



ILLINOIS

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2024-2026**

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October 2024

COMMITTEE: Shelly Richard, Marty Tarter, Jim Schmidt, & Bev Hornickel

WHO: Illinois & Indiana IFYEs, SPIFYEs & other IFYEs

WHAT: Fall Week-end Retreat

WHEN: October 25-27, 2024

WHERE: Arthur, IL – Unique Amish Settlement

Accommodations: Green Mill Village Hotel & Suites, Signature Collection, Best Western, 917 Green Mill Road, Arcola, IL Phone: 217-268-5000. Or online:

Make your own hotel reservation. USE for discount:

"1296" under my name (Bev Hornickel) by 10/10/2024, Room Rate: \$127.93/room/night, incl. taxes. Or reserve online at:

https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.14198.html?groupId=4Z3AE2C0. There is one handicap room with walk in shower. 2 QQ beds or K bed in other rooms.

We will gather at this hotel several times throughout the weekend – Business Meeting, European Conference Report back, (Potential IFYE Report), Games and social events.

Helpful Information: We can bring in alcohol to the hotel. But must conceal it when in main areas. Cans in koozies or plastic cups, etc. are acceptable.

Bring coolers as needed and to take home goodies. And Bring other snacks to enjoy with our group.

Bring cash – most places charge to use a card.

Indoor Swimming pool, workout room, wi-fi, Games with prizes.

AGENDA

FRIDAY – Much to do in Arthur. More than we can do on Saturday. Enjoy as you arrive. Trip Advisor [link: Village of Arthur Illinois | Our Visitor Center \(arthur-il.gov\)](#)

>At 6:50 pm – The National Anthem Musical - Centered around Frances Scott Key. Meet at Penn Station or meet at 6:30 at the hotel for car-pooling. **Advanced reservations required for special seating and price \$30/person. General seating at the door is \$40.**

>After Musical. Gather at the hotel for social time.

SATURDAY:

>7:00 – 9:00 am Free hot breakfast at hotel

>9:00 Beachy's Bulk Foods and more

>10:30 – Business Meeting and Reports – Hotel

>Noon- Eat at Yoders Family Restaurant – Arthur IL – Buffett - \$15.99 + tax and tip. **Pay at door.**

>2:00 - Heritage Center for guided tour. **Pay \$10 at the door**

>3:30 – Shopping in Shops downtown Arthur on Vine Street

>6:00 – Pizza & Games & Social – Bev has several challenging and fun games for us. Location: Hotel

SUNDAY: For any of us who will stay for Church on Sunday: Non-denominational Cowboy Church services at 10 am at the Penn Station. (Same location as the play on Friday.)

Use Form at end of Newsletter to register.

IL IFYE At State Fair

ILLINOIS IFYE participated in 4-H days at the ILLINOIS STATE FAIR. The intercultural booth was part of the scavenger hunt offered by 4-H. The booth was staffed by Bev Hornickel, Shelly Richard, Jim Schmidt, Dale Yonker (filling in for Hope Heslop) and Toni Frank. Menard county sisters, Samantha and Allison O'Neil, who participate in 4-H intercultural projects helped between project judging. The activities included origami-which is a favorite, paper cutting based on Polish heritage arts and flag coloring map. The flag coloring mat was popular given that the Olympics had just finished. It is fun 3 days with different kids, counties, families and projects each day



European IFYE Conference in Stapelfeld near Cloppenburg, Germany

by Crystal and Dale Yonker

MOIN!

That was the theme for the 64th European IFYE Conference in Stapelfeld near Cloppenburg Germany, July 27 to August 3, 2024. In Northern Germany, "Moin" is a greeting used all day; somewhat like "Hello" is used in the USA. In attendance were 162 people from 15 countries. (6 IFYEs and one SpIFYE from the USA.)

Each day was filled with activities at the conference site or tours highlighting the local traditions and area businesses, agriculture or places of interest. Plus, there was lots of time to visit and get to know IFYEs and SpIFYEs from other countries.

As is the tradition at European IFYE Conferences, for the Sunday church service, National Dress was the distinctive attire for the Scots, Swedes, Norwegians, Finns, Germans, Austrians, Dutch from The Netherlands, Slovenians, Swiss, and Estonians. Jim from KS wore his cowboy attire, including a wooden six-shooter in his holster, plus cowboy boots and hat!

"Kohfarht", usually a winter activity in Northern Germany, was an afternoon highlight. Everyone wore a bright yellow-green IFYE vest (safety waistcoat) with a shot mug hung from a lanyard on their necks. Hiking, silly games, schnapps and other beverages were plentiful.

Neil (Scotland) showed pictures and talked about his work in Antarctica.

Lieselotte, (1969 Germany to USA) showed her pictures from 1969 when she was an IFYE. Her experiences as a German IFYE to Wyoming were very different from anything she would ever experience in Germany!

Other activities were Frog Prince, an outdoor play performed by K-IFYEs (kids of IFYEs), yoga, and a bonfire with sing along.

Dale attended a Low German class. He found out that Low German is indeed an old language spoken by few people, mainly in the North.

Dale went on agricultural tours. One morning at the bus he was greeted with familiarity, by the German IFYE tour guide. The connection was in 2005 we took Jürgen, a brand new German IFYE, from the Chatham Ontario Canada IFYE conference to the Detroit airport so he could fly to Colorado to meet his first host family. 19 years later Jürgen remembered Dale!

On a tour of the Meyer Werft shipyard in Papenburg, workers were putting final touches on the new cruise ship, "Disney Treasure". The day after the IFYE Conference closed, the Disney Treasure was undocked and floated out of the facility, celebrated by onlookers and fireworks. The more than 300-metre-long "Disney Treasure", which holds around 4,000 passengers, is to be transferred along the Ems River toward the North Sea in September. (Disney Treasure is the fourth ship for Disney Cruise Line.)

Lunch was at a community farm, "Solidarische Landwirtschaft". The new manager is a friend Jürgen met when they were studying agriculture at the university. The farm has around 160 subscribers who receive produce, dairy, and meat products weekly throughout the year.

The next stop was at a well-known German distillery named, "Berentzen" maker of various fruit liqueurs, schnapps, and spirits. Johann Bernhard Tobias Berentzen founded the company in 1758. The current operation is impressive with a worldwide customer base. After seeing each step in the process, examples of a wide array of the product line were sampled.



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Another tour day included the "Urban" intelligent calves, lambs, and kids feeder manufacturing plant in Wüstring near Bremen. Worldwide customers include some dairy farms near Chicago. The owner, Helmut Urban, started the company in 1984 when, as a dairy farmer, he designed a device to automatically feed his calves rather than selling them on the open market. The owner still goes to work each day but does not interfere with current managers and engineers.

Next, they saw the application of Urban feeding technology in use on a nearby dairy farm. Also, on this farm was an automated milking parlor. The cows voluntarily enter an automated parlor to be milked and fed.

Lunch was served at a non-automated group of tables in a machinery shed. The delicious lunch was catered by Bettina's holiday facility. Various sausages, potato salad, green salad, and various beer varieties were available.

Finally, a multi-generational farm was visited. It has evolved from dairy to grain farming. Currently the son, a recent university graduate, is influencing the selection of crops to grow. The farm soil is quite sandy, which does not produce high grains yields. The son has convinced his father to produce, under contract, potatoes to make fries for Burger King and McDonalds. The jury is still out; however, the small fields dedicated to the potato contracts look more promising than production on the rest of the farm. The father has not yet turned the management of the farm over to his son. However, it is obvious that the son has great influence over the future of farm operations.

Noteworthy: the father is a key person in the agricultural organization that lobbies the European Union bureaucracy over agricultural regulations. Therefore, it won't be long before both the father and the son graduate to greater roles in farm operations and fighting bureaucratic regulations of agriculture. The father came to the IFYE Conference barbecue on Thursday night; however, we did not talk to him, since he was in such high demand. Many of the German IFYEs at the conference are either farmers or in some aspect of agriculture. They had an interest in talking to him in an informal setting.

Dale visited the home and business of conference organizer, Bettina. About 15 years ago, on her family farm, she opened a "holiday house" for severely disabled people and their families. Handicap accessible apartments, with or without meals from Bettina's kitchen, are available.

Crystal visited a larvae farm, a new concept and diversification in farming. The larvae are used in animal feed. The by-products are used in fertilizer. Lunch at the farm did not include larvae.

On another tour, Dale and Crystal visited the Cloppenburg Museum Village which featured buildings from the local area that were relocated to the outdoor museum site. Buildings were from the 1600s to 1900s. Sheep grazing pastures and gardens of cabbage, kohlrabi, zucchini and greens were also present.

Thursday morning at the European IFYE General Assembly, Dale delivered greetings from Carolyn Hansen, President of IFYE-USA. The Europeans were disappointed that the USA is not sending nor receiving delegates in 2024. They were pleased to learn, however, that there is a Chile-USA exchange this year.

The next European IFYE Conference will be held August 2-8, 2025, in the Lake District of England. The number of participants will be limited to the size of the venue.

The Farewell dinner, consisting of Northern German food, was outstanding as were our dining companions. At our table there was a fellow from Norway, a lady from Switzerland, a couple from England (outside of London) and Dale and Crystal from "America". The discussions were lively and informational. (No politics)

The occasion of the final dinner was bittersweet. After a wonderful week of education, interesting experiences and fun with our dear IFYE friends, we had to say goodbye ... "until next time". We take with us our precious memories.



President's Message

Hello Illinois IFYEs

Our National association is still in a state of flux. Past President Jan Wood is working with our representatives on getting the Ag bill passed. IFYE is included in that bill. If it passes, we still need to work at getting the funding directed to the support of IFYE. This year, there is an exchange program with Chili. I met 18 year old Luis from Chili last week at BMI. He knows some English and I'm sure will know more by the time of our meet in Arthur. Several of us met at Ray & Carol Ropp's for a good old fashioned weiner roast to meet and greet. He will stay in Indiana and Illinois during his 2 months in the states. Luis is staying with the McCafferty's in Springfield for few weeks. He is very interested in seeing the harvests so arrived at a good time to do so. Rebecca Pratt is the outbound from McLean County IFYE currently in Chili. IFYE'ly, Bev Hornickel.

(Return via email, text or US mail if buying advance musical seating)

Please send Reservation to:

Email: >Bev_Hornickel@msn.com>

Cell: 309-830-4810

US Mail: 1603 Ensign Drive, Normal, IL 61761 MUSICAL PYMT. DUE BY 10/18/2024

NAME(s) _____

Your Contact - Cell Phone _____

EMAIL: _____

_____ **Attending** _____ **Number** _____ **Not Attending**

_____ **Approximate Arrival Date & Time**

_____ **Departure Date & Time**

_____ **Yes, for noon meal at Yoder's Kitchen & Tour (Pay on Saturday)**

_____ **Musical: \$30/person Number** _____ **x \$30 =** _____ **(Please pay by 10/18/2024)**