



ILLINOIS

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2019-2021

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April 6, 2021

2021 Annual Meeting

Happy Spring!!

As I am writing this, it is a 72-degree night, so it seems hard to believe that it could still get cold again, but I am sure it will. It also feels like déjà vu, organizing an **online Annual meeting** for the second year in a row – I miss seeing you all. Let's hope we don't have any more of these, unless by choice. So, thanks to COVID, we will be having our meeting using freeconferencecall on

Saturday, April 17th at 10 am
Dial in is 605-313-5821
Access code 610-001

When we did this last year, we had approximately 30 people on the call – some who had not been able to “attend” a meeting in some time. It should be quick, as there are not too many items to discuss. We just have to remember to take turns talking, so everyone can hear.

As mentioned in the last national newsletter, many countries have already suspended their 2021 program, and even though we have 18 individuals selected as part of the 2021 US IFYE program – a decision on level of participation (or if at all) will be made this month.

A few items to note:

- 1) We, the Illinois IFYE Association could use your help – we need a new secretary. Please feel free to reach out to Jonna, prior to the meeting (or during the meeting), if you would like to join the state Board.
- 2) The 2021 National IFYE Conference is still going on as planned – it will be held in Branson, MO. The dates are September 23-26. I am hoping to go and would love to see some of you there.
- 3) Helen Obernagel has offered to host a fall meeting.

- 4) **Congratulations to Carolyn Hansen who is now Vice President of the IFYE USA Board.**
- 5) Some of you probably received a IFYE volunteer survey via email, or if not, the link is in the March National newsletter. It is asking for your willingness to help in various capacities – from being a host family, to joining the National Board.
- 6) Mary Jo Stewart – you will be missed.
- 7) It was also sad to hear that the National 4-H Conference Center is for sale. Like myself, I am sure many of you started your IFYE Experience there.

I am getting my first vaccine this week – hope you have or will be doing the same, as I am looking forward to seeing you all real soon!! Jonna



RIP Mary Jo Stewart

Mary Jo Cunningham Stewart, born February 24, 1937, died January 26, 2021 in her sleep. Mary was an IFYE to Peru in 1960. She had served as President of the IL IFYE Association plus other offices. She was Banquet Chairman and Chairman of the Orientation Committee. Mary worked as Extension Adviser in Perry County and later in Macon County. Her youngest son, Greg also was an IFYE and went to Jamacia in 1990. After her husband Jim died, Mary moved to a nursing home in Indiana near her sons, Greg and Mike. The IL IFYE Association extends its sympathy to her family.

Contributions to IFYE Endowment

Some of you have noticed that IFYE Endowment Fund is not listed on the solicitation form many of you receive for contributions to the IL 4-H Foundation. I contacted the 4-H Foundation and received the following responses:

The Illinois 4-H Foundation recently worked to update their website as we wait for a complete redesign by the college. As part of this effort, we also aligned our giving options to those state priorities that support the largest efforts currently in place. There is absolutely no way to list all 49 endowments options or the 120 some current use funds that we are charged with administering.

During this process, I did inquire about having the option to list “OTHER” on the giving page and have been granted permissions by the IT and University of Illinois Foundation programming team to get this in place. That will make it much easier for people to give to specific funds, like the IFYE endowment. I am just waiting for this to be programmed and tested prior to implementation on the website. I hope to see it in early 2021.

I hope to see this option on future solicitation forms soon.



Update on IL 4-H & International

I also received the following notice from Angie Barnard of the IL 4-H Foundation:

- *Lisa Diaz recently met with Carolyn Hanson to talk about how to promote IFYE as a valuable experience to our 4-H alumni network. Tina Veal is working with Carolyn to include updates on opportunities.*
- *Lisa was recently identified as the US representative to the 4-H Global Network Board – she is interested in continuing to grow international experiences for youth as 4-H members (up to age 18) and beyond (as alumni).*
- *Food security and sustainability are the themes of the upcoming 4-H Global Network Summit in Tanzania – IL 4-H Specialist, Mark Becker, and team of collaborators have an accepted proposal to share our 4-H Food Action Academy Initiative at that summit. Was scheduled for August 2020 but postponed due to COVID. The hosting country is hopeful to hold in summer 2021 but still in holding pattern.*
- *2020 4-H Youth in Action Pillar Winner, Janya Green from GA, identified as vice chair for a track of the planned 2021 Food and Agricultural Organization summit in Rome.*

Many things to be excited about and we appreciate your efforts and the IFYE Association's desires to continue this important work!



Super AWESOME
Happy Fun Time

2021 National IFYE Conference

The 2021 National IFYE Conference will be September 23-26 in Branson MO. The Conference Committee is meeting in early April to set fees and work on final information for the Conference. This information will be on the official IFYE Web Page in early May. There will be a special brunch/lunch for the 1970 & 1971 IFYE Alumni on September 23, 2021.

The Radisson has developed a personalized weblink for us to use to make lodging reservations:

www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-branson/deals/ifye-association

Looking for stories

The Digital Media Committee is always looking for short stories, photographs and video clips from our IFYE family to use for marketing. Please send your story and photos (with captions) to Sheri Swackhamer, Committee Chair. sswackhamer@ifyeusa.org. Video content should be directed to Nick Birsa, Committee Member, at 13birsan@gmail.com. By sending your stories, photos, and videos, you are granting authority to IFYE Association of the USA, Inc. to publish responsibly any content on any of our digital media platforms.

Annual Dues are Due

If you are an annual due paying member of IL IFYE, your 2021 dues of \$7.50 is now due. Send your payment to Larry Wachtel; 15048 N. Haarmann Avenue; Effingham IL 62401.

Look at your mailing label, and if you have a year number after your name, you are an annual due paying member. NOTE: All Host Families and Participants received one year free membership in the Association. Lifetime dues are \$90.00.

National IFYE Board of Directors

Here are our Officers and Board Members of the National IFYE Association of USA.

Janet Wood – Ohio/Florida, President
Carolyn Hansen – Illinois, Vice President
Barb Batie – Nebraska, Secretary
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