

News + information from:

Greater Kansas City Chapter of People to People International

gkcptp.org



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Greetings from Our Chapter President

Dear GKCPTP members:



I hope you; your family and your officers' families are doing well. Last year when we were doing our Annual Zoom meeting, I was thinking the year 2020 was a unique year and will be remembered for the rest of our lives. I was wrong, year 2021 started with more unforgettable historic events. The tragedy of the pandemic turned out more painful than ever before. Political turmoil was one of its kind in the history of our democracy. A freezing winter made its own unique entry and left us locked in our houses for many days.

On top of all those miseries, the Chief's loss was unbearable.

Thank God the nightmare is almost over. You can see spring out there. Flowers and birds are making us hopeful for the year ahead. I don't know about you but I have already spent our stimulus checks and ready for the summer vacations. By then I am fully confident that almost all of us will be vaccinated.

I am thankful to U.S. Army Command and General Staff College IMSD staff for continuing the sponsorship program during this pandemic. At the same time, I salute my fellow members for their dedication to volunteer themselves to sponsor new IMS during this challenging time. I am also thankful to all those members who voluntarily stayed behind and gave the opportunity for other sponsors to make a difference. Our military and program committees are working hard to make this year exciting for all the members. Sharon and Nancy will update you in this regard.

Let me tell you, our organization is proud of you and your families. Your dedication and love of service as a volunteer is priceless. You are not only making friends from all over the world at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, but your relationships are making a huge difference. These officers and their families will never forget the love and hospitality you are providing them during their stay in the Kansas City area.

I am proud to share with you that our organization is unlike anything else, just because of its members, who have been playing the role of heroes for more than half a century. Your selfless service have been making a huge difference on the world stage. I am thankful to all the new members, board members, sponsors and especially the honorary members who are not only dedicating their time but also their valuable service.

Our website and Facebook page Greater Kansas City People to People are active, and we are attracting visitors. I am thankful to Larry Hedlund for joining our board and taking care of our social media. Please like the page and ask your friends to do the same. Feedback, comments and suggestions are always welcome.

I bet you have a lot of experience doing Zoom meetings by now. This year we are no different from last year. the annual meeting will be on Zoom. We have planned an

informative and interesting meeting. Please join us on April 18th, 2021 at 2 p.m. on Zoom.

I want to thank once again all of our chapter members, especially our military committee, program committee and board members for their most valuable contribution, which is their time to this organization, this country and the nation. I will encourage those members who want to join the board, any committee or even back-up for any officer's position. Come forward and talk to any of our board members.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me (or any board member).

Sincerely,

Zahid Awan

President

Board of Directors

Greater Kansas City People to People Chapter

Email: prez@gkcptp.org Cell: 816-838-2926

PS: New chapter members and sponsors offer an infusion of new ideas and energy to our organization; and I love their courage to give us their valuable time.

Annual Meeting this Sunday April 18

It seems like ages ago since we had to cancel our in person annual meeting for 2020 due to COVID-19. Well, we have learned a lot and come a long way however it is still not safe to meet in person. Maybe next year- I will save the menu plans because the dishes sound amazing!! Looks like we can anticipate sponsoring officers again for those who have had to sit out a year and we'll probably need more sponsors than in previous years.

We hope you have had a chance to participate in our Circle of Knowledge presentations. Officers from Bangladesh, Poland, and former attendee of CGSC from Lebanon shared much about their countries. All of these were excellent, and the officers were very gracious in answering our questions.

The agenda for this year's annual meeting includes our annual business meeting with approval of our updated bylaws and election of our 2021-2022 board of directors. David M. Bornn Jr., Chair of the Field Studies Program at the Command and General Staff College, will give us an update on the class of 2021 and the upcoming class of 22, which promises to look a lot different.

Three of our current sponsors (one new sponsor, one long time sponsor, and one sponsor in between) will share their experiences, challenges, and unique ways they have connected with their officers and families this year. Thank you in advance to Steve and Henna Fuller, Nihada and Bajram Radoncic, and Andrea and Wasim Khan.

Nancy Quitmeier Program Chair

GKCPTP's Annual Meeting - Virtually Via Zoom

Sunday, April 18

2:00 p.m. Central Time

Agenda:

- Call to order
- 2020 Annual Meeting minutes
- 2020 Treasurer's report
- Membership report
- Military report
- Bylaws update
- 2021 Board of Directors Election
- Update from David Bornn
- Sponsor experiences - Class of 2021

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85792622207?pwd=dVFBWkptaVpPTzNBUU5Wa2tGOEh0UT09>

Meeting ID: 857 9262 2207

Passcode: 796318

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,85792622207#,*796318# US (Houston)

+16699006833,,85792622207#,*796318# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location:

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kARUqkSnC>

Items for reference:

- Click here for [last year's minutes](#).
- Click here for [board ballot](#).
- Click here for [Bylaw Changes](#).

Military Update From David Bornn

Currently, we are slated for 119 international military students (IMS) for the 2022 class. Madagascar has been the only country to cancel to date. We still believe we will have more countries drop and our next hard target date for data will be 26 APR when we see who shows up for DLI language training (anyone who doesn't show is highly likely not going to attend CGSC). The final check will be the ITO deadline for all 2022 IMS who are non-language school IMS on or about 1 JUN. So far, we are optimistic we will have a larger class than believed just six months ago. Another year of uniqueness but we are hoping for 100+ IMS this year, which is a good number!

I am very excited to be talking with GKCPTP on 6 June via Zoom at 16:00 (4:00 p.m.) for our Sponsor Briefing. I'm excited to get this next year going and receive our new IMS!

The IMS arrival is 28 JUN, later than previous years. Following arrival, officers will begin a 2-week quarantine, from 28 JUN – 11 JUL.

Sponsors Needed

In anticipation of 100-119 incoming IMS for the class of 2002, please consider reaching out to a friend, neighbor or colleague. Invite them to share in the best volunteer opportunity in the Kansas City area. Please contact Sharon Valasek or any member of the military committee with name(s) and contact information of those you recommend for sponsorship.

- Joan Barrett
- Tom Black
- Pat Burnett
- Maggi Choplin
- Alan Felton
- Pamela Felton
- Karen Haber
- Jane Kohl
- Randy Pace
- Sharon Valasek

Sponsors Recognized for Years of Service

In previous years, sponsors were recognized at an in-person event for their years of service (in 5-year increments). Due to the pandemic, the sponsor award plaque will be distributed by mail. These members deserve a big thanks for their willingness to volunteer and their dedication to the sponsor program. Congratulations!

Years	Surname(s)	First name(s)
15	Navarro	Marcos & Angela
10	Barnett	Paul & Lori
5	Schoenberg	Eric & Cheryl
5	Watlington	Phillip & Nicki

If you believe you are eligible contact Sharon Valasek at svalasek01@gmail.com or 816-213-5847.

The World Is Here: International in Kansas City

A program by the International Relations Council

Thursday, April 29 – 2:30-3:25 p.m. – via Zoom

Why does it matter that KC is international? Local academic, business, and nonprofit leaders share their insights. Confirmed participants include:

- Dr. Charles Bankart, Associate Vice Provost, International Affairs, University of Kansas
- Head Consul Alfonso Navarro, Mexican Consulate in Kansas City
- Fang Shen, Partner, Husch Blackwell, and Immediate Past President, Asian-American Chamber of Kansas City
- Carolyn Watley, Vice President of Community Engagement, CBIZ, and Chair, Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce

[Read more and register](#)

Sponsorships are available, as well, in case there is any interest. Please learn more in the attached sponsorship menu.

Renew/Acquire Card for Base Access

Important: If you plan to sponsor an officer in the incoming class, please apply for your LAC card right away. Applying now will help both the Fort and GKCPTP manage the flow of applications prior to the influx of international and U.S. military officers (and families) that must be processed this spring.

February is the month that most LAC cards expire, and must be renewed in order to retain access to the Fort. Local Access Cards (LACs) are your way onto Fort Leavenworth for events and officer visits (should your officer live on post). They provide both the Fort and our members a measure of security, albeit with a degree of inconvenience in the initial application and retrieval of the card(s) in person. We appreciate that our sponsors understand the need for security at U.S. military bases.

Order of the "LAC Process"

Please note the order, or sequence of events occurring when applying for and receiving your local area access card (LAC).

1. Fill out [LAC application form](#) (you complete the "applicant" part only). **NOTE: This is a new version of the form. Please do not use a previous version. IMSD requires the form be completed electronically (do not handwrite).** Remember to not sign or date the form, stop after the Criminal History section.
2. Send the completed LAC forms to Pat Burnett (dburnett5@gmail.com) or Sharon Valášek (svalasek01@gmail.com) by email or U.S. mail.
3. Pat or Sharon will acknowledge receipt and will email the completed LAC to IMSD.
4. Pat or Sharon will contact sponsor(s) when we have been notified by IMSD that the application is ready. Do not call the Visitor Control Center (VCC) before you receive notification from Pat or Sharon that your application is ready for pick up. Calling the VCC before being notified by Pat or Sharon can cause confusion (VCC may say they don't have the application when, in fact, it is with someone else (e.g., IMSD) integral to the process. When VCC says they don't have it, it causes sponsors to believe their application hasn't been submitted).
5. Once notified by Pat or Sharon that the LAC is ready for pick up, call the VCC. (Before sponsors drive to Fort Leavenworth have them call the VCC at 913-684-3600 to make sure the system that issues the pass is working. If sponsors have any problems while there, **call Sean Madsen's mobile phone at 714-809-4633.**) **NOTE: The VCC is open Monday – Friday, 7:00 – 4:00. There are no weekend hours at this time.**
6. Pick up pass within 30 days of approval date. (Approved applications are valid for and must be picked up within 30 days, otherwise the process starts over -- requiring a new app to be submitted). A rule introduced in 2018 from the VCC states that sponsors are allowed to apply only 3 times, so please don't let your approval expire.

Note: If you're not accustomed to using a fillable PDF form, you might find this link helpful: ["How to Fill Out an Attached PDF & Email Back."](#)

