

Member Bulletin: February 12, 2014

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News + information from:

Greater Kansas City Chapter of People to People International

gkcptp.org



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President's Letter: Kansas City's Best Kept Secret

I recently attended the annual dinner of a Kansas City civic organization. During the dinner, I had an opportunity to discuss People to People International, in general, and the work of the Greater Kansas City Chapter of People to People in particular. During one of these discussions, I was told, "People to People, (specifically our chapter) is Kansas City's best kept secret." I agree. What a large untapped market we have in which to spread the word about our organization and to recruit new members.



I have mentioned "Recruit One" in my communications before. Think of the impact on our organization if each member or family unit of GKCPTP recruited just one new member. We would significantly increase the financial resources of the chapter allowing us to do more programs such as the Circle of Knowledge event described in this newsletter, the Deanna Rose Picnic and similar events.

Doubling our membership would give the Military Committee a much larger pool to draw sponsors from for the International Military Students (IMS) at Ft. Leavenworth. Currently, the committee must scramble before each class arrives in order to find sponsors. Through their efforts, we have had enough sponsors, but just barely. Some sponsors have been willing to take more than one officer in each class in order to make sure each officer has a sponsor. This is not an ideal situation for the officer or sponsor.

Finally, doubling our membership would raise the profile of People to People International and GKCPTP in the city where People to People was founded and is based, giving both organizations the recognition they deserve. Let's all get serious about recruiting "Just One." We all have opportunities at meetings of civic organizations, schools, houses of worship, youth organizations, etc. to spread the word about our organization and to end the "secrecy" surrounding GKCPTP.

Please take a careful look at the events listed in the newsletter and make plans to attend these events. A great deal of time is spent in planning events for members with a variety of interests. Please take advantage of the efforts of our committees and attend. Also note the annual meeting coming up on March 30, 2014.

Warm regards,
Larry Dolci

Chapter Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Time
2/16/14	Great Decisions	Home of Larry and Barbara Dolci	5:30 PM
2/21/14	Global Youth Murals	Images Art Gallery, 7320 W. 80th St., Overland Park, KS	6-9:00 PM
2/26/14	Know Your World: Peru	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Fort Leavenworth	3:30 PM
3/7/14	Spring Food Fair, Class 14-01, by invitation only	Frontier Conference Center, Fort Leavenworth	6-9:00 PM
3/9/14	Circle of Knowledge: Bulgaria	Matt Ross Community Center, 8101 Marty Street, Overland Park, Kansas 66204	1:30 PM
3/14/14	Spring Food Fair, Class 14-02, by invitation only	Frontier Conference Center, Fort Leavenworth	6-9:00 PM
3/26/14	Know Your World: Mongolia	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Fort Leavenworth	3:30 PM
3/30/14	GKCPTP Annual Meeting	Grand Street Café, Kansas City, Mo	1:30 PM
5/16/14	Sponsor recognition 14-01, by invitation only	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Fort Leavenworth	7:00 PM
6/12/14	Badge Ceremony 14-01	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Fort Leavenworth	9:30 AM
6/13/14	Graduation 14-01	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Fort Leavenworth	9:30 AM

Note: 14-01 class graduates June 2014; 14-02 class graduates Dec. 2014.

Organization for International Spouses and Sponsors (OISS)

The Organization for International Spouses and Sponsors (OISS) and is made up of spouses of the international military students, sponsors, liaison and exchange officers. It is primarily a social organization that will give the International spouses the opportunity to meet with the other International spouses, and in some cases their sponsors, and experience the American community.

The [attached document \(click here\)](#) includes a letter from OISS president, Marcia Irvine, a membership form and the calendar for 2014.

OISS Calendar for 2014

Date	OISS Event	Location
02/18/14	Line Dancing	Heritage Center, 109 Delaware St, Leavenworth, KS 66048
03/10/14	Parade of Nations	Lewis and Clark, Fort Leavenworth
04/11/14	Night at the Carousel	TBD
Aug 2014	Ice Cream Social	TBD
10/26/14	Halloween Party	Hunt Lodge, 800 Wainwright, Fort Leavenworth
11/23/14	Thanksgiving Feast	Riverfront Community Center, 123 S Esplanade St, Leavenworth, KS 66048

For more information, contact Marcia Irvine (OISS President) at 913-240-3315 or Marianne Tennant at 913-306-7184.

Importance of International Military Student Sponsorship in Today's World

By Randy and Marquita Pace, Kansas City, Missouri

Several friends have asked me why Marquita and I sponsor International Military Students (IMS) who attend the Command and General Staff College (CGSC) at Fort Leavenworth. The explanation is simple. I was a young soldier deployed to Germany in the early 1960s and had no family or friends other than the soldiers with whom I served. A German family I met at church took me under their wing for the next two years. I was a frequent guest at their home, learned much about their culture, some of their language and had plenty of great German food. They became my family away from the United States. That experience left a wonderful feeling about Germany and their people that I still carry with me today.

In 2006, we found out about the International Military Student Division (IMSD) sponsorship program at Fort Leavenworth. Once we understood how it worked, we signed up immediately. I look at it as giving back to my German family for the love, food and friendship they shared with me. We've never looked back and have certainly been blessed many, many times over because of the incredible officers we've sponsored. In fact, we still correspond with most of our now 21 sponsored officers.

As we see it, the biggest problem is "getting the word out" to others about this incredibly important program. We involve our church friends, our neighbors and other friends in a

“Welcome Party” for each of our officers, sometime during the first 2-3 months after they arrive. If they have special friends they’ve made while at the Defense Language Institute (DLI) or at Fort Leavenworth, we encourage them to come along on weekends. Other organizations we belong to such as Employer Support of Guard and Reserve, Veterans of Foreign Wars, neighborhood book clubs and my Model A Ford club are also aware of the sponsorship program. We continue to try to spread the word about this amazing program to friends, new friends and others with whom we have contact.

We can’t think of an easier or more fun method to provide these officers with a real taste of Americana. They come to our home, we give them “refrigerator rights” when they arrive, and we laugh and share who and what we are with them over home-cooked meals. We learn much about them and their country, and they learn about the United States and its people. They truly become part of our family. This we feel is the important part of our involvement.

The statistics speak for themselves. Over 51% of CGSC’s 7,000+ IMSD graduates (since 1894) were promoted to at least Brigadier General upon returning to their home countries, and more than 700 of those made it to cabinet level members of their own governments. And 29 from that group became Heads of State! What an incredible opportunity we have here in the Heart of America to make a huge difference in what the rest of the world thinks of the United States through participation in this program!

One of our officers told us upon his departure, “When I came to the US, I would hear the Star Spangled Banner and didn’t think anything about it. Now, when I hear it, it sends goose bumps up my neck, and I understand what it means to be an American.”

Membership Report: Fourth Quarter 2013

By Betty Olberding

New Members are:

Candice McField
Rick & Julie Dreesman
Kevin & Maggie Hendrick
Jeff Jans & Mickie Schroeder
Henry Fortunato & Eileen O’Hara
Sarah Patterson
Melvin Smith

Recruited by:

Returning member
Larry Dolci
Paul & Maggi Choplin
Paul & Maggi Choplin
Sharon Valasek
Samantha Harlan
Tom Waggoner

Peter Allard & Angela Ferguson
Thomas & Joan McKee
George & Barbara Heymach

Dorinda Nicholson
Returning members
Larry & Barbara Dolci

Welcome to our organization! It's truly wonderful to have these new members in our organization. Thank you to our members listed above who have shared this opportunity.

Chapter "Meet and Greets"

We are in the process of hosting "Meet & Greets." These events will be held in the homes of our members by zip codes. We hope that you'll be attending when you're invited sometime in the near future. This will be an opportunity to invite your prospective members to meet current members in a casual setting.

If you would like to host a "Meet & Greet", please contact me at:
betty_olberding@yahoo.com or telephone: 913-772-8684.

Great Decisions: 02/16/14

The next *Great Decisions* discussion group will be held at the home of Larry and Barbara Dolci, 8232 West 98th Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66212 at 5:30 p.m. on February 16, 2014. Discussions will be based on the *Great Decisions* book, 2014, from the Foreign Policy Association.



The books are a great aid in the discussions but not required. Some copies are available from Barbara Dolci at \$20 each. The first topic will be Defense Technology. Space and books are limited. If interest exceeds the space available we will set up a second discussion group. To participate, email Barbara Dolci or call her at 913-669-2628.

Great Decisions

Sunday, February 16, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

At home of Larry and Barbara Dolci

8232 West 98th Terrace

Overland Park, KS 66212

Global Youth Murals Event: 02/21/14



Join fellow members of the Greater Kansas City Chapter of People to People International in Historic Downtown Overland Park for an evening of celebration!

WHAT: Opening Reception of PTPI's Global Youth Murals

WHERE: Images Art Gallery - 7320 W. 80th St. - Overland Park, KS

WHEN: Friday, February 21, 2014 - 6-9:00 p.m.

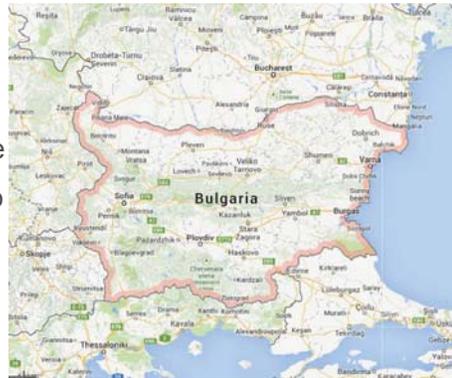
- Meet PTPI's new CEO Clark Plexico
- Meet other local PTPI supporters
- Very informal - no formal presentation - come at your leisure
- Enjoy other artwork on display for the local Children's Art Exhibit

PTPI believes art is a universal language. In 2002, PTPI organized its first Global Youth Murals project, inviting youth worldwide to create artwork that illustrates their cultures, communities, ideas about friendship, and "Peace through Understanding." Please join us to celebrate a sampling from the 2013 project. Sixty-eight murals were submitted from 28 schools in 13 countries, including three PTPI Student Chapters. If you miss this event, you can still visit the exhibit through March 17.

Circle of Knowledge: Bulgaria 03/09/14

On Sunday, March 9, 2014, you will be able to get the equivalent of a free trip to Bulgaria. All you have to do is register for the Circle of Knowledge presentation in the Harvest Room of the Matt Ross Community Center, 8101 Marty Street, Overland Park, Kansas 66204 for the 1:30 event. Gather at 1:30, eat a

delicious complimentary Bulgarian meal at 2 p.m. and enjoy a presentation on his home country by CPT Rosen Kanatliev of the Bulgarian Army, who is attending the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. RSVP by emailing [Jane-Kohl Waggoner](mailto:Jane-Kohl.Waggoner) or calling her at 816-289-6358.



Circle of Knowledge: Bulgaria

Sunday, March 9, 2014

Gather at 1:30 p.m.

Program begins 2:00 p.m.

Matt Ross Community Center

8101 Marty Street

Overland Park, Kansas 66204



Annual Meeting: 03/30/14

Our annual meeting is just around the corner. All current GKCTP members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

We'll join together for a great meal, camaraderie and elect board members. In fact, if you'd like to participate as a board member, there may be a spot or two open. Just let [Larry Dolci](mailto:Larry.Dolci) know that you'd like to serve and help the chapter reach greater heights.



The annual meeting for Greater Kansas City People to People is scheduled for Sunday, March 30, 2014, at the Grand Street Café, 4740 Grand Ave, Kansas City Mo., at 1:30 p.m.

Details regarding the meeting will be sent to members soon. Prior to the meeting a slate of proposed officers and a ballot will be mailed to all members.

Greater Kansas City People to People Annual Meeting

Sunday, March 30, 2014 at 1:30 p.m.

Grand Street Café

4740 Grand Ave

Kansas City MO 64112

(816) 561-8000

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