicing the city, <http://www.flybranson.com> (BKG). Frontier Airlines has direct service between Denver and Branson on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. Fall schedules have not yet been announced. The Springfield-Branson National (SGF) airport is 50 miles away and is serviced by Allegiant Air, American, Delta, and United Airlines. Those flying into Springfield <http://www.flyspringfield.com> (SGF) and not choosing to rent a car, can use the shuttle service Branson Loop (417-320-6035) <https://www.thebransonloop.com>. Arrangements must be made a day prior to the day of need. Cost is \$90 for one or two passengers with a cost of \$10/additional passenger.

If you have questions regarding registration please contact Ginny Warner at 207-701-7484, or Ken Gordon at 614-593-0234, and they will help you with the process.

In the IFYE Spirit,
Delbert Frericks
Conference Co-chair

Executive Director Ken Gordon

As we all know, our world has changed. The COVID-19 (coronavirus) has changed the way we all work, play, worship, and live. Some of the IFYE host countries have closed their borders and cancelled exchanges for the year. Others have taken a wait and see approach. Our IFYE Board of Directors also considered many variables regarding our exchange program and have opted to take a similar approach. Our top concern is protecting the safety of all our participants and maintaining the strength of our program.

Fundraising efforts continue with a number of sources from USDA, foundations, corporations, and individuals being contacted for support. Recent collaborations with national agriculture associations such as the corn and soybean growers, agriculture retailers, and others are beginning to show results. We have received some financial contributions and we continue to position the IFYE experience as a vital component to leadership development within these groups.

Our Organizational Capacity Campaign will end this year. This campaign kicked off our 2017 annual conference to solidify our finances and put us in a position to grow. From this effort, we were able to achieve the milestone of a renewed relationship with USDA and increase the awareness of IFYE among the agriculture community. From the contacts we made within USDA, we have been made aware of grant and other funding opportunities which we are actively pursuing.

2020 began with excitement as we more than doubled our rate of IFYE participant applications, which provided a strong group of IFYE candidates for the year. IFYE is turning the corner to growth and success, and we'll keep our focus on ensuring the future for IFYE.

Whether or not the 2020 IFYE program will be able to be offered this year, the program still needs your support with contributions and promotion for this and future years. The Program Committee has been developing guidance on how each of us can work with the Cooperative Extension Service (Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service), including but not limited to agriculture, family and consumer science, youth, and community development. We will let you know when it is ready.

IFYE Giving Ideas *(This is a new part of the IFYE UPDATE started by the IFYE Marketing Committee. It will contain innovative ways people can donate to IFYE.)*

Last month, IFYE alumnus Bev Hornickel was celebrating a birthday and wondered if she could add a donation button to her Facebook page so people could donate to IFYE. She set it up and had a successful fundraiser for her birthday. What a wonderful way to celebrate by linking donations to IFYE! Thanks, Bev.

To set up a Facebook fundraiser, start from your own page and enter IFYE USA into the search bar. You will see an icon to click and be taken to the IFYE Facebook page. There you can find a link called Create Fundraiser. Once you click on that, you can confirm it is IFYE; you will be guided through the process to begin your own fundraiser for our program.

Amazon Smile continues throughout the year



You shop. Amazon gives. Signing up is easy. It will work the same as your regular Amazon account, but IFYE will receive a donation equal to 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. When you sign up, you will have an opportunity to select the charitable organization of your choice; so just select IFYE USA. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support IFYE by shopping at <https://smile.amazon.com>.



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Please check the appropriate box(es) for the support you wish to provide to the IFYE Association. Return the form and completed action(s) that you have selected to: **Pat Hutsell; 3670 N Bayou Hill Rd, Parker, CO 80134-5111**

PLEASE COMPLETE:

NAME _____ **EMAIL** _____

ADDRESS _____ **CITY** _____ **STATE**__ **ZIP** _____

HOME PHONE _____ **CELL PHONE** _____

I wish to support IFYE in 2020 with the following: \$5,000 \$2,500
 \$1,000 \$750 \$500 \$250 Other Amount \$ _____

- I wish to support IFYE with an annual Membership fee. \$30 for 2020 annual membership**
 - If you are a **life member**, you will always be a life member and do not need to pay the \$30 annual Membership.
 - **ALL life and annual members** have access to the Member area on the website.
 - You can be a member with your \$30 annual membership only, but all contributions (by non-life members) above \$30 membership will count as a general donation.

I wish to become a **Life member** _____ \$1000 paid in one sum _____ \$200 paid over each of the next five years

Enclosed is \$20 for the postal mailing of two IFYE NEWS and eight issues of the IFYE UPDATE published during 2020.

PAYMENT METHOD

I have enclosed my check # _____ in the amount of \$ _____ payable to **"IFYE Association of the USA"**.

I would like to pay the above amount on a payment schedule. Please contact me. Phone # _____

Please charge my credit card: MC_ Visa __ Discover _____ Amex _____ **AMOUNT \$** _____

CARD NUMBER: _____ EXP. DATE: __ / ____ Security Code: _____

SIGNATURE _____

I will pay online at <http://ifyeusa.org>

Please send me (by email) access information to the IFYE website "Paid Membership area".
My email address is: _____

I am unable to financially support IFYE at this time. Please discreetly remove me from the *contact for donation* list.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT of IFYE

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<http://ifyeusa.org>