

Belleville Sister Cities

Das Mitteilungsblatt

November 2009



General Meeting

Thursday
November 19th
Fischer's Restaurant
Dinner at 5:30 p.m.
Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
RSVP Dinner
Reservations to
Hilda Koluch

Election of Officers at General Meeting



Please Plan to Attend!



Christmas Party December 17th

Please send inputs
for the
February
Newsletter
by
January 22, 2010

President's Message

I am happy to report that our Oktoberfest and Taste of Germany were very successful. A great deal of thanks to all our members who volunteer their time to make these projects profitable. Thanks to our German potato salad chairperson, Marie Reichling and her staff for doing a great job. They cooked 150 pounds of potatoes and nearly all of that was sold on Friday alone. Doris Roach, chairperson of the food booth and Larry Schaltenbrand, chairperson of the beer booth were kept hopping to keep up with the busy pace on Friday and Saturday. Incidentally, Larry has served as chair of the beer booth for 14 years and will pass the baton on. Thank you Larry for serving this organization for so many years.

If you did not attend this year's Taste of Germany dinner, you missed a wonderful evening of entertainment and food. Thanks to Rich Berkel, chairman, for his dedicated work each year on our biggest fundraiser, and to all members on the Taste of Germany committees.

(Continued on page 3)

News From Paderborn

Dear Friends in Belleville and Around:

Here in Germany we had General Elections to the Bundestag, our Parliament, on September 27th. Chancellor Angela Merkel will again head the new government that will be in office for 4 years. On August 30th there was an election of all the city parliaments in North Rhine Westphalia and also of the mayors. Mayor Heinz Paus (61) of Paderborn was returned to office with 50.18 % of the votes. It will be his third term as mayor. He visited Belleville in August 2002.

On August 15th five high school students arrived in Belleville for a three month stay: Lauren Gertzen (hosted by Crystal Zimmermann), Amelie Kroeger (Jackie Bassler), Philipp Dueker (Family Youmanns), Michael Wilmsmann (Christopher Crawford) and Lukas Zimmermann (Kevin Schaefer). They attended classes at Belleville West and East.

They got a warm welcome by their host families as well as by BSC and were well received at school. On Sept. 13th, Mayor and Rita Eckert gave a wonderful reception at their home for the students and their hosts as well as for board members of BSC.

(Continued on page 2)

Paderborn's Message Continued

On Sept. 30th Mayor Eckert gave the students a tour of his office and showed them his "Paderborn Wall" where he displays photos of his trip to Paderborn in 2008. He also talked to them about projects and programs under way in Belleville. They also had a tour of the police station. The Belleville News Democrat published an interesting article on this visit.

Another highlight for them was a reception at City Hall on Oct 19th just before a meeting of the city aldermen started. Mayor Eckert presented to them certificates reading:

“Certificate of Recognition presented to...(name)... Commemorating your visit to the United States of America during the 20th Anniversary of the Sister Cities Youth Exchange Program and the 20-year friendship between Paderborn, Germany and Belleville, Illinois “

(Mayor's signature and seal).

The 5 students will return home on Nov. 8th. Their stay in Belleville has been a wonderful experience for them. We are grateful to everybody involved, especially to the host families, the principals of the schools, Mayor Eckert and BSC.

Next year we are expecting the Belleville students in Paderborn.

With the help of BSC and DAFK a contact has been established between McKendree College, Lebanon, football coach Carl Poelker and the secretary of the Paderborn football club, the Dolphins, Nico Meier. We'll see what will come out of it. Best wishes! Here is their homepage: www.paderborn-dolphins.de It would be great if the Paderborn team could go to the US some time and vice versa...

Wolfgang and Renate Stueken will visit Belleville in November 2009. We are proud of Wolfgang having done so much research on Gustav Koerner.

At this year's general meeting of DAFK (Sept. 24th) Maria Thomalla, vice president since 1994, did not stand any more for this position. Heiner Sprenkamp who visited Belleville in 2007 was elected. President Broer thanked Maria very warmly for what she had done for DAFK and the relationship with Belleville. Bernd: "Maria, you have been wonderful", and everybody agreed. See a picture on our homepage: www.dafk-paderborn.de

DAFK is now looking forward to the big Thanksgiving dinner. We are expecting more than 150 attending.

Best wishes also to our friends across the Ocean for Thanksgiving 2009.

Bernd Broer
President

Dr. Otmar Allendorf
Secretary

It's Now Time to Renew Annual Memberships for 2010

If you have an annual membership, please complete the Membership/Renewal form sent with this newsletter and bring it to the November General Meeting or Christmas Stammtisch, or mail it to the BSC P.O. Box. The form is also available on the BSC Website for downloading.

www.belleville.net

The Belleville Sister Cities webpage is located on the City of Belleville's website at <http://www.belleville.net>. The **.net** is very important. If you type www.belleville.com, you will be redirected to the website for the Belleville News Democrat!

A Taste of Germany — 2009

On Sunday, October 4, 2009, Belleville Sister Cities held their 18th annual “A Taste of Germany“ dinner at Fischer’s Restaurant. If you were unable to attend, you missed “one of the best ones ever“ as was related to me many times that evening after the event, and in e-mail messages the next day. And I have to agree with these assessments.

Either the food was exceptionally good or I was very hungry that evening. Or maybe a little of both. I saw several people go back for seconds. Perhaps they were very hungry, too. Contrary to other buffets I have attended, my food was hot and very tasty.

The Belleville Philharmonic Orchestra presented a lively and well received concert. Our own Doris Roach sang several songs in German with the orchestra, and the Belleville School of Ballet dancers were just excellent. And the Larry Haller Duo did a fine job entertaining everyone during the cash bar and dinner with great German songs. You really had to be there to appreciate the music, the singing, and the dancing. It was an excellent evening.

This was also an evening of awards presentation with BSC President, Ron Fritz, presenting the awards. The BSC Membership Award was presented to Herman Schoener for all the work he has done for the Oktoberfest and the TOG, and for his overall dedication to BSC. Well deserved! The Hermann Award was presented to the Belleville Parks and Recreation Dept. and Parks Director, Jim Schneider, and Debbie, Michelle, and Angel, for all of the help they have given to BSC over the years and in particular for the help with the new BSC signs. Also well deserved!

The attendance prize, which was a very nice framed water-color painting of a town scene in Germany, and painted and donated by BSC Past President, Karl Mandl, was won by one of our members, Mary Ann Hausmann.

As with any event that turns out well, it takes a lot of coordination and work from many people. So I would like to identify and to thank all those who helped in any way to make this TOG a success. The first area would be our Ad Program and those involved were as follows: Norma Bergkoetter, Sally Berkel, Dottie Brauer, Theresa & Ron Fritz, Bill Jacobus, Hilda & Steve Koluch, Christy Lehr, Carrol Moore, Randy Helbach, Doris & John Roach, Larry Schaltenbrand, Ann & Karl Mandl, Herm Schoener, and Jim Sheridan.

Next would be handling of the ticket sales and working the ticket table at the entrance to the Jubilee Room. Many thanks to Sally Berkel for taking all of the reservations through the months leading up to the event and to Carrol Moore, Theresa Fritz, and Hilda Koluch who helped at the door. And thanks to Bill Jacobus and Jim Sheridan who helped to seat the people that night.

The next area where many thanks are in order goes to the Rouladen Rollers who worked most of the day on October 1st to make the Rinder Rouladen. They are as follows: Sally Berkel, Doris & John Roach, Bill Jacobus, Ann & Karl Mandl, Catherine Thouvenot, Dorothy Knebelkamp, Jerry Reilmann, Clare Schmidt, and Jim Sheridan.

The decorations were put up on Sunday afternoon by the following: Paul Reis, Sally Berkel, Doris & John Roach, Herm Schoener, Bill Jacobus, and Theresa & Ron Fritz. If I have forgotten anyone, I do apologize.

So if you couldn’t make this year’s event, mark your calendar for next year on Sunday, October 3, 2010 and perhaps you will be able to make that one. And I promise to try to make the next one as good as 2009 or better. Hope to see you there!

Rich Berkel
Chairman – A Taste of Germany

Oktoberfest 2009

WHAT A GREAT OKTOBERFEST !!!

Just thinking how much work goes into this event and how fast it is over. As for this year, the weather was very nice Friday, and despite a couple of showers on Saturday, the mood of everyone was not dampened.

This year we tried , besides our regular menu, a new product. the so-called "Bratburgers". We only purchased 100 of them, just to see if they would sell. Well, we had to go back and purchase that many again. They were a big seller..

All this success, I believe was contributed to the advertisement by Channel 4 and 5.

Both TV stations broadcasted the Oktoberfest.

Of course , everything was just going great, actually to good to be true. And that's when it happened !!! Our electricity went out for the rest of the night. We managed to get just the lights back, but all roasters were out, plus our Pretzel machine .

Well, all I can say to the workers. **GREAT JOB DONE.** We improvised by heating everything on the grills. Sauerkraut, Cabbage and Potato Salad. And actually sold out that night.

With a fresh start Saturday and restocking, we again sold out that evening.

A special "**THANK YOU**" to all the workers. A lot of them put in nearly two days of work.

As far as I know, this year'd profit exceeds all other years.

Hope all are rested up and enjoy the next few months until the Oktoberfest 2010 !!!

Thank you

Doris Roach Oktoberfest Food Chairperson

THANKS!!!

Oktoberfest Volunteers

THANKS!!!

In the Kitchen

Mary Lou Adams
Norma Bergkoetter
Sally Berkel
Ken Bossler
Julie Canning
Kate Eckert
Lucy Eckert
Rita Eckert
Luke Eckert
Mayor Mark Eckert

Helen Fiedler
Theresa Fritz
Mary Ann Greten
Ann Hardt
Gail Heiting
Dorothy Knebelkamp
Hilda Koluch
Jan Mahoney
Anna Mandl
Marie Oelrich

Marie Reichling
Sue Reilmann
Doris Roach
Lucinda Scheiper
Karen Schaefer
Catherine Thouvenot
Adrienne Villotti
Tabitha Zimmerman

Grill Team

Keith Brauer
Ron Fritz
Frank Hardt

Tom Heiting
Tony Holdener
Bill Jacobus

Steve Koluch
John Roach

Beer Slinging Team

Rich Berkel
Dennis Bielke
Shari Dahm
Terry Dahm
Jim Devan
Ron Fritz
Jim Fickel

Andy Gaa
Frank Hart
Randy Helbach
Bill Jacobus
Steve Koluch
Karl Mandl
Wayne Reichling

Jerry Reilmann
John Roach
Scott Schaefer
Herm Schoener
Jim Sheridan
Mark Smiley



The Belleville Sister Cities Inc. 2009 Hermann Award was awarded to **Belleville Parks and Recreation Department and Director Jim Schneider**
 From left: Michelle Henke, Jim Schneider, Debbie Belleville, Angel Edson

Stammtisch Report

The August General Meeting/Stammtisch was held at Fischer's Restaurant with 30 members attending. Dennis Bielke won a bottle of '04 Volxheimer Alte Römerstrasse Portugieser Weissherbst.

In October, 16 members turned out for Bandana's Barbecue. Nancy Macklin was returned from her travels abroad. We also got to meet new member Larry Pearson. Theresa Fritz won a bottle of '05 Kreuznacher Mönchberg Scheurebe Qualitätswein.

I hope everyone is looking forward to the Christmas Stammtisch at Römer Topf in Mascoutah. Renate will have some delicious specials for the season. There will be singing of Christmas carols—and some may even be in German!

Hilda Koluch Stammtisch Chairman
 618-222-2210
hilda_ps100@yahoo.com

Youth Report

Just a quick update on our 90 day students. They arrived August 15 and started school August 19.

Laureen Gertzen	(hosted by Crystal Zimmermann)	Belleville West
Amelie Kroeger	(hosted by Jackie Bassler)	Belleville West
Philipp Dueker	(hosted by Monna & Mark Youmans)	Belleville West
Lukas Zimmermann	(hosted by Kevin Schaefer)	Belleville West
Michael Wilmsmann	(hosted by Chris Crawford)	Belleville East

During their stay here, they all had the opportunity to travel to different places with their host families. Most of them went to Chicago.

A special thanks goes to Mayor Mark Eckert and his family for opening their home to welcome these students along with their host families for a reception shortly after their arrival. The group also visited City Hall and the Police Department, as well as attended the City Council meeting, where Mayor Eckert presented certificates commemorating the 20th anniversary of our youth exchange to each student.

I know these three months went by very fast , and from listening to these students, they are not ready to return home. I am sure these new friendships will last for quite some time. Our students here will visit Paderborn next year in the summer for six weeks.

As you know , we are always looking for host families for either our 2 week exchange or the 90 day exchange. If you would like to host one of the German students for either the summer program or the 90 day, where they have to attend schools her, please contact me at 234-3633, or at jodoroach@charter.net

Special thanks go out to all host families for opening their homes and welcome these young students. It is definitely an unforgettable and rewarding experience.

Also , I would like to thank Katie McDowell, the German teacher at West, and Andy Gaa, the German teacher at East, as well as both Principals, Mr Robert Dahm / West and Mr Kniepkamp /East for helping to make these exchanges possible.

Hopefully, with everyones help we will be able to continue this program.

Doris Roach - Youth Chairperson



READY FOR BUSINESS!

The Belleville Sister Cities Food and Beer Booth at the 2009 Belleville Oktoberfest.

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

Sister Cities International — A Global Citizen Diplomacy Network

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Belleville Sister Cities website: <http://belleville.net/sister/index.asp>

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

Illinois Sister Cities website: www.illinoissistercities.org

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