



IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.

Peace Through Understanding

IFYE UPDATE – December 2021

Change is Constant

Ken Gordon, Executive Director
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Heraclitus, the Greek philosopher said, "Change is the only constant in life." Over the past four and a half years, I've had the pleasure of getting to know several of you. I have fond memories from the conferences we attended and the orientations where I met new participants heading outbound from Washington DC. I will cherish those memories.

I was glad to help IFYE achieve several goals. The official recognition from USDA, after being separated for many years was a great achievement. In addition, the opportunity to align with the agriculture commodity organizations is one that should bring benefits to IFYE in the future. I look forward to continuing my efforts to help IFYE succeed in being recognized and funded in the 2023 Farm Bill.

I know IFYE is facing financial challenges and I respect the IFYE Board's decision to let my contract lapse. Your IFYE Board of Directors is working to raise the necessary funding so IFYE can continue to deliver what our society needs most: international understanding that leads to peace.

My wish for IFYE is for continued growth and future prosperity.

Annual Giving Campaign

Cindy Barnett, Co-Chair, Marketing and Resource Development Committee
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Because of you, IFYEs are changing their lives, their communities, and their host countries for the better – just as we have for generations.

The Annual Giving Campaign launched in August and our goal is to raise \$60,000 by December 31. We still need your donations. As of mid-December, we were only halfway to our goal. I know we can do this! Your donations allow us to continue recruiting potential IFYEs, supporting our state coordinators, National Program Director, and maintaining ongoing costs.

You can donate to the Annual Giving Campaign through the IFYE website by clicking on the [Ways to Give link](#) on the home page (ifyeusa.org) or by mailing your check to Associate Treasurer: Pat Hutsell, 3670 N. Bayou Hills Rd, Parker, CO, 80134-5111. Please note on your check or online donation, "Annual Giving Campaign," if you wish your donation to be credited to this campaign.

If you have not, please consider giving a tax-deductible gift to IFYE this year. Thanks for your generous support!!!!



Program Update

Alan Lambert, National Program Director
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The 2022 IFYE program has received 24 applications. As I receive more host country confirmations, placements will begin in the coming days. [Compeer Financial](#) is providing financial support to IFYE outbounds in their service areas of Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. The Halle Foundation in Georgia is providing the [full program fee](#) for three IFYEs from Georgia to Germany. We are searching for two more Georgia IFYE applicants, so please share with your family and friends with Georgia connections.

IFYE and the United States Soybean Export Council are working on the details and logistics to aid in meeting the grant requirements for the partnership with the United Soybean Board. We intend to send eight (8) individuals and have a couple of openings yet to fill. If you know a young adult with a soybean connection from any state, please let me know.

Farewell to Ken Gordon

Jan Wood, President
jwood@ifyeusa.org

Please join me in extending best wishes and a fond farewell to Ken Gordon, IFYE Executive Director since 2017, as his contract expires on December 31. He has fully supported IFYE's mission, vision, and values. We thank Ken for all he has done.

Ken will continue as a consultant supporting our Farm Bill subcommittee. In that role, Ken will join Carolyn Hansen, Bob Ellis, and me in representing IFYE at the American Farm Bureau Federation's annual conference in Atlanta on January 7–12. If you are attending the conference, stop by booth #1643 to say "Hello." Please encourage Farm Bureau members and delegates attending the conference to stop by our booth.

Our fundraising struggles continue. The Finance Committee continues to review the budget so that we make wise financial decisions and maintain our programs.

For 2022, we currently have 21 outbound participants approved. Additional candidates are being processed to meet our goal of 26 outbounds. Program Director Alan Lambert recently returned from Africa with a signed Memorandum of Agreement adding Morocco to our host countries. Kenya is also expected to be added soon.

Now, a few words about changes taking effect on January 1, 2022:

- Carolyn Hansen will function for the next several months as part-time Interim Executive Director. Carolyn and I will work closely to keep the work of Executive Director moving forward.
- Keith Ferris, 1969 IFYE from Michigan to New Zealand, rejoins the Board of Directors as Vice President and Finance Committee Chair. We welcome him back.
- Vicky Warren, Pat Hutsell, Bob Jenkins, Larry Gould, and Wayne Shull are leaving the Board. We thank them for their years of service and dedication to IFYE. They've been invaluable and they will be missed.
- IFYE officers for 2022 are: Jan Wood, President; Keith Ferris, Vice President; Barb Batie, Secretary; Jess Stairs, Treasurer; and Roger Sherer, Associate Treasurer.
- New 2022 Board members are Jessica Braxton and Russel Mauch.
- The impact of two COVID years resulting in suspended programs continue to provide challenges for IFYE. As 2022 begins, each effort you make supporting IFYE, financial and/or as a volunteer, can make a difference as the Board and committees work through one of the toughest times in our history.

IFYE needs your help. Contact me anytime to explore how you can do so.

Thank You

Sheri Swackhamer

Membership Committee Co-Chair

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The Membership Committee would like to thank all our IFYE Family members and friends for their 2021 donations and for those new Lifetime Members in 2021 who took advantage of our \$100 discount offer. To date, we have awarded 115 individuals 2021 annual memberships by their donations of \$30 or more. This is in addition to all donations by current life members and others. At press time, we have awarded 12 new Lifetime Memberships in 2021. Three individuals have also entered Lifetime Membership payment plans with IFYE

Thank you all for your Annual Giving Campaign contributions, your other individual contributions, and your overall financial assistance to help IFYE USA to continue with our mission during another challenging year.

With the continuation of COVID still restricting travel plans and overall spending, the Membership Committee voted to extend the \$100 discount off the Lifetime Membership payment again for 2022. Please consider becoming a Lifetime Member in 2022 with either a one-time \$900 payment or by making a payment arrangement with 2022 Associate Treasurer, Roger Sherer, who can be reached at rsherer@ifyeusa.org or 260-273-8188

2022 National IFYE Conference

Carolyn Hansen, Conference Co-Chair

"IFYEs get their Kicks on Route 66!"

June 30 – July 3, 2022

Uptown Normal Marriott

Normal, IL

What's more American or Midwestern than Baseball, Route 66, and the 4th of July? The 2022 Annual Conference will be in Uptown

Normal, at the Marriott Hotel. The program is being finalized by a very enthusiastic and creative group of IFYE Alumni Association members. We have a wide variety of tours that will be half day so that you may take part in some creative workshops later that day focused on strengthening our organization.

Pre-Conference activities

You might want to arrive on Wednesday, June 29, so that you can participate in several pre-conference activities. Many of us are concerned about food insecurity in the United States as well as around the world. Kate Garrity will lead a workshop about Food Insecurity which is part of her research for her PhD. We will then go on a short field trip to have a service project. (We hope it will be at the Midwest Food Bank which serves 12 states and is involved in disaster care). If you are a history buff, you may wish to go on an all-day tour to Springfield featuring the Abraham Lincoln Museum, the Lincoln Home, the Old State House (where Barack Obama kicked off his presidential campaign), and the Lincoln Tomb. The pre-conference events close in the evening at The Corn Crib where we will watch the farm team, "The CornBelters," take on another Midwest team. We are working with the Illinois Corn Growers and other organizations to provide a fun evening. We will also need a few IFYE alumni to sing The Star- Spangled Banner.

More activities

This is just a sample of the pre-conference events. More tours, workshops, fun activities and, of course, the auction are being planned. We also invite the IFYE classes of 2012, 2002, 1992, 1982, and, of course, 1972 to join the fun for a reunion on Thursday, June 30.

Bloomington-Normal is known for its Summer Spectacular and fireworks at Miller Park; come early and you can tour our zoo. You might just want to spend an extra day to join in on the fun and celebrate America in the heart of the Midwest. Then, you can head north, south, or west on Route 66.