



# ILLINOIS

**President:**

Paul Rice  
6150 W. Iles  
New Berlin IL 62670  
217-899-3713-cell  
[paul@myersrice.com](mailto:paul@myersrice.com)

**President-Elect:**

Vacant

**Secretary:**

Crystal Yonker  
209 W. Stonybrook Dr.  
O'Fallon IL 62269-3509  
618-632-4212 618-616-1288-cell  
[cywillsew507@hotmail.com](mailto:cywillsew507@hotmail.com)

**Treasurer:**

**Newsletter Editor:**

Larry L. Wachtel  
15048 N. Haarmann Avenue  
Effingham IL 62401  
217-881-9117-Home  
217-342-1402-Cell  
[wachtell1945@gmail.com](mailto:wachtell1945@gmail.com)

**Past President:**

Toni Frank  
306 W. Illinois St.  
New Berlin IL 62670  
[tonifrank10@yahoo.com](mailto:tonifrank10@yahoo.com)  
217-488-6253-H 217-652-8879-C

**Directors:**

**2015-2017**

Jonna Buick  
[jonnaburck@yahoo.com](mailto:jonnaburck@yahoo.com)  
Miriam Rosenbohm  
[rosenbohm07@comcast.net](mailto:rosenbohm07@comcast.net)  
Eff or Anita Embree  
[cowboyexports@yahoo.com](mailto:cowboyexports@yahoo.com)

**2016-2018**

Sue Herren  
[sherren@peaknet.net](mailto:sherren@peaknet.net)  
Ed Mies  
[Emies3@hotmail.com](mailto:Emies3@hotmail.com)  
Bev Hornickel  
[bevbikr@msn.com](mailto:bevbikr@msn.com)

**September 2016**

Beautiful Galena will be the site of this year's fall IL IFYE meeting and weekend gathering Oct. 7 - 10. Join a weekend of fun, fellowship, history, nature, and more! The "IFYE Headquarters" will be at a home located at **1 Stony Point, Galena Territories, Galena, IL.** Oct 8-9 is *Galena Country Fair* which boasts more than 150 vendors offering original, handmade arts, crafts and fine arts. Held in picturesque Grant Park overlooking historic Galena, Illinois, the fair is a Columbus Day weekend tradition.

**Friday, October 7:** Meet at "IFYE headquarters" between 4-7 pm. At 7:30 pm dine at Frank O'Dowd's Irish Pub and Grill, located in The Irish Cottage Boutique Hotel, 9853 US Hwy 20, Galena.

**Saturday, October 8:** Optional Tours:

Tour the home of President U.S. Grant (\$5pp)  
Visit Galena & US Grant Museum (\$10pp)  
Blaum Bros. Distilling Co. Tour (\$10pp)

**4:00 pm Meeting of the IL IFYE Association at "IFYE Headquarters,"** followed by a cookout. (\$8 per person).

**8:00 pm All About a Ghost Tour** (\$10 per person)



**Sunday, October 9:** Open day for worship, Craft Fair, shopping, canoeing, kayaking, hiking.



**Monday, October 10:** No planned activities. Check out of "IFYE Headquarters" at 11am.

Please contact me, Beth Gehrke, by message on Facebook, or by calling or texting 847-922-2584, or by emailing [bcgehrke@att.net](mailto:bcgehrke@att.net) by **Sept. 30th** if you plan on attending the Sat. cookout. Payment for the cookout can be made at the cookout. If you don't hear back from me within a day, I didn't receive your message. I have created a private Facebook group for the gathering for ease of communicating; please contact me and I will include you, or communicate by email. If you plan on attending any other part of the weekend, please let me know ASAP.



I have purposefully left the schedule quite open to allow flexibility of events depending on the weather. It's a beautiful area, and I'm sure we would like to be outside when the weather is best, and inside the museums when it's not as nice.

Most tours do not require reservations, but it would be helpful to know what you would like to participate in.

Overnight accommodations are on your own. If you are interested in renting a house, which is an affordable option, please contact Beth Gehrke **NOW** and I will put you in contact with others who are looking to rent a home. This is a very busy weekend in Galena and motels are filling up, so if you plan on coming, do not delay in making overnight reservations!!!

We hope you can come and join in another fun and informative IFYE weekend!



## Two IFYE's in Illinois

IL IFYE Association had two inbound IFYE's in the state this summer. They were: Anna Luomajarvi (18) from Finland and Amanda Bayles (28) from Tasmania, Australia.

Anna speaks three languages English, Swedish, and some German. She grew up on a farm. Her family has 30 Herefords, sheep, a horse, cats and dogs. She left home at sixteen to attend secondary school. She graduated on June 4th. She has worked as a 4-H club leader for the past two years. Her family has hosted four IFYEs. She has had 4-H summer pigs. She is most interested in beef cattle, especially Hereford, but she likes all animals and country life. Her favorite topics of study are history, literature, and English. She likes example knitting, crocheting, baking, photography, riding and hiking.

Anna's families were: David & Tricia Weis of Aviston June 20<sup>th</sup> to July 17<sup>th</sup>; Scott & Monica Torrance of Media July 17<sup>th</sup> to August 7<sup>th</sup>, and Jeff & Diane Collins of Polo IL August 7<sup>th</sup> to September 6<sup>th</sup>.



Amanda is a dairy shed manager of 2200 cows on three farms that encompass approximately 3,000 acres. Her family farm is about 4,500 acres of mixed crop production, sheep, and cattle. She is a member of the local Chamber of Commerce. She has held to roles of Chairman and Treasurer of the local AG Fest. She is interested in comparing farms here in the US to the farms at home. Her hobbies are needlework, ploughing, water skiing, rural youth volunteering and spending time with family and friends. She wrote she is keen to try anything and everything.

Amanda's families were Brad & Jami Richter of Aviston June 20<sup>th</sup> to July 17<sup>th</sup>; Cara Fisher Ausmus of Aledo July 17<sup>th</sup> to August 7<sup>th</sup>; and Michael & Jennifer Ferzer of Richmond August 7<sup>th</sup> to September 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Amanda's IFYE Article

I arrived to USA June 17<sup>th</sup>. The first few days I spent in Washington DC at orientation with other IFYEs. During the weekend I learnt a lot about other countries and got to tell about my country. We also learnt about IFYE program and what to do if we face problems.

On Monday my real adventure started when I flew into St. Louis. At the airport I met the Illinois State Coordinator, Susan, and we had to wait for the other IFYE, Amanda, to arrive. We spent a few hours together and got to know each other a little bit before it was time to meet the first family that lived nearby St. Louis. From the moment I met my first family everything went better than I had imagined.

With my first family we went to St. Louis a few times and I got to see the zoo, Anheuser-Busch brewery, Soulard farmers market, the Arch (which is designed by Finnish Eero Saarinen) and a lot of other places. I also got to go to Cardinals game. It was my first time ever at American baseball game and I enjoyed it very much. It is one of the many things that I can experience only in the USA and I'm very thankful that I got the opportunity to do it.

I got to see different farms with my first family. For example, we went to a local dairy farm and there I learnt that some farmers cut their cows' tails here in US. That is only one of the thousands examples how I've learnt something new every day here. A few of the other things that I got to experience with my first family are Holiday World, Carlyle Lake dam tour, Aviston Zip Code Day, Catholic funeral, mud volleyball tournament and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

On July 16<sup>th</sup> time with my first family came to an end I moved on to the second family. They were a family of four living in Midwest Illinois. At their place I got to work with their Hereford cattle since the first day. My family in Finland has Herefords as well but most of the ways of doing things are very different so I learnt a lot of things I can do when I get back home. For example, I had never used blow dryer before but now I can say I'm kind of good at using it.

I did not only work with the second family even though I would not have minded that. We went to Burlington Bees game to see some more baseball. Even though their county fair was already over when I got there, we went to county fair in Champaign. At the Champaign County Fair my host family

introduced me traditional county fair things such as cattle shows, lemon shake-ups, corn dogs and funnel cakes.

I spent only a little under three weeks with the second family so soon it was time to move on again. This time arrived to a family of three in the northern Illinois. They have beef cattle but also two ponies and two horses that my host sister shows. First week with the third family we were busy with their county fair so I got to experience a lot more county fair things. Some of them were different 4H shows and projects, truck pull, tractor pull, demo derby and country music concert. After county fair we had only a few days before we went to the Illinois State Fair. Right before going to the State fair the school started and I went to a American high school for the first time in my life. I also had to wear a school uniform for the first time in my life.

At the State Fair I saw a lot of horse shows, I slept in the barn, I ate more fair food, met a lot of new people and went to the Little Big Town concert. After that it was time to go back to school.

I have a little over a week with the third family left and then my time as an IFYE is coming to its end. After leaving the third family I'll go to Indiana for about a week to visit my friend who was an IFYE two years ago in Finland. On September 12th it is time for me to leave USA for now but I'll come back as soon as I can.

I've liked every moment of my exchange and I could do this again thousand times because it is so worth it. I was the first exchange student ever for all of my families and I believe that they have enjoyed this experience as well.

## Larry Mills

Larry Mills, 54 of Crescent City California died Friday July 29<sup>th</sup> in an airplane crash. He was an IL IFYE YDP to Thailand in 1987. Larry Mills was piloting a California – Oregon Life Flight when smoke in the cockpit forced him to turn around. Radar lost the plane soon after that. In addition to Mills, a flight nurse, transport medic and a patient died in the crash.

Mills family owns Mills Apple Farm in Marine, Illinois. His mother, Shirley was a 1955 IA IFYE to Germany who died in 2004.



*Rest In Peace*

## IL IFYE Editor Moved

After living in Sherman Illinois for 18 years I have moved back to my home County of Effingham where I went to school and was a 4-H member. Please note my new mailing address and email address are listed in the Newsletter Mask on the first page.



# President Comments

YOU will never understand  
the true meaning of your life,  
until you travel and experience  
how others are living theirs...

Author Unknown

I was subject to a life of wanderlust from my earliest days. My family has hosted many international guests while I was home on the farm. Learning about people and their homes that seemed so far away was intriguing to me. That spinning globe of the world, National Geographic maps and World Book encyclopedias were commonly brought to the kitchen table to see where our guest came from. They gave me opportunity to share a moment of time that took my young mind to faraway places. To be a host family and open your door to a young traveler is an amazing opportunity to learn of different cultures from your own and also the chance to share this person's interest with your own family. Learning about cultural diversity brings knowledge and fun for all that are involved.



I would like to challenge each of you to take a moment and to think back to the time you were selected to be an IFYE. What was that feeling that you experienced? The interviews and planning that led to your departure. I would like ask each of you to take a moment and write down those experiences. Sign the note with your name and year/country that you traveled, put it in an envelope and share it with someone in your family. Tell your story about your challenges and excitement that led up to your travels. Finish your story with how that experience changed your life. Did it bring new opportunities, acts of kindness, new bridges? We need to share our stories with our next generation to help inspire them to become a host family or consider going on an international exchange.

Share your story or just send me a note by email about your experience on your international program. We have an upcoming fall meeting in Galena, IL located in northwest Illinois. We hope that some of our northern IL alum's will consider coming out for the day or the weekend. If you have not been active, yet wish to stay in touch I would encourage you to drop me a note at [Paul@myersrice.com](mailto:Paul@myersrice.com) I would like to inspire each one of you to send me your ideas of the IFYE program and what it means to you. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,  
Paul Rice, IL IFYE President



# IL IFYE's at National Meeting

The 2016 National IFYE Conference hosted by the Kansas IFYE's was held August 10-14 in Manhattan KS. Those from IL attending were: Joyce Cannon, Anita & Eff Embree, Hope & John Heslop, Bev & Jim Hornickel, Ed, Jean & Jonathan Mies, Ron & Marty Tarter, Dick & Eileen Wagner, Dale & Crystal Yonker, and Larry Wachtel. Also attending were IL IFYE Members living in other states; Mike Coates, Nancy Maxwell-Rich, and Mary Kay Munson.

As of the end of the Conference no state had officially volunteered to host the 2017 Conference, but there existed the possibility that Florida was working on a plan to host the 2017 Conference.



**IL IFYE Association  
15048 N. Haarmann Avenue  
Effingham IL 62401**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**