



# Sheboygan Area Chapter

Happy Thanksgiving

November Newsletter 2016

## Travel to Ireland with Vicki Schoen Herd on Nov. 10

**V**icki Schoen Herd will present our November 10<sup>th</sup> program on Ireland. Vicki writes, "The adventure began with 24 hours in the Atlanta Airport...Next stop was 10 hours in Amsterdam, finally making it to Dublin and a two-hour bus ride throughout the countryside on my way to beautiful Waterford, Ireland. While in Waterford I stayed at the Waterford Institute of Technology, taking classes and visiting historic sites like the famine ship, old cathedrals, the home of Waterford Crystal and learning about the Viking history of the area. I also traveled the gorgeous Ring of Kerry, visited the home of Jameson Whiskey, hung upside down to kiss the Blarney Stone and saw Ross Castle.



Our menu for the evening will include broasted chicken, baked ham, parsley potatoes and gravy, Riviera Blend vegetables, salad bowl, rolls, coffee and milk. Dessert is being provided by Al and Sandy Loth in recognition of their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Nov. 26.

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 Oct. 31.

**\*\*\*Note: Beginning this month, 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 last month because Esther is not getting the reservation checks in time for our commitment to the Elks Club.**

## Coming Events



- Nov. 10** Chapter meeting at Elks Club
- Dec. 8** Chapter Christmas party – Elks Club
- Jan. 12, '17** Chapter meeting at Elks Club
- Feb. 9, '17** Chapter meeting at Elks Club

## Best wishes to Vicki & Keith

All too often we have to print messages about departed chapter members. We are happy this month to report that Vicki Schoen, former exchange student and longtime member, was married on September 23 to Keith Herd. Congratulations to Vicki, Keith, and the Schoen family.



Henry Schoen, Vicki & Keith Herd, Anna Schoen

**The board will meet at 5:00 pm on November 10 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)

## 2017 dues can be paid now

It is now time to renew your membership in the Sheboygan Chapter of People to People. The deadline for renewal will be the December chapter meeting, but we encourage you to send the checks now. 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. If you do not have a membership pin, please call Tom Hammond at 452-4972. He has extras to share.

## Welcome New Members

We are pleased to welcome Lindsay and Adrian Ortega who recently joined our chapter after seeing information about it on our website. They contacted Tom Hammond for more information, and they attended their first meeting in October. They are looking forward to more involvement in the chapter, and because they both speak fluent Spanish, we think they will be an asset to Diane Mikolyzk with her Córdoba exchange program. Lindsay teaches Spanish at UW-Sheboygan, and Adrian works at SACO Polymers. Welcome, Lindsay and Adrian!



Lindsay and Adrian Ortega

## Hugs and sympathy to



the families of Jeanne Herm and Tony Lorenz, both longtime members of our chapter. Jeanne died on September 16, and Tony died on October 4. Both enjoyed our

People to People activities, and they will be sorely missed. Tony and Nancy rarely missed a meeting. When Tony's health prevented him from enjoying the dinners, they always came at 7:30 for the programs. Tony and Nancy received the 2013 Sylvia Weber Award for outstanding service to our chapter.



Former member Dr. Jim Weygandt died on Tuesday, and his service will be held on Nov. 12.

## 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.*



In the early years we started raising money by having a flea market and a brat fry. At one of our PTPI conventions, I was in a group that was discussing how they could raise money. I raised my hand and said, "Well you could have a brat fry and a flea market." They said, "What is a brat fry?"

One time we were setting up for the flea market and Judge Buchen brought what was called a circus. As soon as Elaine Stolzenburg saw it, she said, "Oh, we can't sell that. That's got to be auctioned off." I didn't know anything about auctions, but she got it sent to Chicago with a courier or a salesman from the Vollrath Co. Everything was arranged, and we had to have it commercially packaged. She sent it to an auction house in Chicago. We didn't hear anything for quite a while, and then one day in the mail we got a check for \$3,000. That was net, after they took their commission. I remember one of the Garton ladies said, "Well, now we have a real treasury." We were making money at our brat fry, and we were selling tickets, and with the auction money, we started a treasury...

I also remember when Herr Klapproth visited us at Sylvia's cottage at Random Lake. He saw they had a boat tied up at their pier, and he wanted to get into the boat. Just then the water washed it away a little bit. He made it, but he almost went into the water. That's when I learned a new German word!

## Applications due now

Applications for any of our exchange programs are due by Nov. 15. All forms can be found on our website, [www.ptpsheboygan.org](http://www.ptpsheboygan.org). Programs include high school exchanges for one semester in either Esslingen, Germany, or Córdoba, Argentina; or middle school summer exchanges with Esslingen Germany. Students in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade should apply for the summer program; students in 10<sup>th</sup> grade should apply for the high school programs. Our chapter has shown a high degree of success since 1970 with managing exchange programs at a very low cost to the participants. **Any questions should be directed to Jon Keckonen, phone 457-4318.**

## Thanks to Esther and Rudy

From time to time, we will feature some of our “unsung heroes” who work behind the scenes to make our projects and meetings successful in our People to People Chapter. This month a big thank you goes out to Esther Weiss for her tireless efforts in selecting our menus within the Elks Club guidelines, in decorating our tables, and most of all, for dealing with our many reservation checks, some of which come in late and sometimes on the day of the meeting. She has struggled with late checks so often that last month our board decided to charge an extra \$2 fee for those who send in late payments. Most members have no idea how much time Esther spends in making sure our reservation numbers are accurate and are given to the Elks Club by their requested deadline. Thank you also to Rudy, who probably has to put up with a lot of comments from Esther on the frustrations of her job. We all are grateful to everything you do before and at our chapter meetings.



It is good to see Esther and Rudy enjoying a moment of relaxation and fun at the Mayor's International Committee Esslingen Fest on Sept. 18.

## Students leaving for Florida

Our three high school exchange students from Esslingen left today for a visit to Laura Testwuide Liebel in Florida. Laura is a former exchange student who has entertained our German students for many years, and this trip is always a highlight in their experiences in the U.S. We are sure this trip will be enjoyable for them, and we will hear about it at our December meeting.



Julian, Joern, and Jakob

## New chapter president

Bob Quasius has agreed to be our chapter president for 2017, and this is a short bio for all members who want to get to know him better.

Bob and his wife, Denise, both work at Kohler Co., and they are the proud parents of two children, Zach, 16, and Emma, 13. Bob also has a 20-yr-old son living outside of Dallas. They joined the PTP chapter in 2013, and since that time their son, Zach, has participated in the middle school exchange program and the long-term exchange with the Sträter family. Emma is planning to participate in the middle school program in the coming years. They have hosted several overseas people in recent years, including Jakob Sträter, and Debbie Jenne as part of the Esslingen exchange, as well as guests from Nepal and Frankenberg, Germany.



Bob has worked for the Kohler Company for the past 17+ years and is currently a Senior Global Product Manager in the Faucets division. As part of his job, he travels to the many different manufacturing and sales offices for Kohler across the globe, including China, Singapore, India, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom. He has had two occasions to meet with the Sträter family and tour Esslingen.

Bob graduated from North High School, where his interest in Germany and the German language was fostered by the late Hans Zumpft. He continued his German studies at the U. of Wisconsin-Madison and has had several opportunities to use the language in his work travels.

## Thank you to Tom Hammond

While we introduce you to our new president for 2017, we want to be sure we thank Tom Hammond for his 4 ½ years of service as chapter president. Tom has been a conscientious president who always took care of details in preparation for every meeting. Thank you, Tom, for a job well done.



## Elections to be held in Dec.

After the November board meeting, the proposed budget for 2017 and the slate of officers for next year will be sent out to members who are current with their dues. This information will be sent in time for each member to review it and ask questions prior to the December chapter meeting, at which time the chapter members will vote on both the budget and the new officers and directors. This is a change from our **previous schedule of voting at the May meeting.**



# Voting shouldn't be this hard



*Excerpt from Beth Hejl's blog. She is a former PTP exchange student, now living in Germany with her husband, and she entertains us with her comparisons between life in Germany and the U.S.*

My absentee ballot is in the mail on its way to Wisconsin. Whether it makes it to its destination and is counted is out of my hands, but at least I've done what I can.

Just as a quick re-cap, I signed into my account and printed my absentee ballot from the *MyVote Wisconsin* website several weeks ago. Along with the ballot I printed the official certification and the instructions. This is when I discovered that, thanks to Wisconsin's new Voter ID law, I now need an adult U.S. citizen to witness the filling out of an absentee ballot. The closest American I know is in Stuttgart, and although she kindly offered to be my witness, I was slightly vexed that voting absentee was going to cost me time (several hours to get there and back) and money (€20 for the train).

At the suggestion of friends and acquaintances and with a few ideas of my own, I contacted: [8 different agencies in and around my area].

Each contact ended up fruitless, though the people who know me personally sent me additional ideas as they thought of them.

The end of the story is this: M and I spent last weekend in Breisach on the Rhein, and on the off chance that I would bump into an American, I brought my ballot and all the other papers with me - including the page of Act 261 concerning the witness to prove that "if the certificate is missing the address of a witness, the ballot may not be counted."

After checking in at the hotel on Saturday afternoon we headed toward the Rhein, where there are often river cruise ships docked while their passengers explore the pretty little town and the *Münster*. I eavesdropped on each group we passed but heard mostly German. Finally from a slight distance I spied a couple who looked American. I don't know what it is, but somehow Americans are usually easy to spot. The man had what looked like a DSLR camera, and the woman was calling to someone on one of the ships. I approached the woman and asked if she is an American. Bingo!

She was willing to witness my ballot, sign her name, provide her full address according to the instructions, and even to have her picture taken with me!



Interestingly that very day an article appeared in the Milwaukee Journal that thousands of absentee votes might not be counted because they lack the witness'

complete address. How could someone neglect to write his or her full address on the form, you might wonder?

Although apparently these forms vary across the state (explain that one to me), my form is deceptive, and was probably designed by an intern. The single line for the witness' address is shorter than the signature line. Every form I recall having seen provided two lines when an address was required. Until this new Voter ID law, the ballots were accepted with only the street address.

In addition, there is no line for the witness to include her date of signing. Only on the instructions does it say "One adult U.S. Citizen must witness you mark your ballot and sign **and date** the certificate." (emphasis mine)

The certificate is deceptive in another way as well. Under the voter's signature is a line labeled "date." Again, almost everything I have signed requires the signer to include the date of signing. That is logical, and that is what I would understand with the label "date." The instructions, however, say "Be sure to sign the certificate and provide your **date of birth**

in the presence of your witness." (emphasis mine)

So on the certification no date of signature is required? That seems odd. The designers of this law are supposedly so terribly afraid of voter fraud, yet without the dates of signature, how can they be certain the witness actually witnessed and signed the certification according to the instructions? The state has already announced that ballots without full addresses won't be counted - has no one noticed the issue with the date of birth vs. date of signing?

I wrote to my "state legislators," but of course I don't expect to hear from them.

Update: an aide to [one of my] representatives responded moments ago with an email confirming that it is true that I need a witness (which I clearly already knew) and wished me luck finding one. She also added another requirement that does not appear in the instructions or on the ballot: the witness' signature must be legible. My ballot is already in the mail, so it's lucky that my kind witness had beautiful handwriting - I had even complimented her on it. I don't know about you, but I know plenty of people whose signatures are not legible. I guess if that's an additional requirement, they should also include a space for the name to be printed.

In celebration of this saga ending, I baked banana bread today - a typical American treat that Germans find a bit odd. Strangely, I don't like bananas all that much and the smell of them makes me gag. But banana bread (including the smell) is somehow delicious - especially warmed and with butter.

