

Iowa Sister States E-News

July 2004



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Don't Forget!

The Iowa Sister States Website is up and running! Please check out:

www.iowasisterstates.org for up-to-date information on our programs, as well as photo galleries, project proposal forms, and more!

Also, please note Program Assistant Sara Graham's new office phone number: 515-242-4729

Tianjin Children's Palace Art Ensemble to Visit Iowa

Iowa Sister States is planning to bring the Tianjin City Children's Palace Art Ensemble to Iowa. Tianjin City is an autonomous municipality located in Hebei, China. It has a population of approximately eleven million. The Tianjin City Children's Palace provides extra-curricular training for children in a wide variety of Chinese and Western art forms (painting, calligraphy, acrobatics, etc.). The Palace's Art Ensemble performs a mix of traditional Chinese and Western music, singing and dancing. Shows typically feature Western operatic arias and popular songs, ballet and Chinese folk songs and dances, and performances on Chinese wooden drums and the *er hu* (a stringed instrument). The children coming to Iowa range in age from 9 to 17.



The Palace Art Ensemble will give a series of performances in Des Moines, Burlington, Davenport, Dubuque, Osage, Charles City, and Fort Dodge, from August 27th to September 5th. All performances will be free and open to the public. A cultural facilitator and native Chinese speaker will be present at all performances to explain what the audience is seeing and give cultural background.

We are still waiting for the group to have their meeting with US Embassy officials to obtain their visas. It is expected that they will receive their visas, but we will not know for sure until August 10.



Open World in 2004-2005

For the third year, Iowa Sister States will participate in the Open World program conducted by the US Library of Congress. ISS will work with two national organizations to plan and coordinate seven delegations from Russia that will visit Iowa. In September and December, two delegations will visit Iowa to learn about education and education reform. One delegation will be hosted in Burlington and the other in the Des Moines area. These visits are part of a collaborative relationship with World Services of LaCrosse, Wisconsin. The other group of delegations are from Russia and are sponsored by the American International Health Alliance. In October these 5 delegations will focus on HIV/AIDS and how Iowa's prevention and treatment programs are organized. ISS is still looking for communities to host the medical delegations from October 20-27. If your community is interested, please call Phil or Laura at the ISS offices.

--Phil Latessa, Executive Director

Program Review Committee Update

COMMITTEE: Yamanashi

PROJECT: International Horse Archery Festival

SUBMITTED BY: Meg Beshey

PROJECTED DATE OF EVENT: September 2004

AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$3,000

DESCRIPTION: Three noted Japanese horse archers will demonstrate their skills at the International Horse Archery Festival in Fort Dodge. The presenters will bring their skills as Takedaryu archers to the festival for a second year. The presenters will be in traditional dress as well as using authentic saddles and accessories for the Iowa horses they will ride.

COMMITTEE DECISION: Declined.

COMMITTEE: Veneto

PROJECT: Team Veneto, RAGBRAI 2004

SUBMITTED BY: Luca Berrone & Amy Worthen

PROJECTED DATE OF EVENT: July 2004

AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$1,500

DESCRIPTION: Ten bicycle riders from Veneto and two Iowa cyclists will participate in RAGBRAI and ride across Iowa. The visitors will stay with host families in Des Moines and across the state.

COMMITTEE DECISION: Approved.

COMMITTEE: Eastern Iowa Committee (EIC)

PROJECT: RAGBRAI Hospitality Booth for International Riders

SUBMITTED BY: Diana Davies

PROJECTED DATE OF EVENT: July 30, 2004

AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$375

DESCRIPTION: The EIC will host a booth to welcome international riders registered in the 2004 RAGBRAI. Fourteen countries are represented among the riders. The booth will be located in downtown Anamosa, about half-way along the route between Hiawatha and Maquoketa. Water and small gifts representing Iowa and ISS will be presented to the riders.

COMMITTEE DECISION: Approved.

In the Next Issue...

All the news from RAGBRAI!

Team Veneto is currently making their way across Iowa, making new friends and plenty of stops along the way.

Updates on the Tianjin Children's Palace Art Ensemble

Coming Soon...

Iowa Sister States T-Shirts!

Be sure to get yours!

Upcoming Meetings/Events

August

Veneto Meeting -

Aug. 10th at 4:30 p.m.

Cherkasy Meeting -

Aug. 11th at 5 p.m.

Yucatan Meeting -

Aug. 14th at 9 a.m.

Tianjin's Children's Group arrives either August 25th or 26th