

**COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS  
(CVIP)**

November 10, 2010

**Minutes**

President David Horner convened the meeting.

Present: David Horner, Iris Horner, Cheryl Highstreet, Peggy Arbanas, William Eubank, Carol Towl, Stacy Bieler, Fred Fritz, Midge Morrow, Nicole Namy, Dasha Shamrova, Pam Siever, Lisa Homeniuk, Mary Barrett, Pat Barrett, Ann McCall, Bonnie Bankson, Erica Larsen, Marion Chapman, Arief Wibawanto, Susan Russick, & Yoichi Hirose.

Minutes from October 2010 approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – No Report.

*Dottie Schmidt*

**ACTION ITEMS:**

CVIP Web - Calendar - Send events and dates to Pat Barrett. It was agreed that listing on the CVIP calendar should be inclusive to let web-browsers see the wide range of activities we sponsor.

– Lisa Homeniuk volunteered to coordinate the board educations programs during spring semester, 2011.

Approve new appointees to Visioning Committee: Ruslan Mursalzade & Pat Barrett  
**Action: Approved.**

Fund raising for CVIP scholarships – Younker coupon books – Iris Horner 102 books sold to date for \$510.

Proposal to create a CVIP Elders Council - Pat and Mary Barrett

**PROPOSAL FOR “CVIP ELDERS” (AD HOC COMMITTEE) Presented by Mary and Pat Barrett.**

**Rationale:** An elder is one who is respected for their knowledge. With the aging of CVIP's volunteer base, there seems to be a niche in which longtime volunteers could serve. Numbers of our active volunteers are in their late 70s or older. They often do not wish to be as active as in their younger days, but they do not want to retire from CVIP when they give up their chair positions. There should be a place in CVIP, such as a committee of “Elders”, where they can continue to be connected and engaged, if they wish, with CVIP activities and give meaningful service. There might be single shot projects which they could organize or help with on a non-chair basis. In addition, it would give these former chairs an opportunity to keep in touch with one another on a social basis, a very important issue for aging persons.

These Elders have a wealth of knowledge which could help to keep the newer chairs from reinventing the wheel and instead enable them to focus their energies to improving the “wheel,” with new ideas and new technology. There is no doubt that the CVIP wheel will need to be more effective and more time-efficient as it rolls through the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Structure:**

The CVIP Elders would exist as an ad hoc group of former CVIP Board members having a common desire to continue contributing their expertise and experience for the betterment of CVIP. No formal meetings (other than those that modern technology might allow or that the group itself would care to organize) are envisioned, nor would there be any cost to the participants other than their time. If the Elders members wished, they might designate a leadership position/s and contact person/s for efficiency's sake. The CVIP President could access the Elders input through email or phone whenever s/he wished to gain an additional perspective on any given issue or wishes to engage them in a special project.

**Implementation:**

1. To begin, a list of possible Elders members would be assembled.
2. Persons on the list would be given background information about the proposed plan.
3. Follow up email or phone messages would be sent to persons on the list to determine their willingness to be listed.
4. A participant data base would be established (largely derived from the present CVIP membership list).
5. The CVIP President would be given the phone numbers and email addresses of all Elders members. A list of Elders members might be given out along with the CVIP Board Directory for the convenience of the Board members.

**Maintenance:**

1. Names of willing participants would need to be added to the list as persons retired from the Board.
2. Names of those retiring from the Elders for whatever reason would need to be deleted.

**Pros: The CVIP Elders...**

- Could keep retired Board Members involved in CVIP rather than drifting away.
- Would allow the President easy access to the wide and varied experience of past Board members.
- Could offer information and/or counsel to the President regardless of the members' location in the country.
- Would cost CVIP and OISS nothing.

**Cons: The CVIP Elders...**

- Would require some CVIP volunteer to establish and maintain the Elders membership list.
- Would require additional copies of the Board minutes and the CVIP Annual Report to be sent to the Elders members on a timely basis.

**Possible Elders Candidates:**

Ann McCall, Lillian Kumata, Lois Park, Betty Spata, Shirley Walter, Cynthia and Ralph Johnston, Lori Dyal, Emily and Al Wolf, Kathy Niemeyer and Bill Magee make up a preliminary list of possible candidates. – add Margaret Gunn, Jean Lockwood, Arlene Roe

**Action: Concept approved after discussion. Group will choose how it will be called and CVIP will approve it at that time.**

Proposal - Playgroup for American and International Children

## PROPOSAL FOR CVIP PROGRAM

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NOVEMBER 10, 2010

- TITLE:** Playgroup for American and International Children
- WHAT:** Regularly scheduled playgroup inviting moms with children 0-5 years old to meet for an international playgroup. Each meeting will be about 2 hours, with various activities, which may include bilingual storytime, games of different cultures, and/or snacks.
- WHY:** Connecting both the children and the parents enriches the experience of both. International moms can tap into information about local parent and kid resources, and all moms give their children the experience of hearing different languages, appreciating the diversity of other families, and building a new network of friends.
- HOW & WHO:** Lisa Barron will serve as coordinator of the playgroup, setting up dates, times and locations, and letting both international moms and American moms know about the playgroup dates. Using email and websites, like meetup.com, the playgroup can grow over time as more people are aware of it, and more new moms are in the area. Other moms may wish to coordinate/suggest gatherings too.
- WHERE:** Playgroups can be arranged inside or outside, depending on the season. Examples include Burger King playland; MSU Children's Garden; and/or local parks.
- WHEN:** 1-2 times each month. It would be good to arrange a weekday time along with an evening/weekend time for working moms.



### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Lisa Barron, 989.627.1940, lbarron77@gmail.com

**Action: After discussion Board approved playgroup as a pilot program through 2011. Cheryl Highstreet will share the board's suggestions and concerns with Lisa.**

- Perhaps the program could accommodate dads or grandparents if they are primary caregivers.

- The MSU Community Club had a similar program several years ago. You might want to contact them to see if they have any helpful advice.
- Another similar program met at rotating American moms' houses.
- Friendship House found that meeting at one place was less confusing and promoted larger attendance.
- Karrie Korrack at the East Lansing Library has a good story time component for you to consider.
- Likewise, CADL's main branch downtown has several programs for young children. It also has the advantage of being at the end of all the bus lines.
- A couple of members voiced the following concerns:
- Evening meetings might be difficult because of baths and early bedtimes for young children.
- Budget requirements. (These items taken from Cheryl's 11/10 e-mail to Lisa Barron).

## PROGRAM REPORTS

**Every Tuesday:** No report.

*Christine Van Nada, ET co-chair*

**Home Visits:** A total of 91 people participated in the Home Visits activity on Tuesday, November 9, 2010. Students, driven by community volunteers, visited one of ten homes, hosted by community volunteers, to socialize (practice their English), have refreshments, and receive a tour of the home.

Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, not all of the 94 students enrolled in the Okemos English Language School, could participate. Sixty-six students signed up, and 63 students and 4 teachers did participate. Twenty-four community members served as hosts, drivers, and in some cases, both. All but 5 of the community volunteers had participated with CVIP within the last two years.

As the students returned to the school, I witnessed a lot of hugging, and contact information exchanges between volunteers and students. As I followed up with participants, I received a lot of positive feedback, so I concluded that the activity succeeded in embracing cross-cultural communication in our community.

*Lisa Homeniuk*

**Global Festival:**

*Peggy Arbanas*

**International Friendship Program:** Susan Russick and Pam Sievers have agreed to take over the program. Bonnie will continue maintaining the database.

*Iris Horner*

**Lending Center:** No Report.

*Erika Larson*

**Scholarship Program:** No Report.

*Lois Sollenberger*

**Speakers Bureau:** International volunteers with Speakers Bureau have made several presentations in October and early November.

**Oct. 6:** Likit :Preeyanon from Thailand spoke to the Senior Citizens at Allen Neighborhood Center.

**Oct. 29:** Gana Ndiaye from Senegal and Fatma Mahfoud from Libya traveled to Charlotte where each made two presentations, one to the Eaton County Day Treatment students and one to the students in the detention classroom at the same facility. Speakers and students alike gave glowing reviews of this time of cultural exchange.

**Nov. 3:** A presentation by Nyasha Mutumwa from Zimbabwe was well received by the Senior Citizens at Allen Neighborhood Center. Nyasha was pleased to see the audience interest and to get so many additional questions from them.

International speaker presentations were scheduled directly through Nicole and Dasha in the OISS at Sparrow Hospital, East Lansing Public Library, and the AL 200 class at MSU.

In the near future, International Speakers will be going to the Meridian Senior Center, Allen Neighborhood Center, and the International Interest Group of the MSU Community Club.

*Carol Towl and Kathy Bossen*

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Administrative Services:** *No Report.*

*Pat Barrett*

**Executive Committee:** *No Report.*

*David Horner*

**Leadership:** *No Report.*

*Iris Horner*

**Membership:** 850 members at the present time; most are from Friendship Family.

*Pat Barrett*

**Office:** Bill will be retiring soon. He has an impending trip to China. His position in the office will need to be filled. David expressed his appreciation; the Board concurred.

*William Eubanks*

**Public Relations:** The newsletter is going out tomorrow went out on Friday and should be delivered tomorrow. An electronic version of the newsletter was sent to a few people for reactions. Pat Barrett will contact those members who have given us an email address to see if they would like the NL electronically or a hard copy. Stacey suggested that members be encouraged to print their own copy.

*Stacey Bieler*

**Visioning:** No Report

## ADJUNCT REPORTS

**Church Women United:** The "Piecing Earth Together" went well; the December program is a music program at Asbury UMC Methodist, 12/13 at 1:00pm.

*Marion Chapman*

**A+ English Language School/Okemos Adult Education, English As A Second Language, ABE and GED:** No Report. *Jo Pammeter*

**ISP Dean's Office:** Nicole reported that Ravi Ammigan, assistant director of OISS, has been appointed the Acting Director of VIPP, effective November 1, 2010..

**International Spouse Connection:** No Report. *Cheryl Highstreet*

**OISS Report:** The postings have been closed for the two positions; hiring should happen soon. Please check out the OISS calendar of Events on the web site. At the recent Friends of OISS Admissions raised concerns regarding number of provisional students being admitted, large number of undergraduate students with attendant handholding, and efforts to make the "first year experience" meaningful to provisionally admitted students in particular. *Nicole Namy*

**VETP Report:** No Report. *Dottie Schmidt*

**VIPP Report:** No Report. Thanksgiving Dinner for students will be held November 23 at 6:30 pm. *William Eubanks*

#### **CVIP BOARD BUSINESS:**

Suggestions from 2010 evaluation form – deferred for lack of time.  
CVIP's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bash 2012 - deferred for lack of time.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

November 19 – Essay Awards - Spartan Room B& C International Center 4-6 pm  
November 21 – Global Festival – Noon – 5 pm MSU Union  
November 30 – Retreat Review Ad Hoc group 9:30 – 11:00 ULC  
December 1 – Executive Committee - 9:30-11:00 ULC  
December 8 – Board Meeting – Refreshments by Home Visits, others  
December 10 – Visioning Committee – 7:30-9:00 ULC

Meeting adjourned at 11:18 am.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Fred Fritz  
Secretary  
11-10-10

#### **EDUCATION PROGRAM:**

Arief Wibawanto, Vice President of the International Student Association (ISA) gave a brief background of ISA, its main activities, and listed three programs or activities that would enrich the experiences of international students 1. Combination of Home Visits and IFP; 2. More opportunities to practice English; 3. Develop programming during "dead times" during Fall Orientation. (Fred – Arief will send me a copy of his PP.). A rich discussion of each proposed activity ensued and will be considered by CVIP. Arief agreed that he would try to attend future CVIP board meetings to keep the conversation going b/w ISA and our community group.

Program adjourned about 11:55.

Submitted by David Horner