



Personal introduction:

Horst Neumann – Honorary President of FF Varel/Germany

- Club Founder and President from 1991 to 2001
- motor for creating new ideas, initiatives and programs
- ED for many in- and outbound exchanges
- FFI Board member 2005 to 2008
- married to Ingrid for 48 years, 2 kids, 5 grandkids

Introduction Varel:

- Northern Germany
- Coast of North Sea
- 15.000 citizens, biggest city in county Friesland
- flat region protected by dikes (*You can see on Monday who will visit next Sunday*)
- agriculture (dairy)
- industries (airbus, paper production, cookie factory, wind energy)
- tourism (harbour)

Introduction FF Varel (FFV):

- 1991 established by 10 friends, 2 weeks ago celebration of 20th anniversary
- our philosophy for club management: Teamwork – Teamwork - Teamwork
- a number of extraordinary Bridgebuilder Exchanges in addition to regular exchanges
- FF "Walk of Fame" on side walk of City Hall, Awards, 15 years Global Youth Institute
- currently 110 single members
- monthly meetings, no news letter, up to 4 inbound and 1 or 2 outbound exchanges
- themed exchanges (Language Learner twice)
- host of the All German Conference in 2001 and European Conference in 2010
- represented on each All German Conference, on many European Conferences and a few International Conferences
- social club activities: hike on mudflats, Bosseln and Kale, Christmas party, weekend visits with other German and European clubs

Club Growth – the environment:

Major prerequisites:

- always flexible and open for new ideas
- Teamwork/Team spirit – delegating and including as many shoulders as possible, each member is an individual treasure
- transparency – always keep each member informed
- individual wellness - feel well in the club

No success without these basics!



Club Growth:

Successful projects produce club growth in numbers and inner club strength

- 1994 - Shanty Choir Varel and Folksdancers 3 weeks exchange with 72 ambassadors to Des Moines/IA, Denver/CO and Mid Villamette Valley/OR
- 1998 – Gospel Choir 2 weeks exchange (“Back to the Roots”) with 70 ambassadors to Memphis/TN and Birmingham/AL
- 2002 – Jever Folksdancers 3 weeks exchange with 24 ambassadors to Albuquerque/NM, Salt Lake City/UT and Mid Villamette Valley/OR
- 2002 – Global Youth Institute 3 weeks inbound with 39 students plus chaperones
- 2003 – Decatur Highschool Band/Atlanta 10 days inbound with 103 ambassadors home hosted by Blue Lions/Rastede, supervised by FF Varel
- 2004 – Saint Nick Gospel Singers 2 weeks exchange with 24 ambassadors to Memphis/TN and Lower Columbia/WA
- 2009 – Language Exchange 2 weeks with 16 ambassadors to Salt Lake City/UT and Los Angeles/CA
- 2011 – Language Exchange 2 weeks with 22 ambassadors to Kern County/CA and Albuquerque/NM
- Cooperation with VHS Oldenburg (Adult Education) and German American Society in Wilhelmshaven (city partnership Norfolk/VA)
- Broad public representation by media: Local and regional News Paper, Radio/TV
- Public Lecture by Russian Cosmonaut Georgy Grechkov
- Presentation of the club on various occasions:
Varel Wine Festivals, Celebration of 15th and 20th club anniversary, public presentations in bank and restaurant

What did FF Varel gain from these additional and special activities?

FF Varel ...

- gained a lot of public notice, again and again
- got new and younger members
- prevented a decline in club members
- got fresh impetus
- gained inner strength because of successful cooperation within the club
- developed long term community connections with other cultural and social groups
- made Friendship Force Varel a well-known address in the region with high reputation

Summary and Recommendation:

OPEN YOUR CLUB HANDS AND REACH OUT

