

Belleville Sister Cities

Das Mitteilungsblatt

August 2009



General Meeting

Thursday
August 20th
Fischer's Restaurant
Dinner at 5:30 p.m.
Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
RSVP Dinner
Reservations to
Hilda Koluch

Belleville Oktoberfest September 25th & 26th

Taste of Germany October 4th

Please send inputs
for the
November
Newsletter
by
October 27, 2009

President's Message

I hope everyone is enjoying the nice weather we have had this past month. We have gotten a bit spoiled with the cool days, just hope August isn't a scorcher.

The membership dinner was held in Paderborn at St. Michael's parish center and although I had to be out of town for business, I heard there was a good turnout and those who attended had a good time. Thanks to Theresa and her committee that put it all together.

Norma Bergkoetter planned a day trip to St. Louis on June 25th for members and guests to visit the Holocaust Museum, churches and have lunch at St. Louis Gasthaus. From the comments I heard, the trip was a huge success. Thanks to Norma for a job well done.

The Paderborn exchange students arrived in Belleville on July 3 to spend two weeks with their host families and explore the City of

(Continued on page 3)

News From Paderborn

Newsletter 2009 08

Dear Friends in Belleville and Around:

As we do every year we are celebrating the Libori festival at the end of July. This July has been full of activities due to the youth exchanges between our two cities and regions. The group chaperoned by Norman Hansmeyer, Eva Reike and Andrea Hermes returned on July 26th from a three weeks' stay in the US, two weeks in Belleville and one week in the area of Boston. They are back with wonderful memories of their time in Belleville and around. They experienced hospitality coming from the heart of the hosts they stayed with.

On behalf of the German-American Friendship Society Paderborn-Belleville (DAFK) we want to express our deeply felt gratitude to the host families, to the Belleville chaperones Doris Roach, Andy Gaa and Katie McDowell and to BSC for what they did to make this year's youth exchange a very successful one. We also thank Mayor Eckert for the reception at the City Hall and the tour of the city he gave to the group.

(Continued on page 2)

Paderborn's Message Continued

This year marked the 20th time that Paderborn has participated in a youth exchange program with Belleville. Who would have thought that such a continuity could become real when in 1990 a group of Belleville youths headed for Paderborn, Germany.

On July 6th, Mayor Mark Eckert gave a reception at the City Hall for the youths, representatives of BSC and former chaperones from Belleville. To mark the occasion, Lansing Hecker, honorary consul of the Federal Republic of Germany to the US from St. Louis, presented a plaque to the Mayor recognizing 20 years of exchanges.

Also present was Josephine Wittenauer of Illinois Sister Cities. DAFK has invited both to come to Paderborn.

Amelie Reichling and Jonathan Crawford from Belleville are here just now for a counter visit. They hosted Paderborn students last year for three months. Luke Eckert and a friend will accompany Jan Schulze when he returns to Germany after a great time in Belleville. In July the grandchildren of former Mayor Lueke of Paderborn, Moritz and Pauline, stayed with the Eckert family on a private basis.

On August 15th, five high school students will arrive in Belleville for a three months stay: Laureen Gertzen (hosted by Crystal Zimmermann), Amelie Kroeger (Jackie Bassler), Philipp Dueker (Family Youmanns), Michael Wilmsmann (Christopher Crawford) and Lukas Zimmermann (Kevin Schaefer). It will be a great experience for them to attend an American high school. We are grateful to everybody involved.

Again, these recent exchanges have been wonderful.

Looking back over 20 years, both cities as well as the BSC and DAFK can be proud of the achievement. Let's hope that this wonderful project of building bridges over the Atlantic and especially between our two cities and regions will go on. We are indebted to everybody involved over the years. Many of them are named in a recently compiled history of our the sister city relationship (in English) from 1987 thru today. It can be found on our website, Geschichte DAFK, http://www.dafk-paderborn.de/geschichte_dafk.html

Best wishes,

Bernd Broer
President

Dr. Otmar Allendorf
Secretary

Trip to Branson, Missouri

Belleville Sister City members and guests are invited to take part in a three day, two night trip to Branson, Missouri on September 22nd and 23rd. The trip was arranged by Norma Bergkoetter for her condo group and is a great opportunity for members to enjoy a fun three days at a great price without the hassle of arranging our own trip. Cost of the trip is \$385 total, Included is a two night stay at Branson Towers and four shows: Branson Belle Showboat, Haygood's Variety Show, Twelve Irish Tenors, & Clay Cooper Show. We will also tour Branson Landing, Stone Hill Winery, Grand Village and College of the Ozarks. Breakfasts and dinners are included, plus lunch at Lamberts Throed Rolls in Ozark, Mo on our return trip home. The \$385 is based on double occupancy, but we can pair you with another if you have no travel partner. Reservations must be made with Norma Bergkoeter before August 15, by calling 622-8655 or emailing nbergkoetter@aol.com.

President's Message Continued

Belleville and the surrounding area. While here, the students met with Mayor Eckert at City Hall for the 20th anniversary of the youth exchange program between Belleville and Paderborn, Germany. Plaques and letters of accomplishment were presented to Belleville Sister Cities from Lansing Hecker, Honorary Consul General and Josephine Wittenauer, Illinois State Coordinator, recognizing the 20 years of promoting friendship and cultural student exchanges. A metal plaque commemorating the anniversary will be placed outside in front of the Sister City sign at City Hall. Thanks to all past and present chairpersons, chaperones and host families who have made the youth exchange a success. May our success continue to flourish.

A new and much larger Sister City sign with our logo was recently installed near the fountain by the north entrance to Belleville on North Illinois St. The new sign looks great and is much more visible thanks to Rich Berkel and the Parks and Recreation Dept's. efforts.

Oktoberfest is coming up Sept. 25 & 26th. Larry Schaltenbrand has already sent out sign-up sheets to volunteer your help. Following Oktoberfest is our Taste of Germany on Oct. 4th. Chairman, Rich Berkel has his committee working hard on the ad book. If you would like to help, call Rich at 234-2331. These are our biggest fund raisers of the year. Money raised goes to funding our youth exchange program. I encourage all of our membership to participate in these two events by volunteering their time or by attending. Invite your family and friends to these activities.

Ron Fritz
President

Membership Appreciation Dinner Report

Our annual membership appreciation dinner was held on June 18th at St. Michael's Parish Center in Paderborn. We had 56 members and guests attend a dinner of grilled brats and barbecued chicken with a huge selection of side dishes and desserts. Sister Cities presented Fr. Jim Voelker with a custom-painted BBQ apron in honor of his 40th anniversary in the priesthood. Anna Mandl rallied everyone with a matching game of famous couples. Nancy Macklin was our winner. Charlie Weyhaupt entertained us with his accordion and some of our lucky members went home with attendance prizes. I would like to thank my committee, Karl and Anna Mandl and Carrol Moore who made the event run smoothly.

Theresa Fritz
Chairperson



SC Paderborn promoted to the 2nd League

SC Paderborn 07 finished in the top three places in the 3rd League and so was promoted to the Second League. Paderborn hosts Fortuna Düsseldorf on August 8th for their first 2nd league match of the new season. The team's web site is:

<http://www.scpaderborn07.de/scpaderborn07/>.

A Taste of Germany — 2009

This will be the last newsletter before the Taste of Germany which is on October 4 this year. That is why we have included a copy of the Taste of Germany flyer in this edition. So please keep the flyer in a prominent place in your home as a reminder and send in your reservation as early as possible. As in past years, tables will be assigned as the reservations are received. We have already received reservations for 3 tables.

I want to remind everyone that the proceeds from the Taste of Germany goes toward the funding of our Youth Exchange program. That is what Belleville Sister Cities is all about. Proceeds from this event make up about 80% of the Youth Group expenses. It is hard to imagine but with this year's group of youngsters from Germany, July 3 through July 17, that makes the 20th exchange between our two cities.

The past couple of years have seen a marked improvement for attendance at this event by our membership. I want to encourage everyone to make a serious effort to keep this trend going. I would also encourage everyone to take this to an even greater level by making a serious effort to put together a table of members and non-members. This would certainly help with our overall attendance as well as to provide a really good opportunity to increase our membership.

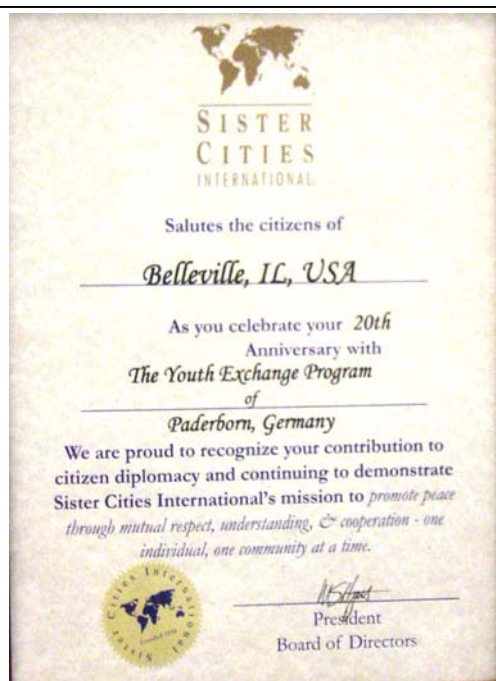
The ad committee, which sells ads for the program booklet, is already very busy selling this year's ads. I am sure the present economy will have an adverse affect on the ads that are sold for this years book but I hope not. I would encourage each member to try to sell at least one ad for this year's booklet. We all go to barber shops, beauty shops, auto repair businesses, etc. It doesn't hurt to ask and everyone can do it. You just have to ask. If you get a positive reply, just contact me or anyone on the committee and we will give you the necessary things to complete the sale. And I hope that our youth who have been involved with the Youth Exchange program will consider trying to sell an ad or two this year. This would be a big help.

I haven't included anything about the program for the Taste of Germany in this article because the enclosed flyer will tell you everything you need to know. And with that said, I look forward to seeing everyone on Sunday, October 4, 2009 at Fischer's for this year's Taste of Germany.

Rich Berkel – Chairman for “A Taste of Germany”

Meeting, Stammtisch & Event Schedule

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| August 20, 2009 | General Membership Meeting | Dinner @ 5:30 pm |
| Fischer's Restaurant, 2100 W. Main St, Belleville | | Meeting @ 7:00 pm |
| www.fischersrestaurant.com | | Reservations by Monday, August 17, 2009 |
| September 25-26, 2009 | Belleville Oktoberfest | |
| | See the enclosed volunteer sign-up sheet. | |
| October 4, 2009 | Taste of Germany Dinner | Social Hour @ 5:00 pm |
| Fischer's Restaurant, 2100 W. Main St, Belleville | | |
| Call Sally Berkel to order tickets at (618) 234-2331 | | |
| October 15, 2009 | October Stammtisch | Starts at 6:00 pm |
| Bandana's Barbecue, 4608 N. Illinois St, Fairview Heights | | |
| www.bandanasbbq.com | | Reservations by Monday, October 12, 2009 |



BSC President Ron Fritz and Past President Rich Berkel with the newly erected Sister Cities sign at the entrance to Belleville on N. Illinois St.

Certificate from Sister Cities International saluting our 20th anniversary with the Youth Exchange Program.

Oktoberfest 2009

Once again Belleville Sister Cities will play an important part in celebrating Oktoberfest in downtown Belleville on the 25th and 26th of September. Next year will be the 30th year that this rite of passage into the Fall Season will be held in Belleville. This year will be bigger and better than last year and last year was certainly no slouch. The festivities begin on Friday at 11:00 AM with The Button Box Players and the entertainment continues to 11:00 PM. On Saturday the fun begins with a German band called Rendition and ends with the Joe Dirt Band from 7-11 PM. Check the ads in the News-Democrat to get the whole scoop.

Our organization's booths as before will be right in front of the Regions Bank dishing out all those delicious German plates and sandwiches as well as the specialty beers. As a reminder this is one of the two big fund raisers for Sister Cities in order to raise funds to support the Youth Exchange Program. We ask all of our members to drop by and enjoy the cuisine to keep our youth and the German youth participating in the Exchange. We also receive a cut of the beer sales so have a brewski as well to compliment the meal. See you there.

Jim Sheridan
Committee Member

Oktoberfest Food and Beer Stand Volunteers

Please use the attached sign-up form to volunteer to work at this year's Oktoberfest

Beer Stand & Booth Setup Volunteers

Call Larry at (618) 398-4175,
E-mail the form to him at lsn4754n@aol.com
Mail it to 4700 West Main St, Belleville, IL 62223

Food Stand Volunteers

Call Doris at (618) 234-3633
E-mail the form to her at jodoroch@charter.net
Mail it to 45 Whiteside Dr, Belleville, IL 62221



Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert looks on as First BSC President Dottie Brauer and current President Ron Fritz display the plaque commemorating the 20th anniversary of Youth Exchanges between Belleville and Paderborn presented by the Honorable Lansing Hecker, Honorary German Consul from St. Louis, MO. Josephine Wittenauer, Illinois Sister Cities Coordinator for Southern Illinois, also presented a certificate from Sister Cities International.

Stammtisch Report

The May General Meeting/Stammtisch was held at Fischer's Restaurant with 20 members attending. Attendance was light due to area school graduations.

In June, fifty-six members turned out for our annual Membership Appreciation Dinner, held at St. Michael's Parish Center in Paderborn, IL. The food was good, the beer was plentiful and the air conditioning was on. Lots of wonderful prizes were given away. Great job, Theresa!

The July Stammtisch was at Chicken's Restaurant in St. Libory, IL – a past advertiser of our "Taste of Germany" program. There were 37 members present. We met guests Skip & Dee Berkebile.

There will be no Stammtisch in September due to the Oktoberfest event. See you there!

Hilda Koluch
Stammtisch chairman
618-222-2210

Youth Report

2-Week Exchange

On July 3, 2009, twelve students and three chaperones, Norman Hansmeyer (who has been here three times), Eva Reike (who accompanied the group 4 years ago) and Andrea Hermes (who will be the new chaperone along with Norman) arrived from Paderborn for our annual youth exchange. They actually landed ahead of schedule. Tired but with excited (yet a little scared) expressions on their faces, they were greeted by their host families. Four of our students here were hosted by Paderborn families last year. Some of these students had already been to the United States but mostly in Florida. Among the students are the two grandchildren of Paderborn's former Mayor Lueke. Mayor Eckert is hosting both of them as well as Jan Schulze, a former 90 day exchange student, who stayed with the Eckert family a couple of years ago. Since then, many exchanges among the two families have taken place.

A busy weekend awaited them because of the Fourth of July holiday. Most were able to watch the fireworks, some attended BBQ's, some even went boating, and a few took longer trips, even as far as Kentucky. What a way to start a three week stay over here.

Monday, July 6, we were greeted by Mayor Mark Eckert at City Hall to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of youth exchanges between Belleville and Paderborn. Among were several chaperones from over the past years. Great to see all of them! Lansing Hecker of St. Louis, the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Germany, was present as well as Dottie Brauer, the wife of former Mayor Rich Brauer, and our first President of the organization. Following the meeting at City Hall, Mayor Eckert took us on a tour thru the historic part of Belleville as well as the Cathedral. Lunch was enjoyed by all at the St. Louis Bread Company. After lunch, we went to Belleville West High School, where Katie McDowell, the German teacher at West, took us on a tour thru the school. Danke Frau McDowell!! They seemed to have been very impressed by our school here, especially seeing the exercise room with all the equipment, which they had a chance to use for a while.

Tuesday, July 7, we took them on a trip to our state capitol in Springfield to see the new Lincoln Museum, the State Capitol building, the Lincoln Home and the cemetery where Abraham Lincoln is buried. (Now I know how to wear teenagers out. Take them on an educational tour of museums!!!)

On Wednesday they spent a full day at the YMCA.

Thursday was a fun filled day at Six Flags.

Friday night Belleville Sister Cities hosted a combined reception/farewell party. Since they arrived on a busy weekend and most families had already made plans, we combined both. Christ Church on Frank Scott Pkwy graciously opened their Hall to us. The Zimmermann family, whose daughter Crystal is hosting, made the arrangements. Thank you very much!

Mayor Eckert presented all German students with a certificate commemorating the 20th anniversary of our youth exchanges. A Belleville baseball cap and a package made up by the Chamber of Commerce was given to all.

Officer Jackie Laminack of the D.A.R.E. program of Belleville gave each German student a T Shirt with the D.A.R.E. Logo on it. Thanks Officer Jackie!

We also gave them T Shirts from either Belleville East or Belleville West, depending on which school the host student went to. Most of them put them on right away.

Norman Hansmeyer, the German chaperone handed out goody bags from Paderborn with a cap, booklets of Paderborn and chocolates.

The weekend was free to spend with host families. Monday, July 13, they left for Huzzah Valley, Missouri for a float trip with a BBQ that night and a visit to the Onondaga Caverns on their way home Tuesday. They all returned very tired, sunburned and with a few bug bites.

(Continued on page 8)

Youth Report Continued

(Continued from page 7)

Then Wednesday and Thursday with host families again to get their last minute shopping and packing done. After leaving Belleville on Friday, July 17, they spent a week in the Boston area and New Hampshire, returning to Germany on July 23.

So it looks as if they all had a great time, which hopefully will be remembered for a long time.

Sister City wants to thank all the host families for opening their homes to these young students, as well as all who helped to make this visit possible.

Upcoming 90 Day Exchange

On our 90 day exchange, we will have five students from Paderborn arrive on August 15, 2009 for one semester here. Four students will be going to Belleville West and one to Belleville East.

Also to these host families, a special thanks.

Always remember that we start looking for students to go to Germany for 3 weeks and to host the students here for 90 days as they complete one semester here at Belleville East and West. For any questions, please call 234-3633

Have a great remaining summer!

Doris Roach - Youth Chairperson



The Whole Gang: Visiting Students, Chaperones & Hosts at the combined reception/farewell held on at the Christ Church Hall on Friday, July 17th.

Mark your calendars now for the Belleville Sister Cities Christmas Stammtisch
Thursday, December 17, 2009
Römer Topf, 1415 McKinley St., Mascoutah, IL

Potato Salad Makers Needed for Oktoberfest

Marie Reichling is arranging to make the German Potato Salad for the Oktoberfest at the Belleville Moose Lodge on Thursday, September 24th (day before the Ocktoberfest) starting about 10:00 am. She will need lots of help. If you can volunteer a few hours of your time, please call Marie Reichling at 207-7671.

“Everything German” in St Louis Tour Report

A group of 30 Sister City members and friends enjoyed an outstanding day tour of St. Louis on Thursday, July 26, going by tour bus. Linda Koenig of St. Louis was our guide. Norma Bergkoetter arranged the day, which included a visit to the Holocaust Museum, with a very interesting narration by our guide, Linda. The horrible realities of the fate of the Jewish people became more real to all. Linda's husband, Jerry Koenig, a holocaust survivor, told of his family's survival by being hidden for 22 months in a hole dug under a barn. Eleven people made a 6 by 8 ft. dirt room their home, venturing up into the barn at night. The farmer who hid them at his farm did so on the promise that he would have the Koenig's family farm. One of the many touching stories was that one of the women in the hole gave birth to a child during their imprisonment that had to be killed because they might be discovered if the baby cried.

A German buffet was enjoyed at the very beautiful St. Louis Gasthaus Restaurant. We then had a driving tour of noted German sculptures and statues, drove through the Compton Heights area neighborhood, with continuous informative commentary by our guide. Very dedicated and outstanding guides gave outstanding tours of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Soulard, the oldest west of Ohio, and the magnificent Shrine of St. Joseph in downtown St. Louis. Both churches are a great testimony to the dedicated, very generous parishioners who made the churches possible and the many charitable works they carry out.

Members who took the trip make very favorable comments about the day.

Norma Bergkoetter

Membership Roster Attached

Members of Belleville Sister Cities are receiving a copy of the latest Membership Roster along with this copy of the Newsletter, either electronically or by mail. Please let the membership Chairman, Herm Schoener know if there are corrections that need to be made.

Germany for Teens Webpage

The German Information Center has introduced a new web page, Germany for Teens, on their www.germany.info website. The new page is geared to describing life as a German Teenager. Click [here](#) to go directly to the Germany for Teens page. The German Information Center publishes a weekly newsletter, available in English and German.

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

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