



IFYE NEWS

An Official Publication
of the
IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.
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Spring/Summer
2021 Issue

2021 National IFYE Conference

September 23 - 26, 2021

Delbert Frericks, Co-Chair

A group of the Missouri IFYE Alumni Association (better known as the 2020 National Conference Committee) invited you to come to Branson last September. You are hereby re-invited to come this year. Y'all Come, Ya' Hear??

You may be aware of Branson, located in the beautiful Ozarks and lovingly referred to as the "Live Music Capital of the USA." But, it is more than that. In recent years, it has become a golfing paradise as well as attracting fishing enthusiasts, whether it be for trout, bass, or other species. Others come just for the shopping.

Conference Details Live Online

Conference information is live online at <https://ifyeusa.org/>. Click on News & Events or on the Branson postcard spotlight. Conference registration opens the week of May 17, 2021. All registrations are requested to be made online.

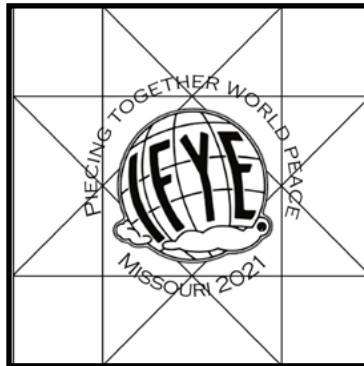
Online details include:

- Conference Registration information
- Tentative schedule
- Tour Details
- Conference Project
- Travel information
- Auction Reminders
- Pre-conference activities
 - JESUS The Musical
 - 1970 and 1971 Reunions

Headquarters for the fall conference will be the centrally located [Branson Radisson Hotel](#). Reservations are also now being taken by phoning 417-335-5767 and requesting the IFYE rate. Rates will be honored September 18-28.

Room rates (tax not included) are \$109.95 for regular rooms (2 doubles or 2 queens) with single or double occupancy. It is \$114.95 for triple occupancy & \$119.95 for quad occupancy. The reservation cut-off date is August 21. Reservations after that date will be subject to availability at the hotel.

Outside parking and breakfast are available to those individuals staying at the conference hotel. *Note: The hotel restaurant does not open for the public until 4 PM.*



Registration for Conference

There are three registration choices for which an individual can register to be at conference in person.

Full-time Registration -

- \$225 Early Bird ends June 15.
- \$250 Regular ends August 15.
- \$275 Late ends September 13.

Part-time Registration - No Early Bird - Regular ends September 13.

Supplemental - Only use after Full-time or Part-time registration is completed.

All full-time or part-time registrations made after SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 (including on-site) will incur an additional \$25 fee. Please view online conference information for more details.

In addition, there is a registration choice called "Non-Attendee Registration Form" for those unable to attend conference but who might wish to donate toward one of the activities listed OR take part in the Virtual option of the annual business meeting.

- Virtual Option for selected speakers and Business Meeting
- 1970 Challenge
- 1971 Challenge
- IFYE Association Donation
- Inbound/Outbound Registration Fee - toward future conferences

Conference Project

Attendees are being asked to donate mittens, hats, and other cold weather attire for our conference project. These items should be delivered when you register at conference. They will be delivered to Elevate Branson which "works with its neighbors who need spiritual, relationship and physical support."

Silent and Live Auctions - Friday/Saturday

The Missouri alumni will be raffling an alumni-pieced quilt in keeping with the conference theme "Piecing Together World Peace." You will be able to buy raffle tickets during registration or during the conference. The Missouri IFYE Alumni Association will take a check!

Please bring your state or internationally-themed items for the live and silent auctions.

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Jan Dennis Wood,
President
IFYE Association of the
USA, Inc.

Three Pathways to an IFYE Experience

jwood@ifyeusa.org

Your nearly 75-year-old organization is refining and expanding IFYE for the 2020s.. The experience is just as relevant today as it was at the beginning in 1948. Even during the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, IFYE is creating new paths for international culture immersion. For 2021, we had participants in each of three programs - all enabling the life-altering IFYE experience.

- **IFYE Core Program** - As historically done, candidates apply through their state IFYE association, through State Coordinators or directly to National Program Director Alan Lambert via our online application process. This two-, three-, or six-month experience focuses on culture, daily life, and participating in family life while living with host families in one or two host countries. While a farm or agriculture studies background is not required, an interest in rural life and international culture is.
- **Land-Grant Universities Program** - Working with Iowa State University two years ago, we created an IFYE exchange experience enabling students to receive undergraduate credit toward meeting an international studies requirement that certain agriculture degrees now require. Three Iowa State students were selected as 2020 IFYEs. Unfortunately, COVID-19 forced both an IFYE and Iowa State program suspension in 2020 and 2021 until international travel and health conditions allow resumption. Even with that temporary setback, National Program Director Lambert has devoted much time to expanding the program with at least six more interested land-grant universities. This adds the educational component with learning objectives to our core program. Accepted IFYE applicants work with their faculty advisor to obtain university credit.
- **Commodities Exchange Program** - Originally created with a United Soybean Board grant for a 2021 program, we help individuals develop international trade and leadership skills specifically needed by associations selling U.S. products to world markets. Candidates are not required to be college students or graduates but *must* come from a farm family producing the sponsoring organization's commodity. Candidates apply directly to National Program Director Alan Lambert to begin the application and interview process, with final reviews and approvals by commodity board leadership.

In all three programs, IFYE Representatives will check in with the U.S. Embassy when they land in-country. Do you know a young adult who would be interested in one of these three paths to the life-altering experience that is IFYE? Please direct them to our website at <https://www.ifyeusa.org> or to alanelambert@ifyeusa.org.

At the request of our Board President, several of the Board committees have shared a brief summary of some of their activities for 2021.

The Membership Committee

Sheri Swackhamer and Bob Ellis, Co-Chairs

swackhamer@ifyeusa.org and rellis@ifyeusa.org

The purpose of the Membership Committee is to ensure that our Association develops, maintains, and implements policies, processes, and procedures that will continually attract and sustain a large involved and supportive membership base.

In accordance with this purpose, a letter from Jan Wood (2021 IFYE Association President) was recently sent to all valid email and postal non-life members in our IFYE Family. It listed updates to the procedure for recording donations to the Association, new options for making donations, and mention of forthcoming benefits. A summary is below.

Automatic awarding of annual membership if a donation of \$30 or more is made during a calendar year. NOTE: Entire donation is tax deductible to the full extent allowed by the law for donating to a 501(c)(3) organization.

- ***Enhancing ways to make a recurring donation (beginning during May 2021).*** Previously, you have been able to make a recurring monthly donation on your credit card. This is now being enhanced to include the following options based on requests from a survey conducted last fall/winter.
 - Recurring: monthly, quarterly, bi-annually (semi-annually), and annually
 - These options are planned to be “live” on our website under the tab “Ways to Give” before the end of this month. Check there for more details.
- ***A continuing option of standalone (one-time) donation(s)*** that may be made once or several times a year on a random basis.
- The committee continues to research for further **benefits**.
 - On page 6 of this IFYE NEWS, you will find [travel benefits](#) that are now available to you. These travel benefits are also listed on our website on the pull-down menu tab of “Alumni and Membership.” We are continuing to research for other benefit opportunities and will update this area as they become available.
- ***Life Membership***
 - To encourage Lifetime Membership, we are making a one-time offer through December 31, 2021.
 - If a person has an annual membership for each of the past three years (2018, 2019, 2020) or donated \$100 last year or this year, we will credit \$100 toward the Lifetime Membership amount of \$1,000. Thus, only \$900 will become due for your Lifetime Membership. Please notify us of your intent to establish Life Membership status.
 - ***Life Member Payment Plan (LMPP)*** - If you desire to be on a payment plan, IFYE has a commitment form available from our Associate Treasurer, Pat Hutsell, 309-519-0765 or email her at phutsell@ifyeusa.org. This form is also available online at our website <https://ifyeusa.org> under the tab “Ways to Give.” This membership is valid if fully paid by the end of 2025.

Adversity or Opportunity

kgordon@ifyeusa.org

Benjamin Franklin is quoted as saying, “Out of adversity comes opportunity.” IFYE has indeed had its share of adversity, most recently with the global pandemic. From those trials over the years, IFYE has, and will continue to persevere.



*Ken Gordon
Executive Director*

Your IFYE Board of Directors recently announced that all our participating countries have informed us that they will not accept any of our exchanges for 2021. This news came after we secured one of our largest classes of IFYE participants in recent years. We are glad that most are looking forward to participating in 2022.

None of us who lead the Association are resting. This is a time we can use to open new countries and build new relationships, and that's what we are doing. Utilizing the results from the United Soybean Board grant, connections with the United States Soybean Export Council will help facilitate those in the USB program with additional international trade experiences. Outreach has already begun with the U.S. Grains Council and the U.S. Meat Export Federation. These connections will help IFYE expand its commodity-focused programs.

Though we are gaining traction with our commodity programs, we are not losing focus on our core program of living with host families. These experiences are what set IFYE apart from other international programs. Waking each morning to voices speaking with an accent or in another language and participating with your IFYE siblings and parents, provided the opportunity for you to embrace and understand other cultures. Living this way, if only for a few months, helped you become who you are today. We all recognize the influence IFYE has had in our lives, and that aspect of IFYE will never be lost.

We are making every effort to enhance and improve our program so IFYE can continue to grow and expand. Every IFYE will be checking in with the U.S. Embassy upon arrival in their host country. They will also have discussions with the USDA Foreign Ag Service representative while there. This will provide an added layer of security and safety for our IFYEs. Your Board and staff are focused on aligning with those organizations that will move IFYE into a solid future.

Marketing and Resource Development Committee

Cindy Barnett and Ken Gordon, Committee Co-Chairs
cbarnett@ifyeusa.org and kgordon@ifyeusa.org

The focus of this committee is to promote the IFYE program through a variety of methods and activities. Below are some of the activities on which we are currently working.

Annual Giving Campaign - Thank you for making last year's Annual Giving Campaign a success! We surpassed our goal of \$50,000. We are preparing to kick off IFYE Campaign 2021 in August and this year's goal is \$60,000. Let's do it!

Communications with our IFYE Family - Our committee is discussing the way we communicate with our IFYE family. How many newsletters (IFYE NEWS) and IFYE Updates do we send? When do we send them? What is the best way for you to keep up to date with IFYE?

Trademarking - We are also researching and discussing if we should trademark “International Farm Youth Exchange.” We don't use that name anymore, but should we trademark it so it would be unique to us and our history?

The name of IFYE - Since National 4-H Council parted ways with IFYE in 1992, we have struggled when people ask, “What does IFYE stand for?” We used to be “International Farm Youth Exchange,” Since we are no longer part of the 4-H program, we cannot use “International Four-H Youth Exchange.” So, how do we explain the letters “IFYE?” Our discussion continues.

Since we changed our name to “IFYE,” we have often had questions about what it stands for. What are some ideas you may have to explain the letters “IFYE” which are not an acronym any longer, just letters? Does it matter? Must they stand for something? Do you have any ideas of what to use instead? Readers – your input is desired. Please send any ideas to us through our emails or other contact information.

Marketing Materials - We work to keep our marketing materials current. If you need a brochure or display materials or a news release for an activity, we are happy to work with you. Let us know by using the “Contact Us” link on our website under the tab “About IFYE” or by linking here https://ifyeusa.org/about/contact_us.html.

CONTACT US

Wishing to receive IFYE communications via email instead of hard copy? No longer hearing from us? Needing to update your contact information? Please make sure we have your latest/contact information by

Emailing us at info@ifyeusa.org with your current contact information OR

Texting/calling 207-701-7484

THANK YOU

Digital Media Sub-Committee

Sub-committee of Marketing and Resource Development
Sheri Swackhamer - Chair sswackhamer@ifyeusa.org

The purpose of this group is to recruit, engage, and share information with potential and current IFYEs as well as other IFYE Family members. Our goals include promoting IFYE programs and encouraging recent alumni and other IFYE Family members to become active in IFYE USA through the use of social media.

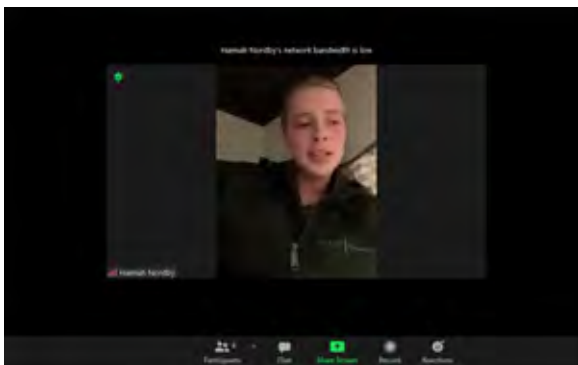
We use photos, stories, hashtags, and press releases of current and past events to engage our audience across all our platforms. Our presence can be found on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube.

Facebook: IFYE USA
Internet: ifyeusa.org

Twitter: #ifye
Instagram: @ifyeusa

Committee members have also initiated a “Facebook Live” presence on a periodic basis as a possible outreach engagement tool. Two sessions have been held this spring; the first included alumni from the Philippines and the second included a re-engaged IFYE from New England.

By having a strong media presence, it will give more options to connect/stay connected with potential IFYEs as well as to keep more recent IFYEs active and engaged with current IFYE events and new ideas.



Hannah Nordby during FB Live conducted by the Digital Media Committee

Website Content Sub-Committee

Sub-committee of Marketing and Resource Development
Ginny Warner, Acting Co-Chair vwarner@ifyeusa.org

Guiding Principles - Located on our website under the “Mission-Vision-Guiding Principles” page on the “About IFYE” tab, there are 12 Guiding Principles that were also featured in the 2020/21 Fall/Winter IFYE NEWS. They were developed during the in-person Board meeting in Indiana last September. As a new committee this year, we began our work with the goal of a story depicting each of the Guiding Principles.



Rachel Manning
Guiding Principle #4

A new Guiding Principle is to be featured monthly with a story from an IFYE Family member that relates to that month's designated principle. Our first story went online in February. As the feature changes monthly, it is planned that the relevant spotlight would relate to and link to the featured story.

NOTE: Clicking anywhere on the spotlight will take the reader to the story. [Link here to view Guiding Principle #4.](#)

Guiding Principle #5 is planned to be featured in June. Currently, we are identifying authors for several of the remaining principles. The current goal is to continue with stories changing in a looping fashion, beginning again with #1 after reaching #12. Thumbnails and spotlights would change accordingly. Past stories would be archived for further reference.

Other current goals of this committee include:

- **Development of timeline/procedure for update** of articles, photos, and/or news articles, etc.
- **Identify information that needs to be updated** - Review and coordination of responsible party(ies) and update is ongoing. During this month, we have worked on review of 2021 National Conference as well as update of program, alumni/membership, and donation pages.
- **Photo Release Policy** - We have begun initial steps to work with relevant committee(s) on developing a photo release policy for use with host families on their host family applications or separately regarding the use of photos of their children under the age of 18 in public media.

Nominating Committee

Sub-committee of Executive Committee

Chair: Wayne Shull, wshull@ifyeusa.org

The IFYE Nominating Committee meets regularly on the 4th Tuesday at 2 PM Pacific Time. We will remain flexible depending on members' availability. Currently, the committee is reviewing vacant positions on the Board and committees, as well as securing people to fill positions in the Board rotation/succession plan. At the present time, the only open position is for Associate Treasurer-Elect.

Projects we are working on include developing a list of potential contacts, seeking new committee members, and identifying Western Region contacts for committees and the Board of Directors. The plan is to write letters to assist in developing a volunteer contact interest list. Committee members: Ruth Trail and Nancy Maxwell-Rich. New committee members are welcome.

Program Development Committee (PDC)

Ongoing Efforts

Robert Jenkins, Chair

rjenkins@ifyeusa.org

Two items have recently received considerable attention from the PDC, both of which are among our priority goals for the year.

Increasing the Number of Host Countries to Accommodate Participants - The first is an effort to increase the number of host countries that participate in IFYE. As our program grows, and the increasing number of applicants over the past two years indicates that it should, we will need more host countries to accommodate the increasing numbers of participants.

Our search will emphasize finding partner countries in the Southern Hemisphere with a goal to have a minimum of three additional countries by the end of 2021.

Reengagement with Cooperative Extension - The second ongoing effort is to re-establish a strong working relationship with Cooperative Extension. With the September 2019 signing of the MOU with USDA, we regained access to Extension after an absence of approximately 29 years. So, there is much work to be done to reacquaint the organization with IFYE today and gain their support.

We envision Extension supporting IFYE primarily by identifying potential participants to State Coordinators and Points of Contact. Then, these participants will work with the IFYE Program Director to complete the recruiting and approval process. It is important to note that we are sensitive to not creating any additional workload for Extension professionals.

The PDC appointed a sub-committee, composed of four former Extension professionals and the IFYE Program Director. They are developing a plan of action to reengage with Extension and continue to work Extension-related issues as they arise.



Alan Lambert
IFYE National Program
Director

IFYE Program Update.

alanelambert@ifyeusa.org

As noted in the March IFYE Update, the 2021 U.S. IFYE program had a successful application, interview, and selection process with 18 individuals selected for two-, three-, or six-month programs. Six of these individuals submitted applications as part of the IFYE-United Soybean Board Leadership Development grant. These participants were interviewed and selected by IFYE and recently confirmed by the United Soybean Board.

Unfortunately, due to the worldwide concerns of the COVID-19 pandemic, all our partner countries have cancelled their IFYE program for 2021. Thus, we have no countries able to accept our IFYEs or send their IFYEs to us. However, most of our 2021 IFYEs have indicated they are looking at participating in future years.

We continue to plan for IFYE's future. We are expanding our relationships with universities to offer academic credit for outbound IFYEs, adding additional commodity groups and corporate partners for enhanced leadership and job shadowing opportunities, and searching out more host countries to meet the growing number of IFYE applicants. A committee is also developing strategies to work toward re-engaging with Cooperative Extension to promote the IFYE program.



Recent IFYE Family Member Updates

We are often asked how recent IFYE program participants are doing. Shared below, are a few recent updates.



Beau Nistler (Florida to Thailand 2015)

Beau writes us that he has just moved to a more rural area just outside of Bangkok where he has room for gardening. He also says, "I have gathered enough plants to require more than one trip across

the city to move them Still have a huge orchid to move still! ... It can't fit [in the car.]"

Beau has been in Thailand throughout the entire COVID-19 pandemic and has been a science teacher for secondary

level students for the past year. Able to be reached through Facebook or email, he says he would love to see you if you come to Thailand.

Kate Garrity (Michigan to India 2018)

Upon returning from her IFYE experience, Kate began working as a Clinical Registered Dietitian at a large hospital in Lansing, MI. This coming summer, she is moving down to Columbus, OH where she plans to start a Ph.D. program within the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

Rachel Manning (Maryland to South Korea/Thailand 2016)

A member of our Board of Directors, Rachel is currently working as an Admissions Coordinator for the School of Health Sciences at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC). She assists with recruitment and admission of students into the School of Health Sciences programs.

Travel through IFYE

Bob Ellis - Membership Committee Co-Chair

rellis@ifyeusa.org

Over the past several months, our Membership Committee has been working on external benefits for those in the IFYE Family. Travel benefits are the first to be announced here and on our website.

The following travel benefits are:

- frequent flyer program SkyMiles® or miles with your preferred frequent flyer program with Delta Air Lines' partner airlines
- car rentals with Hertz and/or Enterprise/National

Please see the process below for use of these travel benefits. We hope you will use and enjoy them.

Delta Air Lines

IFYE USA SkyBonus ID: US0114631

SkyBonus is a complimentary travel rewards program. For each dollar spent on air travel on Delta and its partner airlines, including Air France, KLM, Alitalia, and Aeromexico, the IFYE Association of the USA, Inc. earns points. You will also earn personal SkyMiles® or miles with your preferred frequent flyer program with the partners listed above.

With more than 60 travel rewards, including flight certificates, upgrades, Delta Sky Club® memberships, Silver Medallion® status and more, SkyBonus helps clients make the most out of their travel budget. It's free and easy to join online – www.delta.com. IFYE USA is happy to be a member of the SkyMiles program.

To get credit, just go to www.delta.com to book your flight. When you get to the place where you add your name, there is a box to click: "My company is a corporate rewards program member." This is where you put the IFYE USA SkyBonus number: US0114631

- You can also update your SkyMiles profile account with the IFYE USA SkyBonus number.
 - Just log into your account.
 - Click on Profile.
 - Click on Other Loyalty Programs.
- Then, add SkyBonus to Business Loyalty Programs.
- IFYE earns mileage credits and you earn your SkyMiles credits.
- You do not need to be a SkyMiles member to add the SkyBonus number to your flight reservations.
- If you book with a travel agent, just let them know that they should add the SkyBonus number to your reservation.
- If you forget to add the number, please contact me (rellis@ifyeusa.org) and I can assist with adding it.

Enterprise/National

Corporate Account Number: OSMB03A

- Discounted corporate rates for car rental
- Thousands of locations in 100 countries and territories with access to an extensive fleet
- Flexible rental lengths with no-penalty cancellations or rental extensions - rent for a day, week, month or more
- Bypass the counter for no-touch rentals at National – choose any vehicle and go (participating locations in US and Canada with Emerald Club membership)
- Complimentary [Emerald Club membership](#) for all travelers, offering expedited service and the ability to earn points at **Enterprise and National**
- Options for damage coverage and billing solutions for all your transportation needs

To get credit with Enterprise:

- Go to www.enterprise.com
- Put in where you need to pick up your car and enter. There is a box under the pickup location and dates/times and age. "Corporate Account Number of Promotion Code." Add the IFYE code: **OSMB03A**

To get credit with National:

- Go to www.nationalcar.com
- Click on Account Number (it's under the location pickup, etc.) In the Account Number box, add the IFYE code: **OSMB03A**

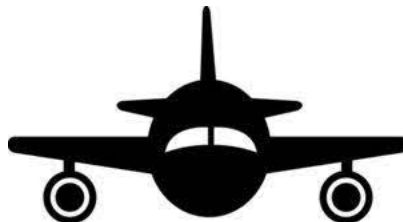
Hertz

Hertz CDP: 2214962

- Free Car Rental Days
- Dedicated Support phone line
- Roadside Service
- Additional Driver
- No Return Change fee
- No Late Return Fee
- Account summary

To get credit with Hertz:

- Go to www.hertz.com
- Enter the rental information (Pick up location, date, etc.) and continue
- At the top of the page in the second box VEHICLE, click on the down arrow. Add the IFYE Corporate Discount Code: 2214962
- You can also update your personal Hertz profile. Just go to Profile Summary and update Personal Details with the IFYE Corporate Discount Code: 2214962
- You will personally get your Hertz reward points and IFYE will get points as well.



Giving Back

Larry Gould, Michigan IFYE to Mexico 1965



Editor's Note: Those of us who became IFYEs over the years moved into exciting and fulfilling careers. In addition to those careers, a great number of IFYEs accepted the challenge of giving back to the communities in which we live. With that in mind, each IFYE NEWS will now feature an IFYE who has become involved with strengthening their local community.

Upon returning from his six-month IFYE experience in Mexico, Larry Gould came home as a changed individual. Working with very poor communities in Mexico, Larry helped them become sustainable in hog production. "I didn't realize the feelings that a person receives from helping others," said Larry. He visited the community again and changed hog breeds to one that could better tolerate the heat. "I didn't think I was doing much, but it meant a lot," he said. Larry went back a few years later and saw much healthier hogs and larger litters. It was then he decided that he would be more involved with his community and state.

He, and his wife Joan, have served as 4-H Leaders for 50 years. In addition, Larry is a past chairman of his county Farm Bureau board, county Cattleman's Association, and was appointed by the Michigan Governor to serve on the State Soybean Commission. Larry was also elected County Commissioner where he served for 32 years.

What Larry has learned most from years in various leadership roles is that getting others to participate in the decision-making process gives them ownership. "There are satisfactions for things I've done. I think some of those things will be seen after I'm gone, but I get a good feeling from doing it," he said.

Larry and Joan farm 1,600 acres in Michigan with their family where they produce corn, soybeans, and wheat. Their farm was settled by the Gould family in 1837, the same year Michigan became a state. They enjoy production agriculture, promoting agriculture products and staying involved in many associations.

Life after IFYE

We often look at what careers and community interests might be influenced by our experience and participation as a member of the IFYE Family. Some of us went into our outbound experience after graduation from university; others took a leave of absence from work or studies. Other program participants did both and/or continued to promote global citizenship in their home area or globally later as host families, youth leaders, and in other occupations/fields..



In researching the career and community service fields that program participants have been involved with over the years, here is a quick look at some of their chosen occupations and interests. Further information regarding some of these opportunities over the years is planned for the 2021 Fall/Winter IFYE NEWS. If you would like to share your information (a paragraph or more) for this feature, please contact us at ifyenews@ifyeusa.org for further details and submitting your information by October 1. Looking forward to having you share with us!

Family/Personal Life - Sibling, child, parent, grandparent, great grandparent, etc. and sharing experiences with those in immediate and extended family

Careers/Occupations

- Language (ESL - domestic and international, Bible translator, United Nations)
- Peace Corps
- Domestic farming / ranching
- USAID - Rural Youth Advisor
- USDA Trade Director
- U.S. Diplomat
- USDA - Foreign Ag Service
- Congressional Aide
- Ag journalism and/or photography
- Environmentalists - working with Greenways
- International Economist for Foreign Service
- Technologist and wood anatomist
- International nutritionist
- Dietitian
- Veterinarian
- Travel Agent
- Commodity broker
- Ag Media Consultant

- Working with the elderly and animals
- Local, state, federal government careers
- Educators (K-12, university/college) - domestic and international
- Educators - Cooperative Extension (4-H Agent/Leader/Parent, Agriculture Agent, Home Economics,
- Agronomy and plant science
- Technology
- Film making

Community Service

- Musical / choral groups and sharing globally
- Board of Directors – universities, church homes, local colleges, service clubs such as Rotary International or Lions Clubs
- Volunteer for high school exchange students and their host families
- Group Leader for IFYE Ambassadors, Travel Seminars, Teen Caravan, etc.
- Host family parent/member
- Sister City organization volunteer
- Making global connections during 2020-2021

Editor's Note: There are many aspects of agriculture in which individuals become engaged, either as a career or an interest. Sometimes, our lives end up taking a different route from those planned earlier in life, but the twist may still make use of our backgrounds and education. Charley is one such individual.

From Farmer to Congressional Aide

Charles A. Barnes (Utah to India 1965)

I grew up on a dairy farm in Kaysville, Utah. My expectation was to follow in the footsteps of the previous four generations of the Barnes family who had all been farmers since my ancestors immigrated from England to Utah. However, our dairy farm didn't produce enough income for the three families of my mother, brother, and me.

Consequently, in 1973, my brother John and I moved to Idaho and purchased an 800-acre irrigated farm where we planned to live until we retired and pass it on to our sons. However, farming became very difficult in the early 1980s with irrigation well problems, low commodity prices, and high interest rates.

During this time, I helped my friend, Richard Stallings, who was running for the United States Congress. He won the 1984 election campaign by a very narrow majority of 67 votes against a six-term Republican Congressman. With the Magic Valley, where I live, being a swing area for Democrats, Congressman Stallings hired me to head his Twin Falls District Office. Since the Congressman served on the Agriculture Committee in the House, I served as a Field Representative and handled agriculture issues. One half of his staff served in Washington, D.C., and the other half served in the 2nd Congressional District in Idaho. The Idaho staff was extremely important because Stallings was a Democrat serving in a heavily Republican district.



Left to Right: Me, my wife Linda, and Congressman Stallings

District Offices are important to Representatives because they create goodwill and keep a pulse on the important issues. We were the eyes and ears of Congressman Stallings in the eight counties of the Magic Valley that the Twin Falls

office serves. The staff also advises the Congressman about how the voters want him to vote on issues.

One of the most important things we did was to help constituents and local government officials who had problems with federal agencies. After four terms, Congressman Stallings ran for the U.S. Senate and was defeated, so I was without a job.

Over the next three years, I worked for a lobbying organization known as National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB). The small businessmen (which included farmers and ranchers) would vote on current issues and our staff in D.C. would work with the Congressmen and Senators for the positions our members favored.

In 1998, I became involved with the election of Michael K. Simpson, the Republican candidate. Mike won the election and received a seat on the U.S. House Agriculture Committee. He was a dentist and agriculture was not his expertise, even though agriculture was very important to Idaho's economy. I was hired as his Agricultural Field Director. I did not see my work as just another job, but as an advocate for agriculture, rural communities, and rural families.

The first thing we did was to establish an agricultural advisory committee which covered all commodities and livestock producers, as well as individuals across the economic levels from small units to large family corporations. This committee was very helpful during the rewrite of the 2002 Farm Bill and other legislation.

My work went beyond the legislation and committee hearing in Idaho's 2nd District; Congressman Simpson hired me to handle all the outreach efforts. This involved visiting producers on their farms and attending Farmers' Home Administration (FmHA) county and Soil Conservation district committee meetings. Doing casework with farmers who had problems with USDA offices, as well as appearing in Appeal Hearings with USDA, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service agencies, helped to let those government personnel know that the Congressman was interested enough to send an aide to these hearings.

One of the most rewarding experiences was when a group of farmers asked if I would help them. BLM had been using crop dusting planes to spray a chemical on some federal land to kill all the vegetation so they could replant with native plants. The herbicide drifted onto private farmland and some planes accidentally sprayed on farmland bordering the federal lands. It caused damage to sugar beets, grain, and potato crops. Our office helped the farmers get organized and encouraged them to have BLM come out to see the damage. I retired at this time and was unable to work through the resolution.

My work as a Congressional Aide was an exciting time; I learned so much and really enjoyed my work. It was a pleasure to be able to serve Congressman Simpson, other members of our staff, and the agriculture organizations of Idaho. I missed actual farming but working for Congressman Simpson as Agriculture Field Director was the crowning position of my career in an area where I could use my agricultural experience ... even if my life did take an unexpected twist.

Conference Tours - Friday, Sept 24

To assure your spot on a tour, please make your choice on the conference registration website by midnight, Eastern Time on August 31, 2021. Space on each tour is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Four tours are planned for the Friday of the conference (September 24). The tours were chosen to showcase some of the jewels of Branson. You will be able to choose one of the following when you register for the conference.

- **College of the Ozarks:** \$35 (Lunch not included) Also known as “Hard Work U,” every student at the college has a job that contributes to college life and their education. Many of these are agriculture- and food-related. A student-led tour will take in many of the places where the students work including: a working stone-ground flour mill, the stained glass and candle shop, the greenhouses, and the dairy. For lunch, you will make your own farm-to-table choice at the restaurant in the Keeter Center (not included in the cost of the tour). After lunch, you may explore the Center, get student-made ice cream, and/or shop for student-made articles before you head to Point Lookout and the Ralph Foster Museum.



The museum has many exhibits of Ozark life including the Beverly Hillbillies car, a collection of Rosie O’Neill’s Kewpie Dolls, and other collections such as guns and mounted birds and animals. The Historic Star Schoolhouse is right next door, so you might take a minute to peek in. From the museum, it is a short stroll to Point Lookout with a stunning view of the Ozarks. As you leave campus, you will be able to get out to see the 9/11 memorial and Patriots’ Park honoring Missouri Veterans and Gold Star families.

- **Let Branson Entertain You:** For \$75 (including lunch) You will be treated to not one, but two Branson shows. “Hot Rods and High Heels” is a high-energy show featuring 1950’s pop music. This will be followed by lunch at the Hughes Theater, then the “Hughes Brothers Country Show.” The four brothers will entertain you with toe-tapping music and comedy. They have been harmonizing and performing as a group since

the youngest brother was only two years old. Their incredible vocal sound with high-energy movement and versatile instruments will make you laugh one minute and tear up the next.

- **Ozarks Legacy & Legends:** \$60 (including lunch) You will see the IMAX film that is a cinematic retelling of the history of Branson from 1824 to the 1950s. It will show you breathtaking scenery from the Ozark Mountains while you enjoy a family saga that highlights the area’s heritage and history. After a lunch at McFarlain’s Restaurant in the IMAX complex, you will go to Shepherd of the Hills, site of the Harold Bell Wright novel of that name. Here, you will travel by tram throughout the property with stops to tour Old Matt’s cabin, the church, the natural amphitheater, and Inspiration Tower with outstanding aerial views of the Ozark area. *If you attended the 1976 conference in Springfield, Missouri, you had the chance to see the Shepherd of the Hills outdoor drama. While the drama isn’t part of this tour, if you come early or stay later, you can see it this year.*
- **Top of the Rock:** \$80 (including lunch) You will take a golf cart tour (driven by you or your friend) on a paved 2.5 mile Ozarks scenic route among rock formations, waterfalls, covered bridges, and nature’s flora with ample time to enjoy your surroundings. (Top of the Rock is a golfing venue that is part of Bass Pro Shops.)

On to the first-class natural history museum on-site. The museum highlights the area’s prehistoric era, extensive Native American collections, and the area’s Civil War history. It also offers a scenic view of Table Rock Lake. You will eat lunch at McFarlain’s Restaurant before heading to Elevate Branson to deliver our conference service project collection.



View from Big Cedar Lodge near Branson

Here, you will tour the group’s modern facility and learn of their many projects to address area poverty and unemployment. Since its beginning in 2008, it has grown into the largest mission project in the area, providing evening sack meals once a week to hundreds, church services for “people who don’t like church” preceded by a breakfast, tele-med services, and classes to prepare for entering the work force. Its newest endeavor is creating a community of 48 tiny homes on adjacent property.

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In Memoriam

The passing of the following individuals has come to our attention since publication of the IFYE NEWS (Fall/Winter 2020)

Jack R Anderson (Utah to Bolivia 1968) June 23, 2020
Margaret L (Stevens) Babson (North Carolina to Japan 1954) November 10, 2002
Carl L Birkner (Illinois to India 1954) January 27, 2018
Gerrit G Blankers, Jr (Washington to Australia 1967) December 20, 2018
John S Boor (New York to India 1952) June 16, 2019 LM
Helen F (McHugh) Brauer (Missouri to Germany 1954) May 09, 2020 LM
Diann F (Wiens) Cline (Kansas to Japan 1971) February 13, 2020
Raphael Cuthbertson, Sr (North Carolina to England/Wales 1953) June 13, 2019
Jean (Rushton) Dawson (Illinois to England 1961) September 08, 2007
Margaret Dixon (Massachusetts to United Kingdom 1949) August 02, 2020 LM
Frank Dowd (California Host Family) December 8, 2018
Berta Joan (White) Evans (Mississippi to Ireland 1954) August 08, 2019
Dorothy (Shields) Griffin (North Carolina to Netherlands 1952) September 24, 2016
Deborah Harrison (SPIFYE to Lad Harrison-Ohio to Korea 1972) November 15, 2020
Elmer Harvey (Indiana to England/Wales 1960) February 11, 2020 LM
Allen A Hayner, Jr (New York to South Africa 1959) October 08, 2019
Joan (Elsensohn) Herr (Washington to Northern Ireland 1951) April 14, 2020
Harlan Holsing (South Dakota to Pakistan 1955) December 06, 2020
Major General Charles L Hudson (IFYE to Italy 1954) Date of Death unknown
W Frank Keesling (Virginia to Scotland 1953) March 02, 2019
Eva Jo (Liskey) Kelly (Virginia to Chile 1952) February 01, 2019
Keith L Kester (Indiana to Costa Rica 1963) December 05, 2020
Raymond E Koontz (Illinois to Pakistan 1955) October 02, 2018
Dema (Smith) Krill (Ohio host family) November 07, 2014
Larry Krug (Maryland to Travel Seminar and National 4-H Council) May 02, 2019
Grace (Elliott) Lenz (Oregon to Australia 1963) March 22, 2020
Arthur D Misner (Idaho to Pakistan 1956) March 31, 2021
Karen (Dockendorff) Murphy (Iowa to India 1965) December 21, 2020 LM
Marjorie (Haddan) Nichols (Idaho to Norway 1952) January 24, 2016
Ruby (Harrison) Nock (Connecticut to India 1963) October 30, 2020 LM
Joan K Parr (Idaho to Travel Seminar 1984) June 03, 2019

Alan L Phillips (Kansas to Norway 1954) January 08, 2018
Cedric D Pierce (North Carolina to Belgium 1960) October 23, 2012 LM
Eugene Earl (Pete) Plank (Texas to Uruguay 1962) January 06, 2021
Cecil Regier (Texas to Iran 1955) February 26, 2018
Stacey Reynolds (Ohio to Greece 1998) July 2013
Donna Rumberger (Pennsylvania to Costa Rica 1960) November 06, 2019
Martha E (Kohl) Schrader (New York to the Netherlands 1954) October 30, 2020
Dr Leland Scoggins (Louisiana to Lebanon 1953) August 08, 2020
David Seilstad (Ambassador from North Dakota to Thailand 1981) December 15, 2020
Ivan G Siefker (Alaska to France 1952) October 15, 1996
Sybil (Smith) Siegfried (Georgia to Netherlands 1953) August 07, 2004
Marinelle (Weldon) Simpson (Georgia to Sweden 1954) October 16, 2020
Eleanor (Inman) Smith (Georgia to Ireland/N Ireland 1957) December 27, 2020 LM
Mary Jo (Cunningham) Stewart (Illinois to Peru 1960) January 26, 2021
Joel Thiebaut (Michigan to Norway 1972) August 18, 2014 LM
Allan H Tucker Jr (Mississippi to Greece 1955) October 16, 2020
Curtis E Wallace (South Carolina to Israel 1955) January 22, 2021
Ruby (Enander) Walters (North Dakota to Austral 1955) June 28, 2018 LM
S Suzanne Weibel (Indiana to Finland 1961) May 07, 2017
Dolores Wesen (SPIFYE to John Wesen – Montana to India 1951) March 07, 2020 LM
Keith J Westercamp (Iowa to Japan 1968) February 20, 2019
Curtis “Lamar” Wommack (Georgia to Peru 1963) November 18, 2017
Hubert Yow, Jr (Georgia to Belgium 1956) March 06, 2019



LM = Life Member
SPIFYE = Spouse of an IFYE



IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.
Peace Through Understanding

Permission to share my generosity via IFYE's annual donor list.

_____ Yes, IFYE can share my name on the annual donor list.

_____ No, I prefer my donation/name remain anonymous.

2021 IFYE Postal DONATION FORM

NOTE: If wishing to pay online, please go to <https://ifyeusa.org> and click on "Ways to Give"
This online area will include automatic recurring monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, and annual donations.

Please check the appropriate box(es) for the support you wish to provide to the IFYE Association. Mail the form and completed action(s) that you have selected and check(s) to: **Pat Hutsell; 3670 N Bayou Hill Rd, Parker, CO 80134-5111**
(If questions, please contact Pat at phutsell@ifyeusa.org)

PLEASE COMPLETE:

NAME(s) _____ **EMAIL** _____

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

HOME PHONE _____ **CELL PHONE** _____

IFYE FAMLY MEMBER _____
(Program participant (list program), Host Family Member, Friend, and/or Supporter, etc.)

I/We wish to support IFYE in 2021 with the following donation: \$5,000 \$2,500

\$1,000 \$750 \$500 \$250 Other Amount \$ _____

- **Donations of non-life members will also include an award of a 2021 annual membership if donation is \$30 or more.** Since the IFYE Association of the USA, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization, funds contributed by the Donor are generally eligible for tax deduction consideration, subject to the donor's tax situation. Please consult your tax professional to confirm deductibility.
- **ALL life and annual members** have access to the Member Portal area on the website. Please request below.

- I/We wish to become a **Life member(s)**
 _____ \$900 paid per individual in a **payment plan** to be completed by 12/31/2025.
 _____ \$1000 paid per individual on **payment plan** by 12/31/2025 if one-time offer criteria cannot be met.
 _____ \$1000 paid in one lump sum per individual if one-time offer criteria cannot be met.

Please contact Associate Treasurer (Pat Hutsell) phutsell@ifyeusa.org for further details. Thank you.

NOTE: 2021 ONE-TIME OFFER: If a person has an annual membership for each of the past three years (2018, 2019, 2020) or has already donated \$100 last year or this year, IFYE will credit \$100 toward the Lifetime Membership amount of \$1,000. Thus, only \$900 will become due for your Lifetime Membership for the above-listed 2021 one-time offer.

Enclosed is \$20 for the postal mailing of two IFYE NEWS and eight issues of the IFYE UPDATE published during 2021.

PAYMENT METHOD

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

Please send me/us (by email) access information to the IFYE website "Award Membership area".

My email address is: _____

I am/We are unable to financially support IFYE. Please remove me/us from the *contact for donation* list.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT of IFYE

04/23/2021

The IFYE Association of the USA, Inc. 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.

<http://ifyeusa.org>

2021 IFYE Conference -
continued from page 9

IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.
PO Box 216
Williamsburg, MA 01096

POSTAGE

Annual Business Meeting - The Conference Committee is planning on the availability of being able to participate in the business meeting on a virtual as well as in-person basis. For those of you who wish to participate virtually, the non-attendee registration form will include an option for this.

Worship Volunteers Requested

Cleo Kottwitz (Missouri to Brazil 1957) is leading the interfaith worship at this year's IFYE Conference, Sunday, September 26. There will be a variety of scripture, prayers, music from other lands and religions. He is asking Conference registrants who experienced other religions to assist in leadership. Contact him at 573-446-0799 or through info@ifyeusa.org. Thank you.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Moving? New 911 Address?
Send mailing label corrections to IFYE NEWS (return address above) OR
vwarner@ifyeusa.org



Visit: <https://ifyeusa.org>

Pre-Conference Activities

Elevate Branson -

Those in Branson by early Thursday morning (*and wishing to volunteer at Elevate Branson*), can assist in preparing sack meals that will be delivered that evening to the extended-stay motel residents. Plan to be at Elevate Branson headquarters (310 Gretna Rd, Branson) at 8:45 AM Thursday.

JESUS the Musical

JESUS is a large-scale production presented by Sight and Sound productions in their impressive Branson theater. We have reserved tickets for the SHOWS (3:30 PM and 7:30 PM) on September 22, 2021 (\$53 for adults and \$25 for youth aged 3-12 years old.) All prices include all relevant taxes.

Tickets may now be ordered; your postmark will determine sending date. Credit cards will not be accepted. Checks or money orders should be made out to Missouri IFYE Alumni Assn. and postal mailed to

Delbert Frericks
301 Stillwood Dr, Branson, MO 65616

1970 and 1971 IFYE Family Reunions

We invite 1970 and 1971 IFYE Family participants and friends to join us in Branson, Missouri at the National IFYE Conference to celebrate our 51st/50th Anniversary!!! Can it be true that it has been that long since we went on our international program??

In the next week or so, look for further information on these celebration events. In the meantime, some of the details are included on our online conference registration page. More information will be sent to those for whom we have an email via email. For those for whom we do not have email, a postal mail of the same information will be sent.

We are looking forward to events allowing us to gather in September

Sincerely
1970 - Jon and Betty Jo Smith Roberts
1971 - Bob Ellis and Ginny Warner

ALERT:

Email scams and phishing are happening to many, including our IFYE Family. These scammers use the names of our IFYE leaders to draw you into their scam.

Please be sure to check any email you receive for the address sent from. Our publications and our website will normally list "name@ifyeusa.org"

If you have any question about an email that has been sent you, please email us at ["Contact Us"](#) to inquire about it.

Thank you. Be safe.