



Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board



Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Special Meeting of January 23, 2013

1. **CALL TO ORDER**: The meeting was called to order by Chair Takato Wakita at 12:10 PM.
2. **ROLL CALL**: Members present: Takato Wakita, chair; Barbara Ellis, Vice-Chair; and Marti Correa de Garcia, Secretary; Michael Fitzgerald, Dingle, Ireland; Blas Garza, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Jaime Sodusta, San Juan, Philippines; Linda Mathews, Toba, Japan; Joe Cantrell, Weihai, China; George Lilly, Kotor, Montenegro; Vivi Tziouvaras (alternate), Patras, Greece; Linda Gunter, City Staff Representative.

Guests: Dale Swanson, Lead Pastor of New Life Church; Gil Garcia, U.S./Mexico Representative of SCI; Pat Fallin, SCI State Coordinator; and Janet Baker, past Secretary.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: On a motion duly made, seconded and carried, the minutes of the meeting held November 7, 2012, were approved.

4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**: The following announcements were made:

Janet Baker was thanked for her 20 years of service.

Barbara Ellis and Marti Correa de Garcia were introduced as the newly appointed "City-as-large" members of the Board.

Mayor Helene Schneider is the new Council Liaison to the Board.

Kotor has a new web-page.

Joe Cantrell shared that the Santa Barbara Library will post non-profit events, including Santa Barbara Sister Cities events. The flyer for these events must have a contact phone number on it or it will not be posted. Take the flyer to the Reference Desk at the Central Library on Anacapa Street and take enough flyers so they can distribute to the other branches.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**:

Dale Swanson, Lead Pastor of New Life Church in San Roque (50 East Alamar Street) introduced himself. His congregation and other churches in town, would like to be "friendly ambassadors to the sister city visitors and dignitaries that visit our city at various times of the year." He also offered to open the church hall for Sister City meetings or events. He can be reached at 805-687-1116 (Church office) or dswanson@nlcsb.org.

6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2013**: Reviewed and changes made by each Sister City, new calendar to be presented at the March 6, 2013, meeting.

7. **AIRPORT PROJECT:** Installation of Sister Cities map will be done on Thursday, January 24. Any member is invited to see the installation; it begins at 10:00 AM. Linda Gunther is going to check with Karen Ramsdell and Mayor Schneider to ask about scheduling a dedication of the Sister Cities airport display.
8. **LIBRARY EXHIBITION CASE:** The Santa Barbara Library Main Branch has scheduled the month of October 2013 to fill the main display case with Sister Cities memorabilia. Each Sister City is encouraged to think about displaying something in reference to their sister city program.
9. **PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18:** George Lilly reported that Kotor was prepared to do the show but no one has called him to schedule. Linda Gunther will check with the appropriate person and get back to George about arranging a meeting.
10. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL:** Pat Fallin, Sister Cities International (SCI) State Coordinator, reported on the following:
 - The SCI's First Annual Presidential Inaugural Ball was a success. The highlight of the event was the U.S. Marine band performing.
 - Pat presented Ms. Wakita with a 2012 SCI directory.
 - The SoCal Sister Cities International's Annual Conference is scheduled on April 6, 2013, at the Anaheim Hilton Hotel. The theme is "Sister Cities in the Changing World." Many guest speakers will participate. Registration information can be found at www.socalsistercitie.org.

Pat also offered her services to any Sister City having problems with organizing, etc.

11. **OPEN WORLD PROGRAM:** Gil Garcia reported that Yalta citizens have been invited to participate in this year's Open World Program. The program will focus on NGO's (Non-Government Organizations) with concentration on non-profits. Gil is working on an agenda (the Yalta citizens will be in Santa Barbara from Saturday, June 1 to Sunday, June 9, 2013); the program will consist of 35 hours of non-profit activities for the visiting Yalta, Crimea, Ukraine delegation. The goal is to motivate the Yalta participants to organize a NGO citizen based Sister City program that would possibly begin the investigatory process of rekindling the sister city relationship with Santa Barbara.
12. **NETWORKING/GET TOGETHER WITH MEMBERS FROM ALL COMMITTEE BOARDS:** Joe Cantrell suggested the get together tie in with the Open World Program. Linda Mathews recommended the sharing of the different expertise each Sister Cities board has, such as finances or publicity. At the next Board meeting, a date will be set for the event. Barbara Ellis was assigned to work with Joe Cantrell on a program, potluck etc.
13. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:**

Patras, Greece: Alternate Vivi Tziouvaras reported the organization is hosting an event celebrating Greek Independence Day on Saturday, March 23. The committee meets every other

month. President Gastounioia is in communication with the Patras Mayor. Membership totals 15, dues are \$25.00 per year.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Blas Garza handed out the Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City newsletter. An article and picture of the Toba Shin-nen-kai dinner & Kimono show was highlighted. The latest program is to send a trash hauler from MarBorg Inc. in cooperation with the Rotary Club. The Young Artist Showcase is in full swing, local high schools are involved, a reception is planned at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, February 19, at Business First Bank. The Board and all sister cities members are invited to attend.

San Juan, Philippines: Jaime Sodusta reported that a member will be visiting their Sister City and will take two boxes of medical supplies. The members are collecting money to fund their pet project, feeding the less fortunate children in San Juan, and are gathering donations. About \$200 will be taken to San Juan to purchase food and distribute the food along with pamphlets stressing good food nutrition. A meeting with the Sister City counterpart will also take place during this visitation.

Weihai, China: Joe Cantrell reported that the committee has been inactive since the student visitation in the summer of 2012. They are in the reorganization mode and renewing their affiliation with the Santa Barbara Chinese Association. Weihai has given some indication that they would like to get involved with business activities. The annual Celebration of the Chinese New Year (Year of the Snake) will take place on Wednesday, February 13, at the China Pavilion. The cost is \$35.00; festivities begin at 7:30 PM.

Toba, Japan: Linda Mathews reported on the very successful annual dinner that took place at the Cabrillo Pavilion Arts Center. The Kimono show was very well received with wonderful models from the community. A members only event is being planned; more information to follow. Work on the summer Toba student exchange program has started.

Dingle, Ireland: Michael Fitzgerald reported that the committee is going through a re-organization phase. They have been in contact with Pat Fallin who is helping the group with a plan of action to re-organize. They hope to have an event for St. Patrick's Day on Sunday, March 17.

Kotor, Montenegro: George Lilly reports that Ratimir Martinovic, the leading pianist from Montenegro will perform once again at the Music Academy of the West on Thursday, February 28. Please see their web-page at www.sbkotorsistercity.com for more information. The committee is also working with the Music Academy to send representatives to Kotor where they will collaborate with the Kotor Music Academy for possible exchanges.

14. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marti Correa de Garcia, Secretary