

= PEOPLE TO PEOPLE EUROPE =

July, 1998



Dear friends,

This short summer issue of the PTP Europe newsletter contains a few chapter reports. It accompanies three documents for chapter information and review; Meeting minutes from PTP Europe board meeting in Sursee May 2-3, Annual Chapter questionnaire and suggested Ground Rules for Youth Exchanges.

Lars Poignant, Secretary PTP Europe

PTP Europe Board meeting in Sursee

In May PTP Europe held an open board meeting in Swiss Sursee. 15 members from 10 different chapters. The meetings lasted for two days. The local PTP Lucerne chapter provided excellent homestay and social events between the sessions. During the weekend representatives from Ambassador programs were present. PTP Denmark was scheduled to come, but due to major strikes in Denmark the delegation could not leave Denmark. Below is an abstract of the outcome from the meeting.

Youth Programs

For European conference in Chester it was discussed how a youth program should be organised. Miriam Casas-Troxler will with the assistance from Olga Ganzen and Bill Walker plan for the event. The youth committee will contact the committee members to submit materials for "Fast Forward" and the European newsletter.

Board and committees

PTP Europe looks for a new secretary to succeed Lars Poignant. Nominations should be done before August 1. Nominations for international Directors and Trustees should be done to Regina before August 15. The newly created bylaws committee will suggest on how to include *nominating procedures* in the organisation.

Chapter development

The board and chapter development committee will continue the effort to determine the status of the European chapters. The efforts should be finalised before the Chester conference. The chapter development committee updated the suggested approach to contact the chapters in Europe. A questionnaire will be sent out to all chapters. From the efforts a new official list from PTPI about existing chapters will be compiled.

The concept of *Regional Conference* was discussed. It was suggested to promote additional conferences. A sample conference package will be put together. Specifically contact people in the Netherlands, France, Belgium and France be contacted.

European fund for program and chapter support

To generate inflow to the European fund PTPE asks chapters to consider an additional charge for special events of 5 USD for adults and 2 USD for youth to be given to the European fund. It was suggested that the executive committee presents to the European board of Directors programs with a budget on how to spend available funds for the coming year.

For this year the board meeting decided to recommend a *youth oriented* project and *the CD project* to be supported for funds collected until the Chester conference 1998. For future use of collected funds the meeting decided there should be two different categories to which nominations can be submitted; *event oriented* projects and *fundraising* projects.

Homestay fee

The board decided to recommend for the council meeting to change the maximum homestay fee to 55 CHF within Europe and 60 USD for overseas guests. The amount should be paid to the hosting chapter. From the amount 5 CHF should go to the European fund.

Artistic program

Currently PTP Europe work on a CD-project, which aims to include pieces of music from various European chapters.

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Committees as of May 1998

Committee	Members	Committee	Members
Youth	Miriam Troxler Andrew Shipilov	Resource Development	Olga Ganzen Claudia von Ellerts
Public Relations	Justyna Dziuwa Bill Walker		Peter Whitby Ruth Weber Regina Wälti
Chapter Development	Hans-Dieter Robel Betty Holland Justyna Dziuwa Regina Wälti Peter Whitby	Bylaws	Ruth Weber Peter Whitby

Other passed events

Meeting in Vienna, Austria

On May 6 an informal meeting was held in Vienna for people interested in PTP. Good help for the meeting was supplied from Fred Bock, PTP San Antonio. At the meeting Olga Ganzen and Lars Poignant described PTP programs and opportunities including handing out material. For continued contacts, a student, Harald Dragan will serve as contact person.

Meeting in Prague, Czech Republic

On the weekend May 9-10 PTP held a regional conference in Prague. It was aimed to promote the existing chapter in Prague and to inform about PTP to people in the region. To the conference 14 people participated in total or part of the week end. They came from Czech Republic, Latvia, Sweden, Estonia, Russia, the US, Romania and Poland.

Program

The program was organised and led by Olga Ganzen and Lars Poignant following much of the conference in St Petersburg in February. Among the items discussed there were; PTP history and organisation, PTP programs, chapter development, resource development, public relations and youth programs. The idea was to start with informing the participants the first day about the existing programs and organisation in order to promote group work the second day

aiming for development of chapters (Prague, Nowy Sacz) and international programs.

On Sunday there were special attention on the ESL program as Beth Ciesielski of Bridges for Education attended the meeting.

Accomplishments

Besides the information shared among the participants, there were some specific accomplishments made.

- The conference decided to work on a Grant proposal for a youth conference for next year.
- Good contacts were made with local representatives from "Youth Information Centre" in Prague. They may be helpful as we seek people to form a more active chapter in Prague.
- Two scenarios on how to establish and develop a chapter were discussed in groups.
- For the European conference in Chester preparations were made for discussion on chapter development and youth programs.
- The proposed Ground rules for youth exchanges was discussed and feedback was given to Andrew Shipilov.

The conference participants contributed to the European fund with 1200 CSK (36 USD).

Pictures on youth

Jenny Gibbs, Communications Director for the Student Ambassador Program, is accepting articles, stories, and photos from U.S. and international youth members of PTP. Stories should reflect what our youth members are doing in PTP chapters world wide. Articles should be 500-700 words in length. Jenny can be reached via e-mail at JennyG@ambassadors.com or via the Stockholm office.

Coming events

September 29	PTP European conference in Chester
September 30 – October 4	PTP World Wide Conference in Chester

English as a Second Language (ESL)

During July PTP members participate in the PTP ESL camps provided through Bridges for Education. Most of the eight camps take place in Poland. The camps last for three weeks with 50-100 international participants at each place. Teachers are volunteer US teachers. The camps not only give an opportunity to provide good language training, but also good contacts with people and cultures from other countries.

Chester - European conference

For chapter reports chapters are asked to prepare and present them thematically (youth programs, homestay, artistic programs etc) rather than chapter-wise. This will make workshop and committee tasks easier. Chapters should submit written reports to PTPE no later than August 31. For sharing information and ideas, chapters are also asked to please bring chapter newsletter to the meeting.

Possible topics for group sessions during the conference were suggested: youth, chapter development, resource development, artistic program, homestay. The detailed procedures will be announced at the meeting.

The estimated cost for the European conference is 45 CHF per person not including lunch and attendance evening event.

13th World Wide Conference

For the World Wide Conference PTPI have given out 15 scholarships to chapter members based on nominations from the chapter presidents.

Venue for PTP Europe Conference for 1999

For the 1999 Annual Conference PTP Europe seeks a venue. During the last two year the chapters in Bucharest and Slovakia have shown interest. Yet no commitment has been made. The venue should if possible be decided upon in Chester. All chapters willing to host the event are welcome to send a letter of interest to PTP Europe before September 1.

The conference usually takes place in May. The last years the following chapters have hosted the event.

1997 Gliwice, Poland

1996 Pécs, Hungary

1995 Tallinn, Estonia

1994 Hilversum, the Netherlands

1993 Grangemouth, Scotland

There have been an increasing number of participants coming to the events. In Gliwice we were around 100. Attendance of course varies with location and also cost for the participants. The program consists of various parts and changes from time to time. In general though the following items are within the program.

- PTP Europe meeting
- PTP Europe workshops
- Local program, for example: sightseeing, dinner, artistic performance

Usually the hosting chapter offers homestay before and/or after the event.

For the hosting chapter a conference gives a good opportunity to get attention to the chapter and town within PTP and from the local community.

Chapter reports

Bern hosts Student Ambassador groups

The Chapter Bern-W. Switzerland of PTPI is hosting two groups of Student Ambassadors, staying on homestays with Swiss families, this summer. The first group arrived June 20. On June 22, Mary Ellen Koenig, the U.S. Counselor for Public and Cultural Affairs, addressed special

greetings and a word of welcome to the first group of 35 Student Ambassadors led by K.C. and Diane Rudy from Dallas, Texas, at a reception for the American high school students touring Europe, and their Swiss host families, attended by more than one hundred people at the American embassy in Bern. Another reception at the American embassy is scheduled for July 13,

for the second group visiting the greater Bern area. (Daniel Schaubacher)

Chester sponsors young local participants in the 13th World Wide Conference

The Chester chapter looks for the possibility to sponsor ten young local participants. Companies have been approached to sponsor the event.

Zürich hosts group from Interlaken

In February PTP Zürich hosted a group from PTP Interlaken over a week end. Together they visited an exhibition on playing cards of all times and countries. A new member of the chapter, Mr Frank conducts the youth orchestra Frenesi. They have already been in contact with PTP Gliwice and Chester for possible joint programs.

In October the *Ministring* orchestra (12-18 years old) will perform at the Detroit and Princeton Universities. The PTP Oakland chapter (Detroit area) is the sister chapter of Zürich.

The chapter will sponsor 16 year old Nemo to join the Esonian summer camp. (Claudia von Ellerts)

Stockholm hosts overseas groups

PTP Stockholm hosted a group of 15 college students studying "Health and Social Studies". During their week long program they had an intensive program visiting hospitals, hospital administration and meeting with politicians.

Also a meeting with the City Mayor was arranged for part of the group. The stay in Stockholm ended with a Swedish Smorgasboard and a three day long homestay. (Anna Hass)

Two Student Ambassador groups visit Sweden this summer. One in early July in the Gothenburg area and one later on in the very south. The groups are about 40 people and they all stay in individual families. (Åsa Grunning)

PTP Crimea supports participants in ESL camps

PTP Crimean Chapter secured funding for 5 Ukrainian students to participate in Bridges for Education camps in Poland this July. These scholarships cover all costs of the students attending the camp in Wrotslaw. This was made possible through the assistance by PTPI in a form of a matching grant of 1500 USD that matched another 1500 USD our Chapter secured from other sources.

To obtain these full scholarships applicants need to write essays about importance of international exchanges and diversity in their country. Successful 5 participants will come from Kyiv and Simferopol. (Andrew Shipilov)

PTP Lucerne looks for an au pair

PTP Lucerne looks for an aupair, who can take care of two boys of seven and eleven years old. They go to school until 13.30 every day. The person should speak English and not be too young. The help is needed from mid August. Please contact PTP Lucerne. (Ruth Weber)

Names and addresses

Contact in Vienna	New e-mail address	Au-pair for Lucerne
Harald Dragan Kohlgasse 15/3/29 A-1050 Vienna Phone: +43 1-544-14-40	Mrs Miriam Casas-Troxler Bruenigstrasse 103 6060 Sarnen Switzerland Home: +41 41 660 88 83 Fax home: +41 41 660 88 83 Internet: casas@tic.ch	Ms Ruth Weber Sonnengasse 2 6210 Sursee Switzerland Home: +41 41 921 14 56 Fax home: +41 41 9211456 Internet: RuthWeber@Starnet.ch

Newsletter for PTP Europe

Any written contribution is highly appreciated. The Newsletter is distributed to each national chapter. It may be redistributed within the chapters to members and non-members.

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