

Sister Cities Association of Salisbury/Wicomico County

Minutes of the June 4, 2013 Meeting

Government Office Building, 3rd Floor

Attending: Ernest Boger, Tom Welsh, Vice-President Marion Keenan, and President George Whitehead

The meeting began about 4 PM and continued until about 5.

May Minutes were reviewed.

We continue to have about \$538 in our account at the Salisbury Chamber of Commerce Foundation and this amount will cover our dues to Sister Cities International. Unlike most SCI members, our Salisbury does not budget for our dues. Consequently we rely on donations to pay for them.

Salisbury, UK: Tom reported on his warm welcome to Salisbury, UK, its Mayor-Making ceremonies, and on our first Sister City, itself. While there, Tom presented our gift book signed by Mayor Ireton. Tom described the splendor of the Mayor-Making and the many traditional rituals included in it. He, along with all the various representatives from Salisbury UK's many Sister Cities and Twin Cities, were in the procession behind the second Beadle and just before the Military. A band led the entire procession through Salisbury's streets. The new mayor, Penny Brown, took Tom to Stonehenge and Tom described its wonders as well as the lovely small English towns they drove through on the way. He discussed Sarum on the hill, cite of the ancient city of Salisbury. The current city is at New Sarum. George recalled that their Guild Hall is what we in the US would term a City Hall. Their City Hall is an entertainment center. Marion recalled the pomp associated with former Mayor Kevin Cardy's official events that she had had the opportunity to see during her visit and the many beauties of the city itself. Phil Tilghman interviewed Tom for PAC14. There was an official photographer and Tom is getting those photos. He has set up a "Drop Box" specifically to share images of the Mayor-Making.

Cuenca, Ecuador: Our Board member Brian Stiegler recently spoke to the Rotary Club of Salisbury about our Sister Cities organization, our current Sister Cities, and our hopes to establish Cuenca as a "Sister." Brian also informed the Rotarians about Salisbury University's connections and student

exchanges in our Sister State Estonia and Salisbury's sister city in Estonia, and about our Friendship City, Dalian China. Just as Rotary clubs have world-wide have supported Sister Cities and international understanding, Universities like our own in Salisbury foster international relationships through student exchanges. Brian spoke in depth about SU's exchanges in Estonia, and that country's expertise in Cyber-Security.

Next meeting: Set for Tuesday, September 3 at 4 PM in the GOB.

Meeting with SU International Students: Planned for Tuesday, October 1 at 4 PM in the GOB, pending ok from Brian and Mayor Ireton.

Submitted by: Marion Keenan, Vice President