

IFYE NEWS

An Official Publication of the

IFYE® Association of the USA, Inc.

Spring/Summer Issue Published April 28, 2025

Established as International Farm Youth Exchange® in 1948



Traci Sherlock Interim National Program Director

2025 IFYE Program

The 2025 exchange is planned for mid-June through August for both Inbound and Outbound participants.

This article follows up on the recent April 2025 IFYE Update, where this year's IFYE program was briefly discussed.

Process for Applications: The listed deadline for applying is MAY 1 – along with a \$250

deposit for this year's program. However, if you know of someone who is between 19-30 who would love to become an IFYE participant this summer, there may still be limited time to apply.

- If you wish more information on an extension of application deadline or other information, please call Carolyn at 309-261-1705 or email us: Traci Sherlock (tsherlock@ifyeusa.org) and Carolyn Hansen (chansen@ifyeusa.org). Carolyn and I will do our best to work with you and/or the applicant in question.
- For more details and the application, please visit https://ifyeusa.org/foreign-exchange-program/ ifye-outbound-application-process.html
- Time moves on quickly; let's get some more applications in!
- Please note that you can now save the incomplete form to your computer and then complete at another time OR you can save the completed/sumbitted application to your computer.

We look forward to some more great IFYE applications as the deadline draws near!

NOTE: It has also just been announced that the referring IFYE will receive a \$500 gift once the referred 2025 Outbound arrives in their host country.

2025 IFYE USA Exchange Program Dates June - August 2025

Thursday, May 1: Application & \$250 down payment: Sunday, May 18: Final Payment of \$3500 Due (The total cost to the participant is \$3750.)

Orientation Phone Calls

- Sunday, May 11: Insurance (medical and travel), cameras and photography, journaling, packing list
- Sunday, May 18: IFYE Alumni Panel Q and A
- Sunday, June 1: Foreign to Familiar

Orientation Dates: June 11-16

- Wednesday, June 11: Outbounds travel to Washington, DC
- Thursday, June 12: Trip to The Hill Outbounds visit their US Representatives and Senators
- Thursday, June 12: Inbounds travel to Washington, DC
- Thursday, June 12 evening: Orientation for Inbound and Outbound IFYEs
- Friday, June 13 Sunday June 15: Orientation for Inbound and Outbound IFYEs
- Monday, June 16: Inbounds and Outbounds travel to their host states and Countries

Debriefing: August 22-25 (For Outbounds Only)

Looking for Host Families for Inbounds

We are excited to be able to have some of our country partners willing to send IFYEs and/or receive our Outbounds.

Your state does not need to be sending an Outbound for you or another family to host. Application for host families can be found online at https://ifyeusa.org/host-family/host-family-application-form.html

NOTE: This form is not set to be saved and completed at a later date as is the Outbound application form.

After submitting a host family application:

 An in-home interview is required if the family has not hosted in the past year. In alternating years opposite the physical home visit, a virtual meeting/ tour will be conducted in lieu of the in-person visit.

Looking for Host Families Continued from Page 1

- Background Checks will be conducted annually on all household members who are 18 years of age and older.
- It would also be appreciated if the host family applicants could send a photo of their family to me (tsherlock@ifyeusa.org) to share with the Inbound IFYE so that they know a little about your family before arriving in the USA.

We also look forward to new and returning host families of many ages and interests to help in welcoming our Inbound IFYEs to family life in rural USA and to enjoy learning about our families. Our host families all have an interest in learning more about the world and about themselves.

Be part of the hosting experience and welcome our Inbound IFYEs into your home - or promote this experience with friends and others.







Top Left: Wilson Puenaque (2024 Chile to Virginia) with his first host parents; Top Right: Lisa Schmid (2018 Germany) with South Dakota host family: Heidi, Brody and Mark Zwinger; Bottom: JeongDowan (left) (2017 South Korea) with Missouri family and friends

Dear IFYE Family,

Imagine belonging to a lifelong fraternity or sorority – not confined to a single campus, but spanning continents, cultures, and generations.

IFYE (Established as International Farm Youth Exchange® in 1948) is just that: a global brotherhood and sisterhood built on shared experiences, lasting friendships, and a deep commitment to building a better, more connected world.



Carolyn Hansen, President IFYE Assn of the USA, Inc

As members of this extraordinary "global house," we are reaching out to ask for your help in strengthening our ranks. Like any strong organization, we thrive when new members bring their energy, fresh ideas, and unique talents to the table. That's why we're asking you to join us in recruiting:

- Participants aged 19-30 who are ready for a lifechanging cultural exchange experience.
- Host families who are eager to welcome international delegates and share the richness of their communities.
- **Donors and sponsors** who believe in the power of global citizenship and are willing to invest in the future.
- **Board members and committee volunteers** who will help lead, innovate, and ensure that IFYE's legacy grows for generations to come.

Just as a pledge in a fraternity or sorority carries on the traditions of the individual's social organization, every IFYE participant, host family, donor, and volunteer becomes part of the IFYE tradition: "Peace through Understanding."

When you step up, you're not just helping — you're building something that lasts. You're creating bonds that stretch across oceans, shaping leaders who think beyond borders, and opening doors that change lives forever — maybe even your own.

Join us. Help us expand the IFYE family and continue this proud, worldwide tradition. If you're ready to learn more, refer a participant or host family, or serve in leadership, please contact me at 309-261-1705 or visit ifyeusa.org to view our information and/or Contact Us.

Together, let's keep the spirit of IFYE strong — one member, one family, one story at a time.

In the Spirit of IFYE, Carolyn Seymour Hansen

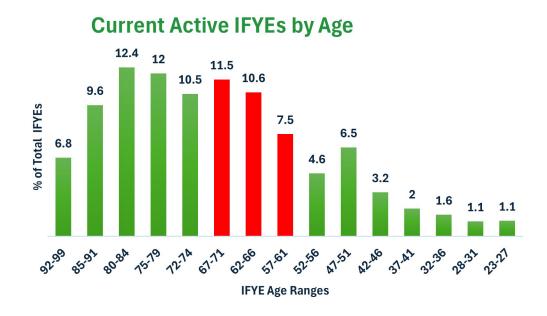
Who are the National IFYE Association Members?

Compiled by Judiann McNulty, Keith Ferris, Paul Rice

The Finance Committee has looked at the data maintained by the IFYE Association to create a profile of the database. A total of 2,667 outbound participants are listed as active in the IFYE Association database. This includes IFYE Representatives, Ambassadors, and those who participated in Youth Development Projects (YDP), as well as Agriculture Work Exchange (AWE) or, in the Young Agriculture Specialist Exchange Program (YASEP) to the Soviet Union. In addition, 931 have passed away and there are another 703 living who are currently inactive in the IFYE Association.

Active IFYEs (Outbound IFYE, YDP, YASEP, Ambassador)	2667
Deceased IFYEs (Outbound IFYE, YDP, YASEP, Ambassador)	931
Alive Inactive IFYEs (Outbound IFYE, YDP, YASEP, Ambassador)	703

The current age profile of those who are active is shown in the table below. This is estimated based on using an average age of 21 years when participating in the exchange.



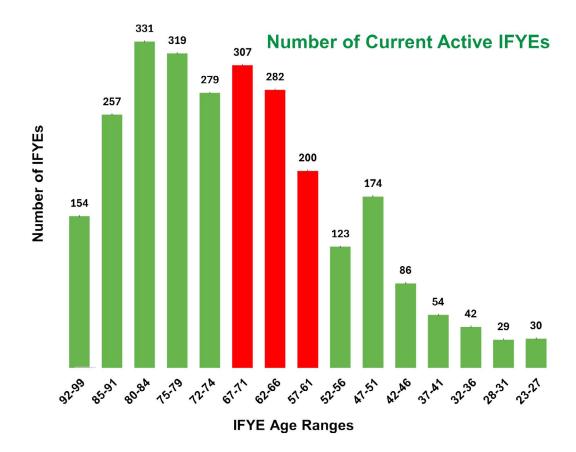
The above graph illustrates that the large majority of National IFYE Association members are well past the retirement age of 65. As noted by the red bars, those in the 57- to 71-year-old age group are at the best age to become volunteers in their community and/or national organizations, such as serving as Board members for the National IFYE Association. Most are retired, still have energy, and could bring their useful skills and talents from their careers and life experience to IFYE.

Continued on Page 4

The next graph shows the current active IFYEs by age. From this graph, it is easy to see that the numbers of participants were much greater in the 1960s and 1970s (Ages 67-84).

It was during these decades that the program offered not only the traditional IFYE exchange, but also the Ambassador, YDP, AWE, and YASEP programs mentioned above. The program benefitted from funding from the states, and outside funding from private foundations and agri-business as well as strong support from National 4-H Council.

Funding for the current year has come from donations from the IFYE Association membership. The Annual Giving Campaign raised \$98,277, including the \$25,000 match donated by one member. The generosity of members is greatly appreciated as that allows the program to increase the number of outbound IFYEs this year.



Conclusion

To continue, the IFYE program needs committed people to serve on the Board of Directors and to support the Association in other ways. Members who are appreciative of their IFYE experience and value the concept of IFYE are encouraged to think about volunteering for the Board of Directors to serve on a committee, as a Board member, or as an officer of the Board.

Your ongoing engagement truly makes a difference. We extend our warmest thanks and best wishes to all that have served IFYE in the past. Anyone who can devote their time and experience, please consider how you might contribute to IFYE moving forward.

More information and the application form are found on the IFYE website (located. under Alumni and Membership) https://ifyeusa.org/member/board-member-candidate-application.html.

2025 IFYE National Conference Update It's time for the IFYE Family to gather!

Barb Batie, Conference Co-Chair

Don't miss your chance to join in IFYE fellowship and fun at the 2025 National IFYE Alumni Conference in Loveland, Colorado from May 29-June 1. With the theme "From Peaks to Plains," IFYEs will be able to explore all that the Front Range, the Rocky Mountains, and the eastern Colorado plains have to offer.

Co-hosted by the Colorado and Nebraska IFYE Alumni Associations, this is the first full conference since we last gathered in Illinois in 2022. Excitement is building and we urge you to register. You may register up to the opening day of the conference for full time fee of \$400. Part-time registration is also available throughout the conference. You can register for the conference hotel lodging by contacting the Embassy Suites at 800-362-2779.

Thursday Evening Reception and Opening Ceremony. Festivities begin Thursday evening, May 29, with a welcome reception and opening ceremony. A cash bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres will be available and featured

Maxwell Falls Rocky Mountain National Park

entertainment during the program will be a Hispanic dance troupe from Denver. Following the evening program, the hospitality rooms will open for more conversation and reminiscing.

Friday is Tour Day - If you haven't already registered, be sure to look over the four tour options available and select your favorite on the online registration sheet. If you can't decide, there may be limited availability at the conference, but it's best

not to wait and miss out. <u>Tour details</u> are on the website on the conference webpage and listed under conference details. You have the option of exploring on your own that day; a visitor's guide will be provided in your registration packets to spark some ideas.

We regroup for an IFYE family meal and some countrywestern entertainment by the Matt Skinner Band that evening. We've ordered a dance floor for the occasion in case you want to try your hand at some fancy footwork. The silent auction room will also be open for bidding and, following the evening meal and announcements, you can once again enjoy the hospitality rooms.

Saturday will be a full day as we start with the annual Association business meeting in the morning. There will be lots of exciting news to share about this year's exchanges and will give you a chance to meet our Interim

National Program Director, Traci Ross Sherlock, a 2022 IFYE alum.

We will be offering a series of workshops on Saturday as well. Immediately following the business meeting, there will be an hour of workshops and then lunch. There will be another hour of workshops right after lunch.

Options will include:

- A talk by representatives from the Amache National Historical Site, which was a Japanese internment camp in Prowers County, Colorado during World War II. This workshop will be offered both in the morning and afternoon.
- A presentation by Robert Sakata, Water Specialist and Water Policy Advisor, for the Colorado Department of Agriculture.
- A panel of IFYEs discussing "IFYE Through the Years." A presentation on ways to get more involved with IFYE on the national level whether by serving on the national board or on a national committee is also included in this session, and
- A workshop conducted by IFYE alum Marty Orris on planned giving.

A sixth workshop is being considered that would explore Colorado beverage and food offerings.

Our group photo has been set for 4:30 p.m. so be sure when packing your suitcase to include any national dress or costume you may have in your closet. If you are like some of us and sadly that national costume no longer fits, you are welcome to dress Western for some fun.

If you were an IFYE in 1948-1955, 1965, 1975, 1985, 1995, 2005, 2015, we will have table tents set out so you may sit as a group. If you anticipate a group larger than 10, email Conference Co-chair Barb Batie at bbatie@ifyeusa.org so she can be sure to print extra table tents

Following the meal, we will hear from one of our 2024 Chilean IFYEs and some honored guests. Then the fun begins as we will conduct a live auction featuring selected items pulled from the silent auction donations. There will also be a traditional candlelight closing ceremony.

Sunday Morning - Final farewells will be shared Sunday morning during a non-denominational memorial service from 9-10 a.m. Please share any information you may have on IFYEs we have lost since we last gathered in Louisville, Kentucky in 2023 with our Administrative Assistant, Theresa Chambers. We would appreciate the IFYE's name (maiden and married names for women), year they were an IFYE, what state they went from and which country or countries they went to. Theresa's email is tchambers@ifyeusa.org. This will allow us to crosscheck our records as we have an ongoing list of deceased IFYEs but may have missed someone.

Prepare for an IFYE road trip to Loveland! Drag out those suitcases, get registered for conference, and reserve a room at the hotel. We'd love to extend some Western hospitality and share some IFYE family hugs with as many of you as we can.



IFYE® Association of the USA, Inc. 2024 Donors

2024 was a successful year for fundraising among IFYE Alumni and friends of IFYE. With the Mark Zeug Match and Annual Giving Campaign, we were able to achieve our fundraising goal for the following year.

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

It is with a deep sense of gratitude that we share our heartfelt Thank You to all who contributed this past calendar year. We hope that you will continue to help sustain IFYE with your annual contributions and encourage other IFYE alumni and friends of IFYE to do likewise.

Listed below are the names of those who contributed (excluding names of those who requested to remain anonymous) depicted by the level of giving as shown here.

Individuals in whose names the 2024 donations that were made either 'In Memory of' or 'In Honor of' a friend or loved one are also listed below. Thank you again for your faithful support of IFYE!

Diamond: \$25,000 and above Sapphire: \$10,000 - \$14,999

Silver: \$500 - \$999

Ruby: \$20,000 - \$24,999 Platinum: \$5,000 - \$9,999

Bronze: \$100 - \$499

Emerald: \$15,000 - \$19,999

Gold: \$1,000 - \$4,999 Copper: Up to \$99

Diamond \$25,000 and above

United Soybean Board

Mark Zeug

Ruby \$20,000 - \$24,999

No Donations

Emerald \$15,000 - \$19,999

No Donations

Sapphire \$10,000 - \$14,999

Linda Eppelheimer

Plat	inum
\$5,000	- \$9,999

Lad Harrison Marjorie Loyd Patti Jo Price Elaine Wolff

Gold
\$1,000 - \$4,999

Alice Loy Walker

Glen Bornt Don Anderson Theresa Bahns **Barb Batie** Victoria Bosworth William "Brad" Bradley Lee Hood Capps Elizabeth Carlson Clifton Foundation, Maureen Cook Anna Creamer Patricia Donahue Inc Robert Ellis Joan Eyerman Margaret Foster Ann Foley Gardner David Gnirk Elnore Grow Beverly Hain Carolyn Hansen Pat Hutsell Nancy Maxwell Rich Joanne Matala Karla Henderson Dr. Robert Miller Douglas Nelson Joyce Niggley Jerred Micek Keith Olsen Harlen Persinger Edwin Schellin Rudolph Schnabel

Henry "Hank" Wicke

Roger Sherer

Silver \$500 - \$999

Ron Warfield

Dale Wicke

Diane Corcoran Patrick Corcoran Janet Floeter Anonymous Robert Jenkins Nicki Jenkins Bart Johnson Dr. Barbara Maidment Susan Morris Mary Kay Munson Nancy Schmidt Bonnie Schneider Mielke Janice Steuri Jean Stewart Denise Tolmie Wesley Tschetter Victoria Warren Steve Wheeler Deryl Waldren Andrew and Becky Waugh Mabel Wheeler Nancy William Norma L Wu Janet Wood Dale Yonker Frank Wyatt

Bronze \$100 - \$499

Anna Abbatiello Martha Albin Anonymous (5) Ross Aker Barbara Austin Gloria Bartholomew -**Cindy Barnett** Nancy Barrett Nelson Margery Bayless **Evelyn Beavers** Roger Beesley Virginia Beesley Cathy Behm Judy A Bell Barbara Wilcox Bitetto Dean Bloch William Bohl Karen Borchers Mark Bowen Elna Bragdon Linda "Diane" Brueske Judith Bramlette Hestia Brown Dr. Patricia Brown Judy Ann Bryant Patricia Cook Patricia Cooksey Jane Edwards William Edwards Lynette Ely Ronald Faas Anne Fournier **Delbert Frericks** Douglas Fuerst Dwight Gee Barbara Gershman James Gooch Mary Gould Larry Hancock **David Harrison**

Bronze
\$100 - \$499
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Virginia Heagney	Rodney Henderson	Carol Hendrickson	Marge Hennenfent
Randal Hertz	Ann Hertz	Geoffrey "Jeff" Hockman	Kraig Humbaugh
IL Assn. for Home & Community Education	Nancy Hofstetter	Judy Isaacson	Richard Isaacson
'Terry Jaspers	Molly Kalany	Elaine Kohl	Rev. Cleo Kottwitz
John Labrie	Jonathan Lang	Lillian Larwood	Marcia Latta
Lucille Linden	Stanton Linden	Jerry Mark	Darii McClure-Wohlers
Harriet Mcintosh	Ernst Mehl	Janice Mehl	Mary M Miller
Dessie Moxley	Nyla Musser	Linda Nierman	Suzanne Neufang
Erna O'Brien	Teresa O'Brien	Nellie Oehler	Barbara Oldham
Charles Oldham	Margaret "Peggy" Olsen	Howard Parks	Tracy Remy
Kathleen Riley	Janet Rodekohr	Carl Schwinke	Donald Seaman
Leah Smith	Donn Smith	Joelle Snyder	Mary Steinberg
John Stitzlein	Sheri Swackhamer	Rosemary Thiebaut	Darlene Thomas
James Tobin	Ruth Trail	Doreen VanSickle	Lucia Vasquez
Claire Velyvis	Patricia Wenning	Mary Rose Whitney	Lara Woliung
Barbara Wright	Holly Yoder		

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	Boesch
Carolyn Clague Cathleen Cummings Jeanne Daniels Karen De	Muro
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Bonnie Glass Deborah Haynes George Haynes Richard F	Hoyt
Betsy Inkel Carolyn Jenkins Ricardo Jones Donald K	elso
Faith Kroschel Kenneth Kroschel "Sherry" Kuntz Rev. Larr	y Kuntz
Audrey Poche Betty Jo Lucille Roller Claire Ro Smith-Roberts	tering
Jeffrey Rotering Owen W Scherzer Laura Schick Marvin Schick	chulz
Judy Scott Elizabeth Stamp Evelyn Stenzel Edith Tay	lor e
Phyllis Torrey Laurie Tritten Dr. Mary Wahl M. Brook	s Whitney

Onations Above Include 'In Memory Of' or 'In Honor Of' The Following Individuals

Elmer & Esther Bock	Lindsey Ferris	Caroline S Gardner	Mary Detlor Bloch Gardner
Ed Lakin	Joan Reid Kramer	Wayne Nierman	Lois Bredlow Spaulding
Raymond "Ray" William			, ,

April 2025

You may also view or download this listing from our website at: https://ifyeusa.org/ways-to-give/2024-ifye-donor-list-new.html

Farm Bill News Update

Jan Wood, Barb Batie

As you may know, the Farm Bill is no further along in March of 2025 than it was in May 2024.

If you remember, the International Agriculture Cultural Immersion and Exchange Program language is in the House Committee on Agriculture version of the Farm Bill that passed in the committee last May. The Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry was never able to bring a Farm Bill to their table for a vote.

On November 5, 2024, a lot of things changed. Not only did we get a new President, but there were several changes on the Ag Committees.

- Chairwoman Senator Debbie Stabenow retired at the end of her term. Senator John Boozman became the Chair of the Senate Ag Committee with Senator Amy Klobuchar as ranking member.
- G.T. Thompson remains Chair of the House Ag Committee. Congresswoman Angie Craig became the ranking member.

IFYE's challenge became reaching out to seventeen (17) new members of the House Ag Committee and three (3) new Senate members.

A few IFYEs travelled to Washington, D.C. to visit with 28 Congressional Ag Committee members and/or their staff during the week of February 24-28. Our goals were to thank Ag Committee members who supported IFYE for the Farm Bill in the House Ag Committee and to meet and share information with eleven (11) new members of the two committees.

Here is a summary of the comments we heard:

- From House Ag Committee members and/or staff, the message was
 - Chairman Thompson wants to get a new version of the Bill through his committee by summer.
 - The Chairman wants limited changes from the May 2024 version.
 - IFYE has support and has a good chance to stay in the new House version.
- From the Senate Ag Committee members and/or staff, the message was
 - You have a nice program, and no one is against
 - Money is tight and getting tighter. The Senate Committee is charged with removing one billion dollars from an early draft, a Senate version of the Bill.
 - It is possible that the Senate will accept some parts of the House version during their reconciliation process.
- All that is positive without being promised. So, there is still significant hope that the International Agriculture Cultural Immersion and Exchange Program will be in a Farm Bill, if completed this year.

- We must remember that, if we are included, there are several steps to be completed before we receive any funds.
 - Our language calls for discretionary, matching funds.
 - The funding is not mandatory.
 - That means when the Bill passes, IFYE must request the funds first from the House Appropriations Committee and finally from the USDA.

Please watch your email and the IFYE website over the next few months. The IFYE USA Farm Bill Committee will soon be requesting another email campaign going to your Congressional Representatives and Senators. Your help may very well make the difference between IFYE's language being in the Farm Bill or not.

In the meantime, Jan Wood will continue to reach out to all members of the House and Senate Ag Committees. Efforts will include continuing monthly emails highlighting IFYE activities via phone/Zoom/Teams meetings with Ag Committee members and Legislative Assistants.

IN MEMORIAM

The passing of the following individuals has come to our attention since the 75th Anniversary Celebration on October 6, 2023

 $LM = Life\ Member$ SPIFYE = Spouse of an IFYE

Joseph S Bicknell (*Illinois to India 1954*) January 22, 2025

Arinetta M Bolton (Kansas to England 1953) April 12, 2024

Jean Smith Boor (New York to Israel 1952) July 25, 2024, LM

Elin K McCandless Colglazier (Kansas to France *1957)* December 27, 2024, LM

Cynthia "Cindy" Kelly Curran (California to The Philippines 1974) November 4, 2014

James "Jim" I Ethridge (Illinois to Botswana 1971)

June 4, 2024

Margaret Thar Foster (Michigan to The Netherlands

1957) January 16, 2025, LM Lenore "Sue" A Hartman (Ohio to Brazil 1962) February 24, 2020, LM

John F Menvielle (Travel Seminar - California to The Netherlands 1984) February 8, 2007

Marscia H Menvielle (Travel Seminar - California to The Netherlands 1984) March 7, 2022

Marjorie Harvey Monte (Travel Seminar - California to The Netherlands 1984) April 4, 2022, LM

Kenneth P Offord (Wisconsin to India 1967) March 2, 2025, LM

Timothy B Snyder (SPIFYE of Glenda Moorefield Snyder - Virginia Ambassador to Barbados 1978)

April 23, 2025 Robert L Walker (Iowa to Pakistan 1956)

December 25, 2024, LM



Permission to	share my generosity via IFYE's annual donor list.
Y	es, IFYE can share my name on the annual donor list.
N	o, I prefer my donation/name remain anonymous.

2025 IFYE Annual Giving Campaign 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

(If questions, please contact Roger at rsherer@ifyeusa.org or call at 260-273-8188)

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	Enclosed is	\$20 for the	printing and	l postal ma	iling of the IF	YE Newslett	ers, Updates, ar	nd In-Touch published in 2025.
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	THANK YOU FOR Y	OUR SUPPORT of IFYE
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01/01/2025

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/