



# Sheboygan Area Chapter

April Newsletter 2023

## Chapter Dinner April 13

Our April 13<sup>th</sup> People to People meeting at the Elks Club will feature Gerd Bauer II, who will present his experience of being a ski instructor for groups of 60 German 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders experiencing the Alps in Austria. Gerd holds multiple certifications from the Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA) and as these are recognized in Europe, he is able to teach in the



Alps. The presentation will be an overview of the trips he has made and the experiences of teaching a technical sport in a second language to native Germans in Austria.

Gerd is currently hosting Antonie Zindel, the daughter of his good friend, Stefan, from Wolfhagen, Germany. This connection is due to a long time college friendship between Gerd and Stefan. Gerd writes, "These two wild and crazy guys met on the UW-Green Bay campus where Stefan was an exchange student with the HESSEN/WI partnership and Gerd was studying German language and literature." You won't want to miss his presentation on April 13!



The menu will include ham, parsley buttered potatoes, green beans, salad, and dinner rolls. **Char and Mark Hinze will provide dessert.**

The cost of the dinner is \$20.00 per person. **Please mail your checks before the deadline of April 1.** Make checks out to People to People-Sheboygan and mail them to Rich Miesfeld at 2047 Marion Lane, Sheboygan, 53083.

## Three New Board Members

We are pleased to announce that Steve Dick, Stacie Nicla, and Anne van Deventer have offered to fill in the open board positions that were announced in the last newsletter. Thank you, Stacie, Steve, and Anne, for volunteering your time. Thank you to everyone who has been willing to serve on this PTP board of directors.

The board will meet at 5:00 on April 13, and the social period will begin at 5:30 with dinner served promptly at 6:30.

## Coming Events

Apr. 13	Chapter dinner at Elks Club
May 11	Chapter dinner at Elks Club
July 8	Brat Fry at Miesfeld's
July 18	Summer Exchange program begins
Aug. 8	Exchange students return to Wis.
Aug. 17	PTP picnic in Howards Grove

## Still Need Dessert Volunteers

We are still looking for volunteers to supply our desserts for the months of Sept and November this fall. Please let Rich Miesfeld know if you are willing to take one of those months.

**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).

# Summer Exchange 2023

We have eight students and two chaperones from Esslingen and the same number from Sheboygan for our chapter's summer middle school exchange program. We do not include names of minor children in this newsletter, but both groups are pictured below. In the German group, one father had to "stand in" for his son who was ill on the night of their meeting. The exchange will take place in Germany from July 18 – August 8, and in Sheboygan from August 8 – 30. The Sheboygan group met at the Quasius home on March 6, and they are enthusiastic about their trip to Germany.



Sheboygan group including chaperones



German group without the chaperones

# My Life in America So Far

*Antonie Zindel, from Wolfhagen, Germany, is spending the entire school year in Sheboygan County while living at the home of her godfather, Gerd Bauer II. She wrote the following report of her first impressions of life in Wisconsin.*

My journey began over one year ago when my dad and I talked about me doing an exchange year in America. First I was a little skeptical about that idea because it is such a long time, but after a while I was really excited about it and we started planning everything.

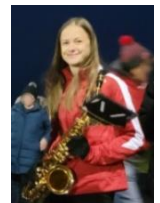


Then, finally, on August 4, 2022, my flight left from Frankfurt, Germany, to Chicago. I was super excited on how everything will be and also if I will make new friends in the American high school.

Luckily, I'm able to live with my godfather Gerd and his girlfriend Heather, and they are really nice people. And because of him I am able to do a lot of really nice things. For example, I'm able to teach ski lessons at the ski hill Little Switzerland, and I was able to visit beautiful places like Colorado in January, 2023, where we went skiing. We also made a trip to the Apostle Islands up north in Wisconsin and we went kayaking in some beautiful caves.

I'm going to Oostburg High School, and for me school started on September 6, 2022. After only a few days and weeks, I had already found some friends. And now, after almost 6 months being in that school I have a lot of new friends and I could never imagine a life without them again.

In school I signed up for Track and Field which will start soon, but I'm already playing alto saxophone in the band and jazz band. At the beginning of the school year we played as a marching band at the football games which is a big difference to the schools in Germany. At home we have all our sports separate from the school, so we don't have any school sport games. It was the first time that I've ever marched in a band on a field. We also had a couple of basketball games where we played as a pep band before the games started. And right now we are playing some concert music for our upcoming concerts. I really enjoy playing in the band, and I love to play the saxophone.



So all in all, it has been a great time here in the US and I'm really happy that I met so many new people and made new friends. I'm also really thankful that I can experience so many cool things and that I can stay here for a whole year.