



IFYE NEWS

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IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.

Fall/Winter
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Established as International Farm Youth Exchange™ in 1948

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Alan Lambert
National IFYE
Program Director
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He recently reflected on his work and on the 42-year history he has with IFYE

A native of South Dakota, Lambert was a first-year vocational agriculture instructor when he applied in the fall of 1979 to become an IFYE. Following the application and interview process, he was selected to be one of four IFYEs to be sent to then West Germany in 1980.

“With the IFYE experience, you often don’t notice the change in yourself; it takes others to point it out. I found my six months abroad increased my confidence level and



L to R - “Prost!” to the 1980 IFYEs to Germany - Alan Kolibaba (Oregon), Barb Bierman Batie (Nebraska), Alan Lambert (South Dakota) and Carol Baird Nansel (Virginia) - somewhere in the German state of Hessen

Lambert reflects on 42 years of IFYE connections

Barb Bierman Batie, Secretary, IFYE Association of the USA,

As the IFYE program approaches its 75th anniversary in 2023, the organization’s National Program Director (NPD) notes the IFYE mission to promote global awareness is as pertinent as it has ever been.

On Dec. 31, Alan Lambert will step down as NPD after a little more than nine years in the post that began on November 1, 2013.

greatly extended my world view,” he said.

He recalled a day trip he and his three fellow IFYEs made to East Berlin while spending three weeks in West Berlin in the fall of 1980. “As we went through Checkpoint Charlie and into the East Berlin checkpoint, the other three IFYEs were all ushered through after cursory looks at their passports. When it was my turn, I was pulled to the side for a more thorough look.”

While it was probably only 5–10 minutes, the wait seemed to go on forever, he said. That moment capsulized all that it meant to be a visitor in another country and the importance of building international relationships to further cross-cultural understanding.

Public speaking had never been easy for him, noted Lambert, but he found upon his return to the United States, it was easier to talk about his IFYE experience because it was something he knew.

Lambert went on to teach vocational agriculture four more years and then rotated between a number of sales and service careers.

He served as the President of the IFYE

Association of the USA, Inc., twice: first from 1990–91 and again from 2012–13. The latter term came at a pivotal time in the organization as the Board dealt with the merger of the IFYE Foundation and the IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.

In November 2013, he took on the NPD post. “This job entails everything to do with the program except fundraising and administrative duties. I’ve dealt with both the domestic and international portions of the program.”

A major challenge has been trying to promote continued growth of the program with the loss of the Extension and 4-H infrastructure in the 1990s, noted Lambert. Throw in COVID-19 and recent geo-political factors and the past two years have been especially difficult and have had an impact on the program.

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Feb 2022 - Alan with Jonah McDowell - Environmental Science student - at Career Fair at University of Nebraska - East Lincoln Campus

Farm Bill Activities

Jan Wood and Barbara Batie

Since our last IFYE NEWS in April, Association Board members have visited a number of Congressional Agricultural Committee members to plead IFYE's case for support through the 2023 Farm Bill.

June

President Jan Wood and Interim Executive Director Carolyn Hansen attended IFYE Orientation in mid-June in Washington D.C. Just prior to orientation, Jan and Carolyn traveled to the Capitol with the purpose of visiting U.S. Representatives and Senators to promote inclusion of international cultural exchange programs in the 2023 Farm Bill. Both Jan and Carolyn feel very positive about their reception and feel that the time was well spent.

Jan and Carolyn met with Ohio Representative Troy Balderston and his lead Ag Staffer Michael Kotsovos as well as Rep. Darrin LaHood (IL). They also met with staffers for Rep. Cheri Bustos (IL) and Senator Sherrod Brown of Ohio. They took advantage of an accidental meeting with Senator Debbie Stabenow (MI), Chair of the Senate Ag Committee, to give their "elevator speech."

Members of the IFYE Farm Bill committee continue to be in touch with Balderson, LaHood, Bustos, Brown, and Stabenow and are helping reach out to other House and Senate Agriculture Committee members.

September

In September after Outbound Debriefing, the IFYE Association hosted [a Meet, Greet & Learn](#) in a conference room on Capitol Hill arranged for us by IA Senator Joni Ernst's staff. About 15 ag staffers attended; they were intrigued by our organization and enthusiastic overall about supporting our cause. A background presentation regarding this fall's returning IFYEs' experiences was shown. Carolyn and Jan remained in D.C. two more days to make the same kind of visits made in June.

Both made connections with staff from Senator Debbie Stabenow's office and Senator John Boozman's office (AR). Stabenow is the Senate Ag Committee Chair and Boozman is the Ranking Member. They were also able to meet with

GA Rep. David Scott's staff as Rep. Scott is Chair of the House Ag Committee. In addition, they had the opportunity to meet with Rep. "G.T." Thompson (PA), ranking member of the House Ag Committee. Rep Thompson's ag staff specialist, Ricki Schroeder, is very interested in our program and is acquainted with 2018 IFYE, Hannah Nordby of North Dakota. These four individuals form the "Four Corners" of the Agriculture Committees.

Other appointments/meetings were with Sen. Joni Ernst, Sen. Chuck Grassley (IA), and Rep. Finstad (MN), as well as staffers of other members of Congress.

They also had a pleasant chat with Rep. Tracey Mann (KS) whose mother, Roetta, was a 1970 Teen Caravanner! He shared stories from his youth when their family vacation every two years was a trip with the 1970 Teen Caravanner group. They also enjoyed a short phone call with Roetta.

December

The team of Jan, Carolyn, Barb Batie, and Sheri Swackhamer will continue similar efforts after a "Meet & Greet" for the fall and six-month IFYEs returning on December 9.

Other efforts

Ken Gordon continues to work with us, reaching out to Congressional ag staff to identify specific steps we need to take and contacting additional Congressional staff. Our goal is to have an in-person or Zoom meeting with every Senator and Representative on the Ag Committees by year's end.

We have been told by several of the staffers that they will begin writing the language after the new year and after it is determined if there will be new leadership.

Sometime after January, we will start a serious letter writing/emailing effort. The Farm Bill Committee will help keep everyone advised. In the meantime, if you talk to your Congressman or Senator (whether they are on the Ag committees or not), please give them your two-minute elevator speech on the significance of the IFYE program in developing international awareness and for training future agriculture leaders.

Check for 2023 Farm Bill updates located next to Member Login on the Homepage and/or by logging in to the Member Portal and clicking on the Farm Bill tab on the left.

Club 75

IFYE has supported an Annual Giving Campaign for several years. In early September 2022, we created a new fundraising campaign called Club 75. This campaign was developed with a goal of reconnecting to many of our alumni with whom we have lost touch or who have not been active for some years. We asked these alumni to donate \$75.00 – just \$1.00 per year of IFYE's life.

Many of you have stepped forward with a donation; to date, we have raised more than \$20,000 and we've heard from many for the first time in several years. We're so happy to reconnect with you. If you have received a letter and an email from IFYE seeking your support and you have not yet donated, please consider doing so.

Why do we need your support now more than ever? IFYE's Organizational Capacity Campaign, started in 2017, raised \$600,000; it was meant to sustain us for three years. With good stewardship, the Board and management team were able to stretch those funds for five years. Now, we must raise enough funding to carry the exchange through 2023 when we hope to be awarded financial support through the Farm Bill (*see Farm bill article above*).

So, you see how important your support is for the next twelve months. Please consider giving now and, of course, if you wish to give more than \$75.00, IFYE would be grateful.

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Through it all, Lambert said, he has been pleased to be able to strengthen ties with long-term partner countries and launch discussions with new countries or countries who had been aligned with IFYE in the past. “Being able to attend European IFYE conferences exposes us to a broader range of contacts and countries,” he added.



2022 International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) World Congress in Atlanta, GA - Top Left / Right - Gertrude Malachi (main contact) and Alan discussing the potential of an IFYE program with other Zambian attendees.

While he won't see the completion of his efforts while NPD, Lambert said he remains hopeful that IFYE will be able to add partner countries in South America, Central America, Asia, Africa in the next two-three years. “This will greatly broaden the depth of the program,” he said.

Recruiting new IFYEs remains a core part of the NPD's duties. “Career fairs, college events, and conferences are critical to increasing the number of participants. We always

have a large group interested, but not many can make the two-, three-, or six-month experience work for them, so we are constantly looking for new prospects,” he said.

A positive part of the process in the last decade has been the expanded diversity of applicants, not only in terms of ethnic diversity but also in educational backgrounds, noted Lambert.

IFYE has also been working hard to diversify opportunities for participants in career and international trade exploration through partnerships with commodity organizations. Grants from the U.S. Soybean Board and the United Sorghum Checkoff Program (USCP) have allowed IFYEs to have special experiences with commodity contacts in those countries and meetings with Foreign Agriculture Service staff.

Lambert has also worked extensively with state coordinators in finding host families for inbounds and clearing all the necessary background and health checks required. “We work hard to treat the Inbounds as family members as that is a core part of the IFYE experience,” he noted.

After December 31, 2022, Lambert hasn't developed any concrete plans. He still maintains an interest in his family's South Dakota farm, which is currently run by his younger brother. Alan has three brothers and three sisters, making him one of a family of seven which means there are also plenty of family members to visit.

“I may do some freelancing work down the line, but will also aid in the NPD transition, working with whomever that might be to get them up to speed,” he concluded.

The IFYE Association of the USA, Inc., wishes Alan well on the next chapter of life's journey. Remember, “Once an IFYE, always an IFYE!”



March 2022 — Alan (Right) discussing the IFYE program and experience in the Commodities Classic in New Orleans for farmers and ag businesses

Alan's 23rd birthday with his host grandfather at his host family in Hessen



Alan and Rudy Mostar (The Philippines) enjoying a break during 2018 IFYE World Conference cruise in Alaska



2017 Quilt Re-Auction held at IFYE Conference in Florida — originally auctioned in 2016 Kansas — all in fun and fundraising for the IFYE program, highest bidder Alan requested re-auction. (L to R: Georgene Bender; Marj Loyd - quilter, Michelle Stork (last bidder), and Alan

What Goes into the IFYE Experience?

Alan Lambert, National Program Director

There are many components to the entire IFYE experience, including but not limited to: Outbound and Inbound IFYEs, USA State and International Country Coordinators and Contacts, domestic and international host families and supporters, as well as sponsoring organizations and partners around the globe. Without everyone's committed participation, the experiential learning gained by the IFYEs themselves would not be possible.

A sampling of the 2022 Outbound IFYEs' experiences follow, as well as information from a couple host families and an inbound to Colorado. Further related information may be found throughout the year on our website. (For example, check out the article from Marit Hovey regarding the [celebration of Eid](#).)

The 2023 IFYE program is already underway with applications being received. Interviews will follow. Applicant placements will begin with 20+ host countries in January 2023. Interest in the two-month summer IFYE program (mid-June to mid-August) is gaining momentum as individuals are looking for a program that fits between the spring and fall semesters.

As always, we need your involvement to share the IFYE program with others you may know and encourage applications (found on the IFYE website at <https://ifyeusa.org/foreign-exchange-program/become-participant.html>)

Johari Snell (Missouri to Slovenia and Thailand)



Me with my friend Uta from Germany (Right)

"Today I got to meet up with my friend Uta, who is my friend from Germany. She is also an IFYE here in Slovenia. We had a really good time together walking around different farms and dropping off wine!"

"As we were working, we discussed what we have observed during our first week ... we both noticed some of the same things:

- Slovenian people are genuinely open and loving
- Slovenians work hard and stay really busy
- Even though it seems like they do so much work in one day, they have the best work/life balance.

"Uta coming from Germany, and I coming from the USA ... have never seen such a blend of work and fun together. We shared how we both caught ourselves thinking ... 'I'm sure there is a more efficient way of doing this ... but realizing how beautifully they complete each task.'"

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"Being at this host, I feel as if I am with my own family. . .

- Nel is their youngest son (11 years old) and he loves fútbol and making joke[s] ... just like my 11-year-old brother!
- Evina is their daughter and she is so smart, sweet, and loves talking to her friends ... just like my two sisters!
- Jasmine is my host mom and she is a kindergarten teacher and in the evenings we go on bike rides while her children stay home because they are tired! If this isn't my mom, I don't know what is!

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"While at [Turistična kmetija pri Martinovih](#), I picked lots of fruit and helped cook lots of meals for guest[s] and the family. Cooking alongside the women in my host family and helping them serve was a highlight of my time at their farm! Not many pictures during those busy times."

Sarah Liepold (Far left in photo) (Colorado to Wales)



Sarah was practicing for the Walk-a-Thon with the Young Farmers' Club at her first host family and was allowed to change her departure date for her 2nd family by one day to participate in this fundraising event for cancer.

"We ended up walking 34 miles that day and raised a grand total of £10,000 for Velindre Cancer Center. It was a long 13 hours of walking but by some miracle I managed to complete it without getting any blisters. There were about 20 of us walking and when you spend 13 hours with someone you can make some pretty good friends even if some of it is bonding through the pain.

"Despite how bad it hurt to move for the next week, I have to say that this was probably one of my favorite things that I got to do in Wales. It wasn't planned at all and I was very unprepared but I am so thankful that I was able to participate. Now if you had asked me at any point if I would be walking that far I would have said definitely not.

"Through IFYE, I was able to participate in something so amazing that I would have otherwise not gotten the chance to do ... I wouldn't change that for anything."



Josie Noland (Iowa to Germany)

"Language isn't universal, but love is."
 "Sometimes it's difficult being in a new place where everyone around me is speaking words I don't fully understand at a pace beyond my comprehension. I'm trying to learn German, and the process is full of adventures to say the least. However, I've been pleasantly surprised with how at home I've felt with people who don't share my

language. One moment stands out in particular. I was sitting around the table eating dinner with my host family and listening to them converse in German. It was such a simple moment, yet so intimate. I couldn't understand everything being said, but I could absolutely feel the love radiating from my family as they invited me into their lives and gave me a seat at their table to experience those small, everyday moments with them." *From an Instagram post by Josie Noland (June 26, 2022)*

Cora Rhode (Colorado to Switzerland and Devon County, England)

"The reality of IFYE starts to become very clear the longer you get to stay in your country. Sometimes it's not all peachy, and sometimes you have to go outside of your comfort zone to make things work. Once you pass the anxiety of the first few days, the shock of being in a new culture, and the fears of missing out on things going on back at home ... that is when the beautiful part begins."



Carly Claucherty (Michigan to Germany)



"I recently visited a sow breeding farm. Here they can house up to 850 sows at a time and produce over 25,000 piglets per year! ...

"Over the last weeks, I've learned the importance of just listening when someone is sharing their experiences and knowledge with you. You have to go into situations with an open mind, take in the information, and in my case, experience it yourself, to truly understand their perspective."

Marit Hovey (Iowa to Morocco)



Chefchaouen - The Blue Pearl, exceeded my expectations

"Looking back, my time in Morocco was not an easy one, but it was an immense time for learning and personal growth. I learned to trust in myself and practice resiliency. ... I am very grateful for the time I spent in Morocco and will look back at my time with fond memories and lots of laughs."

"I am so grateful for how everyone in the family welcomed us and included us in their traditions and celebrations."

"While I am excited to go to my next host family, changing families comes with a lot of nerves and stress. It is like starting all over. You have to build new relationships with all of the family members. And you have to figure out all of the small daily life things. ... However, it is all a part of the experience and in a day or two, you will be adjusted to your new normal."

Anne Thompson (Michigan to South Korea)



On the first couple of weeks — "I don't always know what to expect here, but at least I can choose to learn from my experiences."

On the way back to USA — "As I sit in the airport in Seattle, waiting for my flight to Detroit, I can already tell [I] miss Korea. The easiest difference to spot is the communication. Not just the difference in the language, but also body language and mannerisms that I hadn't realized I'd become accustomed to."

"Even though I have left Korea, I plan to keep on learning. I hope to one day return to visit again. I would like to be able to see my friends again and meet new people too. For now, I am thankful for the amazing welcome I had in Korea. The many incredible people I met helped to make my time much more memorable."

Sophie Cole (South Dakota to Austria)



Dance class with my last two host families — “... going to dance class every Sunday was something that they always did. I went regularly with them every week unless there was a conflict, but luckily there rarely was.

“I got to know the people that were a part of the dance group while practicing the dances with them. It also wasn’t uncommon for there to be drinks after a dance class, so we also got to know each other through conversation.

“My last class I got to attend was a start to a new season. ... I was surprised at how many people showed up to learn how to dance, but also felt happy because they would get to learn something that I also enjoyed learning.

“Once the dance class was done, there was a time for a few announcements for the dance group. This was normally always done in German and never really affected me. However this time, I got to share ... how much I enjoyed my time at dance class.

“I was very surprised when the leader of the group asked everyone to join in on a ‘going away song,’ to commemorate our time. ... When everyone took part in the song, it really made me feel part of the group. The song for me was definitely one of the best send-offs that I have gotten here in Austria and it will always be a good memory of going on to the next place.”

Becca Pratt (Illinois to Norway and Thailand) with Johari Snell (Missouri to Slovenia and Thailand)



Becca (far left) and Johari (left) helping to load bagged rice into the truck to take to storage

“My first [Thai] family operated a rice and paddy processing farm. While there, I participated in harvesting rice, drying rice, packaging rice, and delivering the rice product directly to the businesses. This farm operation was a perfect farm-to-consumer example.”

Catie Wolyn (Colorado to Wales and Finland)



“Some of the best IFYE adventures happen spontaneously.

I was supposed to spend all day with my host dad learning about sheep picking.

But when a tractor got a flat tire, we cut our day short to fix it. Everyone was out working on silage, so he only had me to help him.

Everything went wrong that afternoon, but 5 hours, 4 trips to the workshop and a lengthy lesson in Welsh curse words later, the tractor was fixed, and he posed with our hard work!”

Sanders Barbee (Kansas to Morocco)



At the holiday home in Ksar el Kebir of my country coordinator (Mouhammed El Bouhdid’s) family; we dressed in traditional mountain dress for this gathering

About Eid al-Adha — “It was so great getting to experience this holiday with a traditional Moroccan family. The most fascinating part to me was the amount of culture that can be found in one family. When I first arrived I was greeted with ‘Salam,’ ‘Bonjour,’ ‘Hola,’ and of course, ‘Hello.’ Their families traveled from Spain and France to be able to spend the holiday with one another. Though I was surrounded by people originally from Morocco, they also represented different cultures that they immigrated to. My favorite part was getting to see how these cultures not only interacted with one another but how they so freely flowed among their family. It seemed so effortless but I’m sure that’s from years of learning and compromising.”

Life-long bonds - host families and IFYEs

Ellen Pratt, 1st time Host Family Parent (Illinois)

Our IFYE journey began when I met Carolyn Hansen during the 2021 FFA convention. As she explained the organization and program to me, I knew our daughter Rebecca would be interested in becoming an IFYE. As Rebecca headed to Norway, we welcomed GyuHo, our IFYE from South Korea, into our home. We had a very busy, but fun-filled few weeks with GyuHo, introducing him to agriculture in our area of central Illinois, as well as finding time to enjoy fishing, his favorite hobby. His first adventure and immersion into our local area occurred during our town's annual Fourth of July parade, where he rode on a tractor with our son Luke and threw candy to the crowd.

GyuHo earned a grant from the South Korean government to start a pet food business, so our first task was to ensure he had the opportunity to learn all he could about pet food production in America. We made several trips to pet stores to check out products, then introduced him to friends of ours who own a feed mill, where among many other things, they make pet food. We had them over for dinner to meet GyuHo and played a popular South Korean game before he headed to the mill for a couple of days. GyuHo really enjoyed his time at the mill and was even able to learn the secret recipe for their pet food!

We operate a grain farm and were able to show him all around our farm, but by the time he arrived, the crops were already planted for the season. We took him on several field trips so he could learn more about grain production, including tours of a fertilizer plant and an elevator. He also spent a day at work with our son Luke, who worked for a local agribusiness during the summer scouting fields.

While there, GyuHo was also able to watch cropdusting and a field application using a drone. He toured a local dairy farm, a friend's hog farm and spent a day working cattle on a neighbor's farm. We spent another day at the Tazewell County Farm Bureau, where he learned about the Farm Bureau and 4-H in Illinois, followed by a tour of a local pumpkin farm, orchard, and finally a delicious lunch.

Although most of his time was focused on learning about agriculture in central Illinois, we still found time to have plenty of fun. We spent a day kayaking on the Mackinaw River, followed by night fishing on the river; he also joined us on a fishing trip with friends to Missouri. GyuHo is an excellent chef and we enjoyed the meals he prepared for us as much as he enjoyed trying some classic American dishes.

After spending time with several other families in Illinois, he returned to us for his last few days before returning to South Korea. We really enjoyed our time with GyuHo and were sad to say good-bye after the going away picnic at the Hansen's. Just as Rebecca made life-long bonds with some of her host families, we made a similar bond with GyuHo and know that we will see each other again someday.



GyuHo Lee
South Korea

Hosting Sioned from and sending daughter Catie to Wales

Kathy Wolyn Interview

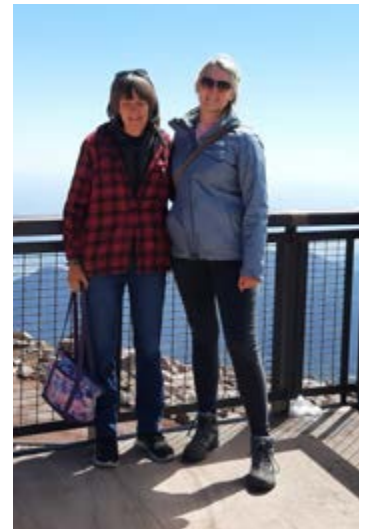
Previous to this summer,, in 2019, the Wolyns had hosted an IFYE "pre-COVID-19". Since that was a good experience, they applied to host again. It was a great experience to have Sioned with them over part of her time in Colorado, explained Kathy.

Catie and Sioned had met in Wales while Catie was being hosted by Sioned's parents — prior to Sioned arriving at the Wolyn's. Kathy went on to say that this helped give their family some insights into what Catie was experiencing.

Both girls could also communicate about items that were unfamiliar to each in the other's home area.

Activities in which these host parents were able to involve Sioned included spending a day at the local high school speaking with the FFA classes, driving up Pike's Peak, hiking, etc.

Kathy ended the Zoom call by saying that the cultural perspective that you gain from having another person in your home is a very definite positive and that they would consider hosting again.



(L to R:) Kathy Wolyn (host mom) with Sioned Davies (Wales) at Pike's Peak

Sioned Davies (Wales to Colorado)

One of my host families "set me up with the local FFA chapter in the high school and I gave presentations to various classes about farming in Wales. It was great to be able to interact with the school children and I learnt as much from them as I hope they learnt from me!"

"I thoroughly enjoyed spending the day with my host mum at her work as a vet at Pueblo Zoo!"

Two personal highlights of Sioned's stay in Colorado were:

- Hiking a section of the Continental Divide Trail.
- Getting to the top of Pike's Peak!



Enjoying Colorado's scenery

Rachel Gray (North Carolina to Germany)



(Left) Rachel drilling cover crops following barley harvest at her second German host family

She says, "They use the crops they grow to make their own liquor and sell it in local stores."

Don't forget to start your fall/winter or holiday shopping at our IFYE STORE (<https://teamlocker.squadlocker.com/#/lockers/ifye-SquadLocker.html>)

IFYE USA receives 10% of sales as a fundraiser for our organization.

Recently we've added winter hats, sweatshirts, hoodies, jackets, and other logo items into our store. Please stop by to browse and take a look to help support IFYE with your alumni purchase of any logo clothing items, backpacks, or tote bags.

Life Membership \$100 Discount to End

The Membership Committee would like to remind IFYEs that this November and December represent the last two months to take advantage of our special "COVID-19 pandemic" \$100 discount off of a Lifetime Membership, which is usually \$1,000. This special offer will not continue in 2023.

Payment plans are available for 2022 and forward to currently structure the payment over 2-5 years.

Please email Associate Treasurer, Roger Sherer, at rsherer@ifyeusa.org or 260-307-2012 to inquire how your contribution before the end of the year could help you with achieving Lifetime Membership status.

You may also find the life membership payment plan information on our website at: <https://ifyeusa.org/ways-to-give/ifye-lifetime-membership-installment-plan.html>

Annual Giving Campaign (AGC)

August 15 - December 31, 2022

Cindy Barnett

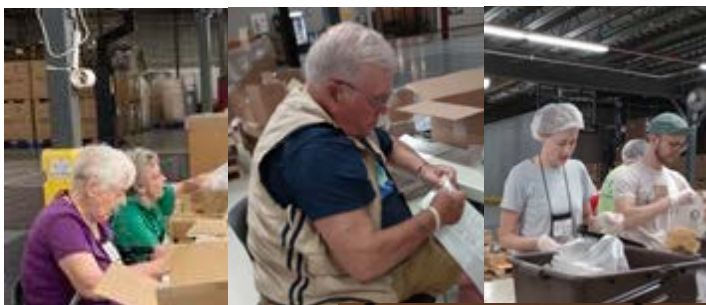
THANKS to many of you for donating to the 2022 Annual Giving Campaign. This year's goal is to raise \$65,000 by December 31, 2022. Your donation gives us the opportunity to recruit outbound IFYEs and host families year-round. In the summer of 2023, we hope to send 30 young adults to our partner countries for a 2-, 3-, or 6-month program.

You can donate to the 2022 Annual Giving Campaign through the IFYE website by

- Clicking on the "Ways to Give" tab on the home page (ifyeusa.org) and clicking on "2022 Annual Giving Campaign." or
- Mailing a check, payable to IFYE Association of the USA, to:
Roger Sherer, Assoc Treasurer
P.O. Box 452
Bluffton, IN. 46714-0052

Please note "AGC 2022" in the memo line. Help us reach our goal.

We can do this. If you have not donated yet, please consider giving a tax-deductible gift to IFYE this year. Every gift is important. Thanks for your generosity!



(Above) June 30 — Conference Community Service Project — packaging foods at Midwest Food Bank in Bloomington

(Right) GyuHo Lee (South Korea to Illinois) and (Below) Martina Christen (Switzerland to North Dakota) — helpers and participants in this year's conference



Many thanks to our conference hosts, sponsors, volunteers, etc. who made this conference one that will be remembered on an upbeat note.



Memories from 2022 IFYE Conference Normal, IL June 30 - July 3, 2022



1952 IFYEs from Wisconsin — (L to R) Dorothy Woodruff McLernon to Switzerland and Bob Miller to Norway



1972 attendees and their host countries:
L to R - Top: Lad Harrison (South Korea), Pat Ament Hutsell (Kenya), Susan Ewing Ball (Germany)
Middle: Maryellen Maloney Sullivan (Venezuela), Linda VanDyke Eppelheimer (Argentina)
Bottom: Jan Dennis Wood (Australia), Lee Hood Capps and Carolyn Seymour Hansen (YDPs to The Philippines)
1972 attendees missing from photo: Nancy Scofield Iott (Germany), Sharon Danes (YDP to Costa Rica), Cliff Willms (Turkey), and David Nass (Germany)



1982 attendees and host countries: L to R: Joyce Fletcher (The Netherlands), Hope Varian Bittner (Japan), Linda Eilks (Germany), Mark Bowen (Switzerland), Cathy Drake (Belgium), and Ruth Trail (The Netherlands)

CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU for your support to 1972 alums and Friends of 1972 who raised a total of \$20,731 before, during, and after conference toward the sponsorship of a future IFYE.



Carolyn S. Hansen
Interim Exec Director
chansen@ifyeusa.org
309-261-1705

Harvest Time for IFYE!

While many of our members were in the field, doing what they do best, harvesting crops to feed the US and the world, your IFYE staff and Board were involved in activities we hope will bear some fruit.

Fundraising

One of the responsibilities of the Executive Director is to raise funds to support the IFYE program. It's not an easy task. Just as farmers plant seeds in the spring, the grant writer and I visit with individuals and groups

to plant the seeds of donations and contributions. Just like farming, until we receive a check in hand, we don't know what we'll harvest. We certainly don't have the risk that farmers do, but we do risk the health of the organization if we don't bring in contributions to support it.

We've sent out numerous letters of inquiry and proposals and are waiting for responses. We are heartened when we see the generous contributions our membership makes for both the Annual Giving Campaign and Club 75. Just as the farmer needs rain to grow the crop, we welcome your kindness with thanksgiving. We're nearing the end of the year when we find out what our efforts yield for the organization. We're hopeful, but as always, we ask you to look in your address books – professional and personal contacts are what we need to nurture contributions.

Recruitment – Students and Agribusiness and other sponsors/partners

Summer and autumn are also the seasons for career fairs and exhibits. National Program Director Alan Lambert and others have made numerous visits to college campuses for career fairs to recruit participants.

We have also attended several major conferences.

- This summer Alan attended the **International Federation of Home Economics** where he connected with professionals from several African countries. He was assisted by Bob Ellis. We are hoping he will reap the benefits of those contacts.
- Alan also participated in a “cluster” (regional) meeting of the **Minorities in Agriculture, National Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS)**. His involvement in a workshop was to share the IFYE opportunities with young adults. Although we have been involved with MANRRS for several years, the recent exhibits have been critically important to our efforts.
- Earlier this month Alan and Roger McCoy exhibited at the **Agriculture Future of America Leaders Conference (AFA)** in Kansas City to recruit young adults who plan to enter the agriculture industry.
- The **National Association of 4-H Youth Development Professionals (NAE4-HYDP)** held their annual conference and for the first time in a number of years, we had a booth. Our goals were to connect with Extension professionals who have not heard of IFYE and to remind those who recalled our organization that we are here,

and we would love to work with them to identify 4-H alumni who would benefit from our program.

- We were present at the **FFA Convention**. Over 68,000 collegians, high school students, and advisors were in Indianapolis. IFYE Association Board members Roger Sherer, Cindy Barnett, and I believe most of them passed by our exhibit and many stopped to chat to learn more about us. We gathered about 75 interest cards from participants who are interested in IFYE and are considering our program in the next few years.
- Barb Batie will attend the **American Federation of Farm Bureau Convention** in Puerto Rico in January. While we won't have a booth, she is planning on visiting with influential members of that organization to seek support of IFYE with the 2023 Farm Bill and additional appropriations.
- We will also attend the **Commodity Classic** in Orlando, March 9 – 11, 2023.

We don't just recruit IFYE participants; we visit with agribusinesses to seek funding and donations. You could say we're fertilizing our IFYE field of contributors by going to these events.

Recruiting local IFYE alum and Friends of IFYE

If you are visiting or live nearby/local to areas of an exhibit, we would appreciate your willingness to help by attending and helping to recruit applicants and perhaps corporate donors/sponsors. It is always better to have a local person help with these events as it provides an opportunity for alumni and friends of IFYE to share their experiences to others and local faces may help nurture contacts.

If you are interested in helping IFYE in this manner, please let us know. For instance, if you are going to Puerto Rico or Orlando at the time of the conferences and would be interested in helping with the exhibit/trade show or visiting with influencers, we would appreciate your assistance.

Thank you for all you do with your generosity of time, talents, and financial resources. It is with your support that we continue to sow the seeds of “Peace Through Understanding.”

Steve Censky - Outstanding Contribution to IFYE by an IFYE



On June 15th, IFYE President Jan Wood presented an award to Steve Censky for Outstanding Contribution to IFYE by an IFYE.

Steve and his wife, IFYE alum, Carmen, were unable to attend the National Conference in June as they were in Norway visiting Carmen's host families and friends.

Steve was a 1985 IFYE to China and was instrumental in assisting IFYE to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with USDA.

Invitation to European and World Conference in Austria 2023

Registration opens January 27, 2023

We are pleased to invite you to the **12th World and 63rd European IFYE Conference** which will be held from **Sunday 27th August to Saturday 2nd September 2023** in **Velden**, Austria. Registration will start no earlier than January 2023.

Velden is a picturesque town on the banks of the beautiful Lake Woerthersee in Austria's southernmost state of Carinthia. Situated less than 20km from the Slovenian boarder and less than 40km from the Italian border, it's the perfect location if you're looking to extend your trip beyond the conference!



We are spoilt for choice when it comes to the programme but we are aiming to give you a taste of Austrian farming life, offer cultural insights and of course give you the opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty of the area.

Our accommodation will be the fantastic **Family Hostel 'Cap Woerth'** which we are taking over for the week. It offers 290 beds with a variety of room options, and boasts stunning views of the lake, including our very own lake access and exclusive sports facilities. Rumour has it we might even have our very own Personal Trainer!

To get to the conference, you have various options such as flying to Vienna (AT) or Munich (DE) and taking the train to Velden, where a pickup service will be provided.

Alternatively, you could fly to smaller airports such as Graz, Salzburg, Klagenfurt (all AT), Ljubljana (SL), Zagreb (HR), or Venice (IT) and make your way to Velden from there.

More information will be published on our website www.ifye.at in due course so please check regularly for updates.

World IFYE Conference

Pre- and Post-Tours

Bob Ellis – Membership Committee Co-Chair

The IFYE Membership Committee is in the final preparations of arranging our pre- and post-conference tours.

Pre-Conference Tour (Austria with side trips to Germany, Slovakia, and Hungary)

Our pre-conference tour begins with four nights in Vienna. While in Vienna, we will explore the city and visit the Royal Palace, St. Stephen's Cathedral, and the town center. We will take a side trip to Sopron, Hungary for a goose farm tour known for its foie gras. In addition, we will explore nearby cities including: Bratislava, Slovakia; Grinzing; the Wachau; Durnstein; Bergrainland; and Lake Neusiedl.

Next, it's off to Salzburg and "Sound of Music" country. Highlights include a visit to a sturgeon farm famous for white caviar, a walking tour, Mirabelle gardens where Do Re Mi was filmed and viewing Salzburg Fortress Castle, a funicular ride to the castle with great views of the Alps and Salzburg.

After crossing into Germany to visit [Kehlsteinhaus](#) (Eagle's Nest), it's back to Austria to Graz for two nights. Graz is filled with Farmers' Markets. There are over 300 farms in the area (the most of any Austrian city). We will visit a pumpkin seed oil plant for which Austria is famous.

We will then head to Velden to check in for the World IFYE Conference.

Post-Conference Tour (Italy)

Our tour begins after breakfast at the end of the World IFYE Conference.

Venice and Verona: Heading for Venice, Italy, we will have a walking tour and free time in the city continuing on to Verona for our overnight stay. The next morning we will head to the Italian Brown Swiss Genetic Center in Verona with a walking tour of the city.

Central northern Italy: This area is famous for Parma ham, Parmigiano cheese, and Balsamic vinegar.

Florence: (2 full days) First stop is - Eataly World (the world's largest agri-food park). It covers 20 acres and encompasses 40 farming factories, market space, open-air fields, and stables housing 200 animals and 2,000 cultivars. There will be time to visit Santa Maria del Fiore Dom (inside visit), Giotto's tower bell, Piazza dei Signori, the façade of Palazzo Vecchio, Santa Croce Church, Ponte Vecchio and more. The next day will be a farm visit with wheat, lentils, oats and other cereal crops, and a winery/olive oil farm and tasting.

Rome: The next day we board a high-speed train to Rome and a private transfer to Rome's city center including visits to Trevi Fountain, Piazza di Spagna with a local guide. We will visit the Vatican Museum, a tour of St. Peter's Square and Church, the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Arch of Constantine, and Palatine Hill.

The tour ends with transfers to Fiumicino Airport. If you would like additional days in Rome, you may request them.

Costs - Tour costs for each tour is currently being finalized. Check back on the [Upcoming Conferences](#) page for more details later this month. Tours are subject to modification as necessary. - Enjoy!

IN MEMORIAM

The passing of the following individuals has come to our attention since publication of the IFYE NEWS (Spring/Summer 2022)

Lewis “Lew” J Bordeaux (*Michigan to Japan 1966*) July 23, 2022 LM

Joyce Ann (Calloway) Cannon (*Indiana to India 1964*) October 7, 2022 LM

Gayla (Whitmore) Critser (*Utah Group Leader to Japan 1988*) November 30, 2021

Raymond “Ray” Clyde Dankenbring (*Iowa to Italy 1948*) May 17, 2022

J Bert Daigle (*Louisiana to Luxembourg 1954*) June 4, 2022

Dorene A Dufek (*Wisconsin to France 1965*) February 26, 2022

Charles “Chuck” S Dunham (*Idaho to Brazil 1955*) June 12, 2022

Dale Fooshee (*Kansas to Sweden 1955*) June 26, 2022

Lois (Hibbler) German (*Nebraska to Australia 1956*) May 17, 2022

Larry J Greene (*Kansas to France 1957*) July 19, 2022

Rodney W Hanson (*SPIFYE to Diana Hebrink Hanson – Minnesota to Australia 1953*) February 16 2022

Homer Jarman (*Missouri to Costa Rica 1956*) July 22, 2022

Hal Judy (*Kansas to Luxembourg 1961*) April 15, 2022 LM

Jeffrey Layman (*Ohio to USSR 1978*) April 20, 2022 LM

John Madden (*South Dakota to Italy 1959*) June 30, 2022

James W Marquand (*Cooperative Extension*) September 12, 2021

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Janet B Marshall (*Illinois to United Kingdom 1959*) October 27, 2022 LM

Harold L Merkle (*Ohio to Switzerland 1956*) December 3, 2021 LM

Sally Narhi (*Michigan to Taiwan 1970*) June 3, 2022 LM

Robert E Oldfather (*Indiana Caravanner to Netherlands 1969*) September 7, 2022

Elizabeth “Beth” A Pond (*South Dakota to United Kingdom 1968*) October 18, 2022 LM

Allen Scheef (*SPIFYE to Jane Herman Scheef – South Dakota to Nepal 1967*) October 6, 2020 LM

Luanne (Hicks) Schmedemann (*Kansas to Scotland 1955*) February 13, 2021 LM

Adele Sudlow (*South Dakota to Sweden 1951*) November 19, 2019 LM

Nancy (Leyh) Tish (*Minnesota to Sweden 1972*) January 5, 2022

Dorothea “Dottie” (Winkenwerder) Roseberry (*Nebraska to West Germany 1965*) May 5, 2022 LM



Traci Ross (Kansas to Norway)

“When finally going on the trip of a lifetime, I found out that you can’t have any expectations. If you want to enjoy your time to the fullest, you have to let go and live in the moment. Time flies if you let it pass you by; so don’t forget to speak up when you want to try new things.”

(Left) Traci harvesting. She also harvested the root of the cabbages which is called a “Norwegian Orange.”



October 2022 (Right:) Jackson Tubbs - 2022 IFYE alum (Iowa to Germany) manning the IFYE booth at the Iowa State University Career Fair.