

Dear members, dear families and dear friends of our Sister City Peoria!

The corona pandemic has had us fully under control since spring. Our club has also been on a forced break since then. There will be no further meetings or visits in the foreseeable future, this is a sad fate, but we are not alone. A partnership in particular lives from encounters and joint meetings, exchanging experiences and also planning for the future. We are following the Covid-19 virus and its development in this country to the same extent as we are concerned with the spread in the US and the political developments there. We are in constant contact with our friends in Peoria about this. Together we hope for a positive development, which will hopefully allow us to celebrate the 45-year partnership with our "Sister City" Peoria next year.

How are our friends in Peoria. Already at the beginning of April I received an email from Jim Ardis, Mayor of Peoria, which was marked by concern. The Covid diseases increased exponentially despite strict regulations. The hope was that "OSF St. Francis Hospital" as a Level 1 trauma center could reduce the spread of the virus and help with the diseases. As of October 2, 2020, there were 2,429 new diseases in the state of Illinois. In Peoria, 48 people have died since the virus broke out. Current figures from Peoria can be found under the link: <https://www.pcchd.org/289/COVID-19-Coronavirus>

The year 2020 has so far been a year of challenges. We initially postponed many of our planned activities and then finally canceled them. This includes the visit of the students from Bradley University, our summer festival in Weilerhmühle, the student exchange around the sea hare festival, our participation in the International City Festival and last but not least our general assembly. The upcoming Thanksgiving festival on November 26th will also fall victim to hygiene measures. Unfortunately, it is not possible for us to find a location for 40-50 participants where we can keep the minimum distance and where the restaurant is then also able to cook turkey cheaply.

The 2020 General Assembly will be postponed to 2021. The board members to be elected have agreed to carry out their official duties until 2021. The association law allows this under pandemic conditions.

For our future events, we hope to have vaccines available that will then allow us to return to our originally familiar habits. The year 2021 will therefore be no less challenging for all of us. We have already started with the first rough plans for the 45-year Sister City partnership. The planning currently includes a citizens' trip to Peoria during the Pentecost holidays (end of May, beginning of June) and a return visit from our friends at the end of September 2021. At the same time, the Bradley student exchange will take place in May and the postponed student exchange to Friedrichshafen in July. We don't know whether all of this can take place, but we want to decide together at the end of January. This is necessary in order to be able to implement the complex planning. We will therefore inform you about further developments in February with another member letter and keep you up to date.

Until then, we wish you all: stay healthy and keep in touch with Peoria during this difficult time. If we can help you, please contact the board!

On behalf of the board  
Joachim Seliger