

## UPDATES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Omicron is causing a postponement of our outbound trip to Norwich, UK. We anticipate a reschedule date sometime in May. Check our website & Facebook page for updates.

We are expecting our Open World / Rule of Law program, rescheduled from 2020 to take place this March, 19-26, 2022. If you are interested in hosting one of our Russian delegates, please contact the office, 757-627-0530.

We anticipate the return of our Experiencing Ghana family event in late March. It will coincide with an inbound delegation from Tema, expected to visit March 23-31, 2022.

We have an outbound student trip to Wilhelmshaven, Germany, July 16-August 6. See our attached flyer for details.

### NEW & RENEWING OCTOBER 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021

Raylene Baumgart

Frank & Sandy Bond

Barry & Juli Davenport

David Duncan

Greta Gustavson

Jan House

Holly Hubler

Anupama Keats

Terri Kirchner

Roy & Adale Martin

Cynthia Melton

Joseph Solinap

Edward Usita

Sabitha Venkatesh

Robert Wojtowicz

Harry Zhang



## Winter Newsletter 2021

### The Norfolk Sister City Association

#### Office Location:

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Hours: 9:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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Norfolk, VA 23514

Dear Ambassadors of Peace,

It is with bittersweet emotions I write this last report as President of Norfolk Sister City Association. When I became President, the position had been vacant for several months due to unforeseen circumstances. Through the dedicated efforts of our intrepid Executive Director Jennifer Priest, I was practically hoodwinked into being President, and I have loved every minute. Having been on the Kochi twinning Committee many years ago I had seen firsthand the cultural, political, and economic benefits Sister Cities develops and brings to our city and region. I knew the real value NSCA has in changing lives and promoting peace.

Despite COVID we kept busy to our core mission during my tenure as President. We had several milestones. We had a delegation visit from Kitakyushu Japan that was inspiring. Kitakyushu was our first Sister City and is much like Hampton Roads with five cities having merged into one. Later that year we sent a delegation to Kitakyushu with students and Councilwoman Mamie Johnson. My favorite aspect of that event was when a young student from Ingleside Elementary School declared one day he would go to Japan. This was a true testament of how Sister Cities doesn't just open doors but opens minds. We had tremendous events like our Soiree en Blanc, Experiencing Ghana, a very British High Tea and several other cultural events. We had our Young Artist Showcase <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1nfQYJ7o0humenRalrh9KXmmqUc1wnfLl4jcl2IVAC5A/edit?usp=sharing> and an exciting ZOOM exchange with students in Ningbo, China. Also due to our Ningbo partnership and their incredible generosity we were able to deliver vital Personal Protection Equipment to Sentara Norfolk General.

We also had an incredible board retreat to work on a new strategic plan. Thanks to Dr. Joe Bouchard we spent two Saturdays evaluating our programming and refining our goals. We are set on this front through 2025. While minor in some ways, one major accomplishment for me was the installation of our Directional Marker at Town Point Park. This sign tells in which direction to travel to each of our 10 Sister Cities in the shortest distance. It also demonstrates the unified partnership we have with the City of Norfolk, whose support on so many levels allow us to accomplish these goals.

Continued...

# Norfolk

Every leader should have as a key goal to leave the organization better than the way they found that. I hope you will agree that is the case. I am confident our incoming President Marguerite Inscoe and our wonderful Board of Directors will continue the progress we have achieved in the last three years. We are citizen diplomats and so I ask you to continue to be Ambassadors of Peace.

Gary D. Bonnewell  
President, Norfolk Sister City Association

### 2021 ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL LUNCHEON RETURNS TO IN PERSON AFFAIR

Seventy-nine (79) guests and dignitaries enjoyed this beloved event on Sunday, October 3. We were the first event in the newly refurbished ballroom at Norfolk Yacht & Country Club. Fred Blanton, former Sister Cities International Board member and current Statewide Representative for Virginia was our speaker.

This year's honorees included:  
Gary Bonnewell, Citizen Diplomacy Award  
Sister Cities International, Global Diplomacy Award  
Cagayan de Oro, Best Program

The return of our silent auction brought over \$3,000 in support of our scholarship and education programs. Please remember these merchants and organizations when shopping.

- |                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Admirals Hockey        | Hermitage Museum & Gardens |
| Celebrate Life 18      | Jazz Legacy Foundation     |
| Chrysler Museum of Art | Long Jewelers              |
| City of Norfolk        | Norfolk Botanical Gardens  |
| Decorum                | Port of Virginia           |
| Elite European Day Spa | Spertner Jewelers          |
| GSCCC                  | Town Point Club            |
| G&W Awards             | Trader Joe's               |

#### THANKS ARE EXTENDED TO OUR TABLE SPONSORS



MEDIA SPONSOR



### AMERICAN THANKSGIVING GERMAN STYLE

Our friends in the Deutsch Amerikanische Gesellschaft held their annual Thanksgiving dinner on November 25 at Restaurant Zitronengras in Jever, Germany ([Home - Schützenhof Jever](http://Home-Schuetzenhof-Jever) ([schuetzenhof-jever.de](http://schuetzenhof-jever.de)))

The event was well attended and helped to add excitement on our upcoming exchange this summer, July 16-August 6. If you have an interested student between the ages of 15-18, let us know!



### GIVING TUESDAY 2021

November 30 was *Giving Tuesday* this year. As we have the past few years, we run a mini campaign on Facebook. Facebook Business (the part that manages these activities) has many format updates. We set up our page, \$500 goal and sent invitations to give. When a long-time patron asked for the page, it was no where to be found. On December 13, Facebook sent an email indicating that we received \$331 in donations, 66% of the goal with a 3% response rate from the invitations sent. Thank you to all who took the time to respond and donate.



### NSCA VOLUNTEERS BACK AT WHRO

As life slowly returns to more normal, we sent a team to work radio pledge drive for WHRO on December 5. It felt great to be back. We are proud to have helped Jae Sinnett's program raise \$22,829. All part of COVID precautions, each volunteer had to present an up-to-date vaccination card. We provided half the number of usual volunteers. Food and beverages were limited to pre-packaged single serve portions to limit contact. Thank you WHRO for allowing us to support you. Thank you WHRO for always serving as our media sponsor!



We are pleased to announce that our friends at the Virginia Arts Festival are extending a special NSCA membership discount. Using code **NSC22** our members get a 15% discount on eligible tickets. [The Virginia Arts Festival \(vafest.org\)](http://The Virginia Arts Festival (vafest.org)) It is never too early to buy performing arts tickets!

