



Sheboygan Area Chapter

October Newsletter 2016

Celebrate fall with our exchange students on Oct. 13

At our October 13th chapter meeting we will feature the students who took part in both of our exchange programs with Esslingen, Germany, this past year. The program will be presented by the four middle school students who participated in the summer program, and also the four high school students who spent five months in Esslingen earlier this year. Kitty Hoffman, Molly Zenk, Zach Quasius, and Hannah Hendrikse will present the high school program highlights, and the middle school presenters will be Anna Hoffman, Gigi Gotzmer, Josh Werth, and Hugo Rice.

Our menu for the evening will include baked chicken, beef tips and gravy, mashed potatoes, sweet peas and carrots, salad bowl, rolls, coffee and milk. Dessert is being provided by Dale and Mitzi Stoltzman.

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

The board will meet at 5:00 pm on October 13 at the Elks Club. Please call Tom Hammond if you need to be excused from the meeting.

Coming Events

(mark your calendars now!)



- Oct. 13** Chapter meeting at Elks Club
- 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
- Mar. 9, '17** Chapter meeting at Elks Club

Join Mayor Mike in Esslingen

Mayor Mike Vandersteen and his International Committee are planning a trip to Esslingen in May, 2017, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our sister city partnership. Members of the People to People Chapter have been invited to join this excursion which will include a trip to Salzburg and Vienna after the 5 days in Esslingen. Anyone interested in learning more about this opportunity should contact Ann Keckonen at 457-4318 or Julie Vandersteen at 458-7341.



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 **15th of the month** to Ann Keckonen, 1542 Golf View Dr. E., Sheboygan, WI 53083 or by Email to akeckonen@charter.net. Our website is www.ptpsheboygan.org

Applications due now

It's time to talk to all students you know to remind them to get in their applications for all of our exchange programs. All applications can be found on our website, 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 8th grade should apply for the summer program; students in 10th 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. Help us get the word out that all applications are due by November 15. **Any questions should be directed to Jon Keckonen, phone 457-4318.**

An information meeting about all of our exchange programs will be held at Mead Public Library in the Rocca Room on Monday, October 17, at 6:30 pm for all interested students and their families. The meeting is open to anyone in the area who may be interested in a People to People student exchange.

Increased attendance

It was wonderful to see almost 70 people at the September chapter meeting, and another 10-12 who came just for the program after dinner. As you can see, we have a lot of fun at our meetings, and the Elks Club can easily handle a larger group. We encourage you to attend a meeting if you have not done so lately. Remember that it is extremely important to get your checks in to Esther before the deadline. Also, if you cannot attend a meeting for which you have already paid, a credit will be available IF (and only if) the Elks Club does not charge us for your meal. Cancellations made on the day of the meeting usually have to be paid for unless Esther has a last-minute attendee. If you become ill, take-out dinners are available.



Dues will be due in Dec.

Our fiscal year now coincides with the calendar year, which means your current membership will expire on December 31. In order to make our treasurer's life a little easier, please send your checks for 2017 membership to him before the holidays. He will accept them anytime from now on. 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.

PTP Chapter trip

A smaller group than usual will be leaving for our 2016 chapter trip to Eastern Europe. Kris Hancock, Sue Hoffmann, George & Angie Longo, Nick & Carol Dussault, and Jon & Ann Keckonen will depart for a cruise to five different countries on Sept. 24. They will visit Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, & Romania.



Photos of Oct. presenters



These are the middle school students who will present the first half of our Oct 13 program.



These high school students will present the second half of the Oct 13 program.

A look back at 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 this excerpt, Norm talks about the mugs he purchased to give away in the early days of the chapter. He said, "I used to give speeches to various ladies' groups and service organizations, talking about our chapter of PTP. I used to get small gratuities, like ball point pens or something. That gave me the idea that when we have speakers at PTP meetings, we should give them a gift. I knew a Bill Schwarz, who sold 'stuff' to me to give to my clients. I asked his salesman if I could have a mug made, and he said yes, but I had to order at least 50. I did that, and whenever we traveled to a PTP convention or meeting, I would take 2 or 3 with me to give to other friends. It was a nice gift we could give to people who spoke to us at our chapter meetings.

I finally ran out of them, and after Sylvia Weber died, there was a house sale. I went there just for the heck of it, and there was one of **my** mugs, for sale for \$1.00. Since I had run out of them long ago, I bought my own mug back again for \$1.00."

Meanwhile, back in Wisconsin



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.

A story in the ***Milwaukee Journal*** came across my radar back in March. GOP lawmakers in Wisconsin have proposed and will be deciding on whether to put in place a preventative ban on potential future restrictions on the use of plastic bags. That's right - at the final meeting of the year for the state senate, among the bills being discussed was a bill to ban the banning of plastic bag use. There are no current proposals to ban or restrict the use of plastic bags - which are harmful to the environment and wildlife, whether people choose to believe it or not, but some of the lawmakers want to make sure nobody gets the bright idea to do so any time in the future. Update: [The bill passed.](#)

Can you imagine what would happen if Wisconsin store owners - like store owners in some other states - were no longer allowed to offer plastic bags to their customers? What on earth would people do?? Would

they be expected to bring their own used bags from home (*Ewww!*), or canvas tote bags - or, heaven forbid, a granny basket - for a short drive to the grocery store? Could consumers be **charged** 5 or 10 cents for each plastic bag they need at stores to transport their cartfuls of groceries, clothing, and paper products to their SUVs because they couldn't remember to bring along their own bags from home? My Lord, the horror!

I love my granny basket! I use it every time I go to the store.



Germans take it as a matter of course that they need to bring their own baskets, bags, or crates to the grocery store or pay for bags at the store. Most retail stores in Germany offer bags for free, but they ask first if the customer needs one. Most often we consumers have a bag or purse large enough to stuff whatever we bought into it rather than taking a new bag. If you live here long enough you get used to sticking an extra small canvas bag or two into your purse or backpack for incidental purchases. It's just not a big problem in the grand scheme of things.



Yes, I could have ironed them, but then you wouldn't see how well-used they are.

I'm not an active environmentalist, but I am willing to bring my own bags or basket when shopping, and I think lots of other Americans would do the same without grumbling more than a few months about it.

And yes, one person *does* make a difference, however small. Bring your own bag(s) when you go shopping, or at the very least, reuse the bags you bring home as many times as you can. Use paper bags to cover textbooks or wrap presents. Use plastic bags for garbage can liners or pet poop picker-uppers. They'll still end up in the landfills, but at least they were used more than once.

Thank you note from Molly Zenk

Dear People to People Sheboygan Chapter,

I would like to say thank you for the wonderful opportunities I have been given because of this organization. Both hosting an exchange sister and being able to live abroad for five months were unforgettable experiences. This past year has opened my eyes to cultural differences, unique experiences, and parts of myself I had not yet discovered. Thank you again for sponsoring the exchange and making this past year unforgettable!

Molly Zenk