

Sioux Falls Sister Cities Association
February 19, 2009
Center for Active Generations

The Sioux Falls Sister Cities Association met for the monthly meeting at the Center for Active Generations. President, Ginny Beck, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The minutes from the January 15, 2009, meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report: There was no treasurer's report as Steve Hauff was in Germany on business.

Claims: \$xx.xx for Tiffny Hagan, Virtual Office Assistant and \$xxx.xx for Sister Cities International dues. The city of Sioux Falls has paid the dues in the past years but no longer will be paying. The claims were approved.

Ireland: There is no definite answer from Newry and Mourne on an invitation to be a sister city. According to Michael Carr, they are about to finalize their position. If an invitation is received, it will be discussed, at that time, by Sioux Falls Sister Cities Association. The International Association allows two U.S. sister cities per city. Limerick has two U.S. sister cities at this time.

Potsdam: Ginny read a short history of the Sioux Falls Sister Cities organization. It began in the late 1980's when Jack White, Mayor, signed an agreement two weeks before the reunification of East and West Germany. At that time, Sioux Falls was the only U.S. city to have an East German sister city. Dale Schmidt sent a letter to the local German high school teachers asking if they'd be interested in starting a relationship with a Potsdam school. The Roosevelt High School teacher replied and is interested. Ginny reported that she hasn't heard anything from Todd Runyan regarding the Youth and Violence conference in Potsdam. Steve Hauff emailed that a former Sioux Falls resident, now in Germany, has a neighbor that is a professor of law and wants a connection with someone at our universities. March 19, 16 students and 2 teachers will arrive from Potsdam for a visit with Lincoln High School. They will depart on April 2. Sister Cities will provide gifts for each student and teacher.

Upcoming Events: Ginny will drive to the Fasching in New Ulm, MN, February 21. Please contact Ginny if interested in going. The basics are set for German Fest, 2009... Tent, park, dogs, sound system and some new vendors have called Ginny and are interested in a booth. The plan is for Sister Cities to be the beer vendor. The planning will begin in March. Shawn Cleary reported that the Irish Club is tentatively going to sponsor an Irish Fair on July 25, 2009.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Thanks to Ginny for the wonderful brownies
and also a happy birthday to Ginny (Feb 19)!