CONCORATION LUNCHEON

Congratulations are extended to our Norfolk County, UK Committee. Under the able leadership of our Chair, Joanna Garner, we presented a luncheon to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. Taking place on Saturday, May 6, over 70 NSCA members and guests enjoyed an English inspired menu. The afternoon included a raffle and a UK knowledge trivia test. Everyone agreed that the event was a smashing success.

Thank you Tidewater Pipe & Drum and WHRO Public Media for your support!

APRIL 21ST - COIL

We welcomed our second 2023 COIL (Congressional office for International Leadership) delegation on April 21. We had five delegates and a facilitator, all from Ukraine. The delegates were mayors from across the country. Some represented big cities, some represented small villages. Two mayors were from municipalities that are occupied.

The program topic was best practices in the remediation and storage / disposal of hazardous waste. This was the first time we have hosted a delegation who came from an active war zone.

MANY thanks are extended to the Virginia Arts Festival and Norfolk NATO Festival for the warm welcome that was provided to this group. Additional program partners included the City of Norfolk, Department of Emergency Preparedness and Response; Department of Human Services; Department of Streets & Bridges; U.S. Veterans Administration; Naval Station Norfolk; The Relationship Center; HRSD; SPVA; City of Virginia Beach; Hampton Roads Planning District Commission; Department of Environmental Quality. If you are interested in serving as a host family for future delegations, please contact our office, 757-627-0537.

New & Renewing April - June 2023

William Alexander
Karen Bailey
Angelina Boatright
Barbara Boslego
Meriel Burgess Wright
La Brioche
Lynn Clements
Martha Clements
Laura Beth DeHorty
Nicole DeJesus
Becky DiRosa
John & Sarah Ford
Donald & Evelyn Gatewood
Julia Guerrieri
Tom Horsch
Ed & Connie Kellam
Jean Lamin
Amado & Hilo Laxa
Betty Meyer
Tanya Musatov
Ralph Nahra
Cassandra Newby Alexander
Ellen Papetti
Cynthia Potter
Martha Raiss
Cagayan de Oro, Philippines Sister City Committee for the family festival celebrating 125th anniversary of Philippines Independence. The event was described as outstanding with great traditions honoring the Independence of the Philippines.

Raylene Baumgart and Cagayan de Oro, Philippines Sister City Committee for the ‘crowning’ event with English swag, live music, backdrops and props that simply spelled fun.

Joanna Garner and Norfolk County, UK Committee for the Coronation Luncheon. It was a ‘crowning’ event with English swag, live music, backdrops and props that simply spelled fun.

Immediate Past President, Gary Bonnewell for an excellent Norfolk NATO Festival. We had a COIL delegation of Mayors from Ukraine at the same time.

Virginia Arts Festival for their partnership with us. NSCA members received 15% ticket discount on many VAF productions.

Leaders:

We are proud to highlight the following celebrations and we wish to congratulate our Sister City Leaders:

- Immediate Past President, Gary Bonnewell for an excellent Norfolk NATO Festival. We had a COIL delegation of Mayors from Ukraine at the same time.
- Virginia Arts Festival for their partnership with us. NSCA members received 15% ticket discount on many VAF productions.
- Joanna Garner and Norfolk County, UK Committee for the Coronation Luncheon. It was a ‘crowning’ event with English swag, live music, backdrops and props that simply spelled fun.
- Raylene Baumgart and Cagayan de Oro, Philippines Sister City Committee for the family festival celebrating 125th anniversary of Philippines Independence. The event was described as outstanding with great traditions honoring the Independence of the Philippines.
- Carie Hatfield and the Toulon Committee partners worked hard behind the scenes to make Soiree extra special. The location was stunning, and the weather cooperated for greater enjoyment.
- Reynolds Hallo partnered with the Norfolk Public Library, Rosemont students, and our Sister City students from Terna, Ghana for a stellar culminating evening of Voices of Covid. Guests were welcomed with the beat of rhythmic drums and displays of African gifts, while students who are 5,000 miles apart read heartfelt writings of their experiences during Covid.

UPCOMING EVENTS

As you can see, we are just starting our summer with an array of events that are intended to connect us to the different parts of the world that we proudly call our sister cities. Join us for our Summer Membership Social, August 10, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the home of Gary & Debbie Bonnewell. 2023 Summer Membership Social - Norfolk Sister City Association (norfolksistercities.org)

SAVE THE DATE!! Our Annual International Luncheon takes place at Norfolk Yacht on Sunday, October 1. We’ll present our annual awards, shop at the silent auction, and enjoy an enlightening talk by the new CEO of the Virginia Symphony, Dr. Andrea Warren. Your support makes our Sister Cities even stronger! Thanks to your continued investment and belief, we are promoting peace through mutual people exchanges and events celebrating our world connections.

Dear Friends of Norfolk Sister Cities:

“We are made for sunny days!” is the perfect phrase to describe our work with Sister Cities! These past couple of months exuded warmth, brightness, glow, and a proud presence with our Sister City events. Each event was planned in the spirit of excellence thanks to our Chairs, committee, and the many contributing members who continue to support us through donations and attendance.

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Maritsa Alger
President, Norfolk Sister City Association
CdO Committee holds 2nd Annual Philippines Independence Day Celebration

A few hundred folks showed up at Ohef Sholom Temple in Norfolk on June 11 to celebrate Philippines Independence Day. This family friendly day was organized by our Cagayan de Oro Chair Raylene Baumgart and an amazing group of dedicated volunteers. This year we had the honor of receiving The Honorable Iric Arriabas, Consular General, Embassy, Republic of the Philippines. There were two food trucks, and a variety of vendors. Entertainers came from across the Commonwealth of Virginia. Congratulations Raylene on an outstanding event!

Thank you to the individuals and organizations that helped to make this day possible:

- Raylene Baumgart
- Metronet
- A Alston & Associates Tax Services
- Elmer Ramiscal
- Jose/f_ina Galon
- Benjamin Equitan
- Fil-Am CAG
- Knights of Columbus

On June 5, Norfolk Sister City Association hosted a reading of selections from the booklet. Four current middle school students and two of the original participants, now in high school, read passages for an audience of parents, educators, fellow students and members of Norfolk Public Schools School Board and Norfolk City Council. This event was held at the new Richard A. Tucker Memorial Library in the Berkeley section of Norfolk. The live readings were interspersed with tapped readings by the original student participants from Adetey Anshah Jr. High School.

VOICES OF COVID PRESENTATION

At the end of the project, 30 Rosemont students and 30 Tema students submitted writings reflecting on their personal and academic experiences during COVID. Thanks in part to funding provided by Hampton Roads Ventures and TowneBank, these writings were published in a booklet entitled Voices of COVID – A Middle Schooler’s Perspective.

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COMMITTEE SUPPORTS PICKLE BALL

Thanks are extended to Cagayan de Oro Committee member Junnie Ree Pagunsan for sharing information on the establishment of a pickle ball program at the University of Science & Technology of Southern Philippines. This is the public higher education institution in Cagayan de Oro. USTP Cagayan de Oro - USTP System

Thank you, Tony Jay and Terri Sawyer, for helping us connect with the pickle ball communities at Tidewater Tennis Center and Old Dominion University. The collection period ran during the month of June. We collected two boxes of supplies – balls, rackets, bags.

Junnie will present the Athletic Department of USTP with our donations during his visit in July.

Marinel Manugo
MVo3 Creation LLC
Esterlinda Parrilla
Laxa Dental Lab
JenCare Senior Services
Philippines Cultural
McGarrigle Family
Joseph Solingap
Gupta Dental
Yuki Buffet
SEVA FilAm Lions Club