



2023-2024

FFCI Leaders Needed

Let's keep FFCI Going and Growing



For next year FFCI needs:

1. President
2. President - elect
3. Montana Outbound Journey Coordinator
4. Bi-Monthly event and event planners
5. Membership
6. Publicity
7. Historian
8. Communications

Contact Sedahlia Crase to volunteer.

Phone: 515-708-4012

email: sedahlia@iastate.edu

help lead FFCI into the future

To have a club we need leaders. Join these continuing leaders.

Past President: Sedahlia Crase

Secretary and Information Technology:

Margaret Epplin

Co-Treasurers: Jerry & Alta Byg

Newsletter: Dennis Dake

Activities Coordinators: Charene Starcevic & Corry Bertelsen & Dot Dake

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Oct 18 Olympic Lawn Games & Soup Supper
4:00 - 6:30 Martia Thompson's house,
Cancelled until 2023
2728 Meadow Glen Road

Dec 3 Annual Holiday Potluck Party and
White Elephant Gift Exchange
Village Co-Op, 2525 Bobcat Drive,
11:00 - 2:00 pm
Judy Mongin, Chair

Who will lead FFCI???

FFCI currently has 47 dues paying members for 2022. The total number of members has been diminishing throughout the 3 years of the pandemic, but our existing membership seems to look forward to getting together, as witness all the highly successful events organized and coordinated by Corry Bertelsen and Charene Starcevic this year. Can we build on this organized effort and come back even stronger next year? As with many years, the question seems to be: Who will step up and lead us? So far we have no volunteers to assume the President and President-elect positions and to serve as our first assigned outbound Journey Coordinator to Montana. Those three positions are critical to keep our club going for the coming year. Won't some of you join the returning board officers and past president, Sedahlia Crase in building our club into the future? We need your energy and talent more than ever!

Some of you who have been long term members of FFCI will know that there used to be 5 active clubs here in Iowa: Des Moines, Cedar Rapids/Iowa City, Quad Cities, FFCI and Dubuque. What is missing from this list now, which was originally functioning in the 1970's onward inspired by Iowa Governor Robert Ray, is the Dubuque Club. A few years ago this group was forced to dissolve, not because there were not members in the Dubuque area, but because no members would assume leadership positions. A leaderless group of individuals does not equal a Friendship Force club.



**Annual Holiday Potluck Party
and
White Elephant Gift Exchange**

**Saturday, December 3, 2022
11:00 - 2:00 pm**

**Village Co-op
2525 Bobcat Drive,**

*Remember, this is a
potluck.
Bring a main dish,
appetizer, salad or
dessert.*

Contact:
Judy Mongin, Chair
Jemongin50@gmail.com
515-450-1281 phone



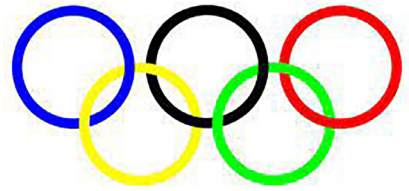
And



Dig out those White Elephant treasures that you have been saving for the past couple of COVID years, wrap them up to surprise everyone, dust off your Christmas festive clothing and get ready to revive a holiday tradition. The FFCI Christmas Potluck Party and White Elephant gift exchange are on again this year. Thanks to member Judy Mongin for reserving the party room at Village Co-Op where she resides. More information will be forwarded before December 3rd. See you there.



~~Hello FFCI Members!
 We invite you to join us for the
FFCI Fall Fun Olympics
Tuesday, October 18
 4 - 6:30 pm
 2728 Meadow Glen Road~~



Cancelled until 2023

Past events since our last Newsletter

September 8: FFCI Pot Luck & Sing-a-Long & Game Night

TRY TO REMEMBER A TIME IN SEPTEMBER

We called it a Trifecta, but no gambling was allowed on September 8 when 30 FFCI members gathered at Moore Park in Ames. Of course you took your chances, when it came to door prizes; Kueier and Bob “won” a giant box of cucumbers. Still, we all had good luck with the food. (By the way, who made the yummy stuffed mushrooms?) But I digress.

Ginny Molgaard and Dot Dake led a fun-filled evening of silly games, a Super supper, and sing-a-long, led by The Belles. Maybe next year we’ll call it the triple S night, featuring The Sopranos. Wouldn’t it be fun if everyone had to bring something that started with **S**? Maybe salmon patties, sour dough garlic bread, spinach quiche, samosas, and S’mores. This was once done on Sesame Street, I think.

We had fun batting balloons and finding what we had in common with people we thought we already knew. Moore Park’s small shelter was a cozy spot, in case of rain, which it didn’t. We’ll take our chances at Moore again in 2023. See you there!

Dot Dake



Bob and Kueier opening their big door prize.



Balloon games after great potluck food.



The Belles lead the sing-a-long.



Some of the crowd of 30 members.

October 3: Private Cruise on the Empress pontoon boat on Iowa River.

There were 30 members of FFCI and 6 invited members from FF of Greater DesMoines who enjoyed an hour and half cruise in beautiful fall sunshine along the Iowa river in Iowa Falls. Courtesy of our hosts and organizers, Roger and Corry Bertelsen. We sat mostly on the upper open-air deck and enjoyed homemade cookies and bars, washed down with ice tea and lemonade. The trees along the river provided a beautiful fall color backdrop throughout the cruise. Our captain served as an entertaining and knowledgeable tour guide along the way.

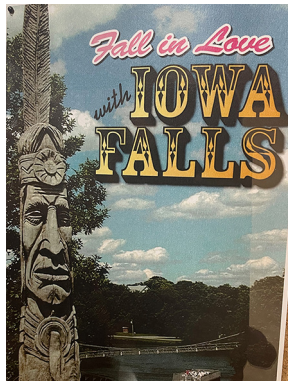
This was our first post pandemic outbound domestic journey from Ames. I am sure this inspired all of us to contemplate future longer Friendship Force journeys to farther destinations throughout the US and even the world in the years to come.



All aboard: 30 FFCI members and 6 FFGDM club visitors. Off on a beautiful fall cruise.



Boat arrives for tour.



Cruising down the Iowa River.



Roger and Corry, planners and hosts. with Kueier ready to board.



Linda and Bernie White, happy travelers, with Sedahlia and daughter behind.