

2012-2013 Proposed Slate of Officers and Board Members

Greater Kansas City People to People

Greater Kansas City People to People is successful because of the caring volunteer service of *many* members. The following individuals have agreed to serve on our board of directors and officers for the next term(s). Please express your gratitude by voting and mailing the ballot by March 6, 2012.

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>CANDIDATE</u>	<u>WRITE-IN CANDIDATE</u>
President	Karen Haber	
1st Vice President-Membership	Betty Olberding	
2nd Vice President-Programs	Jane Kohl Waggoner	
3rd Vice President-Administrative	Larry Dolci	
Treasurer	Seema Joshi	
Secretary	Linda Sutton	
Term expiring 2013		
Director	Inga Barringer	
Director	Irina Kobzeva-Pavlovic	
Director	Toni Cracraft	
Term expiring 2014		
Director	John McCreadie	
Director	Siew Lau	
Director	Donna Koontz	
Term expiring 2015		
Director	Dorinda Nicholson	
Director	Anab Abdulahi	



Check this box to vote for entire slate, or enter write-ins for specific exceptions.

Add your signature and date below, please:

X _____

There are 3 ways to record your vote:

1. **Go green** and vote electronically: www.gkcptp.org/ballot.
2. Mail this ballot by March 6, 2012 to GKCPTP, P.O. Box 22365 Kansas City, MO 64113.
3. Bring this ballot to the annual meeting on March 18, 2012 (if you cannot do one of the above).

CONTACT

Greater Kansas City Chapter of People to People International

gkcptp.org



Newsletter topics, Feb 2012

- Annual meeting: March 18, 2012
- President Letter
- Membership report
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- "Partner chapter" committee report
- Calendar
- Military sponsor committee report
- About Homestay program
- International Student Hosts Needed Now
- Chapter Wins World Citizen of the Year Award
- Travelogue: Singapore

SAVE THE DATE!

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, March 18, 2012, 1:30 p.m.

Grand Street Café

4740 Grand Street

Kansas City MO 64112

Cost: \$15 per person

Enjoy a wonderful brunch while we conduct our annual business meeting and the election of our 2012-2013 board of directors. More information will follow on the slate of officers and sending in your RSVP and your vote.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

GKCPTP has been very busy in these last few months, and I have enjoyed seeing many members at these activities. This past fall, we were honored to receive the 2011 World Citizen of the Year award (given by the United Nations Association of Greater Kansas City), and our chapter was well-represented at the banquet. "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" began its first round of small groups enjoying dinner together. Our new International Student Host Program has begun working with some students from UMKC. The 12-01 class of international military officers continues to enjoy the time and attention of their Kansas City sponsors and seeing the sights of our beautiful city.

As you look at the calendar, you will see many more opportunities to get involved in the upcoming months.

- The new class of international military students (12-02) has arrived in Fort Leavenworth, and there is a flurry of activity with the Icebreakers, Flag Ceremony, and many other events.
- Our program committee has been working hard to schedule various events, including our first Circle of Knowledge: Colombia, at the end of January, and moving on to Happy Hours and tours at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.
- Our annual meeting at Grand Street Café is scheduled for March 18.
- People to People International (PTPI) will once again host the Americas Regional Meeting at the beginning of May, and our chapter will participate.

If you have other ideas or suggestions for the chapter, we would love to know. We are offering a survey, accessed by clicking on www.surveymonkey.com/s/2KXFYXG. We will draw the name of one current member who has taken the survey and give them a free brunch at the March 18, 2012 annual meeting.

I look forward to all of these upcoming events and to seeing as many of you as possible.

Warm regards,

Karen Haber

MEMBERSHIP REPORT—FEBRUARY 2012

Thank you to those members who have renewed their dues for 2012. We appreciate your continued support and participation in GKCPTP!

We have had many new members in the last few months, and we ended 2011 with a total of 181 member units. (A membership unit is an individual, couple, or family who joins as one membership.)

If you have questions or would like to recommend a new member, please send an e-mail to membership@gkcptp.org.

New member(s):	Recruited by:
Ted & Kelly Cook	Irina Kobzeva-Pavlovic
Mike & Karen Denning	International Student Military Division (IMSD)
Chuck Gilbert & Lori Dean	Terry Smitka
Susie & Ed Hennessy	Claudia Ellerman
Shelly & Jay Hill	Fred and Barbara Vanecek
Gary Logan & family	-
Don Marsolek	PTPI
Teresa Martinez	IMSD/Sharon Valasek
Niki McDowell & Brian Cullum	Craig Miller
Martin Okpareke	Karen Haber
Susan Patterson & John Sheldon	Alan Felton
Bryan & Sarah Hyde Schmiedeler	Alan Felton

Welcome back to Chuck and Ann Hatch, returning members, recruited once more by Nelson and Paulette Markel.

PAY YOUR 2012 DUES NOW!

Annual membership fees for 2012 are past due! You may renew online or by mail if you haven't already done so. New members that joined July 1, 2011, or later are considered paid through 2012 as a courtesy.

Individual \$30

Family \$45

Pay online at www.gkcptp.org, or mail a check to GKCPTP, PO Box 22365, Kansas City MO 64113-0365.

Your membership in GKCPTP also includes membership in People to People International, our parent organization. A portion of member dues is forwarded to PTPI annually.

JOAN FLETCHER BEQUEST & TRAVEL AWARD

Greater Kansas City People to People (GKCPTP) gratefully acknowledges a gift of \$1,000 from the estate of the late Joan Fletcher. This gift is to be used for a student travel scholarship. The travel award is for foreign travel and will be given to a student between the ages of 15 and 25, who is a U.S. citizen and whose parents or grandparents are current members of GKCPTP. Joan Fletcher served as president of Greater Kansas City People to People from 1989-1991. For application information contact prez@gkcptp.org.

PARTNER CHAPTER COMMITTEE REPORT

The Partner Chapter Committee, under the energetic and capable leadership of Inga Barringer, established contact with the People to People chapter in Bogotá, Colombia; and an exchange of letters between GKCPTP President Renee Stevenson and Jorge Moreno Aldana of the Bogotá chapter formalized the union between the two chapters in 2011.

Recently, Inga has encountered family issues that have forced her to relinquish the chairmanship of the committee. Gene "Jake" Jacobs, past chapter president, has assumed this responsibility and will continue communication with the Bogotá chapter to identify a time for a visit to Colombia by a delegation of GKCPTP members.

Jake is seeking to combine such a visit with another Bogotá-Kansas City connection that will occur the last week of August 2012. Andrés Franco, former music director of The Philharmonia of Greater Kansas City and native of Medellín, Colombia will be guest conducting the Bogotá Symphony on August 31 and September 1. The Philharmonia performed two concerts in 2005 that had direct connection with GKCPTP, and the fact that Jake was president of the orchestra for five years while Franco was conductor establishes a positive connection between GKCPTP and the maestro. Franco currently is associate conductor of the Fort Worth Symphony.

If these dates prove convenient for both groups, the possibility of additional recognition of the Kansas City visitors and publicity that might be generated locally should benefit the overall goals of the establishment of the partnership.

Jake also hopes to enlist the support of other Bogotá residents with Kansas City connections to work with the PTPI members in Bogotá to provide additional activities that will enhance the attraction to KCPTP members to join in the trip to South America.

Anyone with personal connection in Bogotá and other cities in Colombia is invited to contact Jake <gjacobs11@kc.rr.com> if he or she is interested in becoming involved.

Photo cutline

Maria Paula Alzate, a sophomore at Park University from Bogotá, Colombia, joined the Thanksgiving gathering at the home of Jake and Linda Jacobs in November. Marie Paula's father, Ruben, is a brigadier general in the Colombian Army. Her mother Claudia has expressed interest in being involved with a visiting delegation from GKCPTP in the Partner Chapter Program.

CALENDAR

Date	Event	Location	Time
2/13/2012	12-02 Flag Ceremony	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Ft. Leavenworth	9:00 am
2/16/2012	Happy Hour	BrewTop Pub, Kansas City North	5:30 pm
2/22/2012	Know Your World: Montenegro	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Ft. Leavenworth	3:30 pm
3/2/2012	12-01 Spring Food Fair	Frontier Conference Center, Ft. Leavenworth; for invited sponsors only	6:00 pm
3/9/2012	12-02 Spring Food Fair	Frontier Conference Center, Ft. Leavenworth; for invited sponsors only	6:00 pm
3/14/2012	Know Your World: Turkey	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Ft. Leavenworth	3:30 pm
3/18/2012	GKCPTP Annual Meeting	Grand Street Cafe, Kansas City, MO (Plaza)	1:30 pm
4/19/2012	Docent-Guided Tour	Nelson-Atkins Museum, Kansas City	5L30 on
5/18/2012	12-01 Sponsor Recognition Ceremony	TBD	TBD

12-01 Class graduates June 2012; 12-02 Class graduates December 2012
Please note: Spring Food Fairs are by invitation only.

MILITARY SPONSOR COMMITTEE REPORT

GKCPTP Sponsors are the Best!

To those sponsors recently assigned an International Military Student (IMS), thank you for agreeing to host an officer. Your commitment and generosity are greatly appreciated. The 12-02 class has arrived and ice breaker sessions have been held. By now, you should be acquainted with your IMS and the other two sets of sponsors. Please contact me or a member of the military committee right away if you haven't yet met your IMS. We will help you make the connection.

Please plan to attend the 12-02 Flag Ceremony on February 13 at 9:00 a.m., Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Fort Leavenworth, KS. Come and see your IMS and his/her fellow officers "post" their country flag, a symbol of the official start of the CGSC course.

DOD ID Card – Access Credential Process

Sponsors for the 12-02 class received an email from me about which IMS are living on Post throughout the year. The sponsors of these IMS are eligible to apply for a Department of Defense identification (DOD ID). If you have a DOD ID, it allows you to enter the Fort through the DOD ID lanes vs. the more time-consuming visitor lane (far right).

If you missed being in the initial group to submit an Access Credential Application, you can still submit them to me. Email me at sharon.valasek@hp.com for an application and instructions. NOTE: After approval, when you're getting the DOD ID issued (at the provost marshal's office), please be sure your ID is stamped "Escort." That stamp allows you to enter through the DOD ID lanes when you have passengers that *don't* have a DOD ID.

Kansas Driver's License

The process has changed for officers to obtain a Kansas driver's license. Effective January 1, 2012, officers must pass the Kansas driver's exam and the driving test to receive their Kansas driver's license. Spouses are eligible to obtain a driver's license. There is no study guide in picture version, however, if the officer translates the facts in the study guide and rules, the spouse should be able to pass.

Class 13-01 Arrives June 2012

It's not too early to think about who you'd enjoy sharing the sponsor experience with. Many of our members find they enjoy sponsoring with friends because they see each other more often and they also get to know another officer. Please consider extending an invitation to friends or family members who may also be interested. Our committee begins the assignment process in March.

ABOUT THE GKCPTP HOMESTAY PROGRAM

People to People offers us several opportunities to be "citizen diplomats," both familiarizing ourselves with other cultures as well as sharing our own with those of other nations. The Homestay Host program offers such an opportunity with a short time frame commitment of usually a few days per homestay. A Homestay host opens his/her home to one or more visitors, usually PTP members from other countries who have requested staying in an American home for a few days while in the Kansas City area. It is the host's responsibility to provide lodging, some meals and perhaps some transportation either to events that the visitor is attending or general sightseeing.

Arrangements can be worked out directly between host and guest. Often transportation can be relegated to other GKCPTP members able to help.

Homestays are an ideal way to leave visitors feeling some of our heartland hospitality and establishing reciprocal contacts for any travels on our own agenda. It is a win for all involved. If you would enjoy this experience please contact Vicki Brawner at Vicki Brawner <vicki05@att.net>, Home stay Coordinator for placement on the list of willing Homestay Hosts. When an opportunity arises, you will be contacted to see if you can accommodate visitors for dates in question. Broaden your circle of friends around the world!

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HOSTS NEEDED NOW

Greater Kansas City People to People chapter is looking for hosts for the Spring semester of the International Student Host Program! If you are interested in hosting an international college student at your home for dinners or inviting them over for social events and holidays (the students do not live with you at your home), please contact Irina Kobzeva-Pavlovic at ishp@gkcptp.org for more details. You can also fill out an online application at www.gkcptp.org under Programs/International Student Host Program Host application.

Our mission is to engage in direct citizen diplomacy with international students in the greater Kansas City area, introduce them to GKCPTP, and educate them on the value of citizen diplomacy and volunteerism. It is also an exciting opportunity for you and your family members to learn more about the world and build long lasting relationships with young individuals and prospective community leaders all around the world.

CHAPTER WINS WORLD CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Greater Kansas City chapter of People to People International was the recipient of the 2011 World Citizen of the Year award given by the United Nations Association of Greater Kansas City!

The award was presented at the Mayor's UN Day Dinner on Tuesday, Nov.1, 2011. The event, held at the Intercontinental Hotel, featured introductory remarks by Mayor Sly James. Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations gave the address entitled: "A strengthened U.N. for the 21st century: Connecting the Global with the Local."

More than 40 chapter members, along with PTPI staff were in attendance to celebrate this award. We were joined by a number of international officers from the Command and General Staff College as well. A congratulatory citation from Brigadier General Sean B. MacFarland, Deputy Commandant, CGSC, can be found on our website. ([link](#))

Criteria for this award included: a demonstration of long-term commitment to promoting international peace, justice and community in accord with the spirit of the principles and mission of the United Nations, as well as having made specific contributions to the international community and to Kansas City.

Our organization has, over the years, played a significant role in the development of the international community within Kansas City. The global friendships established by our partnership with the International Military Student Division of CGSC at Fort Leavenworth are legendary and number in the thousands. We actively network with a variety of organizations to promote programs that further strengthen our mission of "Peace through Understanding."

In accepting the award, President Karen Haber shared our vision statement and described the various programs that allow our chapter to "connect the Global with the Local".

TRAVELOGUE: SINGAPORE

Paulette and I really looked forward to our trip to Singapore. We were last there in the 80s and were anxious to see how things had changed. It was also going to be the first stop on a multi-country, 2 month long, vacation trip (Singapore, New Zealand, Australia and Malaysia) and we were excited about getting it started. What made it more special was that we were going to stay with very dear friends who had been living there for the past two years. With their help, we were looking forward to getting an insider's view of that island nation, not the tourist's view...although we got a lot of that as well. The final thing that made this stop so exciting was the opportunity to spend some time with LTC Wilson Low, the Singaporean officer from the 2010-1 class that we had the great pleasure of sponsoring.

Singapore was impressive right from the start. Changi Airport is a beautiful facility – modern, bright, spotlessly clean, and incredibly efficient. Getting to and through immigration was easy. It was well staffed, resulting in short lines and a painless, quick process. Our luggage was already spilling onto the carousel when we got there. There was an orderly queue for taxis just outside the terminal and all the taxis were clean (inside and out), and all the drivers spoke English. Oh my God...what a great way to start a vacation!

It was quickly evident that our airport experience wasn't unique. The whole island nation is spotlessly clean and efficient. Everything works! Any thoughts that we were visiting a third world country quickly evaporated. Singapore is a first world country by any measure you care to use. Even the tap water is safe to drink.

Our friends lived in a beautiful condo on Scott's Road. It was a half-block from an underground station. As in other major cities of the world like Tokyo, London, Paris, and New York, Singapore has an incredibly efficient subway system. One can go almost anywhere in the city quickly and cheaply. Who needs a car when the city offers a subway system, lots of honest taxis and a remarkably clean, timely, bus system. In fact, owning a car in Singapore is incredibly expensive with import duties roughly equal to the cost of the car.

As impressive as the city is, we were really taken by the Singapore that lies under ground. Vast, multi-story, shopping malls lie adjacent to subway terminals, many of which are connected to each other by pedestrian walkways. Everything is brightly lit and spotless. Even the public restrooms are like those found in five star hotels, with marble counters and full-time attendants who aren't looking for a tip. One can find anything and everything in the underground Singapore, including first-class restaurants.

Culturally, Singapore is a blend of Malay, Chinese and Indian cultures. This blend of Chinese and Malay has resulted in a culture called Pranaken. There are restaurants that specialize in Pranaken cuisine, and art and clothing that are a part of this culture. The community celebrates all the different religious holidays together making this country an example of harmonious diversity. Most of the people we met were tri-lingual, speaking English, Chinese and Malay.

The architecture in Singapore is amazing. Their supreme court building resembles a flying saucer. The art museum looks like a lotus flower and there is a hotel casino that encompasses three towers with a structure spanning all three that resembles a ship. These are just examples of a few buildings that are unique in Singapore. They have saved areas within the city that reflect the old Singapore so you can enjoy the old and new as you traverse the city.

As you can tell by the above narrative, we really liked Singapore. If you haven't been there we would encourage you to put it on your list of places to visit. You won't regret it.