



IFYE NEWS

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2026 IFYE Program



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This coming summer, the 2026 IFYE exchange program is set to kick off the first week of June and run through mid-August. We are looking to host 10 IFYE participants here in the U.S. and, in turn, send 10 Outbounds to partner countries! This is a chance for the next generation of IFYE members to build cross-cultural connections and bring home unique insights that will benefit their communities. The most current and exciting list of participating countries is available right now on our official IFYE website: Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, N Ireland, Kenya, Sweden, South Korea,

Taiwan, Thailand, and Zambia.

(For more information, see <https://ifyeusa.org/foreign-exchange-program/our-destinations-for-2026.html>.)

Mark your calendars: all applications are officially due on March 1, 2026!

Calling all alumni and supporters - To make this exchange a smashing success, we are calling on our passionate alumni network for help! Your experiences and connections to IFYE are invaluable. We need your support with recruitment to find the next group of bright, aspiring international IFYE leaders.

We've already been busy spreading the word and recruiting at top-tier events like the AFA (Agriculture Future of America), the National FFA Convention, and the National Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals Conference (NAE4-HYDP). Now, we're asking you to leverage your local networks! Think of the outstanding young people in your area who embody the IFYE spirit, the ones with a curiosity for the world and a drive to make a difference. Please encourage them to visit our website, review the host country options, and submit their applications before the March 1st deadline.

This summer exchange is more than just a trip; it's a testament to IFYE's commitment to developing globally aware and interconnected leaders. We are thrilled about the positive impact this program will have on all participants, both those coming to the U.S. and those venturing abroad. Thank you, as always, for your unwavering support of our mission.

If you have any questions or ideas on how you can best assist with recruitment efforts, please reach out to me (tsherlock@ifyeusa.org) or Carolyn Hansen (chansen@ifyeusa.org). Let the adventure begin!



Share our 2026 information brochure with
potential applicants

<https://ifyeusa.org/foreign-exchange-program/ifye-information-brochure.html>





Carolyn Hansen
IFYE Association President
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Like many of you, as the year draws to a close, I like to pause and review the year that has passed and look at what has gone well, what I could have improved upon, and where I wish to go in the future. It's also a time when I fondly think about the people in my life, past and present.

2025 IFYE Conference - One of the things that went well in the IFYE world was the IFYE Conference in Loveland, Colorado this past May/June. (See article on pages 7 and 9.)

The IFYE Associations of Colorado and Nebraska did an awesome job of planning and hosting the entire experience. I think we walked away with a clear understanding of the need to continue to work toward keeping the organization alive by finding new IFYEs, working to identify new partners, and locating host families to show our country to our inbound IFYE brothers and sisters.

2025 IFYEs - Inbound and Outbound - This summer we successfully executed a targeted but smaller exchange program sending an IFYE from Michigan (Lillian Tiziani) to Chile and an IFYE from South Dakota (Anna Lent) to Taiwan. We hosted four IFYEs from Chile and one from Taiwan. We greatly appreciate the work and effort made by our State Coordinators and Contacts to

find and work with the host families that were needed to make our inbound IFYEs comfortable in the US.

Recruitment - We need your help in recruitment – please think of the families in your life who have children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and students who fit the age category (19-30), are interested in agriculture, and would represent the United States and IFYE well. We also need your assistance in finding host families who would open their hearts and homes for inbound IFYEs. Our Interim National Program Director, Traci Sherlock (tsherlock@ifyeusa.org), or I (chansen@ifyeusa.org), would be happy to work with you in securing names.

Financial Support - This summer, we have seen an increase in donations and gifts to IFYE and are very encouraged by this. But, as you have seen in previous communications, we need \$9,570 for each of the 10 Outbounds. Your continued generosity to reach the \$100,000 goal is very much needed and so very much appreciated.

Giving Challenge - Lad Harrison's gift to IFYE in honor of Bea Cleveland really hit home with me. (See page 11.) Bea was my first real mentor. Her style of leadership development, people-building, encouraging excellence, believing in yourself while doing your best was legendary. She always set the bar high, willing us to not only set goals but to surpass them. It is in that spirit that I pledge to do my best as your IFYE Association President and pledge support to the Annual Giving Campaign in Bea's honor. I hope you will join me as we work to continue to support this organization that we all hold so dear to our hearts.

On behalf of the IFYE Board of Directors, I wish you the Happiest of Holidays and a Happy and Prosperous 2026!

Beatrice "Bea" J Cleveland (1921-2012)

Bea Cleveland served as a member of the 4-H staff and held multiple positions during her 25 years at Ohio State University. She retired in 1977, remaining active in her support of Ohio State, especially with the 4-H program and the School of Home Economics.

"Her greatest contribution was inspiring thousands of young people to develop their leadership and themselves to their potential." <https://ohioagcouncil.org/beatrice-j-cleveland/>

Bea devoted most of her life to working with people, especially young people. "She sincerely believed every individual has the right to grow and develop to the fullest of his or her potential and did all in her power to see that each person whose life she touched had that opportunity. She loved life and deeply cherished the friends she had at home and around the world." <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/dispatch/name/beatrice-cleveland-obituary?id=24172988>



1973 Ohio IFYEs with Bea - Edson "Ed" Bishop, Linda Pursley, Susan Bowen Shultz

Selected Highlights of my time in Chile

Lillian Tiziani (Michigan to Chile 2025)

Chile is the longest country in the world and contains multiple different climates and geography ... mountains and deserts, islands, and even Antarctic at the very south.

My time was spent in the southern region. Agriculture and farming are very important to Chilean economy and communities, cattle and dairy farms being the most common agricultural activities. Other regional agriculture includes apple orchards, vineyards, and vegetables such as lettuce and cilantro!



Although I expected to be received well as this is considered a “warm” or friendly country, I could never have imagined I would be so taken care of and welcomed into families so quickly! Each host family truly treated me as their own and allowed me to live and grow with them ... providing me with far more than just a place to sleep. I engaged with many wonderful folks, all who gave me love and strength through my journey. They allowed me to be curious, emotional and, well,

myself! This included practicing my Spanish without judgment and even teaching me some Chilean slang.

A New Culture - To experience another culture truly brings a new sense of self. While learning and interacting with others, you are not only able to see the differences but also similarities! Engaging with a new culture and a new country provides many opportunities. I met people who shared the love of riding four-wheelers and off-road vehicles. Much like my hometown, there are also big and small farms. *Chilenos* (Chileans) are very proud of who they are, and so are we! Of course, some differences did arise. For example, I was not used to such late evenings and drinking coffee into the night, though I quickly learned to cherish those moments.



Lillian with Leonor's Family

Memories of Taiwan – 2025

Anna Lent (South Dakota to Taiwan 2025)

The moment I stepped off the plane in Taiwan, I was met with sights, smells, and sounds that are unique and different from the United States: People riding motorcycles more than driving cars, speaking Chinese, and an unimaginable number of restaurants on every street. Taiwan is known for its delicious food, breathtaking landscapes of mountains and ocean, and lively, everyday culture. Over the next two months, this country would feel less like a foreign country and more like a second home, thanks to the people I met and the lessons I learned.

Every day that I spent in Taiwan consisted of multiple moments where I would be in complete awe. I was blessed to see many different types of Taiwanese agriculture, such as tea, vegetable, fruit, flower, rice, snail, and seafood farms.

Host Families - My first host family lives on a rice farm. Rice is a very important crop in Taiwan, because food isn't considered a meal unless served with noodles or rice. I also participated in activities through farm visits. The farmers showed me the processes they used to successfully sustain their crop and livestock production. Along with production, I saw many different factories for soybeans, dried fruits, tea, and vegetables.

The goose farm that hosted me creates unique products to support their family. The oil from the geese was used to make soaps. My host mom also taught a class about how to make goose oil soap. Participating in the daily farm chores from the watering of the crops to the cleaning of the geese pens gave a unique perspective into the lives of farmers in Taiwan.



Learning to make soap out of goose oil during classes my host mom taught to the community.

Language - Even though I definitely struggled with a language barrier, I still created the best of memories and had conversations that I will remember for the rest of my life. I tried my best to learn and apply basic Chinese phrases to everyday life. What surprised me the most was that most people do not speak English. Many people learned English in school, but they are too shy to speak it. I am very grateful for the translators who were willing to interpret the Chinese language to English, as I know that it is extremely difficult. I even formed the best of friendships despite not speaking to others directly. Everyone continued to love and embrace me through the language barriers and challenges every day throughout my Taiwan journey.

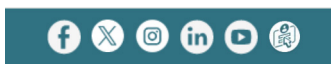
(Continued on pg 4)

Foods - Eating delicious and new cuisine was one of my favorite parts. I love to cook and was eager to get myself into any kitchen. Whether it was a small family kitchen or our gastronomy lab at the school, countless hours were spent frying empanadas and sweet treats, learning traditional recipes, or cooking meals from my hometown! I was proud and happy to exchange meals! Being from Michigan, we have "Pasties," a typical mining food made with pie crust wrapped around meat and potatoes. In Chile, of course, I learned how to make empanadas! How similar pasties and empanadas are to one another.



In the classrooms - Spending most of my weekdays in classrooms at school was an absolute highlight! I am currently a paraprofessional and a substitute teacher and plan to become a teacher. This was very practical and enjoyable. Watching the different teachers interact with their students gave me some ideas for my own future career. I admired how close the students are with their teachers and staff. The atmosphere of trust, empathy, and excitement was truly contagious! I'm sure going to miss being called "Tia" as they often refer to their teachers as auntie and uncle.

(NOTE: To view some of the 2025 Inbound/Outbound short videos, please log on to our YouTube channel as found on the top right corner of our website ([ifyeusa.org](https://www.ifyeusa.org)) Ed.)



The people are what I am going to remember most about this trip. I will forever remember the late-night conversations with new friends, midnight instant noodles with my host family, and even the laughs I had on the bus rides and at meals. Through the Taiwanese people, I learned about the culture, myself, and everyday life. The Taiwanese people are seriously the kindest, most selfless, and generous people I have ever met. My host families treated me as one of their own, fulfilled my wish list, and answered the many, many questions I had for them.

In Retrospect - My time in Taiwan was spent looking at the agriculture, farms, tourist attractions, breathtaking landscapes, trying interesting Taiwanese food, and making new lifelong friends. The farmers had fascinating, unique farms that I would never see in the United States. They are the people I hope I can stay in touch with for the rest of my life. I also hope I can return to Taiwan and revisit the people who made Taiwan feel like "a home-away-from-home."

The amazing, hardworking, and loving people of Taiwan made my IFYE experience unforgettable.



Going clam fishing in Yunlin



My host brother (Lai) and me at 4-H camp. My host brother lived with me in South Dakota in 2012.

My time spent as an IFYE was two months of nothing short of new lessons, lifelong memories, new friends, new life perspectives, challenges, laughter, kindness, and overall new connections from all over the world personally and professionally. God blessed me with the adventure of a lifetime in Taiwan through IFYE and I will forever treasure it in my heart for years to come.

2025 Inbound IFYEs and Host Families in Review

Below, Traci Sherlock, Interim National Program Director, shares some of the information which she gathered from our 2025 five Inbound IFYEs and a couple of their host families. The paraphrased information highlights some of the aspects of their experiences that IFYEs and host families hold as positive memories of this year's summer program.

Bryam Acevedo- Chile to Kansas and Missouri

Visiting South Bend Industrial Hemp - I learned that hemp is a very useful plant for its uses as fiber or as "vegetable wood." It makes the plants retain their humidity better since this plant absorbs much more water when it is processed to become "vegetable wood."

Agriculture - Chile is less flat than Kansas and has a greater amount of vegetation. Kansas also uses more wind energy than Chile. In my country, we irrigate many crops like corn, wheat, and oats. In my high school, we also do pivot irrigation and have drip irrigation systems. The difference here is that the drip irrigation system is buried. The lateral pivot system here surprised me.

People - The people here in the county were very kind and taught me several things like the irrigation systems that are used.

Katie - Heartland Farm Manager - Bryam Acevedo in Kansas

We love getting to work with younger people and sharing our sustainability practices. We got a chance to visit neighboring farms we wouldn't typically see and to show him around the community. We really enjoyed Bryam's company. Even with the language barrier, he laughed at my jokes, and he was willing to try anything.



Bryam at South Bend Industrial Hemp

Maria Valenzuela - Chile to Illinois - My favorite part was the milking parlor; in Chile you cannot find a fully automated rotary milking parlor. The experience was incredible.



Leonor Duran - Chile to Nebraska

We went to the Henry Doorley Zoo. The number of animals was incredible. Some animals were even living in their habitat with their companions.

Joice Contreras - Chile to Colorado and Wyoming

We went to a museum in a town near the ranch. There were many old things there like houses with several years of difference in them. It was quite interesting and entertaining.



Lesley Laio - Taiwan to South Dakota

The most memorable thing about this summer was living on a farm. I'd never been on a farm before. The scenery and lifestyle were so different. I loved everything about it.

- When I came to South Dakota, I was amazed by the weather here. My first host family lives on a farm; they have cattle, horses and goats. Every morning, I would go with my host mother to check on the goats. It was my first time experiencing the birth of a goat. I was super nervous watching the monitor with my host mother. The newborn goat was really super cute.
- One time when we came home, we saw some small cattle running out. It was a super cool experience to help chase them back.
- In addition to farm matters, my host mother took me around to see the attractions in South Dakota.
- My host mother is also a teacher of the 4-H dog training class; I went with her to help with the 4-H club. Experiencing the local 4-H class in the small town is very different from Taiwan, because Taiwan has few animal courses. It is super novel here and I experienced different things every day.

Emily Munger - Lesley's Host Mom in South Dakota

Moving and Hosting at the same time - My mother, who originally hosted Lesley, had a family emergency in Pennsylvania; so, we ended up taking Lesley mid-stay. The day she moved in with us was the day we moved houses. So, we literally spent our first two weeks that she was with us moving and unpacking. We loved having her with us, but it was kind of a crazy experience for her having to switch host families so quickly.

On our first day at our new place, we moved in the morning; in the afternoon, the kids and Lesley took part in a pig wrestling contest of about 30 teams. I'm sure Lesley just thought we were bonkers for doing this big wrestling activity (on the same day we moved)!

She helped me with so many parts of setting up and organizing [in our new place] including teaching me a new way to store plastic bags.

Communications - While Lesley was with us, the tsunami in Taiwan kept her checking on her folks and cousins (who were displaced). I love that there's big things like a tsunami to learn about but there's also little things like folding grocery bags (a new trick that Lesley taught me.)

Host Stay Aspect of IFYE Program - I like the idea of the host stay being short-term; I feel like you can give more of yourself to the experience. I would say our highlight as a family was having my kids exposed to her culture and her language. They had never met somebody from Taiwan and they were fascinated. She was such a great older sister figure for them as well. Having Lesley stay in our home really made me see how small the world is.



Lesley (R) with host siblings (L) at SD State Capitol

More Memories from 2025 Inbounds



Leonor with Chilean Ambassador, Juan Gabriel Valdés, at Orientation



Lesley enjoying a ride



Joice and host family in Wyoming



Bonding over Orientation Lunch in DC



Maria - Kayaking



Bryam learning about bison in Kansas

IFYE National Conference in Review

Barb Batie, Co-Chair

From May 29 to June 1, 2025, nearly 120 IFYE alumni, spouses, and supporters from across the country gathered in Loveland, Colorado, for the IFYE National Conference. Co-hosted by Colorado and Nebraska IFYE Alumni, the conference revolved around the theme "Peaks to the Plains: Cultivating Connections."

Prior to Conference - Activities began with the IFYE Board of Directors' annual face-to-face meeting ahead of the conference. In addition, on May 29, about a dozen 1975 IFYEs met at a local barbecue restaurant for a 50th anniversary lunch and spent the rest of the afternoon reminiscing at the conference headquarters hotel, the Loveland Embassy Suites and Conference Center.

Thursday Opening Program - During the Thursday welcome reception, a variety of food stations represented the cultures of many regions visited by IFYEs during their exchanges.

- Opening ceremonies that evening featured a virtual parade of flags with IFYEs cheering as the flag of their respective host country appeared on the screen.
- Guest speakers that evening were James Pritchett, Vice Provost of the Office of Engagement and Extension at Colorado State University (CSU) and Michael Compton, Colorado's 4-H Director.
- A Denver dance troupe, was the evening's featured entertainment. Their presentation emphasized music, rhythms, and dances from the Aztec culture.
<https://www.grupotlaloc.org/home-1>



Grupo Tlaloc

Friday Tour Day and

Evening BBQ - Friday was tour day with conference attendees spreading out across the Front Range and into the Rocky Mountains.

- *The Rocky Mountain National Park tour group* was treated to glorious crystal-clear blue skies and beautiful mountain vistas around nearly every corner.



- Those participating in the *Arts and Culture Tour* visited the Loveland Museum and Rialto Theatre. The Loveland Museum features rotating art exhibits and several history exhibits featuring the valley

settlement and development. The Rialto opened as a silent movie theatre in 1920 and is currently the community's premier performing arts center.

After lunch, the Benson Sculpture Garden tour was cut short due to some typical late afternoon mountain thundershowers, but in typical flexible IFYE fashion the tour guide pivoted and took the group to see some of Loveland's sculptors at work in their workshops, an arts bonus for sure.

- What would IFYE be without an *agriculture tour*? Those joining that group visited Root Shoot Malting, a fifth-generation family farm and malthouse that provides barley, wheat, rye and non-GMO corn to craft brewers and distillers across the country. Following a catered lunch, the group continued with a visit to the FFA Foundation Farm and then toured Aurora Organic Dairy near Platteville, Colorado. It serves as a processing plant for the region's organic milk.
- The final tour option was a trip to nearby *Ft. Collins, Colorado*, where participants toured the CSU campus and one of the region's many microbreweries.

BBQ - Friday evening showcased the region's western food and culture with a barbecue-themed supper followed by a performance by the Matt Skinner Band. They played a wide-ranging selection of country music star covers along with their own compositions, along with plenty of boot-scooting by the IFYEs.



Saturday

- *Association Meeting* - Saturday morning it was down-to-business with the IFYE Association Annual Meeting. Board members and the Board committees presented reports on the program status and the future of IFYE. The finance committee presented a comprehensive look at IFYE's financial status and outlined the path forward for a program in 2026 where the organization will be able to host 10 outbounds and 10 inbounds.

Work continues on refining IFYE's strategic plan and also the push for an international agriculture cultural immersion program to be included in the next Farm Bill. (*As of this writing Congress has passed a one-year extension of the 2018 Farm Bill with the appropriations bills that came out of the 40-plus day government shutdown. So, work will continue through 2026 to get a new Farm Bill passed with the current language in the House version of that bill.*) See page 10 of this newsletter for more details from our Farm Bill Committee Chairs.

- *Saturday Workshops* - IFYEs had their choice of four morning and four afternoon workshops that reflected the conference theme.

(Continued on pg 9)

In Memoriam

The passing of the following individuals has come to our attention since publication of the IFYE NEWS (Spring/Summer 2025)

LM = Life Member

SPIFYE = Spouse of an IFYE

Lois White Anderson (New York to The Netherlands 1948) June 25, 2025

Myra Jean McBride Anderson (Oregon to Japan 1959) May 14, 2025, LM

Mary Louise "Mary Lou" Ansberry (California to Uruguay 1955) August 5, 2024

Howard B Austin (Arkansas to Turkey 1954) April 8, 2025

Russell L Beeman (Michigan to Belize 1973) February 25, 2025

Willard M Berry (Washington to Turkey 1954) April 8, 2022

Emily M Fila Bancroft (Massachusetts to Mexico 1969) October 9, 2025, LM

Corrone E Bryant, Sr (North Carolina to Denmark 1956) January 2, 2008

Virginia L Rothfus Bunse (Iowa to India 1957) April 16, 2025, LM

Norma I Gustafson Carlson (Minnesota to Denmark 1952) December 5, 2022

Robert P Cavaletto (California to Venezuela 1961) August 17, 2019

Donald Clark (Connecticut to New Zealand 1952) January 14, 2025, LM

Drora Cohen (Israel to USA 1964) May 14, 2025

Cheryl Sue Abrahamson Coyle (Nebraska to The Philippines 1965) November 7, 2024

Manie Pfefferkorn Cunningham (Maryland to Finland 1957) February 25, 2005

Don Goodfellow (SPIFYE to Eula Mae Goodfellow - Kansas to Belgium 1955) December 12, 2024

Nadine E Entriken Griffen (Kansas to Finland 1952) February 14, 2025, LM

Clifford N Gruver (Kansas to Iran 1958) December 19, 2021

Timothy A Hansberger (Minnesota to Switzerland 1996) October 2, 2025

Corinne A Hay (New Jersey to France 1957) March 27, 2025, LM

Roland "Rollie" F Henkes (Iowa to Chile 1956) February 2, 2022

John E Hibbard (Connecticut to Honduras 1958) July 12, 2020

Karen Weber Ilhardt (Ohio to Germany 1985) May 23, 2018

James "Jim" C Kemp (Colorado to Ireland/Northern Ireland 1955) July 27, 2024, LM

Margaret F Kohl (California Group Leader to Japan 1971 and Friend of IFYE) January 26, 2002

Betty Joan Schreiber Landes (Washington to Taiwan 1959) April 17, 2025, LM

Lee H Lawton (Rhode Island to New Zealand 1963) October 27, 2004

Ruth Rose Many (New York to Norway 1949) October 14, 2024

Elizabeth "Betty" McCoy-Schrauger (Montana to Venezuela 1969) June 10, 2025

Dr. James Randall McCutcheon (West Virginia to India 1964) January 26, 2018

Donald L Meike (Wyoming to Denmark 1950) February 2, 2023

Dorothy J Naugle (Nebraska to Scotland 1954) September 27, 2025

Dorothy "Dottie" J Nelson (Virginia to Norway 1982) May 16, 2025, LM

Stephanie Suzanne Schepers Nielson (Nebraska to Poland 1976 AWE) October 1, 2025, LM

Robert J "BJ" Porter (New Mexico to Venezuela 1957) November 17, 2021

Charles E Preuss, Jr (California to 1956) December 2, 2000

John A "Art" Reis (Washington to Israel 1952) May 2, 2024

Jim Rieman (Kansas to India 1964/65) January 8, 2022, LM

Warren A Seamans (Colorado to Greece 1957) October 16, 2024, LM

Mary Grace Mullinix Shriver (Maryland to Germany 1958) Deceased 2020, LM

Carol A Pehl Sparks (Montana to Australia 1977) October 19, 2025

Ramona Miller Stout (Montana to Greece 1971) September 22, 2022

Richard "Dick" W Tenney (Ohio to France 1959) May 17, 2025, LM

Helen M Cronin Turnell (West Virginia to Norway 1953) June 20, 2024

Angelica Simmons Graf Walton (Virginia to Switzerland 1959) August 16, 1990

Julie A Erickson Waterman (Wisconsin to The Netherlands 1971) September 8, 2024

Ann Whitcomb (Vermont to France 1959) September 18, 2025, LM

Lawrence "Larry" J Zilliox (Minnesota to Botswana 1968) May 3, 2025, LM

Looking Back to Look Forward

Anna Hansen Creamer has shared her copy of the book written by fellow IFYEs, Lois White Anderson and Roy Hranicky in 1949, which includes the introduction written by Ed Aiton, often referred to as the "Father of IFYE."

Aiton wrote, "Until the peoples of the earth know each other as individual personalities, until the problems of culture, economics and sociology are placed on a personal level, until the hopes, dreams, and ambitions of all peoples are better understood by other peoples of the earth, it will only be logical to expect suspicion, hatred, and misunderstanding to develop and to continue."

IFYE became one of the three outgrowths of discussions based on the above concept/thoughts within the 4-H Clubs of America following WWII. Lois and Roy wrote, "The reports from the various countries were similar – that the problems of the world are the same all over, but people have gone about solving them in different ways. The differences which existed between our respective host countries were only minor ... The people of these countries were only human beings striving for the same things in life." ... "WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?"

Hranicky, Roy E and White, Lois Belle "the five H's," 1950

- Robert Sakata, Ag Water Policy Advisor for the Colorado Department of Agriculture, shared a presentation on **"Hands On the Soil, Eyes on the Rivers."** He talked about his Japanese American family that began truck farming vegetables in Weld County during WWII, growing from 50 to later 5,000 acres. The farm has now transitioned to growing corn for area dairies and Sakata has become a respected water policy expert in Front Range Water Issues.
- A panel of **"IFYEs Through the Decades,"** proved popular, especially as participants listened to Anna Creamer, one of the original 1948 IFYEs, tell about her experiences as an IFYE to Norway. Others on the panel shared similarities and differences in their IFYE program showing where IFYE has changed over the years but also stayed the same.



Decades Workshop Panel: (L-R) Anna Hansen Creamer (Wyoming to Norway 1948); Bob Ellis (Indiana to The Gambia 1971); Paul Rice (Illinois to Switzerland 1981); Amy Roseberry Schweitzer (Nebraska to Germany 1996); Kellie Martindale (Colorado to Austria 2008); and Annie Pelletier (Colorado to Chile 2024)

- IFYE Board Member and Chair of the Development Committee, Marty Orris, shared her financial planning expertise during a workshop titled **"Taxwise Tips for Annual and Planned Gifts."** The IFYE Annual Giving Campaign, and also planned gifts are ways to give back to the organization that changed many lives through the exchange. *See information on our website (ifyeusa.org), as well as on page 10 of this IFYE NEWS.*
- **"Flipping the Script on Aging: Embracing the Power and Possibilities of Growing Older,"** was another option for morning workshop attendees, who received tips from Agrbility program specialists.
- During the afternoon, the IFYE Board Nominating Subcommittee sponsored a workshop on **"IFYE Board & Committee Opportunities,"** explaining opportunities available to serve the Board through committees and eventually as officers.
- **State Coordinators and Contacts** were able to meet in a joint face-to-face and Zoom workshop to get up to date on working to recruit outbounds and find new host families for the 2026 Inbounds.

- A chance to learn about local microbreweries and cideries was part of the **"Local Taste"** workshop hosted by Shane Sheridan (Colorado to Austria/Switzerland 2010).
- **Local history** was spotlighted by Teri Johnson, President of the Loveland Historical Society. Donning 1870s garb, she told the story of Margaret Osborne, one of the earliest pioneers in the Loveland area.

Saturday International Banquet - All too soon it was time to begin winding down the conference with the International Banquet and Live Auction on Saturday night. Many IFYEs donned costumes from their host countries, while many others kept with the conference's Western-wear theme.

- A highlight following the meal was a presentation by 2024 IFYE Annie Pelletier on her experiences in Chile.
- At the end of this evening, frenzied bidding in the silent auction, live auction and Fund-A-Cause effort, raised a net total of \$14,880 to help fund IFYE programming.



Sunday - Final farewells were shared during the IFYE Memorial Service Sunday morning. Led by Laura Schick, IFYEs for whom the Association had received notice of their passing since the 2022 conference, were memorialized and a variety of Native American readings and inspirational hymns were shared.

Please stay tuned as a National IFYE Conference is in the works for 2027 in Ohio.

Thoughts When Returning Home in 1948

On board the Chisholm with Anna who was returning to the USA were many refugees from Czechoslovakia, Germany, and Poland – many Jews who had escaped to Sweden and Denmark during WWII.



She related, "Of great interest to me was to hear them talk about what they expected to find in America, the kind of life they wanted to live now, and the things they wanted to get from life. One little Czechoslovakian girl was standing near me as we entered New York harbor and wondered about what her life would be like here in the USA."

Anna continues, "This girl made me see things in my own land that most Americans don't stop to think about, things we take for granted and seem to think the world owes us. She wanted to accept these things, but she was willing to work and sacrifice for them. I hope she likes our country and I hope she finds what she expects, and I hope myself to start noticing the 'little' things that make us Americans." From: Anna's last news article in the Lusk Freelance (her hometown newspaper) regarding her IFYE experiences in 1948.

Farm Bill Update

Jan Wood and Barb Batie

Once again, we are reporting no advancement in the Farm Bill. For those of you who are regularly monitoring the Farm Bill progress through the U.S. House and Senate Ag Committees, you are already aware that no movement has occurred since last spring.

On September 23-25, Jan Wood, Traci Sherlock, and Raine Esparza visited staff members of the Ag Committees in Washington, D.C. We had 24 meetings. Sixteen meetings were held with House members' staffs; seven meetings were with Senate members' staffs and one meeting was held with USDA staff.

The status in the House Ag Committee is this. IFYE's language for the International Agriculture Cultural Immersion and Exchange Program is still in the draft as it stands now. Staff expressed support for the program and they assured us that it is not likely to change.

The status of the Senate Ag Committee is the same as in the last two- and one-half years. They express interest in the program and in IFYE but do not have the funds in their budget and do not see where to get those funds. They also stated that when the Senate and the House negotiate the final bill, our language could be accepted without major push back.

The visit with the USDA staff was helpful as our intent was to gain information about what happens when the Bill passes and moves on to the USDA for administration.

So, our situation is neutral right now. We can feel good about the expressions of support from House Ag Committee members.

When the government opens again, it is possible that the Ag committees will vote to continue the 2018 Farm Bill for one more year.

We ask all IFYEs and other supporters to continue to monitor the situation and be prepared to communicate with your members of Congress when the bill finally moves to the full Congress to vote.

Tax-efficient Strategies for Charitable Giving

Marty Orris, Chair - IFYE Development Committee
mjorris@ifyeusa.org

The most tax-efficient methods of supporting your favorite organizations, like IFYE USA, continue to be

- *Qualified Charitable Distributions from your IRA* – If the funds transfer directly from your IRA account to the 501(c)(3) charity, this amount never adds to your taxable income for the year.
- *Highly appreciated stock* – Transfer this directly from your brokerage account to IFYE's Raymond James account to avoid the capital gains taxes you would incur by selling the assets to raise cash. Please check our website at <https://ifyeusa.org/ways-to-give/stock-donation.html> for more information about donating stocks.

Recent tax law changes could have an impact on the tax effectiveness of your cash giving. If gifts by cash or check are your preferred method of giving, then take note:

Standard deductions are significantly increasing for those over the age of 65.

- If you are single, your standard deduction is increasing from \$17,750 to \$23,750
- If you are married filing jointly, your standard deduction jumps from \$34,700 to \$46,700.

Given those higher thresholds, fewer households will likely itemize on their 2025 returns. If you are an individual or household that will still itemize, consider "bunching" your charitable giving into 2025 to maximize your tax deductibility. In 2026, the deductibility of gifts will be subject to a new "floor" that is 0.5% of your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). This makes your cash gifts less tax efficient. *NOTE: For more information about the strategy of "bunching donations," please consult your tax advisor.*

However, if you take the standard deduction, consider delaying your "end-of-year" gifting until January 2026. In 2026, there will be a \$1,000 charitable deduction for single filers and \$2,000 deduction for joint filers who use the standard deduction.

2026 Ohio State Board District 2 Teacher of the Year

Kyle O. von Kamp (Ohio to Botswana 2002)



Earlier this month, Kyle O. von Kamp was recognized as the 2026 Ohio State Board District 2 Teacher of the Year, for his work at Willard City Schools teaching middle school American History and English as a Second Language. He was recognized at the Annual State Board of Education Teacher of the Year ceremony as one of 11 teachers in Ohio this fall.

Kyle shared with those at the ceremony that "I take every opportunity to learn because I know each one carries the potential to change me for the better. ... And that is exactly what I ask of my students to do, to step into moments that may feel unfamiliar, to try something they've never done, and to discover something new about themselves in the process." Congratulations on this honor, Kyle.

NOTE: For an example of his teaching while an IFYE, please see: <https://ifyeusa.org/about/mission-vision-guiding-principles/guiding-principle-1.html>



2025 POSTAL DONATION FORM

NOTE: If you wish to pay by credit card, please go to <https://ifyeusa.org> and click on "Ways to Give"

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: **IFYE Association of the USA, Inc., c/o Roger Sherer, Associate Treasurer, PO Box 452, Bluffton, IN 46714-0052**

Questions? Call Roger at 269-273-8188 or email rsherer@ifyeusa.org



Donate Now

PLEASE COMPLETE:

Name(s) _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Relationship to IFYE _____
(Program participant (list program), Host Family Member, Friend, spouse, and/or Supporter, etc.)

_____ In Memory Of _____ In Honor Of _____

Their impact on your IFYE experience: _____

I wish to support IFYE with the following donation:

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$50	\$100	\$250	\$500	\$1,000	\$2,500	Other Amount \$ _____



PAYMENT METHOD

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

☐ Please make my donation anonymous

☐ I am sending stock Donation. (Consult your Financial Advisor)

☐ I am sending QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution) from my IRA. (Consult your Financial Advisor)

☐ Please send me (by email) access information to the IFYE website "Member Login Area".

My email address is: _____

☐ Enclosed is \$20 for the printing and postal mailing of the IFYE Newsletters, Updates, and In-Touch published in 2026.

☐ Please remove me/us from future solicitation.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT of IFYE

10/1/2025

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.
<https://ifyeusa.org/>

IFYE Alumni Happenings



1975 IFYE representatives to the Netherlands met at the Embassy in 1975 with the Agriculture Attaché.

(Back): Peggy Rose NY, Phil Bush MI, Diane Ancell CO, Judy Karr IA, Marilyn Kleffner MO, Steve Foster SD, Rosalie Beutke IL,

(Front) Margaret Severinson MN, Laura Mang OH, and Mary Ann Morrill NH.



Eight 1975 IFYEs to The Netherlands returning for the September 2025 reunion were (L-R) Marilyn Kleffner Schmidt MO, Steve Foster MN, Mary Ann Morrill Hoyt NH, Diane Ancell Brueske CO, Judy Karr Rine NE, Margaret Severinson Godke FL, Rosalie Beutke McCafferty IL and Peggy Rose Himes FL. The Fulton IL windmill is in the background on the shoreline.



Bob Ellis (Indiana to The Gambia 1971) unexpectedly met Brenda Hagen McGuire (IFYE Ambassador IA to Switzerland 1991) on a cruise this month while traveling from Rome to Florida. Brenda is a guest lecturer on their cruise and mentioned her IFYE experience. A small world indeed!

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Two IFYE Alumni Inducted into 2025 4-H Hall of Fame

Congratulations to Larry Hancock (North Carolina to India 1969) and Glenda M Snyder (IFYE Ambassador Virginia to Botswana 1978) for being among the 16 finalists to be inducted into the 2025 National 4-H Hall of Fame on October 27. They join IFYE alumni from previous years in receipt of this honor.

