

# COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS (CVIP)

Board Minutes  
November 13, 2013  
FINAL

**ATTENDANCE:** Peg Arbanas, Mary Barrett, Pat Barrett, Stacey Bieler, Marion Chapman, Rick Emerson, Karyn Goven, Michael Harrison, Mary Hennessey, Cheryl Highstreet, Iris Horner, Larry Karnes, Erika Larson, Sue McDonald, Jo Pamment, Wendy Pope, Barb Sawyer-Koch, Dottie Schmidt, Pam Sievers, Jim Stedman, Carol Towl, Christine Van Nada, Susan Ventocilla. OISS Staff: Joy Walter.

**OPENING REMARKS:** *Pam Sievers, President*

Asked Sue McDonald for brief summary of her trip to Japan. Members asked Pam to share some highlights of her trip to Europe.

**SECRETARY'S MINUTES – October 2013 - Susan McDonald – M/S/A** (motion made/seconded/approved)

**TREASURER'S REPORT – David Horner – October 2013 – M/S/A**

## Accounts at MSU Federal Credit Union

### Income – MSUFCU

\$ 5.75 Shares  
\$ 12,583.82 - IMMA  
\$ 592.74 - Checking  
\$ 13,182.31 - Total

*Report submitted electronically*

**David Horner**

We received a \$150 contribution from Church Women United which will show up in the November statement.

We have established a new sub-account titled, Scholarship Savings, to manage the receipts and contributions to the CVIP Scholarship Fund from the Global Festival Gift Shop. Monies from this account will be transferred directly to our scholarship fund with MSU Development.

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## GLOBAL FEST – *Dottie Schmidt/Wendy Pope*

1. Passed out layout of Brody space
2. Updates of schedule for transfer of goods to Brody and unpacking
3. New this year is Square One – ability to use credit card transactions
4. With 501C status, we can collect direct donations at the Festival, while payments for Global Fest purchases can go directly to Scholarship Fund.

## OISS/Global Fest – Joy Walter

1. Parking Passes – Saturday and Sunday for volunteers – Campus police will not ticket around Brody during the weekend. All lots around Brody will charge \$5.00 for parking.
2. Joy has recruited many student volunteers to assist with Global Fest.

**OISS UPDATE – Joy Walter**

1. Charles Liu is a new hire, as an International Student Advisor (campus outreach).
2. Open Doors Report – Number 9 in the country for International Students. Study Abroad is Number 5.

**FIRST QUARTER REPORT** – Draft a Dashboard Report of five goals (worked on these goals during the 2013 Fall Retreat)

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORTS – included with minutes**

Twenty (20) MasterCard Students have been matched for Thanksgiving dinner.

(Discussion arose about on-campus Thanksgiving dinner made available to students. Suggestion was made to get us on the ISA ListServe to find out about Student events on campus.)

**EDUCATION/SPEAKER**

Mary Hennessey (Board Member) attended National Conference of Extension Service on Volunteers. She conveyed some of the highlights that may be of interest our interactions with volunteers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Executive Meeting – January 8 (change to accommodate holiday)

Board Meeting – January 15

**REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE: December – Executive**

Submitted by Secretary, Sue McDonald

**November 2013  
CVIP Committee Reports**

**A+ English (ESL Board Report)**

We want to give many thanks to the CVIP Hosts, Hostesses and Drivers who treated our students to visits to their homes. This is such an important contribution to our students' experience here. One student said: "When we arrived, we saw a sign in front of the house (on the street) saying WELCOME in three languages: Arabic, Chinese and Spanish." Another commented that: "Yesterday, I had a great experience. Our group visited Mona's house. . . .When we left, she gave us a beautiful scarf. The scarf must be warm while I remember her. I can't tell everyone how grateful I am. I have one more happy memory in my heart."

Everyone is looking forward to inviting the Hosts, Hostesses and Drivers to our Thanksgiving luncheon, and having an opportunity to further friendships.

Our students continue to learn English as well as American customs and enjoying opportunities to explore life in Michigan.

-- Submitted by Jo Pamment

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**Admin Services**

**Office:** This fall the Office Volunteer Team includes John Alzubaydi (Co-Manager), Carol Towl, Ruby Bato and Pat Barrett (Co-Manager). The Office is still missing one volunteer, but we wish to thank Pam Sievers for helping to fill the Wednesday spot during the last month.

**Membership:** The list contains approximately 945 names of families and individuals. This month a number of former members were dropped from the membership list for various reasons, including relocation, illness and several years of non-participation in any CVIP program. However, a few new volunteers were added to the list, mainly participants in IFP and tutors for VETP.

We would appreciate the cooperation of the program chairs in helping to keep the membership list up to date. We expect a good number of new volunteers in the World Gift Shop and donors in the Scholarship Program and the Lending Center. Please give us their names, mailing addresses and if possible, their email addresses. Thank you!

**Website:** Updated notices of deadlines, new pictures, and revisions to various online application forms were the main changes to the CVIP website this month. More new pictures for the program pages would be welcome, however.

--Submitted by Pat Barrett

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**CVIP Alumni**

The CVIP Alums met on Tuesday, October 29, 2013 at the Grand Traverse Pie Company, E. Lansing, MI from 1:00 to 3:00. . Attending:: Mary and Pat Barrett, Cynthia and Ralph Johnston, Bill Magee, Mitsuko Marx, Ann McCall, Kathy Niemeyer, Emily and Al Wolf, Barbara Sawyers-Koch, Don Koch.

Each person purchased whatever food they wished; a berry pie furnished by OISS was enjoyed by everyone as dessert.

The passing of Shirley Walter and Peg Higbee was sadly recognized. Emily Wolf told some of the background of Shirley's activities in the later part of her life after she moved to Traverse City. Mary Barrett reviewed Peg Higbee's involvement in the establishment of the Homer Higbee Award, as well as her early involvement with CVIP.

The group shared updates on the upcoming Global Festival, on our Younkers fundraising and on events in our lives with various international students. It was a pleasant sharing of some memories and some current activities of CVIP.

--Submitted by Ann McCall

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**CVIP Newsletter**

The CVIP Newsletter committee wants to thank the board for their submissions. The Fall 2013 Newsletter announcement was emailed to 611 and the hard copy mailed to 318. This is the first time that Pat has sent a message telling the recipients to connect to a link on the CVIP website instead of sending the actually newsletter online. The editors for this edition were Pat Barrett, Mary Barrett, Jing Yang and Stacey Bieler.

--Submitted by Stacey Bieler

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**Global Fest**

Over the last several weeks our team has continued to price and pack the numerous donations we have received. After a meeting with Joy Walter at Brody, we revised the proposed lay-out of tables for the Gift Shop. Mary Barrett has kindly agreed to make a new set of display signs. We are hoping that there will be large signs at Brody directing customers to the Gift Shop. I have contacted Carlos Fuentes to confirm his help on Saturday, November 16 to transport the boxes and items from the Lending Center to Brody, starting at 8am. Dottie Schmidt has arranged for some volunteers to arrive at Brody at 9.30am to unpack the boxes and begin setting up. We are hoping for a successful day on Sunday, November 17.

--Submitted by Wendy Pope

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**Home Visits**

Home Visits were held on October 23, 2013. Fifty-one ESL students from the Okemos A+ English as a Second Language School were hosted in fourteen homes.

Thanks to the new home hosts, Ann House and Barbara Reink and to returning hosts: Stacey Bieler, Mona Brandou, Cathy Claypool, Sandy Gebber, Helen Hagans & John Casberque, Alice Hill, Beth & Kurt Jueckstock, Becky Lesmez,

Barbara Sawyer-Koch, Lois & Harold Sollenberger, Jim Stedman, and Kathie Woefel. Their willingness to open their homes and welcome international is what makes this program possible.

The students who participate in the Home Visits always come back excited and full of stories about what they saw and experienced. Many of our home hosts have said that they look forward to meeting the next group of students.

I have also helped find homes for 20 of the MasterCard scholars to enjoy a Thanksgiving Day dinner with an American family. The rest of the students have made other plans and so did not request a home.

--Submitted by Iris Horner

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### **International Friendship Program**

The International Friendship Program matched 21 international students in October, bringing the total for the Fall semester to 51. An orientation meeting for students and community friends was held at the International Center on October 20. The program included an overview of CVIP by Stacey Bieler, cross-cultural comments by Joy Walter of OISS, and remarks and suggestions regarding the IFP by Larry Karnes. Thanks again to Midge Morrow, Cindy Walter, Renée Burck, and Susan Ventocilla-Gailey for all their work conducting interviews with students and friends, and to Joy for providing materials and refreshments.

The students matched in October came from 12 countries: China, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Malawi, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, and Uganda. They also represented various levels of study, including Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, Ph.D., and Fulbright FLTA. About half of our community friends were new to the program and half had previous students.

Applications from both new friends and new students are now being accepted for participation in the program for Spring semester, 2014. Midge and Larry are working with Pat Barrett to modify the on-line student application to provide better information that can be used to match students and community friends.

We continue to seek both new and returning community friends for participation in the program.

--Submitted by Larry Karnes

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### **I SPEAK,**

We knew that folks are reading our webpage (perhaps not with the greatest attention to detail) when we received a request from Cadillac, MI, for a speaker! Our website does note that our service area is limited to a 25-mile radius of MSU's campus.

In the past month:

- Ahmad Algahtani (Saudi Arabia) visited residents of Crosaires Elder Care, showing cultural artifacts and traditional dress from his country.
- Beatriz Mazon gave a presentation about Costa Rica to the International Interest Group of the MSU Community Club.
- Dane Norton (Australia) and Darshini Nadarajan (Malaysia) shared their cultures with the students at Eaton County Youth Facility.
- Ahmed Alsuleimani presented the culture of his homeland, the Sultanate of Oman, to folks at the Meridian Senior Center.
- Two of our drivers provided transportation for three Chinese Visiting Scholars to observe Wilcox Elementary School in Holt.

Five more presentations are scheduled for dates in November and early December, and we have received four requests already for dates in 2014.

We look forward to meeting additional international students at the Global Festival on Sunday, inviting them to participate in the International Speakers program.

--Submitted by Carol Towl & Mary Hennessey

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### **ISC**

The month of October and early November gave ISC members a great deal of insight into our members' countries, cultures and food! On October 18<sup>th</sup>, Laura, from Columbia, gave us an overview of her very beautiful country. Continuing with a Latin American theme, on October 25<sup>th</sup>, we got a presentation of Peru, by member Sophie, and a view of Guatemala from Patty's entire family. Her husband and two children joined us to add their different perspectives. After the two presentations, the three women served us delicious food from their region! Not to be outdone, our member Lucie, from France, presented her country on November 1<sup>st</sup>, and she brought homemade crepes and various fillings and instructed us on how this French mainstay can be varied. One November 8<sup>th</sup>, we rearranged our schedule so that we could have a surprise going away pot luck for our very involved spouse leader, Wei, from China, who returned to her country this past weekend. Her enthusiasm and dedication will be sorely missed. This Friday we will travel to the Middle East with a presentation of Oman by our member Halima. The group is very inquisitive and asks many probing questions of our members, and our discussions are very lively and educational. We continue to attract new members from word of mouth advertising, and the members display loyalty to each other and to ISC. This is one of the closest knit groups I have seen in the five years I have been their advisor, and this experience remains beneficial to all of us involved.

--Submitted by Cheryl Highstreet

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## **Lending Center**

Activity at the Lending Center is finally slowing down a bit, donations continue to come in and students continue to find items they can use or need. Our supply of pots and pans is now almost nonexistent; we've filled in most of the shelves with bakeware items. The same goes for our lamp supply. John continues to try to piece together the parts he has, but the supply is slim. We still need more workers; seems our recruiting efforts just aren't working out. Our latest volunteer is now looking for paid work, so I do not know how much longer she will be with us.

We have, however, found happy homes for 6 boxes of mugs. Alice Deck, our long time volunteer went on Craigslist and found an organization in Kalamazoo that wanted our huge oversupply for their probation enhancement program so each person could have their own mug. They were very grateful for our contribution to their program. Who knew? Our supply room was being overrun with them.

---Submitted by Erika Larson

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## **Scholarship**

Nothing to report for November.

--Submitted by Dottie Schmidt

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## **Volunteer English Tutoring**

On Friday October 11, two VETP tutors and I attended an excellent ESL workshop called "Discovering Fun Activities to Use with Your ESL Students". We enjoyed talking to others, and learning some new techniques for our discussions. We plan to share these with the other tutors at our next tutor meeting. Thanks, Jo, for letting us know about this!

We now have 25 active tutors who are leading classes or meeting students one-on-one. I have 6 tutors who are in the process of learning more about the program, and who will hopefully start next semester. We are losing a few tutors – one goes to Florida for the winter, and two are grad students who are too busy next term to continue. I am putting together a class schedule for next semester. This semester we had 14 classes. We will probably have 12 starting in January.

We will have a tutor meeting and dinner at Brody Hall on December 3.

We currently have about 90 students who are taking part in VETP classes or individual tutoring.

Most of my time is spent answering email or conversing with people who drop into the office. I received one email from someone who was very interested in VETP and wanted to know how she could take part. Eventually I realized that she lived in Beijing, and I had to explain that we were a face-to-face program! Someone else emailed from Indonesia. She will be coming to MSU in the next few months and wanted to know how to go about teaching one of the Indonesian languages here. It's always interesting and fun!

--Submitted by Mary Hennessey