



# ILLINOIS

INTERNATIONAL FOUR-H YOUTH EXCHANGE ASSOCIATION

**President:**

Beth Gerhke  
12 N. 860 Route 20  
Elgin IL 60124  
847-697-2538  
[bcgehrke20@aol.com](mailto:bcgehrke20@aol.com)

**Vice President:**

Hope Heslop  
125 East Fairway Drive  
Belleville IL 62223  
618-3984755  
[h.jorns@sbcglobal.net](mailto:h.jorns@sbcglobal.net)

**Secretary:**

Crystal Yonker  
209 West Stonybrook Dr.  
O'Fallon IL 62259--3509  
618-632-4212  
[cywillsew507@hotmail.com](mailto:cywillsew507@hotmail.com)

**Treasurer:**

**Newsletter Editor:**  
Larry L. Wachtel  
505 Ridgeview Drive  
Sherman IL 62684-9782  
217-496-2421-Home  
217-341-1402-Cell  
[wachtell@gcctv.com](mailto:wachtell@gcctv.com)

**Past President:**

Elizabeth Dixon  
406 S. Barn Hollow Dr.  
Athens IL 62613  
217-636-7309  
636-577-7672 – cell  
[bradlidxdixon@gmail.com](mailto:bradlidxdixon@gmail.com)

**Directors:**

Savanah Jacobs\*  
[savviepebbles90@aim.com](mailto:savviepebbles90@aim.com)  
Carolyn Gehrke\*  
[cggehrke@att.net](mailto:cggehrke@att.net)  
Helen Obernagel  
[hobernagel@norcom2000.com](mailto:hobernagel@norcom2000.com)  
Paul Rice  
[farmland401@aol.com](mailto:farmland401@aol.com)  
Sue Walters  
[readbaker56@yahoo.com](mailto:readbaker56@yahoo.com)  
Sarah Song  
[hileman.sarah@gmail.com](mailto:hileman.sarah@gmail.com)  
Jonna Burck  
[jonnaburck@yahoo.com](mailto:jonnaburck@yahoo.com)

\*Sharing Position

February 2012

## IL IFYE Annual Meeting

The 2012 Annual Meeting of the Illinois IFYE Association will be Saturday, March 3 at Cahokia Mounds, Collinsville IL. For additional information on Cahokia Mounds see <http://cahokiamounds.org>

The activities for the day are as follows:

8:30 AM—Sunrise Walk with Helen Obernagel. Meet at Monks Mound.

9:00 AM—Cahokia Mounds Museum opens.

10:00 AM—IL IFYE Board Meeting

12:00 Noon—Lunch for everyone provided by Southwest IL IFYE's—Hope Heslop, Helen Obernagel, and Crystal Yonker.

1:00 PM—Annual Meeting of IL IFYE

2:30 PM—Snack—light dessert and popcorn.

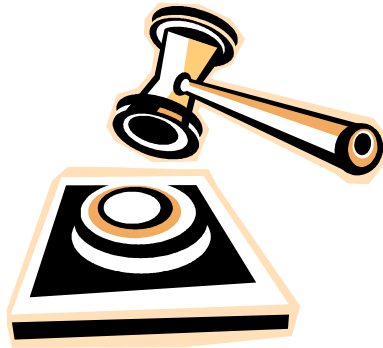
After the meeting, you can visit Cahokia Mounds Museum, watch a 20 minute video, tour outside on the trails, and climb Monks Mound. There are guided tours or self guided tours. An outdoor audio tour is also available. (I Pod rental)

5:00 PM—Dinner at the historic **Oatman House** (618-346-2326) in Collinsville about 15 minutes away from the Mounds. German and other cuisine is available.

<http://oatmanhousetearoom.com> We will order from the menu with individual checks and **gratuity will be added**. Reservations for this are needed one week in advance.

7:00 PM—Or thereabout, further socialization, conversation, companionship and levity at Dale and Crystal Yonker's; 209 West Stonybrook Drive; O'Fallon which is about 20-30 minutes from Oatman's. There are several motels within 1-3

miles from Yonkers in O'Fallon or Fairview Heights. Although, no advance money is required, **please register using the form at the end of this newsletter by February 25, 2012.**



## From The President

Gruetzi!

Greetings from my beautiful host county, Switzerland! I am happy to be here visiting my Swiss "grand baby!" The Swiss couple who met at our home and were married a couple of years ago had their first child, and I am "Granny Beth!" What fun to continue to have new experiences here in my host-land! The only problem is as we have continued to have more visitors to our home, I have more friends to visit than I have time! And the guest room reservation book at Gasthaus Gehrke is starting to fill up for 2012 as we have 4 Swiss and 1 Austrian so far that are planning on visiting this summer. The IFYE experience goes on and on...

The Southwestern IL IFYE alums have planned a fun and interesting spring banquet and annual meeting for this year. I look forward to seeing everyone there. If you haven't been to an IL IFYE Ass'n meeting, or haven't been to one in a while, why don't you try to come this year? It's sure to be a good time! At our annual meeting we will be electing board members and officers (if you are interested in running for any position, let anyone of the board members know.) We will be talking about possibly joining with Wisconsin to host a US Conference. We will also be discussing the future of our organization as we continue to support all 4-H international programs and get an update on the status of the IFYE program. The present and future of the IL IFYE Association is in your hands, come and be part of the program!

Earlier this month while I attended a concert at the Krannert Center at U of I, I remembered how many years ago as a teenager I attended a 4-H Leadership Conference, and in that same auditorium I heard 2 exchange students talk about their homelands and the 4-H international program which brought them to the US. I knew then that I also wanted to be a cultural exchange student, and IFYE gave me that opportunity. I never dreamed that it would be a program that would continue to live on and grow in my life, and that someday I would be an IFYE Granny!

Ciao!  
Beth Gehrke

# USA IFYE & Farm Bureau

The National IFYE Association is talking to the American Farm Bureau Federation about operating the IFYE Exchange Program—for those over the 4-H age. Our IL IFYE President attended the Annual Meeting of American Farm Bureau in Honolulu last month and talked to some of the Young Farmer and Rancher committee members and the staff about IFYE. IFYE will be having a workshop at the upcoming AFBF Young Farmer and Rancher Leadership Conference February 17-19<sup>th</sup> in Grand Rapids, MI. Two recent IFYE Alumni have been asked to make presentations at this conference. One is our own—Carolyn Gehrke, who went to Germany in 2010.

The National IFYE Association is paying for some of Carolyn's expenses, but not all. It will be an item of business at our Annual Meeting to help Carolyn financially with this presentation on our behalf. We are talking about \$250-\$300 possibility needed.

Editor's note: I personally would be willing to make personal donation to IL IFYE for this project. If others feel the same way, it can be made at the Annual Meeting.

## National IFYE Conference

The 2012 National IFYE Conference will be July 24-28<sup>th</sup> at the Embassy Suites, Omaha NE. The theme is "Heartland Heartbeat.....Reaching Out". The early bird registration is due March 1<sup>st</sup>. For additional information go to <http://ifyeusa.org>. Click on IFYE Conferences and follow the links to the Nebraska IFYE Conference. You will be able to find the schedule, registration form, and a full conference overview.

The Conference Committee recommends making your hotel reservation early as there are a limited number of rooms available at the conference rate of \$119 per night. To make your reservations, contact the Old Market Embassy Suites at 402-346-9000. For the \$119 per night rate refer to the Group Name which is International 4-H and Group Code is **MI4** (M as in Mary, I as in Igloo and the number 4.).

## European IFYE Conference-2012

The 2012 European IFYE Conference is July 21-28 in **SWEDEN**—the same week as our National Conference. However, if you want to attend, here is some information for you. The conference will be held at the, Nordiska Folkhögskolan in Kungälv, 20 kilometers north of Gothenburg. There are a limited number of beds (156). We have single, double or triple rooms.

There is a possibility to book bed and breakfast before the conference at Nordiska folkhögskolan if you are planning to come before the conference. In case - contact Nordiska folkhögskolan (link above) - please inform us.

For all information, go to <http://ifye.nu>. There is a box on the upper left and half way down are links that give all the information in English.

## Registration for Annual Meeting

March 3, 2012  
Cahokia Mounds  
Collinsville IL

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

IFYE Program & Year \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Others Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Number For Luncheon \_\_\_\_\_ Number for Dinner at Oatman's \_\_\_\_\_

Number for Walk with Helen \_\_\_\_\_

Reservations due February 25, 2012 Mail reservations to: Crystal Yonker  
209 W Stonybrook Drive  
O'Fallon IL 62269-3509

Or email Crystal at: [cywillsew507@hotmail.com](mailto:cywillsew507@hotmail.com)

Illinois IFYE Association  
Larry L. Wachtel, Editor  
505 Ridgeview Drive  
Sherman IL 62684-9782

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**