



SISTER CITIES
WICHITASISTERCITIES.ORG

**2014 Annual Meeting
Botanica Gardens
Thursday, January 29, 2015**

Wichita, Kansas

6:30 pm



Dear WASC Board & Members:

Congratulation on another successful year of official visits and exchanges in 2014. It is my belief that 2015 will be another great year for Wichita Area Sister Cities, as you continue to build international relationships and work with the new Mayor and City Council to forge forward with new initiatives and promotion of international relations.

During my tenure, we have worked diligently to strengthen our relationships with each of the four cities – Cancun, Mexico; Orleans, France; Kaifeng, China; and Tlalnepantla, Mexico. I believe we accomplished our goals and created lasting relationships abroad. WASC continues to serve as a catalyst for educational and city-to-city exchanges that have enriched our ties abroad and I thank you for your diligence. You have also broadened your scope and held business leader exchanges for economic development opportunities and that speaks volumes to your vision for the organization.

International relationships, that move into business and trade opportunities, is where we are focused as we continue to pursue the international market base to leverage Wichita and the state of Kansas for international trade. I encourage you to continue your efforts to recruit and increase your membership in Wichita, look for networking opportunities with local businesses and grassroots organizations that will support your vision, and continue to include associations with foreign ties. This will ensure that you will connect locally and international, as you grow sister cities with a global perspective.

As an Honorary Chair, I appreciate the respect and the commitment to me, as Mayor, for the past eight years. You have been wonderful partners for our official visits and you have been instrumental on so many levels. In the coming months, I will leave office, but I will continue to work with WASC, on some level, to promote your vision.

Sincerely,

Carl Brewer
City of Wichita, Mayor

Office of the Mayor

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From the President

Dear Wichita Area Sister Cities Members and Honorable Guests,

Thank you to each and every one of you for joining us this evening as we celebrate another year of the Wichita Area Sister City Organization. The organization became active in the 70s by establishing official sister cities relationships with China, France and Mexico.

2014 was filled with exciting events. During the River Fest, Wichita received the Mayor and his delegation from Tlalnepantla, Mexico. It was a very productive visit. WASC members, friends, students and honorary members of the Board made that visit a success. Our Wichita Mayor Carl Brewer participated in the official events and surprised our guests with a barbeque at Botanica.

Under the guidance of Dr. Brigitte Roussel, the France committee has been maintaining and strengthening Wichita's relationships with Orleans. The committee which included many volunteers created an unforgettable La Fête de la Musique (Music Festival). Wichita citizens came to learn about Orleans. They listened to wonderful music and enjoyed great French food at Botanica.

We are in preparations for an official visit from our sister city Kaifeng, China. In 1985, Wichita Mayor Robert Brown and Kaifeng Mayor Zhu Zhencheng signed an agreement with emphasis on trade development. Mayor Brewer and his delegations visited China multiple times since 2012. These business visits have resulted in the opening of the Wichita Aviation Centers in China which are responsible for boosting Wichita's exports and strengthening educational and cultural ties. Timing has not been better for joining the Sister Cities organization and becoming active citizens who represent Wichita.

Since its inception, we have provided scholarships to Wichita students traveling for study abroad in our Sister Cities. There is no money in the world that can equate to the experience students gain during their visits to foreign countries. That's how understanding and trust are born and future lives are defined.

Our goals for 2015 remain the same. All of us gathered here because we share the mission: *To promote peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation – one individual, one community at a time.* We value our relationships and are ready for mutual cooperation with the Kansas Global Services, Ghana Association, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the African Union and many other wonderful local organizations and individuals who believe in the importance of global peace and economic development. We will continue active communication with our Sister Cities between official visits.

As we all know, trust is the foundation of constructive political and business negotiations. It takes a village to build trust, but the first step starts with a handshake. By joining the Sister Cities organization, you have extended your arm to many new friends.

Thank you again for sharing our Annual event with us. We hope to be meeting with you on a regular basis in 2015.

Dr. Valentina Chappell
WASC President, 2014
Professor, Friends University

From the President 2015

2014 was a very special year for the Wichita Sister Cities organization. For the first time during many years, we have been in active communication with all four Sister Cities. Mayor Brewer who serves as the Honorary Chair of Sister Cities, invested a lot of time and efforts to keep those relationships alive. After a long period of time, a delegation from Wichita's sister city Kaifeng, China, is coming for a business visit this spring.

We are grateful to all City Council members for their service and support as Honorary members of the Sister Cities organization. Two distinguished SC Board members were nominated as Honorary Board members: Ms. Eunice Ellis who served as the WASC treasurer for ten years and Ms. De Eaton who shared her expertise with the Board for more than a decade and served as the Chair of the Scholarship committee. SC is well known for supporting study and service abroad projects. During the period from 2004 to 2013, we awarded \$49,800 to students traveling to Mexico and China.

The Sister Cities Board expresses its sincere gratitude to our sponsors: Kansas Global Trade Services, Inc., Mize and Company, Inc., Newman University and Friends University.

A lot of events and projects have been launched for the first time in 2014. Dr. Glyn Rimmington designed and launched our first independent website. Caleb McNary emails Newsletters, conducted the first all-inclusive election of Sister Cities Board, and is regularly updating SC members on all important events.

The three country committees actively participated in maintaining working connections with four Wichita's Sister Cities and promoted the organization in Wichita. Over a hundred of people attended BBQ with the Mayor arranged by the Mexico committee and Musical festival arranged by the France committee. Those events as well as our Annual meetings have been hosted by Marty Miller, executive director of Botanica. The Co-Chairs of China committee Dr. And Mrs. Rosenberg have been instrumental in supporting all SC events. Because of exceptional leadership skills of Mrs. Patricia Koehler, Dr. Jerry Smartt and Dr. Brigitte Roussel, the Mexico and France committees were able to increase their membership and create unforgettable cultural and social events for Wichita's guests and SC members. Dr. Roussel has completed her research and published a brochure on the Past, Present and Future of Wichita - Orleans SC relationships.

Last year, the Board created a new committee - International Professional, a venue to provide support to expats and their families. Aimee Leisy is serving as its Chair and has great plans for our reaching to a vast and underserved sector of population. Wichita's Sister Cities website provides its versions in Spanish, French and Chinese.

Change and challenge are two words that come to my mind as the SC begins another year. I hope that as you listened to the committee chairs reports, you felt the heartbeat of our organization at work.

With a new Mayor coming, Sister Cities will have a new Honorary Chair who will bring new ideas and project. Our organization is proud of its history that has empowered generations of people in Wichita, Tlalnepantla, Orleans and Cancun.

Next year is bringing a lot of exciting events which include the reception of delegations from Kaifeng and Cancun. Our Board will be maintaining relationships with each of our Sister Cities on a regular basis thru Skype. It will continue activities to educate Wichitans about the organization and fundraise in support of the three committees.

Valentina Chappell

Professor, Friends University
2015 WASC President

Valentina.Chappell@gmail.com

Welcome to Wichita Sister Cities!

Our Mission

To promote peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation - one individual, one community at a time.

Our Purpose

Wichita Area Sister Cities (WASC) pursues exchanges with its sister cities in the following areas of interest:

- Diplomatic - Mayor and City Council delegation visits
- Cultural - group and individual exchanges
- Educational - university programs for language development
- Professional - ballet, music, chef, etc.
- Tourism - group and individuals
- Economic - searching business opportunities

Current Sister Cities

- Orleans, France - August 16, 1944 (unofficial), 1974 (through Sister Cities International)
- Tlalnepantla, Mexico - October 16, 1973
- Cancun, Mexico - November 25, 1975
- Kaifeng, China - December 3, 1985

Sister Cities Board Meetings

Please join us at the Monthly Board Meetings!

5:15 p.m.

Every 4th Thursday

Held in the City Hall Board Room, 1st Floor

February 26

March 26

April 23

May 28

June 25

July 23

August 27

September 24

October 22

November 19 (3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving)

December (TBD)

Wichita Area Sister Cities Annual Meeting

Plan of Events

6:45 p.m.

Valentina Chappell, President:

- Welcome
- Introduction of Public Officials
- Recognition of Corporate sponsors and special guests
- Official business: Approval of Treasurer's report

7:00 p.m.

Dinner - Chinese buffet

7:30 p.m.

- Dr. Valentina Chappell: Brief Country Committee updates
- Dr. Jerry Smartt – Student scholarships at work: Service and Study Abroad (Pre-med students, Friends University): video

President:

- Honorary Membership Awards
- Recognition of Outstanding Board members
- Update on election results and introduction of 2015 Board

8:00 p.m.

- **Mayor Brewer** - Remarks on Past, Present and Future of Sister Cities Organization
- 2015 President - Closing Remarks

Wichita Area Sister Cities Country Committee Reports

China Committee Annual Report 2014 Dr. Thom & Adrienne Rosenberg, Co-Chairs

Adrienne and I have continued as the co-chairs of the WASC China Committee for the year of 2014. Throughout the year we have had meetings at local Chinese restaurants, most notably The Oh Yeah China Bistro on North Rock Rd. Fai Tai, on occasion has been kind enough to bring an educational aspect by helping us with the Chinese Language and traditions.

As the Committee co-chairs, we followed WASC strategic directions, and continued strengthening relationships with local organizations that share the Sister Cities mission. A number of our committee members have participated in the Annual Chinese New Year's Festival hosted by the Wichita Chinese Association. As always, we attended this past year's celebration of "The Year of The Horse" on February 1st, 2014, held at the Morningstar Community Church on Kellogg Drive.

The China Committee is actively supporting design and construction of Chinese Garden of Friendship at Botanica Gardens. Adrienne and Valentina Chappell represented Sister Cities at the ground-breaking ceremony for the Chinese Garden. As participants of 2012 Mayor's delegation visit to China, Adrienne and I shared lots of materials that were used for designing Chinese Garden.

In the spirit of promoting awareness of Wichita – Kaifeng relationships, Adrienne and the China committee created a Chinese display at the Wichita Art Museum.



We continue to invite the Chinese Association members to join our committee and there has been a positive response. We are looking forward to seeing not only them, but other members of the Sister Cities Organization at our meetings.

This summer we helped to organize the second annual Chinese Night Market (Asian food festival) at Botanica. As always, Marty Miller was instrumental in organizing and attracting many food vendors, entertainment, etc. The event was very well attended and considered a success. We appreciated all the help from many of our committee members for making this a success.

We continue to pursue ideas from our members for fund raising activities and social events as we enter this New Year. We wish *to thank all of you* for allowing us to enjoy this endeavor and we remain

Sincerely,
Adrienne & Thom Rosenberg



Remember to join us and the Wichita Chinese Association on Saturday, February 1st at the Morningstar Community Church, located at 11010 E. Kellogg Drive; 5:30 dinner, 7:00 performance. **(Call (316) 630-0553 for info)**

Celebrate *"The Year of the Horse"*

France Committee Annual Report 2014

Brigitte Roussel, Chairperson

The France Committee worked on several major projects to promote the visibility of exchanges of various sorts and to generate funding for student scholarships.

1. Creating a welcome website WITH A DUAL PURPOSE: for French/francophone POTENTIAL VISITORS TO WICHITA, AND FOR WICHITA AREA RESIDENTS TO LEARN ABOUT ORLÉANS

Glyn Rimmington, who volunteered his time to establish a brand new website, created a link for each committee. We created a page for Orléans and one for Wichita, each both in French and in English. We also have a page for our calendar of monthly meetings and detailed information about all our events. The France committee appreciates Glyn's dedicated involvement in creating the SC website, versatile and multi-linguistic as you can see for yourself. Anyone from all over the world can consult the website, since its content is in 4 languages, 2 languages per SC country.

2. Fundraising

Our fund-raising efforts within SC contribute to student scholarships for study abroad in one of our sister cities. This year, we switched from the traditional Bastille Day Party to a music celebration: in France, each June 21, at the onset of summer, an event called La Fête de la Musique (Music Festival), takes place all day and all night in every single village, town, or city. Every possible type of music can be heard in each street corner. We were able to hold this event at Botanica on a beautiful evening on June 25th. Several local music groups were scattered all over Botanica, including the patio, the brand new Lotus Hall, and played Baroque music, Bossa Nova, Jazz, and folk songs, and serenaded our members as they strolled through the lovely gardens. We held a silent auction with 56 items, and all but one were sold. The event was very successful with almost 100 in attendance, and almost \$3000 netted. We also gained a few new members.

3. Commemorative booklet for the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of Orléans in August 1944

I composed a booklet of the history of the development of the twinning of Wichita and Orléans which culminated in 1974, after a regiment from Kansas had contributed to liberate Orléans on August 16th, 1944, and the soldiers and their families on both sides kept up their friendship for years. Testimonies of the Kansas veterans were gathered 20 years ago for the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Orléans. But this booklet amplifies the scope of the on-going friendship with new documents and illustrations, and includes the history of the development of the university partnership between WSU and Orléans which ensued in 1983, and has been a most dynamic cultural addition to the SC partnership. Copies of the booklet were sent to Orléans before the commemoration ceremonies started, and the reactions at City Hall, among the founders of the partnerships, and within the France-USA association were of earnest appreciation and gratefulness for highlighting the steadfast friendship on both sides.

On the list but not done in 2014

Offering French Classes

I have always wanted to resume French classes for the Wichita community since the Alliance Française, which was doing that, disappeared from sight in the mid-eighties. There is a possibility that the France committee might work with the Global Learning Center, a non-profit organization that used to also teach languages in the nineteen nineties. Either we would get ideas from them, or maybe even collaborate on a common plan, since they too, would like to revive their language classes.

It would be a great way to involve the students who have benefited from SC scholarships to be the instructors for a small stipend. By charging a small fee, the program could be self-sustainable and not depend on whether there is a fund with enough money in it for rooms, materials, etc. The members of the France committee also thought it would be a good idea for newly arrived French people in our community to be involved, because that it would be an opportunity for them to get integrated and have something to contribute while they reside in Wichita.

When Valentina heard about this project, she immediately suggested that all committees join in on this endeavor, so all languages of our SCs be taught in Wichita. Interested members within SC could meet and develop a business plan to see how instructors could be paid so the program could become self-sustainable.

Projects envisioned for 2015 – Jolene Wiant, the new Chair of the France Committee

1. Scan all documents onto a flash drive putting everything on a digital format.

This will allow us to easily transfer any files if needed. We will also upload them to a cloud storage account so that they can be accessed easily online. Having both cloud and flash drive will give a backup should one fail.

2. Fundraising

La Fête de la Musique (Music Festival) was a big success and I would like to do it again in 2015. Bill Devore has agreed to let us use his property for the event for free. It will be like it was at Botanica; we will have local musicians playing in different places around the yard. We also hope to have another silent auction as the one last year was such a success. Some items will include the sale of the commemorative booklet prepared by Brigitte.

3. Community Outreach and Membership Building

We are planning on going to one or two schools to celebrate the sister city connections. It is always difficult to get the students to come to us so this year we will go to them. We are just going to get in touch with a few schools and set up an assembly to discuss Orléans and the friendship between Orléans and Wichita, using the commemorative booklet. We would also like to see what projects the high schools would like to do between Wichita and Orléans, now that the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2013 has seen a revival of virtual and real exchanges between the schools of Kansas and those of the Orléans (Loiret) region.

We have also been trying to increase our members. Many students at Wichita State have received scholarships from SC over decades to go study in Orléans. Involvement in SC events is a great way for the students to give back to the city of Wichita and to our organization. We are going to encourage them to become members. We are going to invite them to the SC annual meeting in January.

Some of the French fund-raiser silent auction items could be the purchase of a SC membership. We could have several of those at bidding prices.

Mexico Committee Annual Report 2014

Submitted by Dr. Jerry Smartt and Patty Kohler

The grandest event for the Mexico Committee during 2014 was the extraordinary official visit of the Mayor and a delegation of eight persons from Tlalnepantla de Baz, Mexico. The event was undergirded by an impressive volunteer effort of 21 translator/interpreters and a host of Sister Cities volunteers from the Sister Cities Mexico Committee, Sister Cities Board, Sister Cities program, three universities, local businesses, institutions and organizations, and the City Council. Many events were hosted by individuals such as dinners in private homes, twinning with City Hall counterparts, tours of City Hall, Kansas Aviation Museum, and the Emergency Communications Center.

However, several unique events occurred for the first time, such as the Mayor's Barbecue event at *Botanica*. Not only was the food outstanding (meat specially cooked by the Mayor himself) but we made a profit to scholarship study and service abroad in our sister cities as well as gain new members. Also new was the participation of the local *Hispanic Woman's Network*, which invited the wife of the Mayor of Tlalnepantla for a remarkable discussion of community efforts for the most needy in our communities.

Also new was a panel discussion of export opportunities between Wichita and Tlalnepantla. Wichita trade specialists including *Kansas Global Services*, university professors, and *Wichita Business Journal* joined in a vigorous discussion that lead to the plan to establish international trade offices in each of the two cities. An additional enrichment to the visit was the arrival of the bicyclists from Tlalnepantla who rode their bikes thousands of miles to participate in the *Sundowners Parade* and join in the fun of the official visit.

We are especially grateful for the support and assistance of the City Council and the entire Sister Cities Board. The complexity of an official visit of this size requires attention and volunteerism from many, many volunteers. We also appreciate all of the special attention to the enormous details from all. The outcome of our efforts is seen in the outreach of both cities in the development of business opportunities. Another outcome is the continued effort of Newman University to establish an exchange program with a university in Tlalnepantla.

Health Science majors were able to complete an extraordinary service abroad project at *Casa de la Alegría* in the poorest section of Cancun. Students were able to assist in the elderly center, in the nursery, kindergarten, elementary, middle, and high schools at the facility. In addition, they completely organized the pharmacy and warehouse as part of their service to the most disenfranchised citizens of Cancun, Mexico. Study abroad for high school and university students of Spanish and service abroad for Health Science majors will continue in Cancun during the summer of 2015.

Patty Koehler & Jerry Smartt
Co-Chairs of the Mexico Committee

Wichita Area Sister Cities Education Committee
Scholarship Committee Annual Report 2014
De Eaton, Chairperson



The WASC Scholarship Committee met and awarded scholarships to six Wichita State University students. They were, Charley Cleaver, Alyssa Mars, Claire Gregory, Caleb Windholz, Catherine Clause and Robert Garvey. They attended The University of Orleans in Orleans, France from June 27th to July 25th. The students were immersed in French classes and were able to absorb the French culture while there. Each of these students received \$400 for their studies. Robert was awarded an extra \$100 from the David Ellis Fund, in recognition of his outstanding achievement in his French studies.

The scholarship committee met and awarded a scholarship to Kelsey Jones, a Friends University student who went to LaSalle University in Cancun, Mexico this summer. Kelsey participated in a health science service trip that went to Cancun, Mexico and Havana, Cuba from June 2nd to June 16th. While in those two countries she was able to participate in activities that included working with the elderly, children, farmers and was immersed in a large number of patient

demographics.

Wichita Area Sister Cities are proud to have awarded these scholarships to deserving students who served as ambassadors representing our community and WASC. The Scholarship Committee would like to recognize and give thanks to all our members who generously support this worthwhile and important endeavor of WASC. WASC has made a difference for many students over the years, as the scholarship program has awarded \$44,200.00 in scholarships to 94 students since 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

De Eaton, Chair, WASC Honorary Member
Gilda Waren, Committee Member

Wichita Area Sister Cities Financial Report

Description	Income	Expense	Net
Annual Filing Fee with KS Secretary of State	40	40	0
P.O. Box Rental		78	-78
WASC Web Site Server		298.56	-298.56
WASC Board Retreat		106.04	-106.04
Person of the Month Recognition Awards		100	-100
La Fête de la Musique (France Committee)	3469.07	1556	1913.1
Mayor's BBQ (Mexico Committee)	3730	1438.5	2291.5
Membership Dues	2495		
Annual Meeting	2735	1287.6	1447.4
Corporate sponsorship	5010		
Awards & Recognition Ceremony	450		
Interest Earned on Savings Accounts and CD	46.59		
Student Scholarships Awarded		2900	-2900
Wichita Hispanic Chamber of Commerce		500	-500
Wichita-Orléans Booklet		556.16	-556.16
TOTAL	17975.66	8860.8	9114.8

Year-End Account Balances

Checking Account	2,017.50
Savings Account	2,229.98
Scholarship Savings Account	12,182.63
Certificate of Deposit	11,943.04
TOTAL	28,373.15
Interest Earned	
Savings Account	2.81
Scholarship Savings Account	7.59
Certificate of Deposit	36.19
TOTAL	46.59



Wichita Area Sister Cities Thanks Our Sponsors

"Your Gifts Are Much Appreciated"



Join Wichita Area Sister Cities

YOU TOO CAN BENEFIT

If you are interested in becoming actively involved in the Wichita Area Sister Cities program, we invite you to join our organization. We promote volunteers and funds to support the diverse projects of the Wichita Area Sister Cities programs.

Please join the Wichita Area Sister Cities program. Through your Membership, you can become involved in:

- Enriching community life through exhibits, tours and exchanges
- Meeting new friends with international interests
- Creating opportunities for involvement in cultural activities
- Serving as host families for visitors from other sister cities
- Supporting student exchange programs with our sister cities
- Raising money for special projects
- Providing scholarships for students

Membership in the Wichita Area Sister Cities is open to any individual, family, business organization or civic group

For more information go the website at www.wichitaareasistercities.org