



Association Elects Officers

Members of the Sister Cities Association of Wilmington elected Deborah Cook to be president of the Association at a meeting held on Monday, April 24, 2006. Deborah is a member of the Sister City Commission and is a REALTOR at RE/MAX Coastal Properties - Commercial Division.

"I look forward to helping open up the Sister City program to more active community involvement," said Cook. "The Sister City program was established as a people-to-people initiative to help spread peace and understanding for other cultures. The Association will more directly involve the public in this mission and allow expanded programs and exchanges due to our ability to seek direct support from the community."



Deborah Cook

Other officers elected include Scott Czechlewski, who will serve as vice president. Scott served as the City of Wilmington staff liaison to the Commission for five years and is currently a Commission member.

County Commissioner Nancy Pritchett, a former member of the Sister City Commission, will take the post of treasurer. Marilyn Cantarella, also a member of the Commission, was elected secretary.

Sister City Association board meetings are held the fourth Monday of every month at 5:00 p.m. in the Lord Compton Room on the first floor of City Hall (102 N. 3rd Street).

Association Board of Directors

Deborah Cook, President

Scott Czechlewski, Vice President

Nancy Pritchett, Treasurer

Marilyn Cantarella, Secretary

Sister City Artists Invited to Participate in *No Boundaries* Association to Sponsor Exhibit

International artists from all four of Wilmington's Sister Cities have accepted invitations to participate in the *No Boundaries International Artist Colony 2006*, at the urging of the colony's co-director Gayle Tustin. *No Boundaries* is a non-profit organization formed in 1998 by Wilmington artists Dick Roberts, Pam Toll and Gayle Tustin. The non-profit group provides two weeks of uninterrupted time in which artists from different backgrounds can come together and create art.

The international colony is held every two years at Bald Head Island. *No Boundaries* provides accommodations, meals, and arts supplies for participating visual artists. The artist is required to pay for travel only.

The plans for the 2006 International Colony include a kick-off at the NC Aquarium at Ft. Fisher on Thursday, November 2 from 6:00-9:00 p.m., and an exhibition that will be held at Acme Art Studios (711 N. Fifth Avenue, downtown Wilmington). Gayle asked the Sister Cities Association of Wilmington to sponsor the exhibit, which would include soliciting in-kind contributions from area restaurants and businesses for food and beverages for the opening. The Association has agreed to host the event. WHQR, Encore and Currents will be providing publicity.

Please plan to attend the opening on Saturday, November 18 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at Acme Art Studios, and promote awareness and understanding of different cultures. More details to come!

The next Sister City Association meeting will be held on **Monday, September 25 at 5:00 p.m.** in the Lord Compton Room on the first floor of City Hall.

Located at the mouth of the Yalu River, Dandong is opposite North Korea, in the SE Liaoning province. It is connected by rail with Shenyang (Mukden) and with Sinuiju in North Korea. Like Wilmington, Dandong is a port city, but has a much larger population - more than 700,000.

Its manufacturing base includes paper, oakleaf silk, chemicals, medicines, machinery, and cement. One of Dandong's landmarks is Hushan Great Wall, which marks the eastern end of the the Ming Dynasty's extension to the Great Wall. The Supung Dam on the Yalu supplies power for the city's industries.

Dandong was Wilmington's first Sister City (1986) and had an active teacher exchange program for several years, with UNCW students going to Dandong for yearlong assignments. Some students have returned to work in private industry there, and one former teacher took his international diplomacy to the next level by marrying a local girl and moving to China!



GET TO KNOW... DANDONG, CHINA



Learn more about Dandong at
www.dandong.gov.cn

Photos courtesy of City of Dandong