



**IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.**  
*Peace Through Understanding*

**IFYE UPDATE**

**VOL. 2021, ISSUE 1**

**JANUARY 31, 2021**

**Jan Dennis Wood**

**President, The IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.**

Happy New Year to our IFYE Family. I am pleased and honored to be your 2021 IFYE Association President.

Covid-19 has caused stress for us all and worse for some. We extend sympathies for those who lost loved ones and friends during this fearful year. We extend prayers to those who contracted and survived this terrible disease. You are all in our thoughts. As the vaccine is distributed, we hope it will mean a quick reduction in the numbers of new cases and deaths and that soon life will return to something resembling normal.

*Program*

2020 held both great challenges and great successes for the Association. The IFYE USA Board of Directors, along with all our international partners, took the unprecedented step of suspending the program because of the dangers of the pandemic. The silver lining is that both our Executive Director and National Program Director (NPD) were able to use the time effectively by enhancing the program and the fundraising. Alan Lambert, NPD, was able to connect with potential partners in land-grant universities to the point that several now have serious interest in collaborating with IFYE for their Ag students' international experiences. Ken Gordon, Executive Director, lead the way to a grant from the United Soybean Board. Ken and the Marketing Committee supported the Annual Giving Campaign to successfully achieve the goal and wrapped up the Organizational Capacity Campaign (OCC).

*Board*

We say goodbye to two Board members, Tiffany Hulinsky Klaphake and Don DeWerff. Many thanks to both for their service on the Board and their support of IFYE.

We welcome two new members to the Board.

- Rachel Manning (2016 IFYE to South Korea and Thailand) is a Maryland farm girl whose mother was an IFYE to Greece. She is employed by Anne Arundel Community College as an Admissions Coordinator. Rachel has assisted our National Program Director with IFYE orientation in Washington, D.C., for the last few years.
- Roger Sherer was a 1978 IFYE to Poland. He recently retired from Purdue Extension Service after 40 years as an Extension Educator - 4-H Youth Development. Roger is a farm boy from Indiana. He has significant experience recruiting host families and youth for 4-H international programs.

More complete biographical information for Rachel and Roger can be found on our website at

<https://ifyeusa.org/about/board.html>

*New Committees*

There are two new committees in 2021: Membership and Website Content. Membership continues to be one of our strategic goals. Updating and enhancing our website is also a goal for 2021. If you are

interested in working with either of these committees, please contact Wayne Shull, Chair of the Nominating Committee, at: [wshull@ifyeusa.org](mailto:wshull@ifyeusa.org)

I look forward to leading the Board in this year which may have its unique challenges as well. We do anticipate the National IFYE conference will take place in Branson, MO September 23-26, 2021. Please check the website <https://ifyeusa.org/news-events/upcoming-conferences.html> for details.

## **Ken Gordon** **Executive Director**

### *Looking to the future*

Welcome to 2021. As we look forward to what this new year will bring, we also are looking at what we will make happen for IFYE as we continue to move the Association forward. We are starting off with a new administration in Washington, D.C., and I've been asked if it will be easier or more difficult to work with our elected officials over the next four years. I truly believe that IFYE transcends political parties. Who could argue against giving young people, who are our future leaders, the opportunity to better understand other cultures? We have a great story and profound history to build upon with many audiences, which includes our leadership in Washington. I look forward to working with the elected officials and staff this year and continuing the progress we've made.

### *\$50,000 Goal Reached in Annual Giving*

You made it happen. We exceeded our goal of \$50,000 for the Annual Giving Campaign by more than \$6,000 and counting. These funds will help continue the financial stability of our organization. The campaign kicked off in August, and we hadn't reached our goal when the December Update was issued. In the final days of 2020, your giving put IFYE over the top. Thanks to all those who participated in this campaign. By making donations to IFYE, we are able to continue to grow and expand the opportunity for our Association.

### *Fundraising*

We have already submitted our request to the United Soybean Board (USB) grant for our 2022 program. We will be notified before the end of February if they accepted the two-page concept letter like they did last year. If so, we will receive the opportunity to submit a new full grant proposal for the 2022 program. We are also working with two other commodity groups that have shown interest in similar programs. Fundraising efforts with foundations, corporations, and other associations will be increasing this year as we have added additional support to focus on those efforts. I am looking forward to a successful 2021 for IFYE.

### *IFYE Website Gets Dedicated Support*

As mentioned at the beginning of this IFYE Update, a new committee has been formed and their focus is keeping the IFYE website up to date. The Website Content Committee will be led by IFYE Kyle von Kamp. The committee's first order of business was to add our new vision statement and guiding principles to the website (<https://ifyeusa.org/about/>). The committee will also provide monthly updates with additional thoughts on each guiding principle over the coming year.

## **Alan Lambert** **National IFYE Program Director**

The US IFYE program is planning for a successful year – accepting applications, conducting interviews, and making tentative country placements. At this time, we have thirteen (13) IFYE applicants, and nearly

all have been interviewed. Five (5) of these individuals have submitted their applications for eight (8) positions as part of the IFYE - United Soybean Board Leadership Development grant. These participants will learn more about US soybean exports in their host countries as an enhancement to their host family stays.

However, as there are continuing concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic and a number of our partner countries have already cancelled, IFYE USA will need to make a decision to continue, reduce, or suspend the 2021 program. The decision will be made in the coming months. At this time, we expect to have an outbound program even if reduced in size (number of outbounds & inbounds), length (no less than two (2) months) or time of the year (summer and/or fall). We will continue to work with our participating countries to examine all available options.

### **Patricia Donahue Member – Membership Committee**

#### *Survey of Members from 1948 - 1989*

Thanks to all who responded to the recent IFYE Survey of members fifty and older. With 233 responses, the IFYE Association gleaned important and useful membership information that will inform the Association in both broad and specific ways. Highlights included significant interest of IFYE Family members from all groups (IFYEs, YDPs, Ambassadors, Host families, etc.) in being involved in state and national IFYE programs. Clearly, this group has many skills and time to contribute. About half of those who responded have been involved in IFYE program activities at some time in the last 10 years. About a fourth have been involved in the last three years and about half who responded are life members. This survey is planned to be published at a future date.

### **Sharing Email addresses/checking to update your contact information with IFYE**

The IFYE Association works daily to keep the IFYE Master Database up to date. If any of your contact information (name, address, phone number, or email address) has changed, please go to <https://ifyeusa.org/member/alumni.html> and give us your latest information. Thank you. *(PS – If we have an email address for you, we can keep you up to date on IFYE communications. Otherwise, currently, it is limited to once-a-year IFYE NEWS mailed to the most current postal address that we have on record unless you pay the annual \$20 postal mail fee.)*

### **2021 IFYE Association of the USA Board of Directors**

Janet Wood – Ohio/Florida, President	Larry Gould – Michigan
Carolyn Hansen – Illinois, Vice President	Bob Jenkins – Virginia
Barb Batie – Nebraska, Secretary	Rachel Manning – Maryland
Jess Stairs – Pennsylvania, Treasurer	Roger Sherer – Indiana
Pat Hutsell – Colorado, Associate Treasurer	Wayne Shull – Washington
Alicia Acken – Wisconsin	Sheri Swackhamer – Virginia
Cindy Barnett – Indiana	Victoria (Vicky) Warren – Missouri – Immediate Past President

### **Have you considered a Recurring Donation?**

If you wish to make a donation to IFYE programs, but do not wish to do so in one lump sum, have you considered making a monthly recurring donation? If you would like to do this, you may do so on our website (<https://ifyeusa.org>) under “Ways to Give.” (<https://ifyeusa.org/ways-to-give/donation.html>)