

Royal Rosarians

2011-2018 Sister City Liaisons Overview

Welcome to the 7th year of Sister City Liaisons! This document will touch upon where we started, how our role developed and highlight a few of your achievements. It will show you what is happening now and how the coming year will take shape as the Sister Cities and Royal Rosarian Liaisons work together.

In 2011, the Sister Cities of Portland asked the Rosarians to provide a sister city liaison to each of the cities to assist with V.I.P. Greetings, developing a relationship for their sister city for support & to serve in support of All Sister Cities activities.

This came about as a result of the Mayor's Office of the City of Portland requesting that Lynne McIntyre serve as the facilitator for All Sister Cities. Monthly meetings were established over the previous 3 years and the sister cities were becoming familiar with sharing ideas that could provide benefits across their organizational lines. There was a hope that group fundraising might occur over time and provide assets that could support activities that developed, such as the City of Portland Reception, which focuses on welcoming visiting sister city delegations during the Rose Festival.

Lynne, Renee Morgan and the sister cities developed a relationship with the Rose Festival Foundation, which created the opportunity for All Sister Cities to be featured in a sponsored Portland Rose Festival Grand Floral Parade float for two years, as a walking unit for two years and finally, as a human-powered pedicab unit, which has been a great success. Along the way, Rosarian Sister City Liaisons served as role models, assisted with event planning and execution, shared vision and led the All Sister Cities group of presidents. Renee Morgan co-chaired with Lynne for 2 years.

The past 6 years, James Autry has served as the President of the Portland-Ashkelon Sister Cities Association and this is his 5th year of chairing the City of Portland Reception, which improves every single year. He has also been a driving force in working with the Grand Floral Parade team and provided audio recordings of the All Sister Cities monthly meetings. As of October 2015, he was knighted as a Royal Rosarian and has been the Co-Chair of the All Sister Cities monthly meetings.

James also has substantial skills in event management, as well as working with a number of non-profit organizations. He is experienced at successful fund-raising, energetic and quick to respond to opportunities. He also served with Lynne on the sub-committee to create an All Sister Cities/Friendship Cities Non-Profit Organization, which would have given greater structure to our collaborations and open fund-raising doors. After several years of planning and presenting the proposed organization to the City of Portland, it was decided that another non-profit organization not be created to serve all the other associations, but rather that all the associations simply collaborate under the banner of the Portland Sister Cities Coalition, wherein James created a website, Facebook page & a separate checking account under his own non-profit organization, Serving Our Neighbors, that was established as a public charity in 2008.

Our other co-chair of the Portland Sister Cities Coalition monthly meetings has been Rob Hungerford, who has also been a member of the board of directors of the Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association. Rob is active with the organization and visited Kaohsiung during his Prime Minister year. He has also hosted guests from the sister city and developed the relationship with the local Association.

As 2011-2012 Royal Rosarians Prime Minister, Rob has strong leadership skills, works very well with others and is great at getting consensus and action in complex situations. He has excellent communications skills and works in a leadership role for Clackamas County, so he is very comfortable in a government environment. Rob was also the Royal Rosarian Chair of the Dragon Boat Eye-Dotting Ceremony at River Place. The ceremonial role of the Royal Rosarians grows each year at this event. Rob was the first Rosarian Prime Minister to be invited to be one of the dignitaries given the honor of dotting the eyes of one of the dragon boats during the official start of dragon-boat racing season. This is also an official Rose Festival event! This is a strong community-building event that recognizes the value of the Chinese heritage and customs in Portland, Oregon. Thanks to Renee Morgan, who chaired the event the first years, the Rosarians have become a cornerstone of this event.

As the sister city presidents and boards became aware of the tremendous skills the Royal Rosarian Liaisons bring to the table, several changes occurred over the years. Lydia Lundberg was inspired to begin attending meetings of her Khabarovsk Sister City Association. She is strongly supporting the City of Portland Reception and offered to host the first official government delegation to visit Portland in 25 years in her home during their Rose Festival visit. The Vice Mayor became an Honorary Knightee. A member of the delegation purchased a Tesla Roadster during the visit, which Lydia helped deliver for shipping to Russia when it arrived. Lydia has truly brought the spirit of Rosarian Ambassadorship to the attention of other sister city presidents. The guests enjoyed the hospitality Lydia and Bill provided.

Lydia attends V.I.P. Greetings! Each August, Lydia and Bill host the All Sister Cities Summer Social at their home. We socialize, barbecue bison burgers and have been treated to a musical presentation by the artists of "3 for Silver". This pot-luck event is a tremendous success each year. Lydia's efforts show leadership, as a past co-chair for the All Sister Cities meetings. She is a role model for all of us to follow! Bonding is an important part of serving as a sister city liaison!

Careen and Leon Cieloha both serve as liaisons to the Portland-Guadalajara Sister City Association. Working closely with past President Stephanie Lamberson, they've supported their annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration at Waterfront Park and participated in the Homeland Security Naturalization Ceremony where 50 people from all over the world become U.S. citizens as our Prime Minister was an honored speaker and the Royal Rosarians add Ceremonial Majesty to the event serving as the honor guard. Careen has been interviewed for the media at this event. Both Careen and Leon are very active in the City of Portland Reception and attend Portland Sister Cities Coalition meetings regularly when they are in town. They continue to grow in their leadership among the liaisons.

Renee Morgan wore many hats in helping the All Sister Cities organization grow. She served as the liaison to the Kaohsiung Association, hosting visiting students during Rose Festival, attended Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association events and banquets and opened the door with this organization. She was affiliated with the Portland-Utrecht Friendship City Association and was able to be at the City of Portland Reception where Utrecht and Portland joined hands as Friendship Cities. These relationships take years to develop. Renee was instrumental in creating the structure of the City of Portland Reception, working to secure the entry in the Grand Floral Parade and in arranging V.I.P. opportunities, honorary knightings, and been a very active leader in a host of events that strengthened the sister city associations. Without Renee, we would not be where we are today.

Virgil Caramella and Joyce Dougherty have served as liaisons to the Portland-Bologna Sister City Association. They have been regulars at Portland Sister Cities Coalition monthly meeting for years and are strong participants in the City of Portland Reception. They have also been active with the Homeland Security Naturalization Ceremony and other events with the Portland Sister Cities Coalition. Their efforts continue to provide support to Bologna. Joyce drove all the way from Salem in rush-hour traffic to attend the monthly meetings.

Karin Hansen has filled the co-president position for the Portland-Mutare Sister City Association and is also serving as their Royal Rosarian Liaison. Needless to say, she was deeply involved in their meetings and events. Karin also provides considerable support to the annual City of Portland Reception. As former First Lady of Portland, Karin commands respect and demonstrates the integrity of the sister city missions in tireless efforts to provide the most basic health, medical, shelter and educational opportunities created through the fund-raising efforts of this Association.

Serving as an incubator to potential Friendship Cities, the monthly Portland Sister Cities Coalition meetings provide the opportunity for groups to learn what it means to be a sister city as they work through the complex framework of becoming a Friendship City. Joana Dinu has served the Portland-Iasi Association in it's quest to become a Friendship City. Joana attends their meetings and events, and attends the All Sister Cities Meetings on a regular basis, sometimes reporting on behalf of their President regarding activities. Joana's role has been critical to their success. She is also the Queen Mother to former Rose Festival Queen Victoria Dinu! Joana is a strong volunteer at the City of Portland Reception and attends All Sister Cities Activities, serving in Royal Rosarian Honor Guard opportunities that occur.

Each of the liaisons who have been a part of the group have made valuable contributions. We won't go into all of them, but those described above give you an idea of the value these roles lend to the Royal Rosarians' serving as the official ambassadors and greeters of the City of Portland and the support of the Rose Festival. Sister City Liaisons are *ambassadorship in action*.

With visibility comes responsibility to represent the Royal Rosarians in the best way possible, as we provide leadership skills, event support and ceremonial presence that heightens the experience for sister city events. This is a truly unique opportunity to serve the Royal Rosarians in a valued and meaningful role. As the testimonials in this document show, sister city liaisons are valued by the organizations and by the City of Portland. The Royal Rosarians support the Sister Cities with their annual budget appropriation, which is deeply appreciated by the City and the Associations.

As we continue to strengthen our value to the City of Portland as its official ambassadors, your part will be a significant asset to the process. This value is greatest if you develop a close relationship with the board of your sister city organization by attending at least 2 of their monthly meetings and a couple of their events during the year. You will want to be at the monthly Portland Sister Cities Coalition meetings. Continue working in support of the City of Portland Reception and in support of the Grand Floral Parade entry, which gives the sister cities the exposure they have never had in the past. It is a tremendous team-building activity that results in excitement, fun and a sense of achievement each year.

Thank you all for your courage, your willingness to try new things, and for sharing your incredible capabilities.