



IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.

Peace Through Understanding

IFYE UPDATE – February 2023

75th Anniversary Survey

And the survey said...

Where: Nashville, Tennessee
When: October/November
Length: Two nights/three days



Please join us in Nashville as we celebrate IFYE's 75th Anniversary. Tentative plans are for us to enjoy a stay **October 6-8, 2023**. This will be a relaxing weekend of renewing friendships and making new friends all focused on how IFYE brings "Peace Through Understanding" around the globe. Please go through your scrapbooks and slides, pictures, and videos to find images of "then" and "now." We will use them for a presentation the night of our special celebration, Saturday, October 7. We are already working on the hotel and dinner plans. More details to follow soon. Hope to see everyone there!

IFYE World Conference – Extended Deadlines

The IFYE Association of the USA Membership Committee has put together two IFYE Tours to tie in with the 12th World IFYE Conference in Austria. The pre-conference tour is to Austria and surrounding countries. The post-conference tour is to Italy.

- **Our pre-conference tour registration deadline for Austria and surrounding areas has been extended until March 1, 2023.** PDF of itinerary: <https://tinyurl.com/ifyeprecontour>
Tour Registration form and itinerary: <https://form.jotform.com/223195656223154>
- **Our post-conference tour registration for Italy has been extended until March 15, 2023.** PDF of itinerary: <https://tinyurl.com/ifyepostcontour>
Tour Registration form and itinerary: <https://form.jotform.com/223145404346146>
- Both tours are agriculture-based, but also take us to cultural sites. Both are also listed on our website under News & Events category:
<https://ifyeusa.org/news-events/upcoming-ifye-conferences.html>

Additionally, the Austria IFYE Association has added rooms at a guesthouse close to the IFYE meeting site. More information is available on the Austria IFYE website:
<https://www.ifye.at>

The IFYE Association shall make its services, facilities, and programs available to all persons regardless of race, color, creed, gender, gender variance, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or national origin, and the Association shall not in any way discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, gender variance, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or national origin.

ifyeusa.org

2022 IFYE Donor List – Thank you to all IFYE Supporters!

2022 was a successful year for fundraising among the ranks of IFYE Alumni and friends of IFYE. The donor list includes the recurring/periodic giving, donations for memorials and in honor of individuals, the Annual Giving Campaign (AGC), CLUB 75, and other donations that helped support our IFYE program. The total amount raised in 2022 was \$198,500.

These contributions play a major role in sustaining the IFYE program and allowing us to continue to provide today's young adults with a valuable and unique experience in international understanding and global awareness.



It is with a deep sense of gratitude that we say a heartfelt THANK YOU to all who contributed this past calendar year. We hope that you will continue to help sustain IFYE with your contributions and encourage others to do likewise. At the link below are the names of those who contributed (minus the names of those who requested to remain anonymous) depicted by level of giving as shown here:

- Bronze: Up to \$100
- Silver: \$100 - \$500
- Gold: \$500 - \$1000
- Platinum: \$1000 - \$5000
- Diamond: \$5000 and above

Also listed are the names of individuals in whose name's donations were made either "In Memory of" or "In Honor of."

The 2022 Donor List can be found as of February 16, 2023, on our website (ifyeusa.org) under the category of "[Ways to Give](#)."

USDA Research Service

IFYE is excited to be partnering with a research social scientist at the USDA-Agricultural Research Service in North Dakota. Dr. Claire Friedrichsen's research seeks to understand the impact of visiting diverse farming systems, specifically through international exchange experiences such as ours, on agricultural leadership. This study on international travel and global agricultural leadership could be very helpful in quantifying the value of the IFYE experience to potential IFYEs and funding sources alike.

IFYE Program for 2023

A message from National Program Director, Melissa Haberstroh

"Traveling alone will be the scariest, most liberating, life changing experience of your life. Try it at least once." – Unknown

Quote it. Post it. Use it. Because our best recruiting tool is YOU, the IFYE Alumnus.

My first introduction to the IFYE Program was when I was eight years old and an Australian IFYE Representative gave a talk at my local 4-H club meeting. I recruited two Belgians and

my college roommate to participate after my return from my first exchange to Belgium in 1988. Who first told you about IFYE? Who encouraged you to “try it at least once?” Please see the chart below for details on this year’s recruitment numbers:

Length of Stay	Number of Applicants	Number of Applicants still Needed:
2 Month	3	
3 Month	2	
6 Month	3	
Total # of Applicants:	8	
Goal for 2023:	30	22

We expect additional applications over the coming weeks. Our deadline is March 1, 2023; however, qualified applicants will be accepted if host country slots are available. Country appointments will begin mid-March.

We’re excited to continue our partnership with ten countries: Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, Finland, Luxembourg, Austria, Slovenia, South Korea, Taiwan, and Thailand. We are currently working with three African countries (Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya) as well as Chile to launch programs in the fall of 2023.



We continue to recruit in all areas, including at state IFYE Alumni Association meetings, career fairs, and conferences. Carolyn Hansen, Roger Sherer and 2022 IFYE Rebecca Pratt have attended the Purdue College of Agriculture Spring Career Fair on February 22, 2023. Johari Snell and I will be attending the MANRRS National Conference in Atlanta in April and while there will be meeting with University of Georgia contacts and students.

I’m working on outreach through college and university liaisons and am hosting Zoom information sessions for those interested in learning more about the program. We’re developing a recruiting campaign that will utilize email marketing as well as social media (LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram posts) to generate additional applicants. These efforts work best when you follow IFYE channels and repost or share them on your personal accounts and profiles. If you would like me to send you the graphic so that you can print or email it, email me at mhaberstroh@ifyeusa.org or share the following links. [Instagram post.](#) [Facebook post.](#) [LinkedIn post.](#)

Remember that you, the IFYE Alumni, are **our best** recruiting tool and we need your help. Can you commit to contacting two, or even four individuals and encourage them to “try it at least once?”

Finding the Fox

A message from Interim Executive Director, Carolyn Hansen

My husband, Gordon, was a salesman for CAD (Computer Aided Design) systems years before they became commonplace. Although at the time it was great new technology, it wasn’t always easy to make the case of how a CAD system could increase production and make their business successful. His mantra was “Find the Fox, Find the Fox.” What or who is

the Fox? It's usually the person who either makes decisions or has access to the purse strings that would lead to a sale.

Let's apply this to the fund-raising quest for IFYE. When our Grant Manager, Mary Springer, and I start conversations or research a company, organization, or foundation, we look for that fox. He or she is not always easy to find, and it can be difficult to catch their attention to even begin a conversation. Why is that the case? In almost every situation we have experienced, we don't have a relationship with that individual or organization. I've got to admit, finding supporters who wish to open their wallets or checkbooks for IFYE is not as easy as I thought it would be. After all, I believe in IFYE, I believe in what we do, and why we do it. Who in the world wouldn't support "Peace Through Understanding?!"



It all boils down to having a relationship with the organization or finding out who the fox is and getting in front of that person. Mary and I had relationships with two of our most recent donors. Both Mary's and her husband's families are farmers, and she knows how valuable the services of Compeer Financial are to other families. She made the case of why supporting IFYE (just as they support 4-H and FFA) is a good thing for agriculture. This is the second year that Compeer is supporting IFYE!

Because of my time as an Extension educator, I know how generous the Brandt family, from Fairbury, Illinois has been to 4-H. I met Evelyn Brandt several times at the state fair when my 4-H'ers were thanking her for her support. Perhaps you've heard of Brandt Seeds? Yep, she is the face of Brandt. At the Commodity Classic last year, I visited with several representatives, and I met the foxes (there were two of them) who work directly with the Brandt Foundation. I think because I knew of the great work and support Brandt has given other agricultural-based organizations, it helped us get our feet in the door. Just a few days ago we received a generous gift of \$10,000 from that foundation.

All this to say, that when we ask for leads, and ask for you to help open the door – whether it is an agricultural lender, seed company, commodity organization, or an individual who supports youth and ag programs, we have a better chance of receiving gifts.

Make no mistake, without your support, IFYE would not exist – or – it would exist only as an alumni organization, not one that continues to send young adults to make our motto "Peace Through Understanding" a reality. Your generosity is astounding. Saying "thank you" is the least we can do for your help and support.

I don't have a personal or working relationship with each of you reading this article, but we do share our love for IFYE and clearly *you are the fox* we need to open doors to find donors. I ask you not to think of asking a friend or colleague to support IFYE as an imposition on your friendship or working relationship. Rather, let's think of it as a way of keeping IFYE alive and sharing your experience with them. I am certain that those who know you also know the role IFYE has played in your life. We need YOU to help us find the fox. Sharing an introductory email or making the first call about IFYE so that we can follow through will result in yielding contributions that will continue to make IFYE the premier international exchange program it has been for 75 years. Help us find the fox!



Farm Bill Progress

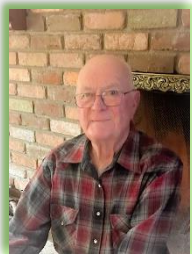
IFYE has had a busy and successful December and January regarding our Farm Bill activities. In conjunction with IFYE Debriefing, we hosted a second “Meet and Greet” in a Capitol conference room arranged by Senator Joni Ernst’s staff. After debriefing Jan Wood, Carolyn Hansen, Barb Batie, and Bob Jenkins visited staff in a number of congressional offices including the following senators:

- Debbie Stabenow (MI) Chair
- Sherrod Brown (OH)
- Joni Ernst (IA)
- Deb Fisher (NE)
- Dick Durbin (IL)
- Chuck Grassley (IA)
- John Thune (SD)
- Gary Peters (MI)
- John Boozman (AR)

Additionally, we visited staff of U.S. Representatives GT Thompson (PA) Chair, Shontel Brown (OH), Marcie Kaptur (OH), Alma Adams (NC), Jim Costa (CA), Johana Hayes (CT), Jake LaTurner (KS), Kim Schrier (WA), Patrick McHenry (NC), Davis Price (NC), and Mariannette Miller-Meeks, (IA). Word is getting around that IFYE is alive and well.



In mid-January, President Jan Wood and IFYEs AK Kissel (and Helga), Dave Allgeier, Hope Bittner, and Janice Tekely Yapple attended a Farm Bill Listening Session at the Pennsylvania Farm Show. We were honored to have a private session with Chairman Thompson (PA) and a few members of the U.S. House Ag Committee including Representatives Derrick Van Orden (WI), Doug LaMalfa (CA), Chellie Pingree (ME), Mary Miller (IL), and Austin Scott (GA). We had a productive discussion about IFYE’s efforts to find funding and potential other approaches such as matching dollar for dollar funding. This was a very positive meeting.



House Ag Committee Chair, GT Thompson, is holding Farm Bill Listening Sessions in other states like the one in Pennsylvania. One was held in California on February 14th and IFYE, Don Campbell, attended. Don, shown on left, was able to speak personally with Chairman Thompson and Ag Committee members California Representatives Doug LaMalfa and John Duarte. *Please watch for these as they are scheduled in your state. You can help by volunteering to attend.*

The Farm Bill Committee continues with its efforts to build support for securing IFYE funding through the 2023 Farm Bill.