



IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.
Peace Through Understanding

IFYE UPDATE VOL. 2017, ISSUE 6 September 16, 2017

Florida Conference and Board Update:

2017 National IFYE Conference – Orlando, Fla.

The conference was a success for the approximately 60 IFYE alumni plus their spouses in attendance. And we got out of town before Irma arrived! Special thanks go to all who worked on planning the conference.

Three highlights should be noted by all who are reading this article as they affect the future of IFYE:

1. The new Executive Director, Ken Gordon, was warmly received and drew comments like, “Looks like we got a good one,” from those in attendance. Ken will be publicizing IFYE and promoting increased number of exchange participants and financial support.
2. Keynote speaker and author Sarah Lanier engaged the attendees as she discussed cultural differences in our modern society. So impressed were we of her and she with IFYE that we asked and she agreed to assist Alan Lambert with orientation and debriefing activities in 2018!
3. On behalf of the National IFYE Board, Ken Gordon, Executive Director, announced an Organizational Capacity Campaign for alumni. The IFYE Board realizes that a level of funding is necessary to solidify our association in the eyes of potential donors.

Those who can provide grants and corporate donations expect an organization to have sufficient financing to continue in operation, implement the organization’s programs, and manage donor contributions in fulfillment of the association’s mission. Sadly, IFYE cannot at this time meet the Organizational Capacity challenge.

The IFYE Board of Directors has established a need to obtain pledges of \$200,000 per year for the next three years. To reach the Association’s goal, the Organizational Capacity Campaign is designed as an opportunity for 40 IFYE alumni to pledge support of \$5,000 per year for the next three years. Several attending the conference made a verbal commitment and a “seed money” check of \$3,000 was accepted from one alum along with a pledge for \$5,000 per year! Approximately 30 opportunities still remain. Can and will you participate? This is a tax-deductible donation. Please see the financial section below for further details.

Other board action that did not happen at conference: Wise Choice Solutions has been contracted by the IFYE Board to manage the IFYE website. The company is owned and managed by Terri Wise and she has provided website services for approximately 30 companies over the last few years. Her contract is for the remainder of 2017 with an option to extend. An anonymous IFYE alum has agreed to reimburse the IFYE Association for the services she will provide. This donation also is possible to be extended. Terri will work with Firespring, our website host, and Ginny Warner to carry out the advancement of the IFYE website. The Executive Director will supervise both.

Program Update:

Much discussion occurred in the board meeting before conference and during the National annual meeting with all the attendees regarding the need to increase the number of outbound exchanges in 2018. Numerous ideas were advanced and those will be reviewed by the Program Committee of the IFYE Board in the upcoming months.

Here are some bullet points of what is being done now in preparation for 2018:

- Debriefing for seven (7) 2017 US IFYEs will be held in Washington, DC in early December 2017.
- Working with current IFYEs to prepare news stories and presentations upon their return promoting the IFYE program.
- Meeting with International Studies Coordinator at Central Community College in Hastings, Neb., to explore incorporating IFYE opportunities into their curriculum.
- Moving forward with conversations with The Philippines and Argentina for potential 2018 IFYE programs.
- Weekly phone calls between Alan Lambert, IFYE Program Director and Ken Gordon, IFYE Executive Director.
- Will be attending career fairs to promote IFYE to university students.

If you have questions or know someone who should be contacted about being an IFYE, contact Alan Lambert, IFYE Program Director, at alanelambert@gmail.com.

Financial Update:

Our 2017 budget was reduced by more than \$100,000 thanks to prudent spending. The new reduced budget also includes the addition of an executive director. The board modified its 2017 budget for the remainder of 2017. The new budget is \$227,000 down from the original \$350,000 budget projected for last year. Our monthly expenses are approximately \$20,000 per month. IFYE is a sizeable international organization!

It is recognized that these expenses cannot continue to be totally financed by alumni support. Therefore, the Organizational Capacity Campaign has been initiated to help the Executive Director garner the support of companies and grants.

It is also recognized that many of you make donations, and we greatly appreciate your generosity and want you to continue your support. The alumni portion of the budget is \$10,000 per month and historically donations have exceeded that level. We need that to continue.

The Organizational Capacity Campaign pledges will be accepted until December 1, 2017. Monies donated to fulfill the pledge are tax-deductible and will be placed in a separate bank account. Use of these funds is restricted to organizational expansion as outlined in a separate budget, which is available upon request. Once the \$600,000 campaign goal is reached in pledges, the ability to show this support on grant applications and to organizations and companies that can financially support IFYE should increase our ability to obtain money for the exchange program expansion. This added support will allow the IFYE exchange program to continue growing.

If you have questions or would like more timely information on the campaign, please contact IFYE Board President Art Deisher at 937-935-3807 or contact Executive Director Ken Gordon at 614-539-0234. Thank you for your consideration.

2018 World IFYE Conference:

Conference registration has been brisk! Since the rollout of the registration on the IFYEUSA.ORG website, registration has necessitated the planning committee to exercise the option to increase the hotel room reservations in the IFYE block in Vancouver. Please click on this [conference website link](#) for further details. Worldwide interest is being expressed in going to Alaska! Will you be on-board?

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