



CONTACT

Greater Kansas City Chapter
People to People
July 2007 Volume 11, Issue 2
Home Page: <http://www.gkcptp.org>

Welcome Barbeque for International Military Students and their families

Join the fun August 12 at 4:30 p.m. No flies or ants at this picnic!

The Operation International Committee of the Leavenworth-Lansing Chamber of Commerce and Greater Kansas City People to People (GKCPTP) cordially invite you to a picnic on August 12, 4:30 p.m. at McGilley Field House. McGilley Field House is on the northwest corner of the University of St. Mary campus in Leavenworth, KS. And, the facility is air-conditioned!

The two organizations are co-hosting the picnic to welcome the International Military Students (IMS) and their families to Ft. Leavenworth. Invitees include all three sponsor groups (military, Leavenworth/Lansing and GKCPTP), Liaison officers, International Military Student Division (IMSD) staff and SAM's officers and their families. This is an ideal event to invite guests (especially potential sponsors), as it is the only event where those not currently sponsoring can develop a first-hand understanding of what it would be like to sponsor. GKCPTP encourages our sponsors to bring guests. For those that have previously sponsored, this event replaces the T-Bones game or KC Zoo event from years past.

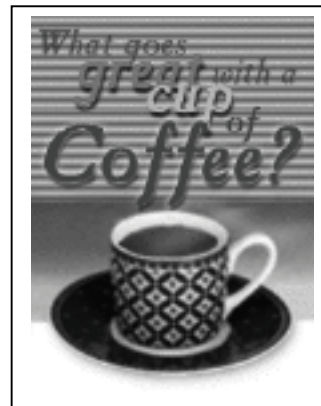
IMSD requests that each IMS and his/her family attend the event. As co-hosts of the barbeque, each sponsor is the host to their respective IMS and his/her family. Please make every attempt to attend. If you are unable to attend, please arrange with another sponsor to host your international family for the day. Contact Pat Burnett at 816-746-9698 if you cannot attend.

Each country will have assigned tables. Food will be served beginning at 5:00 p.m. and includes chicken, beef hamburgers, beef hot dogs, side dishes, ice cream bars and cookies. Water, tea, coffee and lemonade will be provided. You're welcome to bring other beverages of your choice. Beer and wine are acceptable. There will be plenty of fun activities for children and adults.

The event cost is \$8.00 for adults and children age 12 and over. The cost for children age 5-11 is \$5.00. Payment is required from all attendees except the IMS and his/her family; they are our guests. Please mail your reservations along with payment to: Betty Olberding, 28233 175th Street, Leavenworth, KS 66048. Payment is required by July 20th. Your tickets will be provided upon your arrival at the door. It is not necessary to RSVP for your IMS and his/her family; they will be asked to RSVP for themselves. However, please contact them to encourage their company for this event. We look forward to seeing you on August 12th!



Picture from our airport meeting with our Singapore IMS and his family. From left: Dyrk Dugan, Maj. Paul Cheak, 1-1/2 year-old daughter Eleanor Cheak, wife Joyce, and Kris Dugan.



Ladies Welcome Coffee

**Sunday, July 22
2:00-4:00 pm**

Kansas City sponsor ladies, you are cordially invited to a welcome coffee for international ladies of the IMS. The IMS ladies will receive their certificates for attending the American Orientation Course. The event will be held at Riverfront Community Center, 123 South Esplanade, Leavenworth, KS. Bring finger food and spend time with your IMS spouse. To RSVP, please contact Sonia Eichenwald 913-851-0873 or eichenwald@compuserve.com. Ladies only, no children.

President's Column

GKCPTP is off to a fast start this year thanks to an energetic and very capable board of directors and a solid foundation left by my predecessor, **Sharon Valasek**. You will see articles in this edition of the Contact explaining in detail some of the board's initiatives. For example, many of the chapter's records have been automated following up on an initiative begun under **Sharon Valasek's** term. This automation project is the brainchild of **John Cessna**, one of our long-term members. Automation will make it much easier for members to renew their memberships, complete applications to sponsor International Military Students and track their membership activities. A detailed description of this program is provided by John elsewhere in this edition.

At the board retreat on May 12th the board saw the need for a strategic plan for the chapter. The purpose of the plan was to determine the mission of the chapter, chapter goals and the means of achieving those goals. **Nelson Markel** volunteered to chair a Strategic Planning Committee to develop the plan. Nelson and his team, showing remarkable energy and competence, have already developed the plan. The plan is published in this edition of the Contact and I am very interested in your thoughts about this draft. Let me or one of the board members know what you think. We are trying to develop a roadmap for the chapter for the next few years and your input is important to us.

A couple of items are worth noting. First, the board feels strongly that GKCPTP must offer programs for members who are not interested in sponsoring International Military Students. Second, recruiting new members must be a priority. The strategic plan recognizes we must develop a variety of programs to recruit and retain members before we begin an all out recruiting campaign. Thanks to those of you who have already recruited new members. We hope to retain these members with new programs in accordance with the Strategic Plan. Multiple, attractive programs will enhance recruiting and retention.

Sharon Valasek continues to work hard for the benefit of the chapter. I appreciate her support and advice and her willingness to chair the Military Committee and with **Theresa Osredker** to Chair the Communications Committee.

GKCPTP members can get a very nice, logo magnetic name badge for only \$8. Just send a request to Kris and Dyrk Dugan at kujayhawkers@earthlink.net

I want to personally thank those of you who sponsor the International Military Students at Ft. Leavenworth. The new class members have arrived and will need your support. I also want to thank those of you who do not sponsor International Military Students for all your efforts on behalf of the chapter and urge you to help us develop a variety of programs for our members. **Theresa Osredker**, our program chair is very interested in your ideas. Let her know your ideas for programs that will help make us the best People to People chapter in the United States.

With your continued support and the activities of a great board of directors we can implement a plan that will ensure exciting positive programs for members and our community. Please review our strategic plan and let us know what you think. I am looking forward to working with the board to implement this plan.

*Larry Dolci
President
Greater Kansas City Chapter
People to People International*

“North of the River” Mixer A Recipe for a good time!

- 28 interesting members (any number will do)
- Tasty appetizers
- Sangria and beer
- Music

Combine these ingredients with a beautiful summer evening and you have the makings for a fun event. The gathering was hosted on June 15th by **Jake/Linda Jacobs** and **Dak/Pat Burnett** at the **Burnett's** home. It was a great time to meet new members and catch up with the old friends! Share the recipe...

GREATER KANSAS CITY PEOPLE TO PEOPLE 2007 – 2012 STRATEGIC PLAN

Vision Statement:

Our vision is to be recognized as the premier People to People International chapter in the United States.

Mission Statement:

Our mission is to promote international understanding and friendship through an active, engaged and culturally diverse membership. Through innovative, enriching, and fun programs, we seek to stimulate the exchange of ideas and experiences that enhance local and global cultural understanding. We will work cooperatively with organizations that are of similar nature and purpose in accomplishing our mission.

Our Fundamental Beliefs:

1. We believe that universal values and aspirations are revealed through greater understanding between individuals and peoples.
2. We believe international educational and cultural exchange among youth further ensures long-term friendship and understanding.
3. We believe we all benefit from sharing different approaches to solving common problems.
4. We believe that individuals can often be more effective than governments in promoting human relationships and world peace.
5. We believe if people can better understand other cultures, they are more tolerant and accepting of differences.
6. We believe that citizens of all countries need personal contacts with other peoples and cultures. We need to ensure the enduring legacy of People to People International.
7. We believe that People to People is fun! We believe in people!

Our Targets and Goals:

- Double chapter membership by 2010.
- Develop "Sister Chapter" relationships with two (2) foreign chapters by 2010.
- Establish a relationship and joint programs with a student chapter of PTPI in our metropolitan area by 2008.
- Put in place the staff and committees required to support a larger, more involved, organization.
- Entice at least 33% of the members who are active in the sponsor program to become more involved with other chapter programs and events by 2011.
- Develop two (2) additional programs and/or recurring events by 2009 that have significant value propositions and drawing power that entice prospective members to join us, and encourage present members to retain their memberships.
- Establish a program to develop future leaders for the chapter.
- Develop a comprehensive communication plan by the end of fiscal year 2007 to enhance our internal communication with members and our external communication to targeted constituencies.

We are busily planning programs for this year's People to People calendar!

If you have ideas for programs you would like to see--speakers, activities, places for potlucks--or would like to serve on the Program Committee, contact: **Theresa Osredker** at 913-897-6163 or theresa_66209@yahoo.com.

2007-2008 GKCPTP Board

President	Larry Dolci	913-648-0845
1 st Vice President	Pat Burnett	816-746-9698
2 nd Vice President	Theresa Osredker	913-897-6163
Secretary	Nila Cleaves	816-942-1820
Treasurer	Gary Lofstrom	816-942-8887
Director 2008	Ofelia Acosta	816-726-7633
Director 2008	Julie Goodhart	913-381-2712
Director 2008	Candice McField	913-271-4474
Director 2009	Bev Londerholm	913-897-3596
Director 2009	Terry Smitka	816-480-4227
Director 2009	Tom Waggoner	913-631-1223
Director 2010	Alan Felton	913-268-8281
Director 2010	Nelson Markel	913-766-3543
Director 2010	Pat Medill	816-741-1569
Immediate Past President	Sharon Valasek	816-942-2794

The GKCPTP Board welcomes your comments and feedback.

2007 New GKCPTP Members

New Member	Recruiting Member/ Referral Method
1. John Bradt & Xinh Xan McGuire	
2. Terry & Phyllis Buller	Dak/Pat Burnett
3. Charles & Brenda Carpenter	Terry/Pam Smitka
4. Ray & Toni Cracraft	Dora McDonnell
5. David & Bonnie de la Fuente	Tom/Jane Waggoner
6. Donald & Adele Hall	John/Joyce Cessna
7. Charles & Pam Hart	St. Louis member Diane Haneklau
8. Lisa Hickok	PTPI letter
9. Bob & Emilie Jester	Ed/Sandy Noyallis
10. Betty Keim	PTPI letter
11. Elaine Marra	PTPI Letter
12. Ralph & Valerie Munyan	Nelson/Paulette Markel
13. Vic & Lolah Panus	Dak/Pat Burnett
14. Jack & Sarah Runyan	Sharon Valasek/Gary Lofstrom
15. PR & DS Saldana	Former members renewing again
16. John & Sharon Pearce	John/Joyce Cessna
17. Earl & Kate Long	John/Joyce Cessna
18. Gonzalo and Kelly Stiefel Arias	Sharon Valasek/Gary Lofstrom

Welcome

If it's raining, it must be Belgium...

Major Geert Marien from the Kingdom of Belgium presented his "Know your World" program to a packed clubhouse on Sunday, May 6th. The weather must have made him feel right at home as it poured down rain for most of the afternoon. The typical Belgium showers did not dampen anyone's spirits as the afternoon became evening all too quickly.

Thanks to Mike and Theresa Osredker who opened their home to host the more than 50 members for an evening pot-luck dinner after the presentation. Additional thanks to Don Fuson for videotaping the presentation and to Tom Waggoner and Jane Kohl for arranging the donation of beer and presentation of the Belgium flag.

Greater Kansas City People to People membership chair, Pat Burnett, presented her officer Geert and his wife, Ilse, with GKCPTP t-shirts to thank them for their generosity in educating and entertaining our membership.



Maj. Marien of Belgium, his wife Ilse, and Pat and Dak Burnett

GKCPTP Board Introduces Computer-Assisted Sponsor Program

by John Cessna

Twice a year members of the chapter have the opportunity of sponsoring International Military Students (IMS) at Fort Leavenworth. Each sponsorship lasts for one year, while the officer is studying at the Command and General Staff College (CGSC). The sponsorship is completely social in nature. Sponsors might invite officers to come to their home for dinner or show them Kansas City. The officers might invite the sponsor to their homes near or at Fort Leavenworth, or invite them to one of many functions at the Fort. There are more than 60 different countries represented by these officers, so it is a great way to learn about different parts of the world in a very personal way.

The chapter has had a system of matching sponsors and officers for many years. It has consisted of manually matching sponsors and officers by requiring a large amount of paperwork. The chapter was most grateful when it found someone willing to take on the Herculean job of matching sponsors and officers.

Recently the GKCPTP board authorized the development of an electronic matching program. The Computer-Assisted Sponsor Program (CASP) makes the job of the IMS Coordinator much easier. The IMS Coordinator still makes the final matches based on sponsor preferences without all the work of sorting through tons of paper to do so. The computer does the heavy work; the IMS Coordinator provides the softer, human touch. A pilot group is currently trying out the new program.

Some of the highlights of the new system are:

- Sponsor information is collected and stored for use in the future, eliminating the need to fill out paperwork each time. The computer pre-populates most of the information for the sponsor.
- Initially and periodically, each sponsor receives a history of their IMS sponsorship. Each sponsor will be asked to validate sponsorship history. Sponsor history is automatically updated by the computer, so that all IMS and the years sponsored are shown. This greatly helps the sponsors and the International Military Student Division (IMSD) track IMS sponsorship and helps IMSD track service recognition.
- Sponsors now maintain an ongoing Sponsor Preference Form. This form includes the following:
 1. Country preferences (up to 6 countries are queued up).
 2. Willingness to sponsor in June or January classes, or both.
 3. Preference for an officer with or without a spouse.
 4. Preference for an officer with or without children.
 5. Communication preference -- via email or US Mail.
- Changeable Preferences. These preferences are maintained in the computer program, and may be changed at any time simply by emailing or mailing the information (by US Mail) to the CASP Manager. Any preference can be changed throughout the year. The only time that preferences cannot be changed is just prior and during the actual matching process itself. Whenever a preferred country has been selected, the sponsor adds a new country to their country queue.
- Faster Matching. Since CASP knows the sponsors' preference, no time is lost waiting for sponsor paperwork to be returned. This also reduces the need to call sponsors, or wait for callbacks. A key factor in program matching time is availability of IMS data provided by IMSD.
- Excel spreadsheets with sponsor data are provided by the CASP Manager to the Leavenworth/Lansing sponsor organization and to IMSD. The matches no longer have to be retyped by either group.

Comments about the new CASP process should be sent to John Cessna, jcessna@zenpond.com, or mailed to him at 7507 W. 99th Street, Overland Park, KS, 66212.

Upcoming Events

July 22	Ladies Welcome Coffee	2:00 p.m.	Riverfront Community Center, 123 South Esplanade, Leavenworth, KS (invitation only)
August 12	Leavenworth Sponsors/GKCPTP International BBQ	4:30 p.m.	McGilley Field House; University of Saint Mary; Leavenworth, KS (Invitations and information mailed)
August 13	Flag Ceremony	8:00 a.m.	Abrams Loop, front of Lewis & Clark Center, 100 Stimson Ave., Ft. Leavenworth, KS
August 17-19	Ethnic Enrichment Festival (Ethnic Enrichment Commission event)	8/17 6-10 p.m. 8/18 12-10 p.m. 8/19 12-6 p.m.	Swope Park, Kansas City, MO \$3 admission
September 3-13	PTPI World Wide Conference		Semi Remis Hotel, Cairo, Egypt
October 19	Fall Food Fair	6:00 p.m.	Frontier Conference Center; Ft. Leavenworth, KS (invitation only)
November 30	Holiday Dinner Dance	6:00 p.m.	Frontier Conference Center; Ft. Leavenworth, KS (invitation only)

Greater KC People to People
GKCPTP
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