

IFYE NEWS

An Official Publication of the

IFYE® Association of the USA, Inc.

Spring/Summer Issue Published May 6, 2024

Established as International Farm Youth Exchange® in 1948

Survey Results

Carolyn Hansen, President chansen@ifyeusa.org

Thank you to over 400 IFYE Family members who answered our call for feedback with the recent email survey. We gathered much information that will help us with our strategic planning.

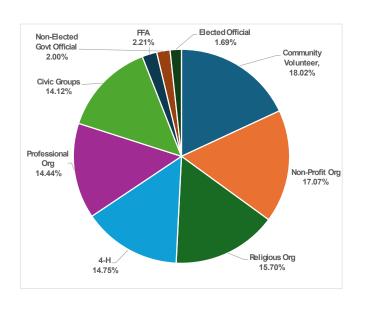
We thought you might be interested in some of the responses. Among them are:

- Less than 10% of those responding were IFYEs or involved with the program after 1992. (While we don't want to draw a lot of conclusions, we are wondering that if you went on program post-1992, what is the best way to reach you to get your input? If you fall in this category, please let us know.)
- Almost 24% of the respondents are involved with their state association. While we would like to see a drastic increase with this answer, it won't happen until we revitalize state or regional associations.

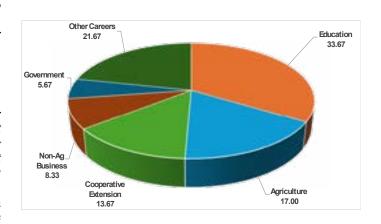
(It doesn't take but five people to get the ball rolling and we have some folks who are willing to work with you to do that. If you are interested in bringing back YOUR state's association, just let President Carolyn know.)

Respondents indicated the percentage breakdown of how the majority of careers following the IFYE experience were spent

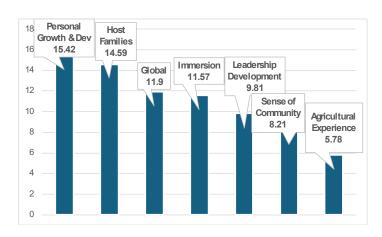
How you've served your community



Majority of Career Time Spent in these Occupations



Program features of IFYE® most important to you (Shown in percentage of total respondents)



We asked you how we can make IFYE more relevant for today's young adults and you shared dozens of suggestions which we will closely study.

If you have a specific suggestion that you would like to emphasize, please let one of the officers know! Their contact email is listed online at https://ifyeusa.org. Almost everything is on the table for discussion!



New Committee Structure

Carolyn Hansen, President chansen@ifyeusa.org

In thinking about what I wanted to share with you about change, I found a few quotes that really spoke to me. There are so many ...

Seth Godin said, "there's no shortage of remarkable ideas, what's missing is the will to execute them."

Yes, we have lots of ideas of how to change our organization, the conundrum is how to bring them all to life.

"Setting goals is the first step in turning the invisible into the visible."

Tony Robbins' quote speaks to what we are starting to work on — bringing our ideas into actions and results. We know that, due to our fiscal situation, something must change and quickly. We have goals which were discussed in the March 2024 IFYE Update. We know we need to change our finances to sustain the programs of IFYE.

The following paragraphs indicate the committees and their current responsibilities.

Finance-related Committees

- The members of the **Finance Committee** develop the budget with officers and committee chairs. They monitor income and expenses to ensure we are being good stewards of our donations and investments. This committee did not change but it is being emphasized to work closely with all the committees.
- The fundraising arm of the organization will now be led by the **Development Committee**. This committee will also include the Development Director. Many of you have already invested in IFYE and we sincerely hope you will continue to do so as we develop and execute our strategic plan. We've already started to reach out to organizations and will continue to do so. This committee is also responsible to reach the goal of developing a diverse portfolio of partnerships that will support the program.

The **Program Advisory Committee** will work on evaluating our existing programs as well as looking at how we can change our IFYE experiences while maintaining the core values and important features of our program including staying with host families and providing immersive cultural opportunities. Our biggest challenge is finding IFYEs who are willing to lead and serve on the committee. We ask you to consider our request to become actively engaged with this important committee. The recent survey resulted in many interesting suggestions that will be discussed.

Alumni Communications Committee — Staying in touch with our alumni and IFYE Family members will be

the responsibility of this newly named committee. These members will be writing the IFYE NEWS, IFYE Updates, and IFYEs-in-Touch.

It is our goal to visit with you, primarily through digital communication. It is currently being planned to send one IFYE NEWS annually to those who continue with no email address, but most communications will be digital to help save on expenses. As always, you may also donate \$20 annually to be specifically used for mailing you the two issues of the IFYE NEWS, as well as the emailed publications of the IFYE Update and IFYEs in Touch, etc. (See page 5.)

Some of you have been hesitant to share your email addresses with us. This is the most effective and efficient way for us to reach you. We do not sell or forward your emails to anyone or any organization. We consider your contact information confidential.

If you have ideas for articles for these publications, please submit them through the <u>Contact Us</u> tab on our website, ifyeusa.org.

Another important goal is to create awareness about IFYE. We are a very well-kept secret. It's amazing how many people who are involved in agriculture think we have disappeared, but we know differently. Our name is not known among collegians and that needs to change since they are our targeted demographic.

The Marketing Committee will change its focus to create a digital presence that will be viewed by many – students, agribusinesses, Extension, colleges and universities (not only land-grant universities) that have ag programs, and agricultural organizations. Innovative, creative, and interesting ideas are needed. There is much to be done and you are needed for us to reach the goal of becoming a household name among agricultural stakeholders.

The **Strategic Planning Committee** (ad hoc committee) works with all committees to ensure we are staying on task and to measure how we are reaching our goals, milestones, and action plans.

The **Executive Committee will** continue to meet monthly to assess the work of the organization.

The **Nominating Committee** will continue to look for IFYE volunteers who wish to join us in the endeavor to strengthen all aspects of IFYE.

The Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures Committee will continue to review all our important documents to ensure they are up to date.

2024 Focus Group members - We are fortunate that several of the non-IFYE alumni (who were part of the 2024 Focus Group commissioned by the Development Committee) have offered to use their industry expertise and serve as mentors to the committees and Board.

Eventually, we hope to form an Advisory Council which will be responsible for providing feedback and sharing thoughts for improvement so that we reach out to new organizations and businesses for investments we meet their needs as well as ours.

Back to interesting quotes ...

Winston Churchill wrote, "Success is not final, failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts."

Our Board of Directors is committed to continue to find ways to make our beloved IFYE organization a world-renowned exchange program that is safe, affordable, and integrated with foreign and domestic partners.

"Whenever you see a successful business, someone once made a courage decision."

Applying this quote from Peter F Drucker to the work we are doing with IFYE, the Board has made a courageous decision to work toward aggressive goals and outcomes.

We invite you to join us in our work, we know IFYEs are busy people. We know many of you have given so much of your time and talent in previous years. We hope you will help us again!

Do We Have Your Best E-Mail Address?

Recently, we have had issues communicating with certain email domains due to new spam filtering. If you have a new email address or would like to confirm your email to make sure we can contact you with vital IFYE news, events, and more, please update your information by going to our website: **ifyeusa.org** in updating us in any of the following ways.







QR CODE for **Alumni/Membership** Updated Information

If there have been other recent changes to other contact information, please also update that information. Using the code images shown above, you may do one of the following.

- **SCAN** the following QR Code with your phone and complete the form,
- Click on the relevant QR Code, OR
- LINK to the relevant URL listed here.
 - Alumni and Membership https://ifyeusa.org/member/alumni.html
 - Contact Us https://ifyeusa.org/about/contact_us.html

Thank you!



Development Director Hired to Lead Fundraising Effort

The IFYE Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Tom Brand has been hired as Development Director. He will lead a two-month effort to determine how funds can be

raised in the agriculture sector to support IFYE.

As mentioned in other newsletters or updates, raising funds in today's climate is not an easy task. Tom brings a career spent in the agriculture sector, most notably in farm program broadcasting. As the former Executive Director of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters (NAFB), he increased the net assets from \$2.48 million at the end of 2011 to \$5.37 million by the end of 2021. During his twelve-year tenure with NAFB, Tom established contacts and partnerships with over 70 agribusinesses and 50 organizations and associations.

Building relationships with individuals and organizations can lead us to increased financial support. Many of you have developed suggestions on how you can best leverage your contacts and his. Although building relationships take time, we are in the position where we need to work quickly and see results soon.

Tom will be working closely with the Development Committee and the Marketing Committee. Members of the Development Committee include: Chair Marty Orris (mjorris@ifyeusa.org), Associate Treasurer Roger Sherer (rsherer@ifyeusa.org), David Gnirk (dgnirk@ifyeusa.org) and Lee Capps (lhcapps@ifyeusa.org). Tom's address is tbrand@ifyeusa.org.

The Board of Directors is hopeful we can significantly increase our income as we reorganize our organization so that we can resume sending and receiving IFYEs as soon as possible. We are hopeful this short-term agreement with Tom will lead to a much longer partnership.

Strategic Plan Keywords from Focus Group Session

diverse leadership
immersion programs
community hosts
research partners
agriculture global business **stakeholders**immersion
collaboration
development
families

development
development
families

We also asked how you would like to be involved and over 250 of you responded with your contact information. Now, we need to find out what you will commit to doing. We'll be sending emails requesting your help.

You also shared many ideas about the organization and its future and how we might get there.

One of the most important pieces of feedback was that 94.58% of you replied that IFYE was needed in today's world. While several have expressed the thought that IFYE may have served its time, the overwhelming sentiment was that we need to find ways to keep our program going. This gives the BOD direction as we look to the future.

It's not too late to weigh in with your feedback. Although the survey is closed, feel free to contact the President at chansen@ifyeusa.org.

In Memoriam

The passing of the following individuals has come to our attention since publication of the 2023 Fall/Winter IFYE NEWS

LM = Life Member SPIFYE = Spouse of an IFYE

Lottye Betts Rye Beasley (Mississippi to England 1952) August 5, 2022

Klara M Bareis Braun (Germany to South Africa 1958) February 11, 2022

Billy A Clark (Kansas to Scotland 1958) June 25, 2020 DeAnn Jensen Clark (Utah to Turkey 1964) September 4, 2019

Jerry D Cope (South Dakota to Poland 1980) April 26, 2024

Paul M Corwith (New York to Brazil 1954) May 3, 2023 Mary Detlor Bloch Gardner (Wisconsin to Denmark 1954) November 20, 2023 LM

Mildred "Millie" Bennett Hacker (Texas to Germany 1953) June 29, 2023

Joan Reid Kramer (Wisconsin to The Netherlands 1960) March 15, 2024

Mary Kaye Merwin (Travel Seminar) July 1, 2023 C Dale Miksch (Kansas to Pakistan 1957) July 27, 2020 LM

Fritz Schnepf (Indiana Host Family) November 13, 2023 Mable Anna Davis Sherril (Colorado to Denmark 1958) April 13, 2019

Robert W Shoemyer (Missouri to The Netherlands 1953) January 21, 2024 LM

Dr Dale Stansbury (Ohio to Venezuela 1963) September 21, 2023

Jean S Thomas (Pennsylvania to Switzerland 1951) September 1, 2013

Gene Vanderbur (Iowa to Turkey 1962) September 15, 2022

Brian D Young (Maine to Norway 1965) October 17, 2022



Jan Dennis Wood, Immediate Past President and Farm Bill Committee Co-Chair

Status of the Farm Bill and other Government Activities Jan Wood iwood@ifyeusa.org

As you can tell by the news media, progress toward completing a "2023 Farm Bill" is very delayed.

Congress extended the 2018 Farm Bill until September 30, 2024. Consequently, it may well be late fall before they arrive at an agreement.

In the meantime, the IFYE Board continues to expend efforts to keep our Association's name in front of those on the House and Senate Agriculture Committees.

In January 2024, IFYE sent a letter to all House and Senate Ag committee members that explained our 2024 retooling/reorganizing/researching and surveying in our Association. These activities are discussed in other sections of this newsletter. As the lead on these activities, I spoke with about 20 legislative aides who serve Ag Committee members. They expressed their understanding of our actions for 2024 and acknowledged our need for support for 2025.

In February, IFYE sent a letter to the same Ag Committee members who responded to some committee members' published lists of priorities for the 2025 Farm Bill. In the letter, we outlined how IFYE can support those priorities.

In March and the first two weeks of April, I completed nearly 60 requests for 2025 Appropriations (for the 2025 budget). In addition, about 60 IFYE alum have been asked to submit an Appropriations form directly to their Congressperson and/or Senator. Our goal is to connect with at least one Member of Congress in every single state as well as every member of the Ag Committees.

If you have not yet been asked to make an appropriations request to your Representative or Senator and would like to do so, please email me, Jan Wood, at jwood@ifyeusa.org and I will provide guidance.

Visibility and numbers matter. One thing I've heard several times is that the House Ag Committee members recognize that IFYE sent a spokesperson to nearly every Farm Bill Listening Session. They know our logo and they know our name.

Please send your personal requests and, if you have time, help us with appropriations requests.



Permission to share my generosity via IFYE's annual donor list.				
	Yes, IFYE can share my name on the annual donor list.			
	No, I prefer my donation/name remain anonymous.			

2024 IFYE Postal DONATION FORM

NOTE: If wishing to pay online, please go to https://ifyeusa.org and click on "Ways to Give" This online area will include automatic recurring monthly, semiannual, and annual donations.

Please check the appropriate box(es) for the support you wish to provide to the IFYE Association. Mail the form and completed action(s) that you have selected and check(s) to: IFYE Association of the USA, Inc., c/o Roger Sherer, Associate Treasurer, PO Box 452, Bluffton, IN 46714-0052

(If questions, please contact Roger at rsherer@ifyeusa.org or call at 260-307-2012)

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I/We	wish to sup						іетірег, гпе	nu, spouse, and/or supporter, etc.)
	\$25	\$50	\$100	\$250	\$500	\$1,000	\$2,500	Other Amount \$
 Donations of non-life members will also include an award of a 2024 annual membership if donation is \$30 or more. Since the IFYE Association of the USA, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization, funds contributed by the Donor are generally eligible for tax deduction consideration, subject to the donor's tax situation. Please consult your tax professional to confirm deductibility. ALL life and annual members have access to the Member Portal area on the website. Please request below. I/We wish to become a Life member(s) \$1000 paid per individual on payment plan by 12/31/2028. \$1000 paid in one lump sum per individual. Enclosed is \$20 for the printing and postal mailing of the IFYE Newsletters, Updates, and In-Touch published in 2024. 								
l	PAYMENT	METHOD						
	I/We have enclosed check #in the amount of \$ payable to "IFYE Association of the USA".							
Please send me/us (by email) access information to the IFYE website "Award Membership area". My email address is:								
	I am/We are unable to financially support IFYE. Please remove me/us from the <i>contact for donation</i> list.							
	THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT of IFYE 5/1/2024							

way discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, gender variance, age, disability, marital status, sexual

httpa://ifyeusa.org

The IFYE Association of the USA, Inc. shall make its services, facilities, and programs available to all persons regardless of race, color, creed, gender, gender variance, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or national origin, and the Association shall not in any

orientation, or national origin.







2023 was a successful year for fundraising among IFYE Alumni and friends of IFYE in our 75th year of IFYE (1948-2023). This donor roll includes the recurring/periodic giving, grants, memorials and in honor of individuals, conference donations, CLUB 75, 75th Anniversary and Celebration donations, and other donations that helped support our IFYE program.

These contributions play a major role in sustaining the IFYE program and allow us to continue to provide today's young adults with a valuable and unique experience in international understanding and global awareness.

It is with a deep sense of gratitude that we share our heartfelt Thank You to all who contributed this past calendar year. We hope that you will continue to help sustain IFYE with your annual contributions and encourage other IFYE alumni and friends of IFYE to do likewise.

Listed below are the names of those who contributed (excluding names of those who requested to remain anonymous) depicted by level of giving as shown here.

Individuals in whose names the donations were made either 'In Memory of' or 'In Honor of' a friend or loved one are also listed below. Thank you again for your faithful support of IFYE!

Diamond: \$25,000 and above Sapphire: \$10,000 - \$14,999

Silver: \$500 - \$999

Ruby: \$20,000 - \$24,999 Platinum: \$5,000 - \$9,999

Bronze: \$100 - \$499

Emerald \$15,000 - \$19,999

Gold: \$1,000 - \$4,999 Copper: Up to \$99

Diamond

\$25,000 and Above

No donations

Ruby

\$20,000 - \$24,999

No donations

Emerald

\$15,000 - \$19,999

No donations

Sapphire Sap						
	\$10,000 - 14	4,999				
The Brandt Foundation Gunver Penton-Lodge						
	Platinur	n				
	\$5,000 - \$9	,999				
Compeer Financial Dr Barbara G Maidment	David G Gnirk Patti Jo Price		e M Loyd wackhamer			
	Gold					
	\$1,000 - \$4	.,999				
Allied Milk Producers Cooperative, Inc.	Don R Anderson	Janice "Joy" Bickford	Dorothy Bickling			
William "Brad" F Bradley, Jr Patrick W Corcoran Ann Foley Gardner Illinois Corn Marketing	Ann Bryant Anna L Creamer Elnore Grow Dan L James	Elizabeth "Liz" H Carlson Linda L Eppelheimer Lad W Harrison Robert and Nicki Jenkins	Maureen L Cook Margaret L Foster Karla A Henderson Kenneth D Jones			
Board Lucille "Lucy" and Stanton Linden	Nancy A Maxwell-Rich	Robert H Miller	Harlen J Persinger			
Dr Marla P Peterson Mabel and Steve Wheeler Joan Wieckert	Jacquelyn Richey Sarah Ann Whitmore Ray D William	Rudolph K Schnabel Dale E Wicke Janet S Wood	Ron and Melanie Warfield Hank L Wicke Norma L Wu			
	Silver					
	\$500 - \$9	99				
Ruth B Drummond	Jane and William Ebert	Jane and William Edwards	Robert E Ellis			
Janet C Floeter	H. Frank "Harry" Graves	Carolyn S Hansen	Richard and Judy Isaacson			
Alan and Christy Ladd Janice Mouton Nancy Schmidt Jo Ann and Tom Trail Dale B Yonker	Susan J Lindeman Douglas C Nelson Bonnie Schneider-Mielke Doreen A Van Sickle	Ernst and Janice Mehl Carolyn D Olson Steven F Schomberg Victoria F Warren	Susan K Morris James B Pendleton Roger A Sherer Elaine E Wolff			
	Bronze	;				
\$100 - \$499						
Anonymous (3) Cindy E Barnett Judy Bell	Curtis W Absher Barbara and Norm Bauer Big River Resources Galva, LLC	Barbara Austin Johnita L Baumgardner Beverly Boesch	Aldean Banker Margery A Bayless Jean Boor			
Georgene M Bordeau Bender	Jennifer A Boruch	Mark K Bowen	William R Brown			
Lee Hood Capps Catherine M Dill Marilyn A Engle	Glen J Chenhall Patricia E Donahue Bernard "Bernie" S Erven	Harlan G Copeland Jewell Deene Ellis Jacqueline Evenson	Phyllis Debnar Lynette L Ely Ronald C Faas			

Adrienne S Fiske	Anona "Noni" and Delbert Frericks	John and Karen Garduno	Rodney H Garnett
Shirley H Gerken	Barbara and Bob Gershman	Evelyn M Graef	Stephanie K Graham- Esparza
Rosanne Hahn	Larry B Hancock	David S Harrison	Barbara Harzman
Dorothy Haskell Chhuy	Elaine B Hatch	JoAnne Havelka	Deborah and George Haynes
Audrey M Hay	Marge Hennenfent	Hope E and John Heslop	Geoffrey L Hockman
Larry L Holbein	Barbara B Horning	Kraig E Humbaugh	Patricia Hutsell
AK Kissell	Helen E Koehler	Rev. Larry J and Sharon "Sherry" Kuntz	John Labrie
Jonathan C Lang	Van J Larson	Marcia S Latta	Genevieve C Lervik
Jerry L Mark	Samuel J McMillan	Roger L McCoy	McLean Co. Alumni Timeless Clovers
Paul H Miller	Karen Mosteller	Mary Kay Munson	Nyla B Musser
Linda and Wayne Nierman	Barbara and Charles Oldham	Nellie J Öehler	Jean D Owen
Roger C Pine	Norma A Pitts	Dwight Quisenberry	Tracy V Remy
Nachelle "Shelly" E Richard	Janet I Rodekohr	Sage Rodgers	Donald F Seaman
Sharon Sharrett-Hasson	Alvin J Sherman	Donn S Smith	Joelle L Snyder
Mary E Steinberg	Jean L Stewart	William J Stroman	Georgia B Thompson
Thrivent/Your Cause Blackbaud	Catherine Ursprung	Jayne Viherik-Brown	Verla Vogts
Larry L Wachtel	Deryl E Waldren	Sylvia Walters-Drake	Susan K Walters
M Brooks and Mary Rose Whitney Ann Zurmuehlen	Paul H Wiley	Larry C Wood	Holly Yoder

Copper \$10 - \$99						
Anonymous (4)	Myra Jean Anderson	Amy Ando	Renee Applegate			
Anette Baron	William H Bohl	Carolyn L Clague	Sherry K Conrad			
Cathleen H Cummings	Donald Deweese	D Warren and Geraldine Drake	Marilyn Drake			
Margaret E Fain	Keith D Ferris	Grace and Brian Funk	Rodney L Hendersor			
Bev K Hornickel	Betsy Inkel	Donald B Kelso	Dawne S Ladeas			
Lillian Larwood	Katharine Leavitt	Betsy and Allan Lines	Richard and Carol Lin			
Hayley Jo Matson-Mathes	Carol and Richard Meyer	•	Mike and SB Nolan			
Stephen J Pontzer	Linda A Pursley	Jean "Jeanne" H Rider	Ardyce Roehr			
Laura A Schick	Marvin Carl Schulz	Betty Jo Smith-Roberts	Joyce Smith			
Squad Locker	John N Stitzlein	Patricia Sullivan-Schroyer	Florine Swanson			
Thrivent	Phyllis L Torrey	Eleanor L Wilson				

Un Memory of' and 'In Honor of' the following individuals:

Eldon "Bud" and Ruth Drummond Kenneth "Ken" Holton Heikki Huttunen

Virginia Aupperle

Hugh Wetzel

Katri Ainikki Linda Labrie Elizabeth "Beth" Pond Natalie Riecks

Hellaakoski Kiviranta

Catherine Smith Melvin J Thompson Thomas "Tom" Trail John Werner

Donations listed above include those made to the 'Tribute Tables at the 75th Anniversary Celebration in October 2023'

and 'In Honor of' the following individuals:

1948 IFYEs	1961 Iowa IFYEs	Ed Aiton	Eldon "Bud" Aupperle
Ed Bishop	John T Capps III	Bea Cleveland	Stan Davidson
Gloria Eichor	Bob Ellis	Lindsay Ferris	Mary Corcoran Harp
Donald Herr	Eric Holm	Mary "Peg" Hoffmann	Lenoir Co. NC IFYEs
Jim Marquand	Hon. Elaine Folks Capps Marshall	John Martin	Shirley Holmes Mills
Betsy Hurtt Moore	Past and Present New England IFYEs	Cathy Cox Pepple	Annabel Rupel
A Hope Shackelford	Reginald Stroud	Dick and Mary Lou Tenney	Melvin J Thompson
Clareta Walker	Lyle Arthur Warren	Mary Wengryn	John Werner

May 3, 2024

New Life Members Since 2020

The listing below shows those who have been awarded Life Membership through donations to Organization Capacity Campaign (OCC), donations over a specific period, part of a specific campaign, etc. from the years of 2020 – to date. Thanks to all who donate to our Association and a special shout-out to these more recent lifetime members.

Sally Gail Susan Nancy Ann Richard Ruth Ann Foley H. Frank "Harry" Virginia Ann Janet Rebecca	Bair Baker Ball Barrett Bryant Christopher III Drummond Gardner Graves Heagney Hertz Hiller Hines	Michael Nicki Russell Kayla Jeannine Betty Hannah Martha Howard Martha Fay Edwin	Holmberg Jenkins Mauch McDonnell Michael Munis Nordby Orris Parks Ruest Sallee Schellin	Roger Wayne Patricia Wanda John Barbara Dona Betty Margaret John Sarah Ann Larry	Sherer Shull Sinning Stephens Stewart Stoecker Turner Vollmar Walshe Westcott Whitmore Wood
Rebecca	Hines	Judy	Schrock	Tiffany	Zweygardt