Thank you to our members who came out to Norfolk Botanical Garden on December 5 for our annual meeting. We celebrated our retiring Board members: Meriel Burgess Wright, Sonal Rastogi, Joanna Garner and Robert Wojtowicz. We presented our officers for 2022-23: Marguerite Inscoe, President, Gary Bonnewell, Immediate Past President, Maritsa Alger, President Elect, Becky DiRosa, Vice President, Mina Barberis, Secretary, Reš Flenner, Treasurer.

All guests enjoyed a beautiful breakfast prepared by Gourmet Gang. Following breakfast, we presented a $1,000 check to Vice President of Development, Cathy Fitzgerald, to be used in support of the Garden of Tomorrow project. The morning’s highlight was the dedication of a marker presented by our Norfolk County, UK Committee to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of the late Queen Elizabeth II and to honor her lifetime of service to the United Kingdom. Special thanks are extended to Rev. Mark Mander, Chaplain, Royal Navy and Captain Paul Russell, Royal Navy and NATO UK Representative.

The Norfolk Sister City Association hosted a most important COIL (Congressional Office for International Leadership) delegation. We had the pleasure of receiving four Members of Parliament for Papua New Guinea. The accompanying facilitator was a native employee of our embassy in Port Moresby. In addition to meeting with assorted department heads from the City of Norfolk, these distinguished MPs spent time at Old Dominion University, leadership at Visit Norfolk and the Health Department. Their visit included a day in Richmond. Thank you to our host families: Soji & Toyin Akomolafe; Gary & Debbie Bonnewell; Ran and Tanya Keller; Len and Lerma Remias; Andrew & Jennifer Stillman and our faithful volunteer chauffeur Barbara Boslego.

Our Ningbo Sister City Committee celebrates the Chinese New Year at the Chesapeake location of Hotpot 757 on January 28. Get the details and register here: Ningbo, China Sister City Committee Celebrates the Year of the Rabbit - Norfolk Sister City Association (norfolksistercities.org).

We need drivers for our adult delegation from Wilhelmshaven, Germany. Saturday, April 1 the Germans are attending the Virginia Symphony Pops concert at the Sandler Center, Virginia Beach. They are staying at the Waterside Sheraton Norfolk. If you have a large SUV or van and are able to help with transport, please call the officer, 757-627-0537. Norfolk Sister City Association will provide you with a ticket to the concert.

For more information on upcoming events and volunteer opportunities, visit norfolksistercities.org.

Dear Ambassadors of Peace,

The new-year season is a beautiful time when nations and all people celebrate new beginnings. Media channels continually pump out the news of war and pandemics, but the sense of “togetherness” across national borders should not always come from a source of strife. This is the one time annually we can actively reach out to friends abroad and share hopeful, positive sentiments. As a global citizen, take a moment to connect with individuals in our sister cities who’ve made an impact in your life and community.

Marguerite Inscoe
President, Norfolk Sister City Association

Upcoming Events:
Norfolk Sister City Association celebrates the Chinese New Year at the Chesapeake location of Hotpot 757 on January 28. Get the details and register here: Ningbo, China Sister City Committee Celebrates the Year of the Rabbit - Norfolk Sister City Association (norfolksistercities.org).

Volunteer Opportunities:
We need drivers for our adult delegation from Wilhelmshaven, Germany. Saturday, April 1 the Germans are attending the Virginia Symphony Pops concert at the Sandler Center, Virginia Beach. They are staying at the Waterside Sheraton Norfolk. If you have a large SUV or van and are able to help with transport, please call the officer, 757-627-0537. Norfolk Sister City Association will provide you with a ticket to the concert.

Summer high school exchange programs are back. If you have a child ages 15-18 and are interested in hosting a student from Toulouse, France or Wilhelmshaven, Germany this summer, please call the office, 757-627-0530. Details on the inbound German exchange can be found here: Inbound Exchange 2023 | NSCA WHV (surlymarkus.wixsite.com).

Thank you to our new Board members: Joanna Garner, Reynolds Hallo, Aju Paul. We welcomed new Board members: Raylene Baumgart, Mina Barberis, Sandy Bond, Catherine Chappell, City of Norfolk, Economic Development, Sean Washington, John Cooper, Juli Davenport, Georgianna Fello, Joanna Garner, Catherine King, Chantel Kushnier-Samuel, Becky Livas, MacArthur Center – James Wolford, Edward Usita, Rolf Williams, Robert Wojtowicz, Harry Zhang.

NEW & RENEWING WINTER 2023

The Norfolk Sister City Association
Office Location: 800 East City Hall Avenue Norfolk, VA 23510
Phone: (757) 627-0530
Days Open: Monday-Friday
Hours: 9:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3074 Norfolk, VA 23514

Winter Newsletter 2023
One hundred and eighteen guests and dignitaries enjoyed this beloved event on Sunday, October 2. It was a dreary day outside but a beautiful ballroom inside with table toppers that made everything shimmer like the sea.

David White, Executive Director, Virginia Maritime Association, and Executive Vice President, Hampton Roads Shipping Association was our speaker.

This year’s honorees included:

- Raylene Baumgart, Cagayan de Oro Philippines Sister City Committee Chair, Citizen Diplomacy Award
- WHRO Public Media, Global Diplomacy Award
- Congressional Office for International Leadership / Open World, Best Program

This year’s silent auction brought in $2,780 in support of our scholarship and education programs. Please remember these merchants and organizations when shopping.

- Ann Kirk Mendes
- BJs Wholesale Club
- Carrie Hatfield
- Celebrate Life 18
- Changes
- Chrysler Museum of Art
- Cinema Café
- City of Norfolk
- Decorum
- Doumars
- Ed & Linda Lilly
- Elite European Day Spa
- GSCCC
- G&W Awards
- Jennifer Carson
- Jennifer Priest
- Long Jewelers
- MacArthur Memorial
- Marguerite Inscoe
- Maximo Zanetti
- Markus Wegener
- Merial Burgess Wright
- Nora Dorsey
- Norfolk Botanical Garden
- Old Virginia Ham Shop
- Port of Virginia
- Trader Joe’s
- Norfolk County, UK Committee
- Kita kyusu, Japan Committee
- Ningbo, China Committee
- Tema, Ghana Committee
- Cagayan de Oro, Philippines Committee
- Wilhelmshaven, Germany Committee
- Toulon, France Committee
- Kochi, India Committee
- Halifax, Canada Committee

Thank you Andrew Cooper for serving as our official photographer!

Thanks are extended to our table sponsors:

- Community Connect – organized by Councilwoman Mamie Johnson, this event was held at Harbor Park on October 29. This was one stop shop for Norfolk families to learn about services and organizations help children learn and families thrive. Thank you to our volunteers Mina Barberis; Markus Wegener; Carrie Hatfield; Kenny Bullock & Harry Zhang who made this possible.

WorldQuest 2022
Norfolk Sister City Association filled a corporate table to WorldQuest 2022, presented by World Affairs Council of Greater Hampton Roads. Held on December 1 at Norfolk Yacht & Country Club, we finished in third place. Thanks are extended to our team for defending the global knowledge honor of NSCA! Becky Erpico; Fred DiRosa; Jennifer Priest; Kenny Bullock; Barbara Boslego; Tom Horsh; Bruce Brady; Jennifer Lopez

SAVE THE DATE!
May 18, 2023 is Soiree en Blanc
June 11, 2023 Philippines Independence Day Celebration