



# Sheboygan Area Chapter

Merry Christmas

December Newsletter 2016

## Start the holiday season with PTP on December 8

It seems strange to say Merry Christmas already, but now that Thanksgiving is upon us, “the holidays are standing at our front door” as they say in Germany. The Dec. 8 chapter meeting will be a special holiday meal – a sit-down dinner! Our entertainment for the evening will be the always-popular Gesangverein Concordia. This singing society was organized by a group of men on February 9, 1860, only seven years after Sheboygan was chartered. Their primary goal was to cultivate and foster German Lieder (Song). This rich heritage has sustained the organization to date. It has become one of the oldest German singing groups in Wisconsin.



We will also say goodbye to our three students from Esslingen who will leave for home just days after our meeting.

The menu will include pretzel-coated chicken breast with mustard cream sauce on the side, twice-baked potatoes with broccoli, cheese, and bacon toppings, fresh green beans, salad plate at the table, rolls, coffee, and cookies for dessert.

Ladies, please bring one dozen of your favorite cookies so that we can assemble plates of assorted cookies for each table.

**Social hour, 5:30; dinner, 6:30; program, 7:30 pm.**

The cost of the dinner is \$16.00 per person. To make reservations, please make out a check to PTP-Sheboygan and send it to Esther Weiss at 1426 N. 15th St., Sheboygan, 53081. **Deadline is Nov. 28.**

\*\*\*Note: Remember that anyone who sends a check that is postmarked AFTER the due date will be charged an extra \$2 per person. The board voted on this change because Esther is not getting the reservation checks in time for our commitment to the Elks Club.

## Coming Events



- Dec. 8** Chapter Christmas party – Elks Club
- Jan. 12, '17** Chapter meeting at Elks Club
- Feb. 9, '17** Chapter meeting at Elks Club
- Mar. 9, '17** Chapter meeting at Elks Club
- Mar. 12, '17** Brat Fry Fundraiser at RCS
- Apr. 13, '17** Chapter meeting at Elks Club
- May 11, '17** Chapter meeting at Elks Club

## Auf Wiedersehen



Mayor Mike Vandersteen greets Jakob Sträter, Julian Bischoff, and Joern Fischer at the Mayor's party for all Sheboygan exchange students on November 14. The party was rescheduled this year to accommodate our Esslingen students who leave for home in December.

We will say goodbye to these lads at the Christmas dinner and give them a parting gift from the chapter. They will tell us about their 5 months in the USA, including their trip to Florida in October.

**The board will meet at 5:00 pm on December 8 at the Elks Club. Please call Tom Hammond if you need to be excused from the meeting.**

**PTP** This newsletter is produced monthly for members of the Sheboygan, WI People to People Chapter, which is affiliated with People to People International. Newsletter items should be submitted by the **15<sup>th</sup> of the month** to Ann Keckonen, 1542 Golf View Dr. E., Sheboygan, WI 53083 or by Email to [akeckonen@charter.net](mailto:akeckonen@charter.net). Our website is [www.ptpsheboygan.org](http://www.ptpsheboygan.org)

## Memories of the past

*Norm Minster and his late wife, Marilyn, were instrumental in getting the Sheboygan Chapter started back in the late 1960s. At age 93, Norm is now blind, but his mind and his memory are as sharp as ever. He has shared some of his memories with Jon Keckonen, and we will include excerpts from this interview in the next few issues as space and time permit.*



"I remember Ann trying to sell our chapter cookbooks at a PTP convention in Newport Beach. I noticed that she wasn't selling many, so I took four or five of them and started to "work the crowd." Do you know what that means? I sold all that I took, and then I came back to get more. Before long, I had sold all the books she and Jon had. I was selling them to people who had new daughters-in-law by telling them their sons could eat well if they bought one. Do you know, I got rid of all of those cookbooks! I think I emptied two full boxes of cookbooks.



One time we went to visit Seth at the Air Force Academy and we had a 3-hour layover in Kansas City. We used the time to go to the PTPI headquarters and were greeted royally. Jim Coty jumped up and greeted us warmly. He was very genial and showed us the sights in Kansas City.

I saw that his license plate had PTP on it, so when I came home, I asked the state of Wisconsin to give me a license plate that said PTP. I had that on my car for years. I drove until I was 86. They took my license away when I couldn't pass the vision test.

When our son Seth got a job [as a pilot] with Pan Am, he got a deal that his parents would fly free. So when I say I took Marilyn to Germany 38 times, I didn't buy 38 tickets, I tell you that! All I had to do was tell Seth when we wanted to go, and he got the tickets for us.

Another part of the deal, we could upgrade to first class for \$25.00. You get on the plane first, and when you are seated, they put a little table cloth in front of you, and salt and pepper shakers. That was really nice. [Ed. Note: When Jon told Norm that now an upgrade to first class would cost \$5-6,000, he couldn't believe it. Norm said, "Europe is not worth that much."]

We had a lady in our chapter who complained that our dinners were getting too expensive. Well, you know, you go to a dinner that maybe costs two people \$15, but it didn't bother them to spend twice that at the bar before dinner. Grace said we should have afternoon meetings, like a tea, or something like that. That idea didn't fly at all."

## Host families needed

We are seeking host families for students who wish to come from Esslingen, Germany, but do not have an exchange partner for the high school program. If you know of anyone who would like to host a student from mid-July through mid-December, 2017, please call Jon Keckonen at 457-4318. Germany always has more applicants than we have in this area, and we would like to accommodate as many of their students as we can, even if we cannot provide them with an exchange partner. Host families may choose a boy or a girl if they wish to indicate a preference.

## Brat Fry tickets available

Brat Fry Tickets will be distributed to members at our December 8th meeting. Family memberships receive 20 tickets (\$20) and single members receive 10 tickets (\$10). When paying for your tickets, please make checks out to PTP Sheboygan. You may pay in cash, but for recordkeeping, checks are a lot easier. Many members pay for their tickets at the December meeting.

Members unable to attend the Dec meeting should email Tom Riemann at [tomriemann63@gmail.com](mailto:tomriemann63@gmail.com) or call him at 452-5053 to make arrangements to pick up your tickets. The tickets are for you to sell/give away to friends or relatives to increase attendance at our fundraiser. The brat fry will be held at the RCS building, 1607 Geele Avenue, Sheboygan, on March 12, 2017.

Snow birds/out-of-towners are encouraged to send their donation (check) to Tom Riemann at 4436 Tara Lane, Sheboygan, 53081. For additional tickets contact Tom Riemann.

## 2017 dues must be paid now

If you have not already paid your chapter dues for 2017, please do so now. The deadline for renewal is the December 8 chapter meeting. Please bring your check to that meeting unless you have already mailed it to Rich Miesfeld. Dues remain at \$35 for a family membership and \$25 for a single. Make checks out to People to People-Sheboygan and mail to Rich Miesfeld, 2047 Marion Lane, Sheboygan, 53083.

**When you send in your membership checks, please make sure you update your address, phone AND email address for Rich's records.** If you do not have a membership pin, please call Tom Hammond at 452-4972. He has extras to share.

## Getting to know you...

We have received requests for more features about some of our members, so we will include these articles as space permits. This month we are featuring Rich and Carolyn Miesfeld. Rich has been our treasurer for the last several years, and Carolyn will be the chaperone for our middle school students traveling to Esslingen this summer.



Carolyn became a member with the encouragement of her Aunt Elvera Dassow. No, she does not make German Potato salad. Later Rich also took an interest after being a guest a few times. Presently Rich is treasure of the chapter and Carolyn is completing her 2nd term on the board.

Carolyn and Rich share a combined family of 5 married children and 10 grandchildren. Carolyn has been a nurse her entire career and Rich has had many roles in the field of education. Both belong to Kiwanis, PTP, Mayor's International committee and are active in their respective churches.

Carolyn has done extensive traveling, and Rich has now picked up the bug too. Lately most of the travel has been in the USA as children are located on the East and West coasts and in between. They also enjoy WI Badger sports events in the state and outside of it. They are looking forward to another trip to Esslingen this Spring with the Mayors International Committee. At that time Carolyn will be able to meet the Esslingen students and their chaperone who will participate in the summer exchange.

## Tübingen's Chocolate Festival



*Excerpt from Beth Hejl's blog. She is a former PTP exchange student, now living in Germany with her husband.*

I never need an excuse to go to Tübingen. It's a beautiful university town only 35 minutes from us by train, and I've been there often enough that I know my way around quite confidently. It's definitely one of the top towns to visit in Baden-Württemberg.

This week Tübingen is holding its annual Chocolate Festival, which I had never been to before. What better reason to hold a festival than to celebrate chocolate?! At the Chocolate Festival you can find hot chocolate, chocolate-covered fruits of all normal and exotic kinds, bars of chocolate, discs of chocolate, jars of chocolate, chocolate beer, candies, white chocolate, cinnamon

chocolate, jalepeno pepper chocolate (basically any flavor you can think of and a few you wouldn't combine with chocolate), chocolate art, "African Bushman chocolate" as well as chocolate from many other parts of the world, chocolate beans, blocks of chocolate topped with nuts or dried fruit, and .... you get the idea.

We passed a stand with a basket of chocolate-covered obviously freshly-made potato chips on display. I wheeled around and returned, and had a conversation with the vendor nearly worthy of a Douglas Adams novel (translated below into English):

me: "I'd like one portion of chips, please."

guy: "Large or small?"

me: "Small."

guy: "With chocolatesaltbalsamico?!"

me: "Er...yes, please."

guy: "With chocolate?"

me: "Yes."

Guy takes a fresh potato, puts it into a fancy little machine that twirls it and shaves it into chip-shaped ribbons, then drops them into a fry vat.



guy: [to helper] "Without salt."

me: [to myself] "What fool would order potato chips without salt?"

guy: [handing me my small bag of chips] "3 Euros, please."

me: "With chocolate, please."

guy: "Yours doesn't have salt. With chocolate it costs 4 Euro."

me: "It doesn't have anything on it?"

guy: "Balsamico?"

me: "Do they already have balsamico on them?" (that would have been fine, too)

guy: "There's nothing on them."

me: "I'd like chocolate."

guy: "Ok, one more Euro, please."

I paid him another Euro and he dribbled some chocolate on my chips.

Although he was not a native speaker either, we were speaking to each other in German. It was one of those "What on earth is wrong with my German?!" experiences.



*Merry Christmas!*

**The following proposed officers and directors will be voted on at the Dec. 8 meeting**

### Officers, 2017

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President	Robert Quasius
1 <sup>st</sup> VP – Program director	Ed Clabots
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP- Social	Esther Weiss,
3 <sup>rd</sup> VP- Membership	(open)
Corresponding Secretary	Ann Keckonen
Recording secretary	Kris Hancock
Treasurer	Rich Miesfeld
Past President	Tom Hammond

### Board of Directors

Carolyn Miesfeld, class of 17

Jon Keckonen, class of 17

Chuck Adams, class of 17

Anna Schoen, class of 18

Bob Quasius, class of 18, to be replaced after the election.

Jill Hundley, class of 18 **Unable to continue. To be replaced by Henry Schoen on 1/1/17**

Margret Voorhans, class of 19

Kris Gotzmer, class of 19

Char Gumm, class of 19

The proposed budget will be sent out separately to chapter members.