

YORK TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Minutes for Monthly Meeting – November 20, 2024 – YMCA (Loucks Room) 90 North Newberry St. York, PA 17401 and via Zoom

Attendance Officers and Chairpersons Live (unless noted Zoom)

Co-Presidents – Betty & Doug Stein

Vice President – Laura Koebnick

Secretary – Michele Groat

Treasurer – JaNeene Powell (via zoom)

Assistant Treasurer – Kyle Groft (absent)

French Adult Exchange Chair – Jennifer Grim (absent)

French Student Exchange Co-Chairs – Kristin Witmer (absent) & Kristi Spies

German Adult Exchange Co-Chairs – Hank Groat and Laura Koebnick

German Student Exchange Chairs – Molly Wiles (absent)

12th Night House Tour Fundraising Co-Chairs – Amy Matthews & Jessica Henning

General Fundraising Chair – POSITION OPEN

Membership/Dues – Brandi Whitman – POSITION OPEN

Marketing/PR – POSITION OPEN

Way/Means – POSITION OPEN

Newsletter – Betty Stein

Webmaster – Ken Krause (via zoom)

Hospitality – Kristi Spies

Spring Winetasting Chair – JaNeene Powell

Compliance Officer – POSITION OPEN

Attendance of Additional Attendees – Bettina Knoepf, Carolyn Van Newkirk, Mary & Phil Dodd

Meeting called to order at 6:15 PM

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

No questions on the previous minutes. Motion by Amy Matthews to accept minutes. Motion seconded by Hank Groat. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

JaNeene Powell provided Treasury Information. Balance Sheet indicated Net Worth of \$34,038.00 dated as of October 31, 2024, Revenue of \$58,856.45, Expenses of \$52,896.72, and Revenue less expenses of \$5,959.73. Michele Groat motioned to approve the Treasurer's report. Kristi Spies seconded the motion. Motion carried.

General Business:

Doug Stein shared that membership dues have not changed since 2016. New fee categories and fees were discussed for 2025. Hank Groat motioned for the following categories and fees for 2025:

Single Adult - \$30.00; Two people - \$40.00; Family household 3+ - \$50.00. Motion seconded by Laura Koebnick. Additional discussion about new fee categories and fees. Hank motioned to amend the motion to read Single - \$30.00; Couple/2 people household - \$40.00; Family/3+ people household - \$50.00. Kristi Spies seconded the motion. Carolyn Van Newkirk abstained. Motion carried.

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Exchange Chair Updates:

French Student Exchange – Kristi Spies has had no contact from Arles to re-launch program. Sophie Rumert, member of Arles Twinning Club, was going to investigate a new sponsor. Neither Kristi or Betty has heard from her.

German Student Exchange – Molly Wiles is working on recruiting students for the Summer 2025 exchange. She is hoping for at least 16 students from YTA to travel so exchange program can continue.

German Adult Exchange – The German adult exchange for York YTA members to go to LE is scheduled for June 24th (leaving date) through July 2nd. The LE city anniversary celebration is June 28th and 29th. Hank reported that about 19 people have responded with interest so far. He would like a definite count by the end of November. The Mayor of LE invited people to stay for the July 4th celebration at a nearby Army base but that is not within the current time frame of the YTA trip. Please communicate questions regarding the trip with Hank at hankgroat@yahoo.com. A travel meeting will be scheduled by Hank.

Future Travel Planning Dates

2025 Summer – YTA adults to visit LE

2025 Summer – Possible YTA French student exchange to Arles and French students to York

2025 Summer – Possible YTA German student exchange to LE

2025 Fall – Possible LE student exchange to York

2026 Summer – Arles adults to visit York for 250th Anniversary & USA/France Connection

12th Night Holiday Tour - Jessica Henning/Amy Matthews

Twelfth Night – Save the date, January 5, 2025. Still working on locking in homes, businesses, churches for tour. Some who had committed are unable to follow through. The current home base will be the Unitarian Universalist Congregational Church at 925 South George Street. A home on Merion Drive in the Springdale neighborhood has also been confirmed. Contact Amy Matthews at 717-495-9970 with contacts or suggestions.

Additional information:

Laura Koebnick gave an update on her visit to Arles, France for the 70th anniversary celebration. Eight mayors from Arles Twinning Cities were present, including Mayor Helfrich from York. A new charter to the city of York was signed. Great celebrations during the three-day weekend included a Roman meal and Arlesian dancers. Laura gave the engraved silver bowl to Evelyne Laurent to present to Club Jumelages since there was not a time for her to make that formal presentation.

Give Local York will be held May 1st and May 2nd. We are hoping for great participation in this fundraiser from members and friends of YTA. Money will be set aside for cultural activities and celebrations when the Arlesians visit in 2026.

Save the date – Oktoberfest at Lancaster Liederkrantz will be held on Sunday, October 21, 2025. Details to follow closer to the date.

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March wine tasting – JaNeene Powell is checking locations. We have outgrown the space used the past two years. Date/location will be announced and posted on Facebook and YTA website as soon as it is available.

Webmaster:

Please submit information to Ken Krause to share on our website at tp148.1@email.com

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 PM

Meeting was followed by a short social time with refreshments.

Minutes submitted by: Michele Groat, Secretary YTA

Next Meeting – Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Meeting will be held both live and via zoom

6:30 to 8:30 PM at York YMCA Loucks Room