

YORK TWINNING ASSOCIATION

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Minutes for Monthly Meeting – November 19, 2025 – 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 - POSITION OPEN FOR 2026
Secretary – Michele Groat (zoom)
Treasurer – JaNeene Powell (absent)
Assistant Treasurer – Kyle Groft (zoom)
French Adult Exchange Co-Chairs – Jennifer Grim (absent), Diane Reimert (zoom)
French Student Exchange Co-Chairs – Kristin Witmer (zoom) & Kristi Spies
German Adult Exchange Co-Chairs – Hank and Michele Groat (zoom)
German Student Exchange Chair – Molly Wiles (zoom) CO-CHAIR POSITION OPEN
12th Night House Tour Fundraising Co-Chairs – Amy Matthews & Jessica Henning
General Fundraising Chair – POSITION OPEN
Membership/Dues – POSITION OPEN
Marketing/PR – POSITION OPEN
Way/Means – POSITION OPEN
Newsletter – Betty Stein
Webmaster – Ken Krause (zoom)
Hospitality – Kristi Spies
Spring Winetasting Chair – JaNeene Powell (absent)
Compliance Officer – POSITION OPEN

Attendance of Additional Attendees

Linda Just (Zoom)
Craig Boyer (Zoom)
Renee & Jeff Miller (Zoom)
Joanne Nosoff
Bob Goley
Leonard & Francine Babineau – NEW MEMBERS

Meeting called to order at 6:33 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

New members, Leonard & Francine Babineau were introduced and welcomed to YTA!

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Betty presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion by Kristi Spies to accept minutes. Motion seconded by Amy Matthews. Motion carried.

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Treasurer's Report:

Treasury Information presented by Doug Stein. Motion by Amy Matthews to accept minutes. Motion seconded in unison by Laura Koebnick and Bob Goley. Motion carried.

Traditions Bank account remains open so that all transactions to date are accounted for. There is an issue with paperwork for Members First so Treasurer, JaNeene Powell will move forward with purchasing a CD from Traditions Bank as discussed and voted on during a prior meeting.

Exchange Chair Updates:

French Adult Exchange – Co-Chairs Jennifer Grim was absent. Diane Reimert gave a brief report about activities being planned for the Adult French exchange. As of today, there will be 9 visiting French adults. Host families have not yet been determined. August 3rd visitors arrive. August 4th is York Day and possible reception at History Center. August 5th is Native American Day at Zimmerman Center and includes a ride on the Susquehanna River in the Chief Uncas electric boat. Jennifer was able to get a \$2,000.00 donation to help cover costs from John Zimmerman. August 6th is a ½ day in Harrisburg visiting the Capitol. The PA State Museum is unavailable as it is closing for renovations. August 7th is a full day bus trip to DC with a tour of the Capitol Building. August 8th is a partial day in Lancaster. Laura reported that in Lancaster they'd visit the Amish Farm & House, take a buggy ride, and eat lunch at Bird in Hand Restaurant. The evening of August 8th will be the farewell dinner at the Lake Meade Community Center. There will be a DJ and opportunity for Country Line dancing. August 9th is a free day with host families. August 10th the French visitors leave via train from Lancaster to Philadelphia. The next French adult exchange meeting will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 7 PM. French adult visitors confirmed they will be here from August 3rd through August 10th. Some activities may be done in conjunction with the French student exchange set for July 27th to August 10th.

French Student Exchange – Dates are set for July 27th to August 10th. Kristi Spies reported that they are hoping to have 5 YTA students travel to Arles and then have 7 French students return for a two week visit to York. They plan to have a welcome party, and students participate in the trip to DC and the farewell dinner.

German Adult Exchange – No news to report. Many YTA people have remained in contact with their LE hosts from the summer exchange. Great friendships formed.

German Student Exchange – Molly Wiles reported that 14 students, from three different York County High Schools, will represent YTA on the exchange to LE in Summer 2026. 16 German students will visit York on an exchange in October.

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The 2025 German student exchange will consist of one student from LE coming to York from November 26 to December 7, 2025. Ben Morhardt will be hosted by the Henning family in Spring Grove. Ben's family hosted Elijah Henning during the recent York YTA visit to LE. The Hennings received final confirmation and approval for Ben to attend Spring Grove High School classes with Elijah and Sean Henning for a few days during his visit.

12th Night Holiday Tour - Jessica Henning/Amy Matthews

Amy shared that YTA has seven homeowners committed for the January 4, 2026, 12th Night Holiday tour. Logos Academy will be our home base, and the Queue studio of Ophelia Chambliss will be part of the tour. Logos is allowing us to use their parking lot for people attending the tour. Tour tickets will cost \$25 per person. Atlas Printing is giving us a half price discount on printed materials. We have a few sponsors and are looking for additional ones. Sponsor information has been sent out to past sponsors and additional businesses. If anyone has contacts that might be interested, please contact Amy or Betty with that information. Advertising and promoting materials are underway. Jim McClure, Scott Fisher, and photographer Paul Kuehnel have supported 12th Night in past years and will publish on-line articles and photographs in the York Daily Record and on Facebook. There may or may not be student musicians this year. Volunteers are needed to greet people and help with tickets at tour locations. Spread the word, help will be needed for the event to be successful.

Give Local York 2026 - dates have been set for April 30 and May 1, 2026. More details will be shared in the Spring.

Wine Tasting – date and location have not been determined but will take place sometime in the Spring.

Summer Social / Bastille Day – Betty & Doug Stein

Since both French students and French Adults will be coming Summer 2026 the celebration may be combined with the farewell dinner being planned instead of having a separate event in July.

Tete Newsletter – The next newsletter will be going out the first week in December. Anyone having additional information should send it to Betty ASAP. Anyone having information for the March Tete should send information to Betty no later than February 15th.

Signage – Bronley Martin is helping Doug and Betty to explore additional options for quotes for new, York Twinning Association signs to advertise York, Arles, LE as Twin Cities. We hope is to be able to have signs at the entrances to the City of York and by the Colonial Courthouse completed and installed prior to the French visit this summer for York's 250th.

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Webmaster:

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

Old Business -

Many positions are still open for YTA officers. Betty and Doug Stein indicated they intend to resign as Co-Presidents at the end of 2026. They will stay involved at a lesser capacity. YTA needs one or more persons to fill the VP position in 2026 who are interested in taking over as President or Co-Presidents. Doug proposed a nominating committee be formed to work on their positions and our other vacancies. Please share if you are interested in serving on this committee or one of the other open positions.

New Business – Betty & Doug Stein

The following people have agreed to be nominated as YTA Board officers and Co-Chairs for a two year term starting in January 2026 unless otherwise noted:

Co-Presidents – Betty & Doug Stein – agreed to continue to the end of 2026

VP – open

Secretary – Michele Groat

Treasurer – JaNeene Powell

Assistant Treasurer – Kyle Groft

French Adult Exchange Co-Chairs – Jennifer Grim and Diane Reimert

French Student Exchange Co-Chairs – Kristin Witmer and Kristi Spies

German Adult Exchange Co-Chairs – Hank & Michele Groat

German Student Exchange Chair – Molly Wiles (co-chair needed)

Motion made by Jessie Henning to approve the officers as listed. Joanne Nosoff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The following three working YTA committee chairs agreed to be nominated as YTA Directors for a 1 year term, to be renewed in January of 2027:

Amy Matthews – 12th Night Co-Chair

Jessica Henning – 12th Night Co-Chair

Ken Krause – Webmaster

Motion made by Joanne Nosoff to approve committee chairs listed as YTA Directors. Seconded by Laura Koebnick. Motion carried.

Additional 2-year YTA Director positions starting in 2026 are open for the following:

Give Local York Chair

General Fundraising Chair

Membership Chair

Marketing/PR Chair

Publicity Chair

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Compliance Officer

Anyone interested in filling these positions should contact Betty or Doug Stein.

Doug presented the 2026 budget. Laura Koebnick motioned to approve the budget as presented. Amy Matthews seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Betty stated that there is currently a photo contest being sponsored by our Insurance Company. A photo of YTA member Elijah Henning and his LE host 'brother' Ben Morhardt at the LE 50-year celebration was submitted. She encouraged members to vote for their photo on our website yorktwinning.com If chosen YTA could receive a monetary prize.

There will be no formal meeting in December or January due to the holidays and the 12th Night Tour. The next YTA meeting will be held on February 18, 2026.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:36 PM

Minutes submitted by: Joanne Nosoff & Betty Stein, Acting Secretaries for YTA while Michele Groat is recuperating from a recent accident and hospital stay.

Next YTA Meeting February 18, 2026

6:30-8:30 PM at York YMCA Loucks Room (with Zoom option)