

GKCPTP Newsletter, May 2012

Chapter News May 2012

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President's Message

Our annual meeting, held on March 18, was well-attended by members of our chapter. I hope everyone enjoyed the great food at Grand Street Café and the chance to interact with old friends and to make new ones. I want to express my sincere gratitude to those who are going off the board and to those who are joining the board for the 2012-2013 year. Pat Burnett, past president and long-time GKCPTP board member, has been a great friend and mentor and has helped me very much during my time on the board. Kim Nitz, Dan Karp, and Paulette Markel have brought a lot of energy and knowledge to the board, and even though they are leaving the board for the time being, they are all continuing to stay involved with our chapter in other ways. I look forward to working with our new board members: Larry Dolci, Linda Sutton, Dorinda Nicholson, and Anab Abdulahi. I also am very pleased to continue working with the rest of the hard-working board.

Members have requested permanent nametags for our events. These are still available for \$8.50, by contacting: Cole Bonham at Midwest Trophy and Engraving, 7365 W. 97th St., Overland Park, KS 66212 913-642-2451.

We are very fortunate to have many members who are willing to strive to make our chapter so outstanding. There are so many ways to get involved: sponsoring international military students and their families, sponsoring international university students, recruiting new members, helping with the newsletter, participating in community service projects, as well as attending the different events and activities—meeting new people and just having fun! Any organization is only as strong as its membership, and I encourage you to stay involved. If you have any ideas or suggestions for our chapter, please let us know.

Winston Churchill said it very well, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

Warm regards,
Karen Haber

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Calendar

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
5/3-5/6	PTPI Americas Regional Meeting (Details at ptpi.org)	Hotel Phillips 106 W 12 th Street Kansas City MO	
5/16/12	Know Your World: New Zealand	Eisenhower Auditorium Lewis and Clark Center Fort Leavenworth	3:30 p.m.
5/18/12	12-01 Sponsor Recognition Ceremony RSVP required	Eisenhower Auditorium Lewis and Clark Center Fort Leavenworth	7:00 p.m.
5/22/12	Sponsor Briefing	Kauffman Foundation Kansas City MO	6:00 p.m.
6/7/12	12-01 Badge Ceremony	TBD	TBD
6/8/12	12-01 Graduation	TBD	TBD
6/13/12	Know Your World: Malawi	Eisenhower Auditorium Lewis and Clark Center Fort Leavenworth	3:30 p.m.
6/13-6/15	13-01 Arrivals	TBD	TBD
7/25/12	Know Your World: Cambodia	Eisenhower Auditorium Lewis and Clark Center Fort Leavenworth	3:30 p.m.
8/22/12	Know Your World: Tanzania	Eisenhower Auditorium Lewis and Clark Center Fort Leavenworth	3:30 p.m.
September	Partner Chapter-Trip to Colombia	TBD	TBD

Note: 12-01 class graduates June 2012; 12-02 class graduates December 2012.
13-01 class graduates June 2013.

Colombia Partner Chapter Trip Coming Together

Gene Jacobs, Partner Chapter Committee Chair

The response from members of the Bogotá, Colombia, chapter and other Colombian friends has been most encouraging. At this time it looks like a delegation from GKCPTP will make the visit to the Partner Chapter September 1-11, 2012.

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About 15 members have expressed interest in making the journey. BG Ricardo Bernal has indicated that our group might be able to stay at the military hotel in Bogotá, which will allow for considerable savings on accommodations. Attendance at the performance by the Bogotá Philharmonic Orchestra, September 8, should provide a wonderful attraction during the stay. Additionally, several side trips have been suggested by the potential local hosts.

Any GKCPTP members who may be interested in joining the group should contact Gene Jacobs at gjacobs11@kc.rr.com very soon so that they can be included on information notices. Any members who have sponsored Colombian officers in recent years might want to pass along email addresses – if they have them – so that these families can be made aware of the impending visit.

Welcome and Thanks to Military Committee Members

Sharon Valasek, Military Committee

The military committee welcomes Pat Burnett, who has graciously agreed to serve on the military committee. We will benefit greatly from Pat's years of experience as a chapter officer and sponsor. Toni Cracraft is stepping away from the committee for now. Sincere thanks to Toni for her service. Toni is one of those cherished volunteers who doesn't hesitate to take on tasks and follows through promptly. She is a committee chair's dream! Thank you, Toni, for serving the chapter. We hope you'll rejoin the committee in the future.

Sponsor Assignment Process is Under Way

The committee has begun the work of assigning sponsors for the 13-01 incoming class of International Military Students (IMS) who will arrive June 2012. The committee expects to complete assignments by May 17. If you wish to sponsor an officer from the 13-01 class, please submit your preference to me right away at svalasek@kc.rrr.com.

I encourage you to share your joy of sponsoring with friends and colleagues. It's important to the health of the program and there's probably no better spokesperson than someone who has first-hand sponsorship experience. Thank you for taking the time and effort to invite someone to get involved.

Save the Date: Sponsor Briefing May 22

The Sponsor Briefing session is Tuesday, May 22. Please make every effort to attend as there will be important information about sponsoring presented by the Fort and the GKCPTP chapter. We will provide sponsor packets (sponsor assignments from

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other organizations, sponsor guides, culture grams, etc.) at the briefing. Appetizers and beverages will be provided. The session is intended not only for new and current sponsors, it is also for any chapter member and guest who has an interest in the program. We especially welcome more seasoned sponsors because we count on you to be a resource to help “show new sponsors the ropes,” that they may become more quickly acclimated to the program.

SPONSOR BRIEFING

Tuesday, May 22

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Kauffman Foundation

4801 Rockhill Road

Kansas City, Missouri 64110

International Student Hosting

International Student Hosting program is proud to announce that it successfully matched several hosts and students in UMKC from various countries and various backgrounds this past academic year. We are looking for more hosts, starting in August 2012, when the new semester begins. Please fill out the application form early, find it online at www.gkcptp.org under Programs. For more details, please contact Irina Kobzeva-Pavlovic at ishp@gkcptp.org.

Membership Report

By Betty Olberding

New Members

TJ & Jennifer Slansky

Nichole Taylor

Julie Vosilus

Recruited by

Niki and Brian Cullum

PTPI

PTPI

We currently have 138 paid membership units. A membership unit is an individual, couple or family who join as one membership. Some renewals are past due. This organization is dependent on its membership and encourages all who haven't paid, to do so.

Since the new class of international officers will be arriving in June to Fort Leavenworth, this is an excellent time to invite to your friends to join us as new members. For additional information please contact me at: betty_olberding@yahoo.com, or telephone: 913-772-8684.

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GKCPTP Name Badges

Available Now!

All members are eligible to purchase a GKCPTP magnetic name badge, available for \$8.50.

Call Cole Bonham at
Midwest Trophy and Engraving
7365 W. 97th St.
Overland Park, KS 66212
913-642-2451

Meet the New Board Members

Four new board members joined our leadership team this spring. Get to know them a little better by reading their bios, shown below. Want to be part of our leadership, just let one of them or the "prez" know of your interest. We can find an opportunity that matches your interests, time constraints, personal goals, etc.

Anab Abdulahi

Anab Abdulahi and husband Abdi Nur have been members of the GKCPTP sponsors of international officers for more than 15 years and are residents of Leawood, Kansas. She is a native of Somali, but was born and raised in Ethiopia. Anab came to the States in 1973 to go college, where she graduated from Northwest Missouri University. She holds a Masters degree in Business Administration, majoring in Economics and Marketing Management. She is self-employed insurance broker, owner, and operator of Anab's Insurance Agency /Allstate Insurance Co., which specializes in personal, business insurance, retirement benefit since 1982.

Anab is very involved in several nonprofit organizations in the community, and is passionate about giving back her time and her talent to those in need. She mentors high school girls, teaches financial literacy in area for women in shelters, and is a speaker on understanding the importance of cultural and religious diversity. Anab is a mother of three daughters: Sophia, Sahra and Aasli. I am excited to come back and serve on the board of GKCPTP because this is an organization I truly believe its mission and purpose, "Peace through understanding" is more important today than ever.

Lawrence H. Dolci

Larry Dolci is the retired Director of Information Security, Physical Security and Disaster Planning for Kansas City Power & Light Company. Larry served on a number of task forces and teams at the local, state and federal level dealing with the protection of critical infrastructure. He has served on a number of non-profit boards including the Greater Kansas City Chapter People to People Board as a Board Member and President (2007-2008).

Larry has been a member of the Missouri Bar Association for nearly forty years. He received his Bachelors and Juris Doctor Degrees from Saint Louis University. Larry is an Army veteran of the Viet Nam War. Larry is married to Barbara Dolci, who is also a past president of GKCPTP.

Dorinda Nicholson

Dorinda Makana onalani Nicholson was born in Hawaii to a Hawaiian mother and Scotch-Irish father, and lived in Pearl Harbor. Standing in their front yard on December 7, 1941, she clung to her father's side while enemy torpedo bombers screamed so low overhead that Dorinda could see the pilots' goggles.

Her story remained untold until her books were published, *PEARL HARBOR CHILD*, followed by *PEARL HARBOR WARRIORS*. Her third book, *REMEMBER WORLD WAR II, Kids Who Survived Tell Their Stories*, was published by National Geographic. In this book, Dorinda captures not only WWII history, but shares resilient and courageous stories seldom told, those of the children of war. She believes it is her mission to bring WWII history to the classroom and is a frequent speaker at schools.

She recently retired as a Marriage and Family psychotherapist, and is enjoying serving on the Red Cross Mental Health disaster team, as the Hawaii Ethnic Enrichment Commissioner, a Raytown Human Relations Council member, and on the board of the Missouri Humanities Council. After retirement, she planned to catch up on neglected house chores, instead she found speaking on cruise ships way more fun.

Professional photographer husband, Larry, and Dorinda live in Raytown and are the parents of four adult sons, and have 13 gorgeous, brilliant grandchildren.

Linda Hoskins Sutton

Linda Hoskins Sutton has been a member of Greater KC People to People International for two years and was invited to get involved with the organization by Siew Lau and she is excited to serve as secretary for this term. Linda has been an employee of Kansas City Kansas Community College for 28 years and is currently Director of Student Activities and has held two other positions at the college. Linda is a native of Mississippi and has lived in Wyandotte County for the past 32 years.

Linda is a marathon runner and has run in the Marine Corps Marathon, the Canadian International Marathon and the New York Marathon to name a few. Linda has been a volunteer as a supernumerary for the Kansas City Lyric Opera since 2005 and had a large role in Aida in 2007 and Julius Caesar in 2008.

Linda has an Associate in Business from Northwest Mississippi Community College, a Bachelor of Science from Friends University and a Masters of Business Administration from Baker University.