



IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.
Peace Through Understanding

IFYE UPDATE

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July 31, 2020

National Program Director Alan Lambert

What's happening with IFYE since the 2020 program was suspended in April? As you might imagine, there is always a list of items on the 'to do' list. The program suspension is enabling me and the Program Development Committee to focus more on items that need additional time and emphasis. I'll touch on just a few of those topics.

Academic credit for IFYE? - As noted in previous IFYE UPDATES, we are working to develop a template to share with universities that could enable individuals who participate in the IFYE program to receive academic credit. This template outlines how IFYE experiences can contribute to meet goals/objectives/deliverables for both the university and the individual. Iowa State University faculty, in the Study Abroad and Global Programs Departments, has been instrumental in providing specific information and guidance in drafting this template. We will soon be sharing this template and pilot program with several other universities that I have been developing relationships with for the past two years. The tweaks that may be needed will be discovered as we go forward and share this opportunity with additional universities.

Commodity Groups - We have also identified an additional potential source of future IFYE participants – commodity groups. As these groups look to develop future leaders, many recognize the importance of a global perspective by these young adults. Current conversations with the Illinois Corn Growers have strategized on selecting IFYEs from that specific organization and placing them in a country with either strong or developing corn production. Our goal is to enhance the traditional IFYE host family focus with commodity-specific opportunities. Commodity groups would cover the individual IFYE's program fee as well as provide additional and continued financial support for the IFYE Association.

State Coordinator Handbook - The Program Committee's continued work on developing the IFYE State Coordinator Handbook has provided an integral support system for IFYE's volunteer state coordinators. A series of IFYE website and handbook training conference calls for state coordinators and state contacts was completed in late May. Extremely positive comments have been received from this training that put in place a system for program continuity.

Country Coordinators and Programs - Though 2021 appears to be several months in the future, I have begun working with other country coordinators to assess our current situations and what the future might hold. As you all know, flexibility has always been and will probably continue to be a key to a successful IFYE program. As the number of outbound participants grows, so is the need to develop more participating countries. Developing strong programs with new countries is a time-consuming process, and through vetting, will be an integral part of any program expansion.

Executive Director Ken Gordon

My hope is that all those who are reading this IFYE UPDATE are well and safe. As you know, your IFYE Board of Directors decided to suspend the IFYE program for 2020. It was not an easy decision, but the Board members and staff have used this time to focus on growth and funding. Although we are living in an unprecedented time, your IFYE Board and leadership continue to work to expand the IFYE program and grow our Association. At the IFYE Board's direction, National Program Director, Alan Lambert, and I have taken advantage of time during the pandemic to develop and implement our priority lists to accomplish for IFYE. These items include recruitment and retention of IFYE candidates, strategies and engagement with universities, commodity associations, other youth leadership programs, and fundraising from foundations, corporations, associations, and government agencies.

Fall Board Meeting - Our Board members and staff will be gathering to hold a face-to-face meeting in September. Our goal is to craft a path forward for IFYE. We will be using information we've gathered from you, our members, to shape the future of IFYE.

Survey - In the days ahead, many of you will be receiving a survey via email regarding the direction of our program. It is vital for everyone who receives the email to participate in this new survey. The results will be used during our September meeting to develop our short and long-range plans for IFYE. We want to know your thoughts about the program and the Association. Please take a few minutes to participate in the survey when you receive it.

Fundraising efforts - Fundraising efforts continue with outreach and conversations with USDA, various commodity groups, foundations, and corporations. Staff and members of the IFYE Board will be holding a series of conference calls with USDA officials in early August to discuss a funding. A budget submission from IFYE that outlines six different areas of program support will be the topic of discussion. In addition, our proposal to one of the commodity check-off boards* is still in the running for funding by making it into the final review process. There will be more on these two fundraising efforts in the next UPDATE.

As you may know, our Organizational Capacity Campaign will end this year. This campaign strengthened our financial position and put us on track to grow. We have made connections to solidify our pipeline of participants by working with the commodity associations, agriculture leadership organizations, and universities. This funding also put IFYE in a position that facilitated our Memorandum of Understanding with USDA. I wish to thank all those who participated in this campaign. Without your support, we would not be where we are today. In this issue, we also have listed those who made donations in 2019. The IFYE Marketing Committee made the commitment to recognize all those who gave to IFYE in 2019. We greatly appreciate your contributions and are using those funds wisely as we work to move IFYE into a sustainable position for the future. Please see the list by opening the attachment to this UPDATE, or by visiting the [IFYE website](#), as it is posted there as well.

You may be asking what you can do to help continue IFYE's growth and success. First, please complete the online survey that will be coming via email to you. Next, your support as members needs to also continue. Please use the contribution form found in this UPDATE. I get questions regarding the support IFYE receives from members. It is important to show other donors that contributions from our membership continue to be received for the IFYE program. I am very encouraged that IFYE is on the right path to success and that 2021 will prove to be a banner year.

*A check off is a program that farmers pay into during harvest to support a specific commodity. For more information click: <https://nationalaglawcenter.org/overview/checkoff/>

A Chance For You, Our Members, To Shape IFYE's Future – Carolyn Hansen

What an interesting and challenging first half of 2020! We have experienced so many changes in such a short time. Along with other organizations around the world, we put our IFYE program on pause for this year because of COVID. While that is extremely disappointing, it has given us the opportunity to stop, take a look around us and think about our program's future.

Elsewhere in the UPDATE, we have listed activities on which staff and the Board have been working. We believe this is a good time to take stock of where we have been, where we are, and where we want to go. With that in mind, President Vicky Warren appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to organize a strategic planning session at our September face-to-face Board meeting.

Jan Dennis Wood, Wayne Shull and Carolyn Seymour Hansen are developing the agenda along with our facilitator Patricia Donahue Eisenmann. During that time, we will conduct a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis. We will develop a framework for the next 3-5 years and develop goals that will strengthen our organization and prepare it for the future. Pat has years of strategic planning and visioning experience within the Clarksville, TN, school district. She is also a trainer for her school district and helps Rotary International Clubs throughout her state with their visioning process.

In order for this analysis to be effective, we need to hear from you, our membership. In a few days, you will receive a short survey via email. It will take less than 15 minutes to complete and you will be able share your thoughts, feedback, and insights with the Board. We recognize that by only using email we will miss responses for those IFYEs who wish to receive correspondence by regular mail, but time and staffing to enter paper responses, are both in short supply.

We will be able to electronically compile this data and see where the organization stands in the eyes of its membership. This picture will only be as good as the information we receive from you. We ask you to respond within two weeks of receiving the email letter (the date will be noted in the cover letter). Because it is an anonymous survey, we ask you to be as candid as you wish.

IFYE Giving Ideas *(This is a new part of the IFYE UPDATE started by the IFYE Marketing Committee. It will contain innovative ways people can donate to IFYE.)*

Is IFYE in your will? If not, you may wish to consider adding IFYE as a beneficiary. In the past, IFYE has received some additional funding from this process by being listed with other beneficiaries. Please consider leaving a legacy by adding IFYE to your will or as a beneficiary to an IRA. IRA contributions are tax deductible. If you name IFYE to benefit from an IRA, then all the proceeds are received by IFYE because we are a 501(c)(3) tax exempt association. As you consider the future and take care of family, church, and other charitable organizations, please also think of IFYE.

Amazon Smile continues throughout the year

You shop. Amazon gives. Signing up is easy. It will work the same as your regular Amazon account, but IFYE will receive a donation equal to 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. When you sign up, you will have an opportunity to select the charitable organization of your choice; so just select IFYE USA. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support IFYE by shopping at smile.amazon.com.

[2019 Annual Giving Recognition](#) (Link to Website list)

Attached with this issue is a copy of those who contributed to IFYE in 2019. It is with heartfelt thanks that we recognize the generosity of so many IFYEs and other supporters. Each contribution helps bring another lifelong experience to a young adult. Your IFYE Board and staff recognize the value every contribution brings to IFYE. Announcements will soon be going out to all IFYEs for our 2020 campaign, and we will again recognize those who support IFYE. If you missed the opportunity last year, now may be the time to put your name on this year's list.



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Please check the appropriate box(es) for the support you wish to provide to the IFYE Association. Return the form and completed action(s) that you have selected to: **Pat Hutsell; 3670 N Bayou Hill Rd, Parker, CO 80134-5111**

PLEASE COMPLETE:

NAME _____ **EMAIL** _____

ADDRESS _____ **CITY** _____ **STATE**__ **ZIP** _____

HOME PHONE _____ **CELL PHONE** _____

I wish to support IFYE in 2020 with the following: \$5,000 \$2,500

\$1,000 \$750 \$500 \$250 Other Amount \$ _____

I wish to support IFYE with an annual Membership fee. \$30 for 2020 annual membership

- If you are a **life member**, you will always be a life member and do not need to pay the \$30 annual Membership.
- **ALL life and annual members** have access to the Member area on the website.
- You can be a member with your \$30 annual membership only, but all contributions (by non-life members) above \$30 membership will count as a general donation.

I wish to become a **Life member** _____ \$1000 paid in one sum _____ \$200 paid over each of the next five years

Enclosed is \$20 for the postal mailing of two IFYE NEWS and eight issues of the IFYE UPDATE published during 2020.

PAYMENT METHOD

I have enclosed my check # _____ in the amount of \$ _____ payable to **"IFYE Association of the USA"**.

I would like to pay the above amount on a payment schedule. Please contact me. Phone # _____

Please charge my credit card: MC_ Visa __ Discover _____ Amex _____ **AMOUNT \$** _____

CARD NUMBER: _____ EXP. DATE: __ / ____ Security Code: _____

SIGNATURE _____

I will pay online at <http://ifyeusa.org>

Please send me (by email) access information to the IFYE website "Paid Membership area".

My email address is: _____

I am unable to financially support IFYE at this time. Please discreetly remove me from the *contact for donation* list.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT of IFYE

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

<http://ifyeusa.org>