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CELEBRATING OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY IN GREAT STYLE

Toledo Sister Cities International will celebrate its 25th anniversary gala on September 15, 2018 at the Toledo Club.

This significant event is being planned by the Board of Trustees of Toledo Sister Cities International (TSCI) under Event Chairperson, Sister Ann Francis Klimkowski and the 10 Sister City committees which serve North-Western Ohio as a bridge to global sister cities

"We have the oldest Sister City partnership with Toledo, Spain, since 1931

"A second long-standing agreement was established in 1985 with Qinhuangdao, China. However it wasn't until 1993 that we incorporated as a non-profit organization and that's when our real on-going efforts started," Sister Klimkowski added

"This year we remember the past, celebrate the present, and connect to the future," she added

TSCI is asking for community support in the form of sponsors, donors and other advertising opportunities. Money raised will, in part, be used for the following

The International Youth Academy which brings high school age students to Toledo where they are immersed in Northwest Ohio cultures, language, and values and experience the many educational, cultural and fun venues in the Great Lakes area.

Every two years our sister city of Toyohashi, Japan, sends high school students to spend time with host families as they experience our educational opportunities, immerse themselves in our culture and make an economic impact by their presence.

EXECUTIVE BOARD NEWS

The last few weeks have been positive and busy for Toledo Sister Cities, Chairman Jim Hartung, reported to the Board's June meeting. The results are far-reaching, and following his visit to Qinhuangdao, Yanshen University for the Board meeting of the Confucius Institute and his meetings with the city's Vice-Mayor Feng, who solicited TSC to assist in further cooperation between the two cities in the areas of tourism, water quality, environment enhancements and economic development

"This was significant in the fact that the subjects discussed were not just 'feel good' matters but down to earth concerns that can benefit the well-being of the human condition" President Jim said.

President Jim also reported that his appointment to serve on the Toledo Commission on Human Rights will strategically position TSCI for further programming opportunities. "We are being taken seriously by the community as an organization that has something positive to offer in the field of international relations," he added.

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED

The need for volunteers to man the office is a continual challenge. Thanks to a dedicated half dozen Board members the office has had a "presence" during office hours. Call the office number listed above if you can help.

MUSIC -THE INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE

The first official delegation representing the City of Toledo and Toledo Sister Cities International traveled to Germany to formalize the recently ratified Toledo/Coburg Friendship City Agreement. TSCI President James Hartung, with extraordinary support from the German Sister Cities Committee Chairperson, Rogene Kohler and TSCI Board member Dagmar Varela, worked with the Greater Toledo International Youth Orchestra to demonstrate the level of commitment to fostering a powerful relationship between Toledo and Coburg. "This is hopefully just the beginning of a relationship that will characterize the 'best of what Sister City/ Friendship City Agreements can achieve'", declared Rogene Kohler, Chair of TSCI's German Sister City Committee. The orchestra comprised of Toledo area young people ranging from 12 to 17 years, performed A Celebration of American Folk Music before audiences at Music Folk Festival in Steinem, Germany and Coburg. "Our hosts could not have been more accommodating and gracious," said TSCI President, Jim Hartung. Steps have already begun on planning the next steps to be taken to ensure the momentum of this first visit continues.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

TSCI is privileged and honored to welcome two new members to the TSCI Board of Trustees. They are **Justice G. Johnson Jr** and **James Clark Rush**. Both are prominent members of the Toledo community and will bring a wealth of experience to the deliberations of the Board. Justice Johnson, apart from being a member of the United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit; the United States District Court - Northern District of Ohio, the Ohio State Bar and the State Bar of Michigan, is widespread in his interests. Among his other activities he is a Board Member for the Toledo School for the Arts, the Toledo Hospital Foundation, the Toledo Symphony Orchestra, MCO at Toledo Foundation, Ottawa Hills School Board, University of Toledo Foundation and the SS Willis B Boyer Museum Ship.

Mr Rush is Executive Vice President, and partner of *Communica*. He has managed advertising and branding projects throughout North America, Central/South America, China and Europe. He has served as a judge for a multitude of advertising industry creative award competitions throughout the country. Prior to *Communica* he was with Lamar Outdoor Advertising and a project manager for the *San Diego Reader*, one of America's top weekly newspapers. He was instrumental in executing a total re-design of the publication for which he earned a coveted SANDI award. He is a graduate of the La Jolla Academy of Advertising and Arts, La Jolla CA. We know they will have much to offer TSCI.