

## News + information from:

Greater Kansas City Chapter of People to People International

gkcptp.org



# Inside this Member Update:

(Click on topic to go directly to that item)

- [President's Message](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Join Us for January 12 Circle of Knowledge Presentation: Fiji](#)
- [Join Us for February 9 Circle of Knowledge Presentation: Bosnia and Herzegovina and Singapore](#)
- [Update LAC Cards in February for Continued Base Access](#)

## President's Message

Dear GKCPTP members,



The year 2019 is almost over and 2020 is on its way with new challenges and excitement. Holidays are right around the corner and everyone is busy, but the good news is that the International Military Students are getting a break from their books. It's the perfect time to invite them to your holiday celebrations or guide them as they go and explore the beauty of the United States of America during their winter break.

I know you have made new friends but don't forget your past sponsored IMS and their families. It's a wonderful time of the year to reconnect with them, give them a call, or send an email and tell them, hey, you will always be a special part of our hearts because no

one has been able to replace the space you left in it.

Let me share with 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 at Fort Leavenworth. I hope you are living a life that you are proud of and if you find that you are not, I hope you have the strength to start over. Albert Einstein once said, "Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow."

We are excited to start our new year full throttle. Our off-post Circle of Knowledge events (similar to on-post Know Your World events) will start on Sunday January 12, from 2-4 p.m. at McCoy Meetin House, Park University. We are proud to announce that with the help of the International Military Student Division, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, a distinguished officer from Fiji will present the geography, history, culture and security of his country. Please invite your neighbors and friends to learn about our unique relationships with the foreign officers from more than 90 countries of the world. Perhaps this introduction to our program, and with a little encouragement from you, they will be enticed to join our chapter and become sponsors.

I would like to remind you that most members' LAC cards are going to expire in February 2020. February is the only month designated for the renewals of LAC for the Greater Kansas City People to People members. Our Military Committee Chair, Sharon Valášek and Pat Burnett will help with the renewals (see article below).

Our annual GKCPTP chapter annual meeting is coming up in March. We need more board members, special committees' members and a social media person. If you want to make a difference in our organization's activities, please come forward and be part of our board.

Our Greater Kansas City People to People website and Facebook page are active and we are attracting many visitors. Please "like" the page and ask your friends to do the same. Feedback, comments and suggestions are always welcome.

We are also partnering with the International Relations Council of Greater Kansas City and the United Nations Association of Greater Kansas City. These partnerships have created mutually beneficial relationships.

I want to thank once again all our chapter members, especially our military committee, program committee and board members for their most valuable contributions. I truly believe their time and effort supports not only this organization, but also our nation and the world.

We hope this year of sponsorship has been as rewarding to you as it is for our family. And I hope new sponsors have a great experience with their international military students and families.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to you and your families. God bless you all.

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

Zahid Awan  
President  
Board of Directors  
Greater Kansas City People to People Chapter.  
Cell: 816-838-2926

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## Calendar

You can also [download a PDF.](#)

Date	Event	Place	Time
Jan 12	Circle of Knowledge Presentation: Fiji	McCoy Meetin House at Park University 8700 NW River Park Dr. Parkville, MO 64152	2-4:00 p.m.
Jan 15	Know Your World: Albania	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Fort Leavenworth	3:45 p.m.
Feb 5	Know Your World: Mexico	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Fort Leavenworth	3:45 p.m.
Feb 9	Circle of Knowledge Presentation: Bosnia and Herzegovina and Singapore	Central Resource Library, 9875 W 87th St, Overland Park, KS 66212, Carmack Community Room	2-4:00 p.m.
Mar 11	Know Your World: Uganda	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Fort Leavenworth	3:45 p.m.
Mar ?	GKCPTP Annual Meeting RSVP required	TBD	TBD
Apr 3	Spring Food Fair Group 1	Frontier Conference Center, Fort Leavenworth	6:00 p.m.
Apr 17	Spring Food Fair Group 2	Frontier Conference Center, Fort Leavenworth	6:00 p.m.
Apr 24	Ramadan Begins	---	---
Apr 26 – May 1	IMS Gettysburg/DC Trip Group 1	—	—
May 17 - 22	IMS Gettysburg/DC Trip Group 2	—	—
May 23	Ramadan Ends	---	---
May 29	Sponsor Appreciation Ceremony & Reception	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Fort Leavenworth	7:00 p.m.
June 12	Badge Ceremony Class of 2020	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Fort Leavenworth	TBD

## Join Us for January 12 Circle of Knowledge Presentation: Fiji

*It's free to attend and please invite your friends and neighbors.*

In cooperation with Fort Leavenworth International Military Student Program, the GKCPTP Chapter of PTP is pleased to host an officer from Fiji to share insights on his country. Please join us as we seek to create unity through diversity by learning from cultural presentations representing countries throughout the world. Please do invite your

neighbors and friends to learn about our unique relationship with the foreign officers from 90+ countries.

**Sunday January 12, 2020 2-4 pm**

**McCoy Meetin House**

**Park University**

**8700 NW River Park Dr**

**Parkville, MO 64152**

Light refreshments served.

RSVP to Jane Kohl: [jkid96@msn.com](mailto:jkid96@msn.com) or Nancy Quitmeier: [nquitmeier@gmail.com](mailto:nquitmeier@gmail.com)

by January 8.

\*In case of inclement weather the event will be held on Sunday January 19.



The international military student will talk about the geography, history, current culture, economy, and security of his country. Each year officers are sent by allied countries for a yearlong period of study. Many officers have their families accompany them and their children attend local

schools.

Many residents in the Greater Kansas City area participate as sponsors for these officers and their families, providing a friendly contact in the community to help orient and acclimate them to the region and our country. We have enjoyed sharing experiences, customs, political ideas, and establishing bonds with these families that will continue through the years.

Download a [printable flyer here](#).

## **Join Us for February 9 Circle of Knowledge Presentation: Bosnia and Herzegovina and Singapore**

Central Resource Library

9875 W 87th Street  
Overland Park, KS 66212  
**Carmack Community Room**

For more information contact Nancy Quitmeier at [nquitmeier@gmail.com](mailto:nquitmeier@gmail.com).

**RSVP by Feb. 5.**

Download a [printable flyer here](#).

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## **Update LAC Cards in February for Continued Base Access**

*February is the month that most all 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).
2. Send the completed LAC forms to Pat Burnett ([dburnett5@gmail.com](mailto:dburnett5@gmail.com)) or Sharon Valášek ([svalasek01@gmail.com](mailto:svalasek01@gmail.com)) by email, fax or U.S. mail.
3. Pat or Sharon will acknowledge receipt.
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 Mike Brettmann's personal cell at 913-724-2864.)**
  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.
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