



People to People Sheboygan

November - 2025

Future Events

Nov 13, 2025 **Board Meeting Only** - 3 Sheeps

Dec 11, 2025 Dinner/Christmas - Elk's Club

No meeting for January

Feb 12, 2026 Dinner meeting - Elk's Club

Mar 12, 2026 Dinner meeting - Elk's Club

Apr 26, 2026 Brat Fry - 3 Sheep's

Program Speakers

Dec - Kohler Madrigal Singers/Christmas

Feb - TBD

Mar - TBD

Apr - TBD

May - TBD

We could use some suggestions for speakers where "TBD" is listed. Please contact a board member if you have anybody in mind.

Dessert

Dec - Member contributions

Feb - Adria Van Asten

Mar - Nathan Stauber

Apr - Open

May - Tammy Schaefer

We are still looking for someone to provide a dessert for April. If you are able, please contact Steve Dick (920) 476-2152. Thank you!

REMINDER: If you have not paid your 2025 dues, please make a payment of \$35/family or \$25/single membership to Rich Miesfeld. It is greatly appreciated as we are behind on 2025 dues.

Homecoming/Reunion

Steffen Nolte, a 1983 Esslingen exchange student, returned to Sheboygan for North's 40th high school reunion in October.

He visited his exchange family, the Humke's and other special friends. He has recently joined Verein, the German counterpart to PTP, and would like to get more engaged in the organization. He practices law in Stutgaard with Mercedes Benz as the Head of Economic and Legal Policy,

EU Corporate Representation Brussels, Daimler AG. He graciously agreed to meet at 3 Sheeps Brewing with several PTP Board Members to share stories from the past and present.





People to People Sheboygan

November - 2025

Exchanges take you out of your own small family system

Steffen shared his viewpoints on exchanges: “Simply by living in a family, living in a community, makes you understand better how things are working...you can achieve the same thing by different ways but you may see you have shared values even though you can be different or take a different approach. And that’s the most you can take out of it.” He looked fondly on his exchange program many decades ago and still maintains contact with his host family.

Where everybody knows your name

In 2013, Steffen and his family came back and visited Sheboygan. He recounted their trip to Chicago. While taking a hop on/hop off bus trip, he noticed people on the bus wearing Esslingen and Sheboygan T-shirts. Steffen commented “That’s got to be PTP!” All of a sudden, Steffen heard somebody shouting “Steffen what are you doing here?” That someone was Liesl Testwuide who was chaperoning our exchange students in Chicago! As large as Chicago can be, it is still not that unusual to be spotted by someone you know (or someone who may have Sheboygan contacts!)

Languages in Germany

Today, German students typically learn at least two languages in addition to German. English is universally taught and other common languages may be French or Spanish. In the past 10 years, Steffen commented that the European Union’s common denominator language is English.

Exchange Programs

Tübingen, Heidelberg, and Freiberg are among Germany’s oldest and deepest rooted universities, with strong disciplines in law and medicine. Steffen discussed various university exchange programs such as the [Hessen/UW System](#) exchange.

We discussed our current three-week middle school exchange program, emphasizing the benefits of the exchange students staying with a host family instead of spending time in hotels. We touched upon the challenges of our three-month high school exchange program which includes the cost of visas for longer programs and also the excessive amount of government documentation and expenses that is required since we are our own LLC. Also, American students feel they are missing out on activities here in the United States if they are away for that long. We indicated there is plenty of German interest for students to come here, though!



People to People Sheboygan

November - 2025

Parting Thoughts

Steffen's current employment position doesn't require him to travel to other locations as much anymore as cost cutting measures have been implemented to include more working from home and utilizing Microsoft Team for virtual meetings.

We parted warmly with anticipation for future collaboration with Steffen who has joined the German Verein. We exchanged contact information and kind words. He was polite, "down to earth" and easy to engage in conversation. A couple of hours went by quickly and we could have easily talked endlessly through the evening, but he had to meet friends for dinner. THANK YOU, STEFFEN, for your time and graciousness! It was greatly appreciated!



Steffen Nolte, Paula Forseth Dick, Bev Altman, Stacie and Thom Nicla

Behind the Scenes



Even though we do not meet for a dinner meeting in November, Santa's elves are working behind the scenes. Board members have been distributing flyers to Sheboygan County schools soliciting students for the next

exchange. We currently have three applicants and have room for 8. If you know of any middle school student (6th-8th grade) that might be interested, please contact Paula Dick, 920.287.6410. Applications for the program are available on the website: [PTP Exchange Program](#). The deadline is November 15.

[Esslingen](#) was established in 777. 2027 marks its 1250th anniversary! Board members are in communication with Sheboygan's Mayor Ryan Sorenson. He has been chatting with Esslingen's city staff regarding plans for Esslingen's celebration. Currently, there are not yet any confirmed dates for 2027. We will keep you informed with details as information is provided.

PTP This newsletter is produced for associates of People to People Sheboygan. Newsletter items should be submitted to: baltman88@gmail.com