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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**State College Rotary Clubs Host Rotary-sponsored Team from Germany
Business Leaders from Bremerhaven Spend Four Weeks in Centre Region**

STATE COLLEGE, PA - May 1, 2007 — From April 26 until late May, 2007, five Germans led by a member of the Rotary Club of Bremerhaven Nordsee, located by the North Sea in northern Germany, are experiencing life in Centre County and the surrounding region. The four-week exchange program is part of Rotary International's Group Study Exchange, which encourages international exchanges by Rotarian-led groups of business people, with the goal of encouraging international understanding and fostering world peace. An outbound team from State College is also visiting Bremerhaven this year to complete the exchange.

The 2007 inbound team is led by Hans-Guenther Gellersen, a pastor in the Lutheran Church of Hannover and a Rotarian since 1992. The other members of the German team include Yvonne French, an accountant at HN Logistic Systems GmbH; Stephan Domschke, who works in export sales for an industrial company; Meike Krause, who is a goldsmith and jewelry maker; and Hilko Dunkhorst, a sales manager at the shipping company URAG. The clubs that are sponsoring their stay include the Rotary clubs of Bremerhaven Nordsee, Wildeshausen, and Delmenhorst in the city-state of Bremen. During their stay, the team members will visit comparable American businesses to learn how their professions are carried out in the USA.

An important part of the exchange program is to become well acquainted with many facets of life in the region, which includes a tour of the Penn State Creamery, a regional Wal-Mart distribution center, a visit to an Amish community, and numerous business and social events. Local Rotary district 7350's District Governor, Jerry Friedman, hails from State College and will welcome the German team as the district's guests at the annual district conference, themed "Building Bridges", in Pittsburgh from May 10-13. Team members are hosted by local families, an important part of Rotary International's exchange program. This gives them a chance to interact with local families, often resulting in lifelong friendships.

The Group Study Exchange program is supported worldwide by Rotary Clubs and Rotary International, and was started in New Zealand several decades ago. The program's two-way exchanges help fulfill the mission of Rotary International, a service club dedicated to volunteer community service, promoting high ethical standards in all vocations, and furthering international peace.

Rotary International has 1.2 million members worldwide. In addition to thousands of volunteer hours, each year Rotary contributes millions of dollars in humanitarian aid and relief around the globe, funds 1,200 international scholarships, and provides cross-cultural exchanges for 7,000 young leaders. Through its flagship program, PolioPlus, Rotary has contributed more than \$600 million to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

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