



Sister Cities News

San Pedro Gears up for 2018 Elections

Time does indeed pass quickly. Residents of San Pedro will vote for mayor and council seats in March 2018. On a sunny day in early December the UDP slate for local seats went through the nomination process by voters. The day's events began with the national anthem and former mayor Elsa Paz made opening remarks. Following the formal nomination current Mayor Guererro spoke about the investments his administration have made during their term. Mayor Guererro and the current council members will all be on the ballot for reelection next year.

UDP leaders from around the country were also present and joined in the formal proceedings. Several spoke enthusiastically about the proposed slate. Like conventions in democracies around the globe, there was some revelry following the speeches. Live music was provided by the Super Furia Band.

The PUP leaders held their nominating convention in August and their slate for councilor seats includes four women. The full 2018 PUP slate includes Andre Perez (mayor) and councilor seats are Ian Pou, Marina Kay, Ruben Navidad, Undina Graniel, Danelie Aranda, and Johnea Duarte. The candidates stressed how important tourism is to their economy and also spoke about crime and poverty as ongoing concerns needing to be addressed.

PUP leaders from different voting districts took to the podium and when the formalities concluded, the candidates and guests enjoyed music by the Caribbean Kings.

Doncaster Joins Mayflower 400

November 2020 marks the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, Massachusetts. The event is in the early planning stages and hopes to become a major factor in the local economies of each city/port along the route. Each city will create its own plan with a coordinated marketing campaign to publicize the events and tours along the route.

Doncaster is planning on being part of this historic event. William Bradford of Austerfield, a small village in the metropolitan borough of Doncaster, played a significant role in the establishment of Plymouth Colony. Bradford was a signer of the Mayflower compact and recorded much of the journey to America and early history in a journal.



St. Helena's Church where Bradford was baptized still exists as does the Bradford family home. There will be many interesting things to do and see along the route from Austerfield to the Romanesque buildings in Doncaster centre.

Wilmington hopes to join its sister city in commemorating this historic event as Great Britain remains a vital partner and ally of the US. Stay tuned.

Barbados Benefits Two-fold from Privately Owned MSC

December marked the inaugural call of the MSC Fantasia at the Port of Barbados. The ship departed



from Spain and its next stop was Martinique. While in Port, Captain Stefano Aiello was presented with a plaque

commemorating the event and he remarked, "How pleased I am to add the port of Barbados to the ships itinerary."

The MSC Fantasia carried 4,363 passengers and a crew of 1370 and is state of the art in terms of amenities and design features. It includes a Broadway scale theater, casino, designer themed lounges, top chef Mediterranean cuisine, and a 4D cinema. The largest of the cruise line is the Devina which is based in Miami and will sail in the Caribbean market exclusively, whereas the Fantasia will sail three to four months in

the region. Recruitment efforts for the new line of luxury ships in the region focused on Barbados since the target market is largely American. Job creation is a big boost at this time for Barbados which has struggled since the great recession of 2008.

The Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) is the only privately owned shipping company. It is headquartered in Geneva and owned by the Aponte family. Its container ships have a capacity of up to 19,244 TEU.

In Other News

SCI Names New President/CEO

The SCI board announced the organization's new President/CEO, Roger-Mark De Souza who will take over the reins on January 2, 2018. "We are thrilled and honored to have Roger-Mark joining our team," said Sister Cities International Board Chair and acting CEO Tim Quigley. "His experience conceptualizing tangible solutions to global issues, galvanizing public and private resources, and his passion for productive relationships that strengthen bonds worldwide make him the right fit to lead the Sister Cities International network movement at this crucial point in time."

De Souza most recently served as Director of Programs on global sustainability at the Woodrow Wilson Center. Previous professional experience includes Vice President of Research at PAI, Director of Foundation and Corporate Relations for the Sierra Club and Project Director for the Population Reference Bureau.

We wish him the best in his new role. In other news concerning SCI, the role of state coordinator for North Carolina has been divided into two regions. Former coordinator Barbara Shepard has relocated to Asheville and will manage the western part of the state. Brady Surlis in Durham will manage the eastern part. Wilmington's Sister City Commission has agreed to host the spring state conference in 2018.

Call for Nominations

Letters of interest and or nominations for SCAW board positions are due by 1/30/2018. People who are interested themselves or know someone they would to recommend should send a resume or bio to membership@scawilmington.org. Write NOMINATIONS in the subject line. Expectations include: attending board meetings (quarterly & the annual meeting); be a SCAW member in good standing (annual dues current); and support program activities throughout the year as your schedule permits.

Citizen to Citizen Diplomacy Honor Roll

SCAW attempts to involve as many people and institutions as possible to achieve its mission in Wilmington and the international community. We want to recognize the individuals and groups that have made a contribution in the past calendar quarter through their active participation or support of a Sister City program activity.

Charles Blanton
Marilyn Cantarella
Peggy Rosoff
Riverboat Landing
Harry Shaheen

Scott Czechlewski
Rosemary Toumey
Waterline Brewing Company
Black Sea Grill
George Schell

Upcoming Events

Feb Ring in the **Chinese New Year** with Sister Cities at **Szechuan 132** (University Square). Invitations will be going out in early February so be sure to check your in-box. The event is presented family style and traditional foods will be served. Advance reservations are required by phone 343-5226 or email – membership@scawilmington.org. Cost is \$20 per person and includes 7 courses. Alcohol can be purchased on a separate tab. The event starts promptly at 7 PM.

Wishing you peace, joy and all the season's glad tidings in abundance....



Sister Cities Association Board of Directors.....Charles, George, Kerry, Chad, Marilyn, Tony, Peggy, and Michael