It is a new year and a New Decade! The 1920's were the Roaring Twenties and the 2020's I prefer to call the Soaring Twenties. Clearly the need for peace and prosperity are as great now as they were a hundred years ago after World War I. As Citizen Diplomats and Peace Ambassadors our role is more important than ever. In 2020 Norfolk Sister Cities Association will continue to focus on our core goals, but board development vital. We have several new Executive Committee members who will bring new energy and excitement. As they depart, I particularly want to thank Charlene Christopher and Joyce Pierce for their dedication to the board. Additionally, long-time friend and Past President Ralph Nahra who spent numerous years providing leadership has also reached his term limit. All will be greatly missed.

We have several exciting student and adult culture exchanges planned this year. While plans are still in the works and fluid, half of our ten sister cities have some exchange planned in 2020. Not only are these educational and cultural they provide a wonderful opportunity to build trust and lifelong friendships. We also often find economic benefits to these trips and a chance to showcase Norfolk as a truly international city.

If you are getting this letter you are a key constituent to Norfolk Sister City Association. More importantly we hope you are also a member. If you have not joined please do. It is simple and the benefits to you and our community are bountiful. If you are a member, I thank you, but I also encourage you take your member up a notch. NSCA looks to soar in 2020 and we hope you will be the wind beneath our wings.
2019 BY THE NUMBERS

112 new & renewing members

27 exchange students hosted
2 adult exchanges hosted

526 students received Young Global Citizens programs

105 art & photography submissions for Young Artists Showcase

$350 in prize money awarded for Young Artists Showcase

4 scholarships awarded for a total of $5,053
Annual International Luncheon, October 6

Under the leadership of Luncheon Chair, Cynthia Melton, we raised $3,485 in support of our youth programs. Over 100 guests enjoyed an informative talk delivered by the Chair of Norfolk Public Schools School Board Dr. Noelle Gabriel.

Our Global Diplomacy Award was presented to Hampton Roads Ventures. Our Citizen Diplomacy Award was given to Anna Nagorniuk Chair, Open World Programs and our Honored Program distinction for its 60th Anniversary, was presented to Kitakyushu, Japan Sister City Committee Mizuki Hamada, Kitakyushu, Japan Sister City Committee Chair.

We thank the following businesses who supported our silent auction:


Port of Virginia Portsmouth Museums Sarah’s Mint Lemonade Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Spertner Jewelers S, Ray Barrett Town Point Club Trader Joe’s Virginia Symphony Orchestra Virginia Zoological Society Visit Norfolk Waterside Marriott Weisberg Dental WHRO University Village Bookstore

2019 Luncheon Sponsors:

And Gary & Debbie Bonnewell
Norfolk Sister City Association Hosts Its First Rumsfeld Fellows Delegation

From October 19-23, 2019 NSCA played host to its first Rumsfeld Fellow’s delegation. Like the Open World Leadership Center program, this group was comprised of five accomplished young business professionals and entrepreneurs from across Eurasia. Represented countries included: Georgia; Kyrgyzstan; Tajikistan; Kazakhstan and Mongolia. The program theme was economic development and government’s role in supporting entrepreneurial activity. We thank our hosts without whose support, we could not have participated in this program.

Gary & Debbie Bonnewell; Henri & Susan Bore; Barry & Juli Davenport; Anatoly & Luba Seliavski
Hampton Roads Show

As this has seemingly become our quarterly custom, members of Norfolk Sister City Association made up the audience for the November 18, 2019 show. Norfolk City Councilwomen Mamie Johnson spoke about her experience traveling with students & faculty from the Governor’s School for the Arts. They recently returned from a ten-day trip to Kitakyushu, Japan.

Joining Councilwomen Johnson as the audience was Mina Barberis; Melissa Reese; Marguerite Inscoe; Gloria Hagans; Gary Bonnewell and Jennifer Priest.

WorldQuest 2019

Norfolk Sister City Association made a team for the 2019 WorldQuest competition that took place on November 21. We always support our partners at World Affairs Council of Hampton Roads. We offer seats on a first come basis to current dues paying members of Norfolk Sister City Association – a little know perk of membership!
Annual International Fair at Academy of International Studies at Rosemont

November 14, 2019

Norfolk Sister City Association, with financial support from Hampton Roads Ventures, provided this annual extravaganza for more than 200 students, grade 6-8. Eight of our ten sister cities were represented.

Volunteers, twenty in total, came from our sister city committees and the school’s PTSA.

In addition to food tastings, informative hand outs and video shorts, students competed in a trivia contest that had them engaging with the sister city committee members in a meaningful fashion.
Annual Membership Meeting, December 11

Thank you to our Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada Sister City Committee for making a festive affair. Members enjoyed an authentic Halifax holiday meal while reveling in their tacky Christmas sweaters. O’Connors Brewing proved to be an interesting setting.

Welcome to our new Board members:

- Mina Barberis
- Risë Fleener
- Marguerite Inscoe
- Cynthia Melton

Hurrah for our 2020 Norfolk Sister City Association Officers

- President – Gary Bonnewell
- Immediate Past President - Cassandra Newby-Alexander
- 1st Vice President – Gloria Hagans
- 2nd Vice President – Regina Davis
- Secretary – Mina Barberis
- Treasurer – Risë Fleener
October – December New & Renewals

Sandy Bond       Clayton Kimbrough
Kenny Bullock    Ed & Linda Lilly
Jennifer Carson  Becky Livas
Scott Carter     Roy Martin
Regina Davis     Cynthia Melton
Ray Gindroz      Geraldine Roth & Clark Mabrey
Greta Gustavson  Elizabeth Saunders
Tom Host         Joseph Solinap
Holly Hubler     Edward Usita
Marguerite Inscoe Nicolas Valcour
Anupama Keats    Harry Zhang

Experiencing Ghana
Saturday, March 7th from 4-6pm at the Murray Center

https://www.norfolksistercities.org/events/6th-annual-experiencing-ghana/