2019 Annual Meeting

Our Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada Sister City Committee is organizing this year’s Annual Meeting
(AKA the not Christmas “Christmas Party”)

Wednesday, December 11, 2019
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Location: O’Connor Brewing Company

In addition to conducting the membership’s regular business of voting in our new Board members and welcoming our new officers, we will celebrate the season in Canadian style.

There will be door prizes and an ugly holiday sweater contest. Norfolk Sister City Association members whose dues are current are welcome to attend.

The cost is $10 in advance and $15 at the door. We are limited to 65 tickets due to venue space limits.
Don’t hesitate. Get your tickets today!

https://www.norfolksistercities.org/events/2019-annual-meeting/
Greeting My Fellow Ambassadors,

If you are reading this, I consider you an Ambassador of Peace. I say this because given Sister Cities mission of people to people diplomacy and our motto of "peace through people". I experienced this firsthand this past week as my wife and I hosted Zulaa Dambajanstan, the Chief Operating Officer of the Mongolian Stock Exchange.

We had six delegates as part of the Rumsfeld Fellowship Program.
https://www.rumsfeldfoundation.org/greater_central_asia/.

This great experience came about due to Norfolk Sister City Association’s participation in the Open World Leadership Program. I give great credit to Anna Nagorniuk for her wonderful job managing the program this year.

It is indeed an exciting time to be part of Norfolk Sister City Association. This past summer we had a flurry of activity with students from Wilhelmshaven coming to Norfolk and our 60th twining celebration with Kitakyushu Japan. This coming week we have a delegation of students from the Governor's School going to Kitakyushu. The delegation will be led by City Councilwoman Mamie B. Johnson.

In December we have our Annual Meeting which will be entitled a Halifax Christmas in honor of our sister city in Canada. It will have a fun twist with prizes for the tackiest and classiest winter holiday themed sweater. Come out to O'Conner's on December 11 from 5:30 pm-7:30 pm for a very festive time. Tickets are only $10.

- Gary Bonnewell
President, Norfolk Sister City Association
Summer means High School Sister City Exchanges

Our Toulon Committee hosted two students, June 24-July 9.
Our Wilhelmshaven Committee hosted thirteen students and their chaperone, July 7-July 28.
Our Kitakyushu Committee hosted twelve students and two chaperones July 20-August 3.
Many thanks to our host families. We would not be able to provide these programs without you!
The Sister Cities International annual conference and youth summit was held in Houston, TX July 17-20. Through the generosity of a Hampton Roads Ventures grant, we were able to send Zach Grossman, a rising Sophomore at Maury High School.

Below, please find Zach's experience.

"Over the past two years, I have hosted exchange students from Germany and the Philippines through the Norfolk Sister Cities Organization. I think my parents wanted to bring the world to me since I have never actually been out of the country, or off the east coast. So, I was excited to learn that I had been chosen to represent Norfolk Sister Cities at the 2019 Sister Cities International annual conference in Houston, Texas. Though I love traveling, the best part of the conference was all the new friends I made. Upon first arriving at the conference I met the Ecuadorians. They were very nice and invited me to eat with them. The more we talked the more we got to know each other (their English was very good), and explained our different cultures and ways of living. It was interesting to learn how most Ecuadorians learn English in school. By the end of the fourth day we were all very good friends and are still in contact today. I can't wait to go to Ecuador and visit them! The second best part of the trip was staying on the campus of Rice University. Not only is it a beautiful campus (I took a ton of pictures), staying on campus made me feel like an adult. I especially liked the freedom of walking around campus, eating at the dining hall, meeting up with friends, and just chilling in the dorm room. Living that close together brought us closer together very quickly too. Unfortunately, I didn’t get to see a lot of the Houston area but am excited to go back soon. Participating in the Sister Cities International conference was the best part of my summer. I can’t wait to go back!"
Kitakyushu Committee had two major events to celebrate our 60th anniversary of our long-standing friendship during this summer.

First was a commemorative tree planting ceremony held at Norfolk Botanical Garden on Monday, July 22nd. The inbound mayoral delegation from Kitakyushu included Mayor Kitahashi, chairman of city council, Mr. Murakami, and five other city officials partook in the emblematic celebratory occasion. We had Mayor Alexander, council lady McClellan, Mr. Gary Bonnewell, the new president of NSCA, Mr. Desplaine, president of Norfolk Botanical Garden, and over 200 guests from our community.

Very talented 113 items of youth art from both cities were displayed in the foyer/hallway at the entrance toward the reception room and the slide show of them was projected throughout the event which added an additional rich relationship of both cities.

During the official ceremony, Mayor Alexander and Mayor Kitahashi delivered their speeches beautifully and Honorary Citizenship Award was presented to Mayor Kitahashi. The city of Kitakyushu received a hand-made coral sculpture created by a local artist, and the city of Norfolk received a steel art which collaged the highlights of the city of Kitakyushu. Under the 100 degrees of heat with perfect summer blue sky, a bronze plaque of the 60th year commemorative friendship between the two cities was unveiled. Six Yoshino cherry trees were planted by representatives from both cities including youth. The “Kitakyushu Sakura Harmony” was created just next to the newly renovated rose garden area along a well-designed canal pathway. We hope plethora of visitors will discover the Kitakyushu Sakura Harmony and enjoy the splendid blossoming of cherry trees every spring. The reception was followed with a cheer/kampai of councilman, Mr. Murakami and GSA students sang impressive acapella song. The hearty and happy occasion of 60th anniversary event was concluded by ending remarks of former president of NSCA, Dr. Hamada with his reflective message.

We hope people who joined in this signature event were able to share and enjoy the long-lasting active friendship between Kitakyushu and Norfolk and we wish to extend our sincere appreciation to those people who support us continuously. The other event was an inbound youth exchange program. The 12 students ages 12 to 17 plus 2 adult chaperones from Kitakyushu had really many priceless experiences during their visit to Norfolk for 8 days. They stayed with host families, participated in the tree planting ceremony, and visited various facilities in Hampton Roads. However, the major event for these students was a school visit. Ingleside elementary school led by Dr. Balthazar kindly welcomed the Japanese students to have a cultural exchange program. The positive effects given to all participating students were immeasurable. Our committee appreciate Dr. Gloria Hagans to make this program possible. We intend to publish a youth program report book to distribute to the all participants, host families, staffs, and some organizations. Kitakyushu committees appreciate all people who participated and supported our programs.

In this fall, the end of October to early part of November, 38 GSA students will visit Kitakyushu to have a commemorative musical performance as outbound youth exchange. We would like to appreciate the scholarship from NSCA which has given to the three students who reside in Norfolk. Our committee will report about it once the program is completed.
Exchange Students Deliver Young Global Citizens Programs

Our thirteen exchange students from Wilhelmshaven, Germany thrilled summer school students at Richard Bowling Elementary School on July 22. Forty-five 4th and 5th graders received ninety minutes of German culture immersion. It provided a fun break from their daily skills review!

July 23 was an eventful day for our Kitakyushu Exchange students and eighty-one 3rd – 5th grade students at Ingleside Elementary. Under the watchful eye of the Kitakyushu Mayoral Delegation, our exchange students delivered a Young Global Citizens program.
7th Annual Soiree en Blanc

Soiree Chair Jean Lamkin and her team produced another fabulous event. Returning to the site of our first Soiree, the Butterfly Garden at Norfolk Botanical Garden offered a beautiful location. Our 350 guests were grateful for the improved temperature from the prior year. The breeze off Lake Whitehurst was perfect. We received many compliments about the Garden and its staff.

Thank you, Baker’s Crust, for serving as our box supper caterer and Eric Labat for providing photography for the evening.
Another Successful Radio Pledge Drive!

Norfolk Sister City Association members donated part of their Sunday afternoon on September 8 to support WHRO Fall Radio Pledge Drive. Working the program, Sinnett in Session, we helped our media partner raise over $21,000.

Thank you NSCA members:

Youlander Hilton; Linda McCluney;
Tatyana Musatov, Sarah Peoples Perry;
Clarence Perry; Jenifer Priest
Upcoming Events – Save the Date

World Quest – Thursday, November 21, 6:00 pm
Watch your email for details!

IndiaFest – Saturday, November 23, 11:00 am Virginia Beach Convention Center

Annual Meeting - Wednesday, December 11, 5:30 pm
https://www.norfolksistercities.org/events/2019-annual-meeting/

New & Renewals July – September

Donna Bausch
Larry Baucom, World Affairs Council of Hampton Roads
Lynn Clements
Rey Consunji
Minette Cooper
Becky Di Rosa
Elizabeth Dietzmann
Brenda Duda
Jan House
Joy Kannarkat
Ed Kellam
Ann Kirk Mendes
Victoria Koch
Mary Miller
Juan Montero
The Honorable Henry Morgan
Melissa Neu
Alison-Parker-Carmel
Dianne Powell
Peter Shaw
Manfred Schwarz and Ann Schwarz Miller
Rhamobbie Smith-Vanterpool
Araceli Suzara
Alok Verma