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### **TSCI PRESIDENT APPOINTED TO TOLEDO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

President, Jim Hartung, was recently appointed to the newly-constituted Human Relations Commission by Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz. This is a further example of the growing recognition of the work of TSCI here and internationally in many fields. The Commission will consist of 14 members and will direct its efforts to furthering the policies of the Mayor and Council pertaining to community relations within our city. The Commission will support residents working to overcome prejudice and build mutual respect.

"The vision and mission of TSCI are nicely aligned with the intent of the Commission," President Jim said. "There is a synergy between Sister Cities and the Commission that will strengthen the mutual program and operational objectives of both bodies," he added.

### **TOLEDO'S LOSS IS TALLAHASSEE'S GAIN**

A familiar and friendly face at Board meetings, Dr Johnny Early, will be leaving the University of Toledo to take up a position in Tallahassee, Florida. Johnny quietly made the Board meetings enjoyable as he not only fed the intellect of his fellow committee members with his contribution to debate but also the inner man with practical examples of sustenance. Our best wishes go to him in his new venture.

### **MARY BILYEU'S "BLADE" COLUMN HIGHLIGHTS MORE THAN FOOD**

TSCI's profile is becoming better-known both in the media and with the general public. A recent front page article in the "Peach" section of the Toledo "Blade" under the heading of "Sister Cities Celebrates 25 Years" featured recipes from TSCI. Miss Bilyeau stated that she "enjoyed the project immensely, working with TSCI's dedicated and devoted representatives to learn about our friends around the world through their favorite foods. I will miss it when the year comes to the end." Her article was more than about food as she covered TSCI's work in fostering student exchanges. The article added that TSCI did much good work both locally and abroad. "There have been joint research projects at university level, the provision of medical supplies and wonderful cultural exchanges between Toledo and its network of sister cities. We benefit enormously from our relationships around the world thanks to the efforts of our Sister Cities representatives. International friendships should always be on the menu," the article concluded.

## **UNIVERSITY, AND "THE BLADE" CONTRIBUTE TO SUCCESS OF STUDENT EXCHANGE**

The International Youth Academy, sponsored by TSCI and the University of Toledo recently sponsored a two week program for sister city's high school students to work to improve their conversational English, envelope a new understanding of different cultures and increase their team building skills. Students also familiarized themselves with Toledo, and in the course of this gained lifetime friendships. Mayor Kapszukiewicz himself was quite a hit as he explained what mayors do and kibitzed and bantered his way through a number of topics. Kurt Franck, President and General Manager of "The Blade" lead an hour-long discussion on America's Freedom of the Press. Mr Franck praised the receptiveness of our US students and the Japanese students. "The Blade" also donated tickets for Cedar Point, a highlight of the IYA experience.

## **VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED FOR STCI OFFICE**

Always wanted to sit in a top-floor office in a prestigious down town building? You'll be among good company - the City Council staff is adjacent and Toledo's Mayor has his office on the floor above! By simply adding your name to the dedicated volunteers who already give valuable time to this service, you can achieve this status. Simply call the office at the number on our masthead, or leave a message on the answering system, stating the days you could be available. If a recorded voice answers your call it will only emphasize there is still a need for volunteers.

## **TOLEDO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

Since 2015 The OhioTheatre and Event Center has hosted the Toledo International Film Festival, and this year's event is scheduled at the Center at 3114 Lagrange Street, Toledo from November 16-18. Further information at [ohiotheatretoledo@gmail.com](mailto:ohiotheatretoledo@gmail.com). or Sarah at 419-419-0828

## **AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER LINK**

Sister Cities Australia has a newsletter and website that shows what can be done so far as layout and content is concerned. Their website is [www.sistercitiesaustralia.com](http://www.sistercitiesaustralia.com). Hopefully TSCI will in the future have a sister city in Australia, and possibilities will be explored when Board member Lindsay Smith visits his home country next month.

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Lindsay Smith at [lsmithaussie@bex.net](mailto:lsmithaussie@bex.net)**