



ROCKVILLE SISTER CITY CORPORATION NEWSLETTER

Rockville Sister City Incorporated is a non-profit corporation founded in 1986 in order to support and promote mutual understanding through personal experience based on Youth, Educational, Cultural and Commercial Exchanges among Sister Cities throughout the World.

<http://www.rocknet.org/Community/SisterCities/>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SCI's Annual Meeting Very Informative

By James F. McConkey, Jr., President—RSCC

The 55th Annual Meeting of Sister Cities International (SCI) was held March 3rd through the 5th at the Marriott Crystal Gateway Hotel in Arlington, Virginia, and I attended as a representative of RSCC.

Among many other activities and informative sessions, a breakfast meeting was addressed by Brad Cole, Chairman of the SCI Board of Directors, Representative Michael Honda (D-CA), and Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL), Majority Whip. These gentlemen instructed the attendees on how to lobby their state representatives to support SCI in the federal budget

In addition, Reta Jo Lewis, Special Representative for Global Intergovernmental Affairs, greeted the attendees at the headquarters of the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C.'s Foggy Bottom

neighborhood. Ms. Lewis gave a brief summary of how the State Department partners with and supports the Sister City Program. Among other initiatives, the State Department contributes about \$400,000 per year to SCI. There are a number of grants also available to support local initiatives in city-to-city relationships, but these must have some economic or cultural development aspect to be considered.

The attendees participated in several discussion groups on specific topics. I attended a session on developing relations with Asian partners. I met groups from China, Taiwan, Japan, and Mongolia and collected a number of business cards as possible future contacts. I learned that most of the developing relationships start with an economic development basis.

It was my observation that the majority of relationships represented at the conference were from large cities with multiple partners. The interests of smaller organizations like RSCC were largely ignored in the agenda. I expressed this opinion to Patrick Madden and several members of the SCI staff and suggested that

RSCC's Newest Corporate Member

An Employee-Owned Research Corporation*

1600 Research Boulevard, Rockville, MD, 20850
301-251-1500

www.westat.com

Westat is an employee-owned corporation providing research services to agencies of the U.S. Government, as well as businesses, foundations, and state and local governments.

part of future programs be focused on their activities.

There were also a number of Sister Cities University workshops. I first attended one entitled "Tips and Tricks for Success in the New Fundraising World." Some of the ideas put forth at this session included:

1. Boards of Directors should act more as policy makers and project leaders and should draw on other members to do the majority of committee work.
2. Board of Directors members should be major donors to the organization and should essentially buy a position with a minimum annual donation (e.g., \$ 100 or more).
3. Board of Directors members should be limited to no more than three consecutive terms of three years each.
4. The major source of funding should be funds solicited from corporations and civic organizations or philanthropic members of the community.
5. Big cities get support for their programs from the city government, but many of these organizations are run as government departments.

There was a working lunch on sister cities and economic development as well. The major idea from this session was that Sister City organizations can sponsor business development forums with business partners from their communities.

Beyond the informative sessions, workshops, and roundtables, I met a number of people. One individual might even help us secure some long-needed assistance with our web site. So, all in all, attending the Sister Cities International Annual Meeting was time well spent.

The next Annual Conference will be held in Jacksonville, Florida in July 2012.

COMMUNICATIONS

Board Vacancies

By James McConkey

There are currently two positions available on the Rockville Sister City Corporation Board of Directors. One is for a position appointed by the Mayor and Council. The candidate for this position must be a resident of the City of Rockville and must file an application with the City Clerk. Applications are available on the city website at www.rockvillemd.gov. Click on the Boards and Commissions link and then the Expression of Interest Form link.

The other is a position filled by the current members of the Board. Application for this position can be made either to James McConkey, President, via e-mail at jfmccjr@comcast.net or by phone at 301 926-6059 or Brigitta Mullican, Membership Chair, at coburg1@verizon.net or by phone at 301 230-0890.

Board terms are for three-year periods, starting after election by the general membership at the Annual Meeting on the fourth Tuesday in September. Directors may be appointed by the current Board to fill any unexpired term but will need to be reconfirmed for the subsequent term by the General Membership.



RSCC Board Members: Front Row—David L'Heureux, Brigitta Mullican, Gerrie Checkon, Liz Von Kaenel. Back Row—Jim McConkey, Bing Huang, Sam Choi, Jack Rodgers, Dennis Freezer, Steve Fisher. Not Pictured—Jerol Briggs, Norm Hampton, Tim Nixon, Ted Reuther.



DAGRP Board Members: Front Row—Inge Heinrich, Bernd Hinrichs, Michael Patt. Back Row—Birgit Dreschler, Angelika Schulze, Margrit Ziegler, Herbert Hoffmann, Hans-Dietmar Bethke

RSCC Seeks Host Family, Travelers

By Norm Hampton

The Rockville Sister City Corporation (RSCC), as part of its 50+ year relationship with Pinneberg, Germany, will sponsor a German exchange student who will attend a Rockville high school during the 2012 – 13 academic year.

The male exchange student will arrive in August 2012 to attend high school in Rockville during the school year. He visited Rockville in July 2010 and is very excited about spending a school year here.

The student will stay in the home of a Rockville family to maximize his learning experience about America as well as to further develop his English language skills. This arrangement can be just as much of a learning experience for the host family as it is for the student. In addition, Sister City host families in the past have often developed long-lasting relationships with the students who stay in their homes. In preparation for this student exchange, RSCC is seeking to identify an area family willing to host the exchange student so that we can promptly begin procedures necessary for his acceptance into the Montgomery County school system.

RSCC will provide administrative, advisory, and logistical support for the visitor (such as arranging

for the student to attend school and for a student visa). The student will pay for his own incidental expenses (such as medical care, lunch, and entertainment). The host family will be responsible for expenses related only to room and board and for appropriate supervision. The IRS may allow a tax deduction for certain expenses incurred by host families. RSCC is a tax-exempt, non-profit 509(c)(3) organization. Much of your financial support to RSCC programs is, therefore, tax-deductible.

RSCC is also seeking Rockville students who may be interested in attending school in Pinneberg. Families interested in hosting a Pinneberg student or sending a student to Pinneberg should contact Norm Hampton at 301 251-8651.

Board Meeting Schedule

RSCC Board of Director meetings are open to the public and are held on the second Wednesday of each month—*except December*—at 7:30 PM in City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, in Rockville.

CULTURAL EVENTS

October 2nd: Reserve the Date

By James McConkey

This year's observance of German-American Day will be held again at the Old Europe restaurant on Wisconsin Avenue in Washington, DC. The dinner will be held from 5:30 to 8:00 PM on Sunday, October 2nd, 2011. We are trying to arrange for some new additions to the menu this year and for some entertainment. Attendance will be limited to 65 persons.

Please reserve the date and tell your friends about the event. More details will be available soon.

We would like to hold a raffle again for interesting gifts related to German Heritage, Rockville, or

Pinneberg. If you have any such objects that you might donate to RSCC, please contact Jim McConkey at 301 926-6059.

Sister City Fundraising Event
Taste of Dim Sum

Sunday, June 12th, 2011
1:00 PM

New Fortune Restaurant
16515 S. Frederick Ave.
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Cost: \$25 per person
(\$5.00 deductible as a contribution to RSCC)

Payment and RSVP by **June 9th**

Send check payable to RSCC to:
Rockville Sister City Corp.
c/o Rockville City Hall
111 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

For additional information contact
Bing Huang at
bj_huang@yahoo.com
or call 240 314-5029.

Corporate Members

Aziz James Barimani—Frames by James
City of Rockville

Xiaosheng Bi Cleo J. Kung—Nexus Holidays DC,
Inc.

Matthew D. Lee—Allied Technology Group, Inc.
***Westat, Inc.**

Family Members

Joseph and Mae Batz

Rotraut and Larry Bockstahler

Jerol and Tom Briggs

Marika Brown and Family

John and Janet Brown

Thomas and Sarah Brown

John Britton and Katherin Treiman

Gerrie Checkon and Dale Hoover

Sam and Kil-Cha Choi

Tom and Stephanie Curtis

Jennie and William Forehand, Jr.

Dennis and Linda Freezer

Gary and Claire Funkhouser

Elizabeth and Lorne Garrettson

Tanya and Bill Gazdik, Jr.

Hilbert and Joan Hubble

Norman Hampton and Gerri Kochan

Richard and Judith Knorpp

***Rose and Steve Krasnow**

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Robert and Holly Meyer

John and Marlene Moser

Kevin Moran and Tim Nixon

Mark Pierzchala and Lesley Cross

Theodore and Patricia Reuther

John and Patricia Rodgers

***Roald and Patricia Schrack**

James and Betty Anne Sadler

Wayne and Joan Savage

***Jean and Dale Schindaman**

Caryl McNeilly and Robert Williamson

Xiaming Zhu and Guoqing Weng

Stephanie and Robert Wright

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Report

By Brigitta Mullican

The Rockville Sister City Corporation welcomes its newest Corporate member: **Westat, Inc.**

We thank the following supporters for their membership dues and additional contributions. Our main source of income is our membership dues.

Individual Members

George W. Albrecht

***Toby Altman**

***Aziz James Barimani**

Ingrid Barnes

Stephen Bennetts

Betsy Billard

***Virgil Blizard**

Victor Chang

Emily J. Cook

Sandie Lee Deighton

Stephen H. Fisher

Patricia Gallalee

John Goon

John F. Hall, Jr.

Bing-Jib Huang

Hannelore Hulick

David L'Heureux

Christine Luckman

James McConkey

Eileen McGuckian

William Michie

***Eva Miller**

Michael Moran

Tommy Mosely

Brigitta Mullican

John S. Pontius

Bruce Romer

***Pofen Salem**

Jane Salzano

Janice Solomon

Susana Thorpe

William Vogel

Elizabeth von Kaenel

Lois Vuolo

Susan Wallick

*** Added this quarter.**

Corporate Sister City Members

Allied Technology Group, Inc.

Matthew D. Lee

1803 Research Blvd., Suite 601

Rockville, MD 20850

301-309-0185

<http://www.alliedtech.com>

Aziz James Barimani—Frames by James

414 Hungerford Drive, #114

Rockville, MD 20850-4125

301-762-1011

[http://local.yahoo.com/info-12488082-](http://local.yahoo.com/info-12488082-frames-by-james-rockville)

[frames-by-james-rockville](http://local.yahoo.com/info-12488082-frames-by-james-rockville)

City of Rockville

111 Maryland Ave.

Rockville, MD 20850

240-314-5000

<http://www.rockvillemd.gov/index.html>

Nexus Holidays DC, Inc.

China Travel Service DC

Xiaosheng Bi Cleo J. Kung

932 Hungerford Drive, #7A

Rockville, MD 20850

301-917-2222

www.nexusholidays.com

Westat, Inc.

1600 Research Blvd.

Rockville, MD 20850

301-251-1500

www.westat.com

Become a Member

We invite anyone who is interested in joining us to fill out the membership application in this newsletter. The only requirements for membership are completing the application and paying annual dues. Current members, please don't forget to renew your membership.

ROCKVILLE SISTER CITY CORPORATION (RSCC)
Membership Application/Renewal Form

I would like to (check one) ___renew, or ___apply for membership. Enclosed is my tax deductible payment (check one):
_____ \$20 Individual, _____ \$30 Family, or _____ \$100 Corporate Membership, for the Calendar Year _____.
Additional tax deductible contribution of \$ _____, **Total enclosed \$ _____**. RSCC is a Tax Exempt, Not-For-Profit Corporation.

Please print below.

Please, Please provide your email address. Otherwise we have no way of keeping you informed of our activities and events.

Name: _____ Spouse Name: _____ Email Address: _____

For internal use only. We do not release to other organizations.

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____, Work Phone: _____, Cell Phone: _____

Make checks payable to: RSCC Send to: Rockville Sister City Corporation, c/o Rockville City Hall,
111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850-2364

AREAS OF INTEREST: (TO ALL MEMBERS, NEW & RENEWAL, PLEASE, PLEASE CHECK AT LEAST ONE.)

I would be interested in: ___Hosting visitors from Pinneberg; ___Hosting exchange students (high school); ___Fundraising;
___Helping with membership drive; ___Helping w/ Wine Tasting Events; ___Helping w/ Memorial Day Parade; ___Organizing
Cultural or Sport Exchanges; ___ Bicycle Tours: ___Developing or Helping with Other Events; ___Serving on Board of Directors;
___Just participating; ___Other (specify below) (These are not commitments, but do help us understand our members' interests.)

Other Comments, suggestions, etc. _____

(Continue on reverse side and check here ___ if appropriate)

Memberships are for the calendar year. There is no prorating of memberships. Members who join on or after September 1st will be credited with membership through the remainder of that current calendar year AND the full following calendar year.

Application/Renewal Form Ver.10-5(Revised 8/18/09)

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c/o Rockville City Hall
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Rockville, MD 20850-2364