

Sister Cities Association of Salisbury/Wicomico County
Minutes of the September 3, 2013 Meeting
Government Office Building, 3rd Floor, Room 306

Attending: Carole Champagne, Bittany Crispino, Ernest Boger, Brian Stiegler, Marion Keenan, and President George Whitehead

The meeting began about 4 PM and continued until about 5. June 4 Minutes had been distributed and no changes were suggested.

We have \$597.86 in our account at the Salisbury Chamber of Commerce Foundation. George reported that he had not received the statement for dues from Sister Cities International. The invoice is usually sent to the Accounts Payable at the City's address and then forwarded to him. He asked Donna Haag and Cindy McBride if they will check to see if it has been received. The dues are usually payable by July 1.

George introduced and the group welcomed our new SU Intern, Brittany Crispino, who will write our Autumn newsletter. The group recommended story topics and contact persons for them.

Tartu, Estonia: Brittany could write on people from Salisbury now in Estonia. Currently a SU student is in Talinn studying Cyber-Security. SU Professor Richard Hoffman is there on a Fulbright. Carole Champagne will brief Brittany on the Maryland International Consortium and the Sister State relationship Maryland has with Estonia. Brittany could also write about the impact of international students on the Salisbury community. Brian noted that international students often meet informally at 7-Eleven and tend to do business at Bank of America. A professor from Tallin will be teaching in the Henson School this coming Spring and a student from Tartu, Estonia will be studying Aviation Science at UMES.

County Executive Rick Pollitt is in Taiwan and George will facilitate Brittany's connection with him.

Cuenca, Ecuador: Brian reviewed our search for a Latin American "sister." Although we do not have many Ecuadorians here in Salisbury, we do have academic and Rotary connections. SU students and personnel have done exchanges there. With SU's connections, Brian offered to contact the Mayor's office. The President of the Quenca Rotary Club is the editor of the largest daily newspaper in Quenca. Spanish-speaking Rotarians in our three Salisbury clubs might contact her. One of SU's academic partners in Quenca also has a contact with its Zoo director. Like Salisbury's Zoo, Quenca's has an Andean Bear. Ana Vintimitla from Quenca is at SU now. Brian agreed to

take the lead in arranging communication between Salisbury Rotarians, professors, and others with their Quenca counterparts.

Salisbury, England: Board member Tom Welsh could speak with Brittany about his recent trip there.

Third Friday: Brittany could help with our Third Friday programs highlighting Salisbury's Sister Cities' relationships. October would be good months to do this. Brittany suggested dance and offered to go to the SU international student group seeking performance talent. She knows Ana from Cuenca is a guitarist and Jade is a dancer. George said that he would connect Brittany with Therese

Embassy Open House Events: Carole described her experiences at Embassy Open House events in Washington. Although not widely publicized, these are delightful events. Embassies are open to the public and often offer splendid refreshments. Recently Carole visited the Estonian, Latvian, and several other embassies. She agreed to inform us if she sees other open house events scheduled.

Next meeting: Set for Tuesday, October 1 at 4 PM in the GOB. This is the meeting when the SU international students meet Mayor Ireton. Please try to attend this meeting.

Submitted by: Marion Keenan, Vice President