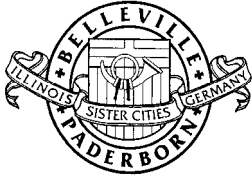


Belleville Sister Cities

Das Mitteilungsblatt

May 2009



President's Message

Now that Spring has arrived and Summer is right around the corner, it will be time again to swing into full gear for all the summer activities that we all look forward to like barbeques, summer picnics, 4th of July and mowing the grass. Well, maybe I don't look forward to mowing the grass just having green grass.

At the April 15th Board Meeting, Melissa Shreve and Lacey Levin, representatives of Lindenwood University, spoke of the university's interest in starting an international student exchange program. Information has been forwarded to Paderborn.

By the time you receive your newsletter, Steve and Hilda Koluch will have returned from the 2009 Illinois State Sister City Convention held on April 17 & 18th in Schaumburg, IL. Steve and Hilda were our representatives this year and we are looking forward to their report.

The eighth Annual Art on the Square event will be held May 15th to 17th. We wish much success to Patty Gregory and the planning committee for another award winning year.

(Continued on page 3)

General Meeting

Thursday
May 21st

Fischer's Restaurant
Dinner at 5:30 p.m.
Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

RSVP Dinner
Reservations to
Hilda Koluch
222-2210 by
May 19th

LAST MAILED COPY?

**For our members
with e-mail, this
will be the last copy
we'll mail to you
unless you request a
paper copy be sent
to you.**

**Please send inputs
for the
August Newsletter
by
August 27, 2009**



News From Paderborn

Dear Friends in Belleville and Around:

Just now we are remembering our first visit to Belleville 20 years ago - from May 4th thru May 9th, 1989. A large group from Paderborn experienced the wonderful hospitality in our future sister city - as the picture at the Shrine shows.

At this time last year we all were very busy with preparations for our 20th anniversary, so in 2009 there will be less stressful weeks without such an event ahead. Nevertheless we have been working on various exchanges. Amanda Reichling and Jonathan Crawford will fly to Paderborn airport on July 1st and will stay here thru July 31st. Their hosts will be two students who were in Belleville for three months in 2008 - Maren Ruerup and Simon Potthast.

Norman Hansmeyer will take a youth group to Belleville from July 3rd thru July 17th. They are looking forward to their stay. We are grateful to those working on the program at your side and to the host families.

Three high school students from Paderborn will come to Belleville in August for a three-month stay, they'll attend the high schools West and East. Here in Paderborn, the final interviews as to who will go will be finished soon.

(Continued on page 2)

Paderborn's Message Continued

In February, Doris and John Roach stayed in Paderborn. We had talks with Doris about the upcoming exchanges. Stammtisch president Willi Boekamp arranged a special "Stammtisch" for our Belleville friends. Also some of the policemen attended who were in Belleville last September.

On May 19th, we'll have our traditional "Dogwood Fest." Members and friends will be invited to explore a nature reserve in the county of Paderborn. Afterwards we'll have an all-you-can-eat buffet dinner with delicatessen of asparagus that is grown in the region. We hope that many members will come.

We are sorry to report that our member Johannes Buschmeyer passed away on January 31st. He was 85. Many in the St. Libory area will remember him for his interest in the relations between the "low German prairie" and Paderborn county. In 1995, he arranged a meeting for Wally Braucks (St. Louis) and the delegation from Belleville to visit the place near Paderborn where Wally's plane had been shot down in 1944.

Last not least we want to congratulate Mayor Eckert on his being re-elected as Mayor of Belleville. We know that he is a great supporter of the sister city relationship between Belleville and Paderborn. Best wishes to everybody.

Bernd Broer
President

Dr. Otmar Allendorf
Secretary

"Everything German" Day Trip

We are excited about a St. Louis day trip that has been arranged for our Sister City members and guests on Thursday, June 25th. Linda Koenig will be our tour guide for the day.

The first class motor coach (with bathroom) will leave Bel-Air Bowl parking lot (formerly Panorama Lanes) at 8:30 a.m. and return home at 4:30 p.m. Your total cost for the trip is \$59, which includes guide, fees, donations, lunch, tax and tips.

The tour will take us to the St. Louis Holocaust Museum, where Linda Koenig will take us through the displays. A Holocaust survivor will speak and answer questions about his family's experiences before, during and after the Holocaust.

After lunch at the St. Louis Gasthaus, we will take a driving tour of some of the noted German sculptures and statues in St. Louis and hear interesting facts about St. Louis history and the important role the German immigrants played in the development of the city.

We will visit the Trinity Lutheran Church in the Soulard neighborhood, the mother church of the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church and the first Lutheran congregation west of Ohio.

Another highlight will be a visit to the magnificent Shrine of St. Joseph, a German Catholic Church, with a wonderful sanctuary and story.

Please make your reservations as soon as possible by calling Norma, (618) 622-8655. Make your check payable to Belleville Sister City and pay at the May meeting or mail to Norma Bergkoetter, 1217 Three Rivers Drive, O'Fallon, IL 62269. We will open reservations to our neighbor Sister City organizations after May 15.

We hope that you will be part of the group to enjoy the company of other members and an interesting day in St. Louis

Last Mailed Copy of Das Mitteilungsblatt if You Have E-mail!

Like all things, the costs of distributing Das Mitteilungsblatt have gone up substantially. Additionally, in order to avoid the extremely slow delivery we've experienced in the past, First Class postage will be used for those newsletters we still send out to our members without e-mail. Therefore, unless we hear from you by e-mail that you still desire a mailed paper copy, this will be your last mailed copy of the newsletter.

President's Message Continued

The next general meeting will be held Thursday, May 21st, at Fischer's Restaurant. Please plan to attend and bring a guest if you wish.

Our annual Membership Appreciation Dinner will be held Thursday, June 18th, at St. Michael's Parish Center in Paderborn, IL. Call Hilda Koluch for reservations. Come join us for a fun and exciting evening.

We are looking forward to the Youth Exchange this year as we welcome 14 students traveling from Paderborn to Belleville to share and experience life in United States and our city of Belleville. We hope all members will make the students feel welcome during their stay from July 3rd thru July 17th. The support of the summer exchange program and the 90 day program are important to the organization in strengthening our ties between Germany and the USA.

Norma Bergkoetter is making plans for the youth exchange alumni to attend a reunion with our visiting Paderborn students and hosts.

This year's Sister Cities International Convention will be held in Belfast, Northern Ireland from July 29 thru August 1st. At this time, we have no plans to send a representative.

Ron Fritz
President

Reunion for All Former Exchange Youths

A gathering of the youths & adults who have taken part in the Youth Exchange visits throughout the years has been set for Friday, July 10th. It is scheduled to take place during the summer visit of the Paderborn youths to Belleville. If you know someone who was at one time part of the program, please make them aware of the event.

More information on place and time will be sent out. To make inquiries or suggestions, please e-mail Norma Bergkoetter, nbergkoetter@aol.com

Membership Appreciation Dinner

Belleville Sister Cities, Inc. annual Membership Appreciation Dinner will be held on Thursday, June 18th at St. Michael's Parish Center in Paderborn, IL. Doors will open at 5:30, and we will eat at 6:00.

Drinks and meat will be provided. We are asking each member to bring their favorite side dish or dessert. We will be giving away attendance prizes. So come join us for an evening of great food with great friends!

Please call Hilda Koluch to make reservations by Thursday, June 11th so there is ample time to order the meat.

If you're coming from Belleville, head south on IL Rt 159, traveling approximately 3 1/2 miles past Smithton and turn right on Floraville Road. Paderborn is located approximately 2 3/4 miles west of IL Rt 159. If you're coming from Millstadt, turn south on South Jefferson Road (it turns into Floraville Road) and head south for approximately 8 miles.

Theresa Fritz



After 34 of 38 matches, SC Paderborn 07 is in second place in the 3rd League with 61 points, with 18 wins, 9 losses, and 7 ties. The 3rd League leader, FC Union Berlin with 70 points, is certain of promotion to the 2nd League. With only 4 matches left, there are 2 other teams within 2 points of SC Paderborn vying for promotion. Only two of these three teams will be promoted. The team's web site is <http://www.scpaderborn07.de/scpaderborn07/>.

A Taste of Germany — 2009

I know it is very early to be talking about this year's "A Taste of Germany" event which will be held on 4 October 2009. If you are like me though, time has a way of getting away from us. So I want to give you an opportunity to mark your calendars early and before anything else can be reserved for that day.

This year's after dinner program will be a performance by the Belleville Philharmonic Orchestra and will include an appearance by dancers from the Belleville School of Ballet, who will be performing several Waltzes and Polkas. We will also hear several classic German Folksongs sung by our own Doris Roach. Cost for this year's event is \$30.00 per person or \$29.00 per person for a table of 8. For reservations, contact Sally or Rich Berkel at 618 234-2331.

We have not officially started on the Ad Program but I am sure those of us who worked with the program last year will already be thinking about who they could contact this year to purchase an ad in our program booklet. And perhaps those of you who have never helped with the Ad Program will be in a position this year to give us a hand at selling some of the ads. As you know, the proceeds from the ad sales and from the dinner go toward funding our Youth Exchange Program. Our Youth Exchanges are a key activity in achieving the purposes of Belleville Sister Cities.

I urge all of our members who have helped in the past with the Ad Program to recommit themselves to helping again this year. I appeal to those members who have not helped in the past to join us by helping out this year. Even selling just one, two or three ads would go a long way toward achieving our goal. Herm Schoener, the Ad Program chairman, will be contacting last year's helpers with the date, place and time of the first meeting. Please feel free to contact Herm at anytime to let him know that you would be interested in helping out this year. The Ad Program will kick-off around the middle of June.

So please mark your calendars for Sunday, 4 October 2009 to attend this year's "A Taste of Germany", which will again be held at Fischer's Restaurant. I hope to see you there!

Rich Berkel – Chairman

Meeting, Stammtisch & Event Schedule

May 21, 2009	General Membership Meeting Fischer's Restaurant, 2100 W. Main St, Belleville http://www.fischersrestaurant.com	Dinner @ 5:30 pm Meeting @ 7:00 pm Reservations by Monday, February 17, 2009
June 18, 2009	Membership Appreciation Dinner St. Michael's Parish Center, Paderborn, IL	Doors open 5:30 pm Starts at 6:00 pm Reservations by Thursday, June 11, 2009
July 10, 2009	Exchange Youths Reunion Time & Location to be announced	
July 16, 2009	July Stammtisch Chicken's Restaurant, 7402 IL Rt 15, St Libory	Starts at 6:00 pm Reservations by Monday, July 13, 2009

From the Membership Chairman

Please welcome our new Individual, Family and Corporate members since the first of this year.

Tom and Gail Heiting of Belleville

Randy Helbach of Belleville

Gary and Kay Meyers of Belleville

Ed True of O'Fallon - Ed has been working to obtain a Sister City association between O'Fallon and a community in Ireland.

Lou and Wilma Prifti of St. Louis - Wilma is associated with the St Louis/Stuttgart Sister Cities and she is the Director, International Business Internship Exchange in Partnership with the State of Missouri at Webster University.

Doug and Debbie Gain of Swansea, members since 1997 have decided to become Life members this year.

Corporate member **Masonry Inc.**, Lynn and Mark Vasquez of Marissa

Corporate member **Mariachi's Mexican Restaurant** of Belleville has decided to become a Life Corporate member.

On behalf of the BSC, I want to thank all members who have renewed their memberships for 2009. I look forward to seeing everyone at those events you are able to attend and ask your help in making the BSC successful in continuing the programs we have in place and as a social outlet among our many members.

Herm Schoener
Membership Chairman

Stammtisch Report

We had 25 members at the February General Meeting. Bill Jacobus won a bottle of '02 Rudesheimer Rosengarten Ortega Spätlese. We also met new member, Tom Heiting. Some of you may recall him as one of the guests at the Christmas party.

Twentysix members joined us at the March Stammtisch at Fletcher's Kitchen & Tap. Theresa Fritz was the winner of a bottle of '03 Blauer Portugieser Qualitätswein from the Nahe Valley in the Rheinland Pfalz. Jerry & Sue Reilmann came with their granddaughter, Taylor. New member Randy Helbach joined us after dinner.

The April Stammtisch was at Easy Buffet Chinese & Japanese and drew 24 members. The restaurant has a nice large side room so we could have some privacy. Alice Arndt was the lucky winner in the wine drawing. Bob & Alice were unable to join us but had called prior to the deadline to cancel. They will be getting a bottle of '05 Wöllsteiner Rheingrafenstein Riesling Kabinett.

In the past, calling in their cancellations have paid off for both Karl Mandl & Jim Villotti. So let me know if you won't be able to join us!

Please let me know if there is someplace you think would make a good location for a future Stammtisch.

Hilda Koluch
Stammtisch Chairman

Illinois Sister Cities Association

Illinois Sister Cities Association held their Annual Convention and Meeting on April 17th and 18th in Schaumburg, IL. Following registration on Friday, a very informative workshop on working with the media was conducted by a representative of the City of Schaumburg and a reporter from the Daily Herald.

Entertainment at the dinner Friday night consisted of a solo koto (stringed instrument) performance, a koto ensemble performance and a traditional Geisha dance (one of Schaumburg's Sister Cities is Namerikawa, Japan). This was followed by an historical reading by one of the visitors from Schaumburg, Germany.

On Saturday, Sister Cities International President & CEO, Patrick Madden, gave a slide presentation on Sister Cities International which discussed SCI history, voting procedure changes and new SCI initiatives.

At the ISCA Annual Meeting, it was noted that the Sister City of the Year Award is presented at the meeting of the Illinois Municipal League. ISCA's 501(c)(3) status has been approved. Next year's ISCA Convention and Meeting will be on April 9th and 10th at the Holiday Inn Conference Center, Carbondale, IL.

The visitors from Schaumburg, Germany presented a slide show depicting the movement of a one-ton sandstone ceremonial Stone of Friendship, now set place in Schaumburg, IL, from Obernkirchen, Germany.

Steve Koluch
President-Elect

Nearby German Sister Cities Events

Columbia Sister Cities

Sunday, May 24, from Noon to 6:00 pm. Columbia Maifest at Metter Park is celebrating Columbia's Heritage with some great German dance music provided by Die Spitzbaum. Also the German Cultural Society adult dancers will perform. The Columbia Sister Cities will have a booth at this event.

Sunday, June 7, 2009 from 6 to 8:00 pm. German Heritage Week/Music at Metter Park. The Waterloo German Band will provide music. The Columbia Saengerbund will also perform. The Columbia Sister Cities will sell strudel at both events.

June 12, 13, 14. Celebration 2009 Pageant. A production highlighting Columbia's 150 Year History. The performance will take place at the Columbia Middle School.

Waterloo Sister Cities

Tuesday, June 16, 2009. Portafest in Waterloo at the Court House Lawn. This is the first Spring event where there will be a large parade. German music and dancing, beer garden, apple strudel and many food stands (German Potato Pancakes with applesauce, brats, pork steaks, etc.), games and rides for the children, etc. Along with the Waterloo Sister Cities PortaLoo, two other city organizations join together for this fun filled festival.

St. Louis Stuttgart Sister Cities

Sunday, May 17, 2009, Noon. Deutscher Kulturverein Maifest at Donau Park, Old Hwy 21, Four Ridge Road. For information, call (314) 771-8368.

Wednesday, May 20, 2009, 7:00 pm. German Special Interest Group meeting at the Lutheran Hour Ministries, 660 Mason Ridge Center Drive. Speaker will be Fred Held whose topic will be German research at the Family History Centers. For more information, call: (314) 878-3464.

Sister Cities International Awarded Gates Foundation Grant

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has awarded Sister Cities International a \$7.5 million grant to launch a major program to support urban communities in Africa over the next three years. This is the largest grant ever received by SCI. Visit the SCI website, <http://www.sister-cities.org> for more details.

Belleville Sister Cities, Inc.
P.O. Box 333
Belleville, IL 62222-0333

Non Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Belleville, IL
Permit No. 467

Sister Cities International — A Global Citizen Diplomacy Network

Belleville Sister Cities, Inc. Board of Directors

- Officers -

President, Ron Fritz
President-Elect, Steve Koluch
Recording Secretary, Sally Berkel
Treasurer, Jerry Reilmann
Corresponding Secretary, Adrienne Villotti
Immediate Past President, Norma Bergkoetter

- Trustees -

Larry Schaltenbrand, Herman Schoener, Jim Sheridan

- Past Presidents -

Dottie Brauer Gary Hopfinger
Rich Berkel Karl Mandl
Ruth Fritz Doris Roach

- Standing Committee Chairs -

Youth Exchange, Doris Roach, Katie McDowell
Membership, Herman Schoener
Programs, Ruth Fritz, Norma Bergkoetter
Publicity, Rich Berkel
Newsletter Editor, Steve Koluch



Belleville Sister Cities website: www.belleville.net

Paderborn Sister Cities website: www.dafk-paderborn.de

Illinois Sister Cities website: www.illinoissistercities.org

International Sister Cities website: www.sister-cities.org