

WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION?

The officers and association board members listed below may be contacted for questions:

Officers

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Dixon Sister Cities Association
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Promoting peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation one individual, one community at a time.

WHAT IS DIXON SISTER CITIES? The Sister City concept traces its origin to shortly after World War II. A national sister city movement emerged when U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower convened a White House conference on citizen diplomacy in 1956. Originally part of the National League of Cities, the Sister City concept became a separate nonprofit organization in 1967.

WHAT DOES DIXON SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION DO? The Dixon Sister Cities Association is a nonprofit citizen diplomacy organization that promotes creating and strengthening partnerships between the City of Dixon and international communities in a effort to increase global cooperation at the municipal level, to promote cultural understanding and to stimulate economic growth and development, trade and tourism. The Association advocates the movement for local community development and volunteer action by motivating and empowering private citizens, municipal officials and businesses to create and conduct long-term programs of mutual interest and benefit.

The Association currently receives no government funding (including local) but exists solely because of the commitment of private citizens and local businesses through membership and/or donations to the association.

Dixon established its first sister city with Dikson, Siberia in the late 1980's. However, due to changes in Russian government, contact with the Dikson delegation has been lost. Currently, Dixon has two sister cities, Herzberg, Germany and Castlebar, Ireland. Large delegations from Herzberg have visited Dixon twice and delegations from Dixon have visited Herzberg three times. On October 10, 2007 a delegation from Herzberg will again travel to Dixon.

In August of 2005, Dixon Sister Cities Association delegates, along with Mayor Jim Burke, traveled to our newest sister city—Castlebar, Ireland to sign the charter establishing a new sister city relationship. Currently, the City of Dixon is in the process of forming a future Sister City relationship with Thika, Kenya. This sister city will be the first Kenyan sister city relationship in Illinois. Delegation here in July.

WHO CAN JOIN THIS ASSOCIATION? Anyone can join the Dixon Sister Cities Association – from the general public to small businesses and large corporations!

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

For the general public?

Travel opportunities
New friendships
Learning opportunities/total immersion
Adventure/new experiences
Cultural exchange
Ancestry/heritage research
Fun association events
Host international guest

For small businesses and corporations?

All of the above

Plus

Broadened tourism base
New business opportunities
Venue to promote products
Corporate recognition
Enhanced community image
International goodwill

WHAT FUTURE ACTIVITIES ARE PLANNED?

- Assist in hosting small delegation from Castlebar, Ireland for St. Patrick's Day in March, 2007
- Dixon Sister Cities Association hosts delegation from Thika, Kenya in July, 2007 during Petunia Festival. ***Watch for newspaper announcements.***
- Dinner/Fundraiser in summer of 2007.
- 4th Annual Oktoberfest" –October 13, 2007, celebrating our visiting delegation from Herzberg, Germany
- First fundraiser of 2007 – Pork Chop Cookout at Oliver's Food Pride on 5/12/07
- Youth art work exchange with our sister cities
- Various events and fundraisers throughout the year – To be announced
- Youth Exchange – Summer 2007