



IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.

Peace Through Understanding

IFYE UPDATE – January/February 2022

Farm Bill Hurdle #1 Crossed

Jan Wood, President, jwood@ifyeusa.org

Welcome 2022. Hopefully, this new year will see the end of COVID, and we'll be able to send our biggest group of Outbound IFYEs in recent years – 25.

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) held their annual meeting and delegate vote on legislative resolutions January 8-11, 2022, in Atlanta, Georgia. The IFYE Association had a booth in the exhibit hall where Jan Wood, President; Carolyn Hansen, Interim Executive Director; and Bob Ellis, 1971 IFYE from Indiana to The Gambia staffed the booth. Ken Gordon, our Farm Bill Consultant, worked the entire exhibit hall. Our purpose in attending was four-fold:

- Promote IFYE's request for AFBF's support in their legislative agenda that will go to the U.S. Congress for inclusion into the 2023 Farm Bill.
- IFYE has a grant from the Halle Foundation of Georgia to support three Outbound IFYEs to Germany in 2022 so, we were searching for candidates to fill two of the three slots.
- If we fill all three Halle openings, then we'll need about nine host families in Georgia. So, we talked up the idea of being a host family to Georgians present.
- To promote donations to IFYE among the agribusinesses exhibiting.



I am pleased to tell you that we made significant progress with all four goals. The final language adopted by the AFBF says we support "Funding for international exchange programs that provide cross-cultural education opportunities focusing on agriculture and rural community development." IFYE would like to have been named specifically; however, that was not to happen.

I would like to express a special thanks to Bob Ellis, an Atlanta resident, who accepted the delivery of the booth materials, helped get them to the convention center and (along with Carolyn, Ken, and myself) helped get the booth displays up and down.

In ending this month's feature, I want to send a very, very big Thank You to all our IFYE families for the amazing donations we have received since our Annual Giving Campaign started in August 2021. We exceeded our goal of \$60,000 for the AGC. Cindy Barnett will tell you more on page 3.



From the Desk of the Interim Executive Director

Carolyn Hansen, chansen@ifyeusa.org

We all have heard the phrase “it takes a village to raise a child,” and believe it to be true.” The same holds true for serving as your Interim Executive Director... “*it takes the help of many to learn the role of an association executive.*”

I am fortunate to have served on our Board of Directors for three years prior to this assignment to give me foundational knowledge of the internal works of the Association. I am leaning heavily on the managerial experience and leadership skills I developed as an IFYE and in my career in higher education, non-profit, insurance, and Cooperative Extension.

We are privileged to have Alan Lambert’s experience as he manages and leads the programmatic aspects of our organization. His contributions as Past President and in his current role have a strong impact on the Association.



We are also lucky to have the expertise of our Grant Writer, Mary Springer, who has experience as a professional fundraiser. Over the past year, she has diligently worked to raise funds. She is continuing in that role as we seek new donors in the arenas of agri-business, foundations, associations, and commodities. Mary is also a 4-H leader and member of a school board in Central Illinois. Community-minded and the wife of a farmer, she understands the agricultural industry. All this and she has three prospective IFYEs, her children!



Theresa Chambers has served as our Administrative Assistant since this past May. She is not a stranger to IFYE as she is a 4-H alumna and former 4-H Program Assistant for McLean County, Illinois. Her graphic skills have been invaluable in updating exhibit materials to tell our story at a variety of venues to recruit IFYEs and donors. She is taking on more administrative functions including the editing of our IFYE Updates. Theresa chartered a 4-H Club in the past few years and her son and daughter are active members and officers.

Mary, Theresa, and I are committed to streamlining administrative functions and raising funds. Our team, all part-time contractors, are refining our plans of action and actively seeking fundraising opportunities. We know we must raise substantial monies to keep the organization alive and vital. We need your help. We need your introductory emails to agribusinesses, county and state farm bureaus, and commodity organizations. If you know of grant opportunities, we will work on those also.

Working side-by-side with us are:

- the members of the Board of Directors and the Board Committees. They are a hard-working group of individuals who are passionate about IFYE.
- Keith Ferris has given historical financial perspective that we can’t do without, and we are making sure those items are in our policies and procedures.
- Ginny Warner volunteers many hours with keeping our database current, answering historical questions, and preparing our communications for publication – we would find it more difficult to complete our work of staying in touch with you without her!

In the 70’s, we IFYEs referred to ourselves as “grassroot ambassadors.” That title hasn’t changed in the 75 years of our organization’s history. Now, we ask you to be our “grassroot contacts” so that we can continue to live our motto of “*Peace Through Understanding.*”

Donations to IFYE

Please note that, beginning in 2022, your donation thank-you notes from IFYE will contain the information required for your 2022 tax deductions. (This will include recurring donations in July for the 1st half of the year and at the end of December for the 2nd half of the year.)

Please consult your tax advisor to determine how the funds were distributed to IFYE and when/how you should deduct your donations based on the specifics of your situation.

Annual Giving Campaign

Cindy Barnett, Marketing Committee Co-Chair
cbarnett@ifyeusa.org

We did it! We reached our goal of \$60,000 and exceeded it by another \$10,000! Thank you, IFYE Family, for supporting a program that is special to all of us.



Some of these dollars over our goal are being targeted to promote IFYE at such gatherings as the AFBF Jan mentioned above, and the Commodity Classic in New Orleans, March 10-12, 2022. New brochures and displays have been purchased to attract potential outbounds, donors, and partners. Other dollars will support training for state coordinators, host families, and outbound IFYEs.

Thanks for your continued support of IFYE!

2022 IFYE Program

Alan Lambert, IFYE National Program Director
alanelambert@ifyeusa.org

The 2022 IFYE program currently has 25 outbound applicants, including some who were selected to participate in the 2020 and/or 2021 programs, along with those that submitted applications the past few months for the 2022 program. We are excited/pleased that we have more applicants than slots currently available for the first time in many years.



However, due to the uncertainty of the COVID situation around the world, not all our host countries have responded with confirmation and the number of IFYEs they plan to host and/or send. Thus, the placements for the 2022 program have not begun yet. In the coming days and weeks, I expect to get more commitments from participating countries, and narrow the gap between the number of applicants and available slots.

As IFYE President Jan Wood briefly mentioned in her article, we are reaching out to and searching for contacts in potential new host countries. The time is short to put all the puzzle pieces in place, but substantial efforts are being focused on adding more countries in Central & South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia.

All participating countries, including the USA, will require the IFYE delegates to have received COVID vaccination(s). Each country has its own COVID restrictions, including vaccinations, testing, quarantine times, masking, social distancing, and other relevant issues. We know COVID may be a concern to finding host families here and abroad. Once we know how many inbound IFYEs we will have and which states will be hosting them, we will need your help in finding host families.

Calling all IFYE Family Members 2022 Guiding Principles

Ginny Warner vwarner@ifyeusa.org
Co-Chair, Website Content Committee



Calling all IFYE Family members (outbound participants, inbound participants, host families (parents and/or children), other supporters)!

Throughout 2022, the Website Content Committee is continuing with updates on the stories and visuals (photos, SHORT videos, or PowerPoint apps - no more than 5 slides), for the area on Guiding Principles. These can be found on our website at ifyeusa.org under the tab "[About IFYE/Mission-Vision-Guiding Principle.](#)"

We would like to be able to publish one new "story" about every 3-4 weeks during 2022. Past articles will be archived as we publish newer ones on the same Guiding Principle. The previous articles will still be available to those who wish to view them.

Please contact me at vwarner@ifyeusa.org OR primary cell 207-701-7484 for further information.

IFYEs GET THEIR KICKS ON ROUTE 66 June 30 – July 2, 2022

Jonna Burck jburck@ifyeusa.org
Carolyn Hansen chansen@ifyeusa.org

In less than six months, we'll convene in the heart of Illinois in Normal for the 2022 IFYE Annual Conference.

Pre-conference Activities

We encourage you to arrive on June 29, so you can participate in pre-conference activities:

- All-day tours of various Abraham Lincoln sites in Springfield – a must for students of American history.
- Learn more about nutrition and hunger in rural America and participate in a service project.
- The morning workshop led by IFYE Alumna and PhD student Kate Garrity and helping at the Midwest Food Pantry is an opportunity to learn and serve.
- Top the day off with a baseball game at the Corn Crib and watch the Cornbelters "harvest" a win against another Mid-West Farm Team.

The conference planning team is diligently working to put the final touches on the program and budget with more information following the February Association Board meeting.

In the meantime, if you have questions, please feel free to contact one of the Co-Chairs – Jonna Burck jburck@ifyeusa.org or Carolyn Hansen chansen@ifyeusa.org



REMEMBRANCES

We normally reserve "in memoriam" notifications for our IFYE NEWS publications. However, we are remembering three who have passed away very recently and are well known to a great many of you for their various national/international activities and their dedication to IFYE.

LM = Life Member of the IFYE Association

David E Benedetti

(Oregon to Mexico 1965) 12-29-2021 **LM**



Dave served our IFYE Association as Treasurer in 1968 and 1969. During his career life, he served as a 4-H Extension Agent in Oregon and as Development Officer for the National 4-H Foundation. For 25 years, he worked for the Academy for Educational Development (AED) mainly in Africa and South Asia. He was Field Coordinator or Chief of Party for projects in Botswana, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, and Namibia. In retirement, he was a leader in the 4-H History Preservation Project. Dave was virtually inducted into the 4-H Hall of Fame in 2020 and in person during 2021 (along with his wife, Sue (Kleen) Benedetti – Wyoming to India 1966.)

Elizabeth "Betty" Stephenson

(Iowa to England/Wales 1952) 01-24-2022 **LM**



Betty served as the IFYE Association's Secretary/Treasurer in 1954 and as President in 1962. She was the first life member of the Association. Betty attended most national and world IFYE conferences and was one of the first to contribute to the Organizational Capacity Campaign (OCC) started in 2017 and financially donated to IFYE over the years. Betty was instrumental in the preservation of many of IFYE's historical records at Iowa State University. Betty taught home economics for 32 years in Brighton and other locations in Iowa and Colorado prior to that. After retirement, she worked with many senior citizen programs. Betty also enjoyed golfing and especially enjoyed golfing with family.

Elaine (Ellis) Watson

(Michigan to Peru 1965) 01-03-2022 **LM**



A familiar face at many national IFYE conferences, Elaine served as IFYE Association Secretary during 1969 and 1970. She was one of the first to contribute to the Association's Organizational Capacity Campaign (OCC) as well as giving other donations over the years. A globe-trotting world traveler, Elaine was personified by her gracious manner and upbeat personality. She also was involved in supporting reading literacy, as well as teaching at the elementary level for over 38 years.