LUNAR NEW YEAR

Thanks are extended to our Ningbo, China Sister City Committee Chair, Dr. Harry Zhang, for organizing a successful celebration of the Lunar New Year. NSCA members and other Sister City Committee chairs celebrated with a special dinner at the new Hotpot 757 location in Chesapeake on January 21, 2023. Special guests included Norfolk City Councilman John “JP” Paige; US Representative Bobby Scott and Drew Lumpkin representing US Senator Mark Warner.

YOUNG ARTISTS SHOWCASE 2023

Our first in-person show and awards reception since 2020 was held in the lobby of Slover Library on February 9. We celebrated the 20 submissions from six Norfolk Public High Schools.

Our list of winners:

2-D Winners
1st Place - $100 – Derek Rodriguez, Azalea Garden Middle School
2nd Place - $75 – Dajuan Southerland, Maury High School
3rd Place - $50 – Cooper Yanez, Academy for Discovery at Lakewood
Honorable Mention - $25 – Abigail Bru, Blair Middle School

Photography Winners
1st Place - $100 – Ariana Wagner, Granby High School

A special thank you is extended to our judges, Christy Frederick, Assistant Professor, Fashion Design, Norfolk State University and Elliott Jones, Associate Professor Emeritus of Art, Old Dominion University. Georgeanna Fellio, Senior Coordinator of Art, Norfolk Public Schools serves as our Committee Chair.

NEW & RENEWING JANUARY-MARCH 2023

Marlissa Alger
Sandy Bond
Richard Broadd
Gary & Debbie Bonnewell
Guia Caliwagan
Jennifer Carson
Scott Carter
Charlene Christopher
Thomas Cross
Pete & Brenda Duda
Benjamin Equitan
Rice Farmer
Brian & Ingrid Friedman
Monica Galindo
Sandy Gerhardt
Eric & Frieda Guran
Greta Gustavson
Glora Hagans
Richard & Sally Hall
Reynolds Hall
Carie Hartfield
Jan House
Bruce & Connie Johnson
Anagpons Kest
Ran & Tanya Keller
Ed & Linda Lilly
Ann Malinak
Deborah Marquardt
Meghan Moonhouse
Marie Pierre Myrick
Anna Nagornuk
Gary Nigle
Anil Nair
James Pohl – Norfolk Public Schools
Aju Paul
Sarah Peoples Perry
Port of Virginia
David Zeelman
Gary Roth and Clark
Mabrey
Peter Shaw
Joseph Solinap
Piera Snowden
Dieter Steinhoff
Virginia Children’s Chorus
Ed & Janis Weisberg
David White – Virginia Maritime Association
Harry Zhang

Dear Sister City Friends, Diplomats, and Neighbors:

Let me start by thanking Marguerite Ingoe for serving as President of Norfolk Sister City. Marguerite courageously navigated us through a time where global instability increased with the invasion of Ukraine, and we severed our ties with a decades long relationship with our Russian Sister City with the hope that peace will be reestablished.

Today, I follow the footsteps of past presidents when I proudly call my colleagues, Marguerite Ingoe and Gary Bonnewell. As a retired principal from Norfolk Public Schools and a lifelong educator, I have served as the chairperson for the Young Global Citizens Program, partnering schools with different countries by engaging our youth in universal values such as peace, human rights, diversity, and much more. The latest project involved students from the Academy of International Studies at Rosemont and students from T生产, Ghana who together published a book titled, Voices of Covid. It is a collection of essays that speaks to the experiences of our middle school students during the pandemic. As president, it is my goal to forge international and regional partnerships knowing that we are serving the greater community.

La Paz,

Marlissa Alger

UPCOMING EVENTS

During these upcoming months, we cordially invite you to join us as we continue to celebrate our strength to build cultural relationships and respect across countries, cities, and communities. Let us embrace the experiences that make us better global citizens and inspire our next generation. Check out how you can get involved:

- Celebrate Norfolk, England —Coronation Luncheon, May 6
- Celebrate Tokyo, France —Solemn in Black, May 18
- Celebrate Tema, Ghana —Voices of Covid, June TBD
- Celebrate Cagayan, Philippines —Philippines Independence Day, June 11
- Host Inbound German exchange student —July 6-26

Will you join us? We hope so, and we sincerely look forward to having you as a supporter of our amazing partnership as a Sister City!
We welcomed our first 2023 COIL (Congressional office for International Leadership) delegation on March 30. We had five delegates and a facilitator, all senior staffers of Parliament, from the Republic of Georgia.

Our program partners included the City of Norfolk; City Treasurer’s Office, Delegate Jackie Glass; Norfolk Chapter of NAACP; YWCA of Southampton Roads; Virginia Wesleyan University; Virginia Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

If you are interested in serving as host family for future delegations, please contact our office, 757-627-0537.

On March 31, Norfolk Sister City Association and our Wilhelmshaven Sister City Committee welcomed 26 tourists from Germany – Wilhelmshaven and surrounding areas. They group stayed at the Sheraton Waterside and enjoyed investigating Downtown Norfolk, a Virginia Symphony Orchestra Pops concert, and a day trip to Jamestown Settlement.

We will resume our student exchange with Wilhelmshaven this summer, July 6-26. To learn how you can be a host family, check out this link: Exchange and Hosting Opportunities - Norfolk Sister City Association (norfolksistercities.org)

Norfolk Sister City Association was proud to take a table at the 6th Annual Engage Norfolk on March 19. This was the second year the event was held at the exhibition hall inside Scope. All 120 vendor tables were booked.

Many thanks to Board member Dr. James Pohl for making time on a Sunday to help set up for our table. Wilhelmshaven, Germany Sister City Committee Chair Markus Wegener manned the table all day.

A first for our Toulon Committee, they hosted a live online perfume masterclass presented by Anastasia Sokolov. The class took place on March 25, and despite the instructor’s confusion with US daylight savings time, she was in Paris, it was a grand success. Joining us were two guests from NJ and one from MN. This will likely be something we offer again!

Norfolk Sister City Association membership benefits include discounts on many Virginia Arts Festival productions. Use code NSC23