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## **MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR TSCI OFFICE**

Volunteers staffing for our office at Government Center in downtown Toledo is still proving a challenge, TSCI Board of Trustees were told at their May meeting.

"Currently the bulk of staffing is being handled by a small core of persons" President Jim Hartung said. He encouraged each member of the Board to consider scheduling time to assist in staffing the TSCI office. "We have a valuable asset in a prime position and we should make the maximum use of this privilege," he added.

The Board would be happy if non-board members of the various cities represented could also volunteer, thus easing the demand on "the few" who do volunteer, Jim added.

If you can spare three hours a week please advise the office or the Board member who represents your city.

## **PROGRESS FROM AUSTRALIA**

Our contact in Geelong. Daryl McLure, a former editor of the city's daily newspaper, reports that the new Mayor of Geelong, Mayor Bruce Harwood, is interested in resurrecting the Geelong-Toledo sister-city possibility. Mayor Harwood obviously sees the advantages of such exchanges and the benefits that come from Sister city relationships as, resulting from his visit to Dundee in Scotland, Geelong had visits from two prominent Dundee people on their success with biotech and IT and where the city should head in its transition from the old traditional industries. Now, thanks to Daryl, Mayor Harwood has all the e-mail exchanges between Toledo and Geelong. He also wants to meet with the Editor of this newsletter, who happens to be from Geelong, when he next returns to Australia in October.

## **SPRING CLEANING AT OUR OFFICE!**

The Board also discussed the need for each TSCI Sponsoring Committee to examine records, memoranda and its such as promotional material stored at the office to evaluate them as historic documents to be retained or, as dated material, to be discarded.

## **CITY COUNCIL RECOGNITION**

TSCI has been officially assigned to the City Council Standing Committee on Regional Economic Development and Employment. This means that TSCI will report and be accountable to the Committee on all issues and initiatives.

## **25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS - PLANNING ALREADY UNDER WAY**

"Save the Date" cards for TSCI's 25th anniversary to be held at the Toledo Club on September 15 have already been sent to a wide range of representatives as well as our own members and

other Sister City organizations in the USA. The letter, signed by Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur and President Jim also seek invitees support for the work of TSCI with advertising in the planned Gala program.

"As Congresswoman I had the privilege of initiating the concept of Toledo Sister Cities International in the early 1990s, when the sister city movement expanded greatly in Toledo. Our relationship with Toledo, Spain began in 1931, long before President Eisenhower conceived the idea that world peace could be advanced by citizen diplomacy. The work goes on and is worthy of support," Congresswoman Kaptur said.

In addition President Jim is seeking a meeting with the Mayor's Executive Management team to discuss the 25th anniversary Gala, Mayoral appointments to the TSCI Board and funding support.

### **NANCHONG -TOLEDO'S NEWEST SISTER CITY**

After the establishment of Qinhuangdao sister city relationship, Toledo gained another Chinese sister city, Nanchong in 2017, reports Ming Liu and Jing Meyer of the Qinhuangdao/Nanchong China Committee. As part of the Sister cultural exchange between Toledo and Qinhuangdao, a performance troupe of six faculty member and eight students from Qinhuangdao arrived in Toledo on March 10 for a 12-day visit.

During the visit the troupe presented "Whispering Dreams of a Spring Breeze" which comprised Chinese songs, dance and instrumental music, and martial arts at three venues- Bowling Green State University, University of Toledo and Lourdes University. In addition to the performances the group also exchanged academic programs with the faculty and students at Bowling Green.

"After each performance I received many comments and feedback on the quality of the performance," said Dr Joe Chao, Chair of the Qinhuangdao/ Nanchong China Committee.

### **COMING EVENTS**

June 24-25 Crosby Festival of the Arts Toledo Botanical Gardens

August 6 Taste of India

August 26-28 German American Festival, German American Society

September 9-11 Greek American Festival, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

### **Items/contributions welcome**

The Editor welcome items about our Sister Cities - these can be sent through your delegate to the Board or to Lindsay Smith at [lsmithaussie@bex.net](mailto:lsmithaussie@bex.net)