

Sister Cities Association of Salisbury/Wicomico County

Minutes of the January 5, 2016 Meeting

Began: 4:00 PM in Government Office Building Conference Room 306. **Ended:** 5:10 PM.

Attending: Marion Keenan, John Hickman, George Whitehead, Ernest Boger, Carole Champagne

Minutes: December Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report: Ernest said that the original balance since 2012 was \$2,644.98. \$2,628.40 was spent. 2015 expenses were \$630.00. 2015 contributions were \$500. The balance was \$16.58 at the end of 2015. He has records since 2002. John sent to all members as a pdf document.

George, Ernest, and Marion will speak to Jack Heath during the January 7 Rotary Club meeting. George suggested talking to Cumberland about city support. Carole said that Bel Air has active city support. City support is the norm. We must fundraise early in 2016.

Intern Report: John said that no intern will assist the Board during Spring 2016. Members will share hosting the Third Friday table and Spring 2016 events.

Dalian, China: No report.

Tartu, Estonia: Ernest, Marion, and Carole attended the E-Governance Conference at the Estonian Embassy on December 4. We were invited by Anneli Mell-Ike, Assistant to Ambassador Eerik Marmei. Representatives from three Virginia counties and Robert Agee, Annapolis City Manager, presented their positive outcomes from Datel Ovela. Carl Pucci, CEO, Toivo Tagamets, President of Maryland Estonia Exchange Council, and Marju Kortz, Embassy of Estonia, asked to meet with Mayor Jake Day on January 22 to present regional E-Governance projects. Ernest and Marion will ask Mayor Day if he is available. Ernest said that a sales meeting style can present the projects in an appealing way. An open meeting or forum with the Chamber can attract business connections.

Salisbury, England: No report.

South America: Mendy Nitsch, Director of International Affairs, Office of the Governor, told Carole on December 4 that Luis Borunda, Deputy Secretary of State, will lead a delegation to Peru. The Office may establish a Sister States agreement with Piura, Peru. She contacted Carole later to say that Carole may have the opportunity to participate in the delegation. Piura may be interested in a Sister City agreement if the region has a Sister State agreement.

Website: Add updated photos of the Embassy of Estonia Conference, Third Fridays, October and December Minutes.

Future Topic: Ask Jake Day to meet with E-Governance representatives. Establish business connections through LinkedIn and Sister Cities International website profiles.

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at 4:00 PM **Submitted by:** Carole Champagne