

CONCORD-SAN MARCOS SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

Steven B. Bloomfield, Chair
Shirley Andrews, Secretary
Fiona Nauseda, Secretary
Nancy Kerr, Treasurer
Steering Committee
Lisa Gutwillig
Sue Kurker
Ed Wholihan
Advisers
Sam Alexander
Debbie Barr
Al Minton
Al Armenti

Mission

The Concord-San Marcos Sister Cities Committee encourages peace and mutual understanding and socio-economic development in Nicaragua, through programs of cultural exchange and economic assistance carried out in a spirit of cooperation by the people of Concord and the city of San Marcos, Nicaragua. Concord Town Meeting established the Sister Cities Committee in 1986. Town Meeting reaffirmed the value of the committee's work by a second vote in 1987. Voluntary membership of Concord citizens and voluntary support by means of financial donations and the contributions of goods and services from citizens in and around Concord sustain the committee's work.

Projects in 2014

A leadership vacuum in San Marcos continued to stymie the ability of the Sister Cities Committee to function in 2014. The committee continues to hope that the relationship between the two towns might be rescued in the year to come.

Sources of Funding

Donations from Concord citizens, as well as contributions of goods and services from Concord institutions such as the Concord Public Schools and Emerson Hospital have, historically, sustained the work of the committee. In 2014, owing to concerns the committee has had with regard to the viability of its partnership with the people of San Marcos, formal fundraising did not occur for the fourth straight year.

Future Directions

The Sister Cities Committee, frustrated in its attempts to find new leadership in San Marcos that can share a vision

for mutual cooperation, met most recently in Concord in September 2013 to assess the committee's history and to chart a path for the future. Options considered included shutting down the program or communicating with San Marcos counterparts about a sort of "hibernation" that would take place in Concord until new individuals might assume the direction of sister cities initiatives. The committee continues to linger in the latter course.

The committee's website resides at:

www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_BComm/SanMarcos

CONCORD-NANAE NETWORK

Tom Curtin, Chair
Robin Cicchetti
Junko Kargula
Nancy McJennett
David Nurenberg

It is gratifying to know that Concord has just completed its twenty-second year of friendship and seventeenth year as a sister city with Nanae.

After two years serving as an Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) in the Nanae schools, Coordinator of International Relations (CIR) Ben Haydock posted insightful comments on the concordnanae.com website, worked with the Nanae High School English Club, taught adult education English classes, and participated in numerous community events. He completed his year in August and has taken a job in Tokyo. Nanae and Concord are grateful for his superior service.

Meanwhile, David McLean Shoup finished his first year as ALT in Nanae in August. He has taught in numerous elementary and junior high school classrooms, greatly endearing himself to the students, teachers, and parents in Nanae. He is thriving on the work and is making his own mark in the classroom. People have been impressed with his enthusiastic engagement in community activities and the speed with which he is learning Japanese.

The Concord-Carlisle High School Sci Fi Club, led by CCHS English teacher David Nurenberg, toured Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island. The trip began in Sapporo where they visited Hokkaido's State Assembly, met with the Deputy Governor and also with Nanae's representative, Mr. Tomihara. The trip continued on to Nanae, where they were welcomed by Nanae Mayor Nakamiya and hundreds of Nanae citizens. The following