

Joint board meeting - Lyon October 7, 2016

1. Winchester activities

- On Thursday, January 21 the Winchester Jumelage along with the Lexington and Boston Jumelages were hosted at the residence of the Consulate General of France.
- Winchester Jumelage held its Annual Meeting and Taste of France Dinner on March 18, with 35 people attending. Judie Muggia retired from and Sunny Savage was confirmed to the Board. Albert Moussa is a new board member.
- Diner en blanc
- Winchester celebrated its 26 year sister city association with Saint Germain-en-laye during the dedication of a recognition sign on the front lawn of Town Hall on April 29
- Jumelage booth with the two towns banners at Winchester town day the first Saturday of June.
- Interns. Three weeks in July in local families and businesses. X book ends and theater. Michael Day in Boston Marie-Laure Peron from Science-Po Saint-Germain. Match interest of intern and local job.
- Bastille day at the French consul residence.
- Adult exchange in US. Firemen, teachers, choral groups.
- Cross activities with Winchester organizations (photography museum, music school...) to facilitate exchanges.
- Collaboration with other jumelages. Lexington/Anthony, Boston/Strasbourg.
- Communication through email, newsletters and website.

2. Saint-Germain activities

- Conference on the Hermione trip to US. 150 people attended.
- Thanksgiving celebrated in restaurant near Saint-Germain – with turkey on the menu of course.
- Ceremony at the La Fayette memorial dedicated to the La Fayette squadron which flew in 1915. 30 young American

pilots joined the French army and flew on French planes. The jumelage was invited for the 100th anniversary.

- Concert “American dream” in partnership with Théâtre Alexandre Dumas. Before the concert a soloist gave a conference. A cocktail was served after the concert.
- Marc represented the association at the recognition sign ceremony in Winchester.
- Two day visit to Saint-Mihiel “saillant” – sight of a 1918 battlefield - with the German jumelage association. Didier : very good and friendly atmosphere. Hope they will do it again and we should do the same to open up to other associations. Remains of fortifications were visited. The former mayor, M. Pericard’s father was a hero of that battle. He is well known for his battle cry : you who are dead, stand up and fight.
- 4th of July at Michel and Thérèse Froidevaux. We were lucky with the weather. 64 people attended.
- We had a booth on Associations day, September 24.

3. Dedication ceremony of the Avenue de Winchester.

Presentation of a very short movie in the railway station then we’ll go to the avenue de Winchester for the ceremony. The ribbon will be cut before walking through the avenue, the spine of the new area. Short speeches on the podium. The Embassy could send a representative. The Sous-préfet should be present. A cocktail will be served at 5 pm. A visit of the town hall, castle courtyard and royal chapel is planned. About 100 persons are expected. Invitations have been widely sent in Saint-Germain.

4. Interns

- Taomi came on an exchange trip 2 years ago. It was a problem to find a family and mainly a job due to the very short notice. An early announcement is really necessary to better organize.
- French interns 3. Never any problem to find a job; maybe problems to find families to host them because of holidays.

This year the families were brand new to our organisation. All turned out very well. Usually more candidates than we can provide. Already some potential candidates from Town-day. Election of representatives. Annette will try to obtain a job with the new representative. Interns not below 18. We'll contact Science po Saint-Germain again. 2 interns have not yet submitted their report.

5. Music school exchange April 2017

- Exchange of instructors. For the first time French instructors will be going to Winchester in April. Concert with all W invited. Marc to contact music school. Week of Easter holiday. Gilles Dulong and A. Pericard, in charge of culture agree on the dates. Now the question is : who will go (not more than 2 people) and how it will be funded. Mainly the tickets as they will be hosted in W. Marc and AT/GD will pursue.
- Cramer from Winchester music school composer and pianist gave a concert in Saint-Germain in the Debussy auditorium.

6. Upgrade website

Marc : We need a good website. The French jumelage has about 120 members of whom only one has no internet. We issue one newsletter per year. Heavy and costly to mail. Cut cost to be more efficient. Reduce the newsletter and use more of the site to communicate. Jumelage.org the 2 jumelages. Click on the logo of each town. Cannot update it for the past year on the French side. Terry has done a bit of updating. It needs to be maintained by more than one person. We need a modern website with online back office. Should be redesigned. There have been contacts with somebody in the US using Wordpress.

Annette : US side html update to common language, hence Wordpress more modern. Lesley Keats from historical society. 1800 USD to be shared 50/50. 4 to 6 weeks to implement. Will select template and then website will be updated. John McConnell artist and architect will help support the look. Didier and Marc who already know Wordpress will maintain. Maintained by company called A+ which costs 2 usd/month.

7. Griffin museum exhibit in Saint-Germain

Marc was in Winchester in March and visited the Griffin museum founded by Lee's father. Marc talked with Albert and the museum curator to organize in Saint-Germain an exhibit of Griffin's photographs. Albert who was on the board of the Griffin museum will gladly help to make the exchange happen. The questions are : how to organize ? where ? at what cost ? can we sell pictures to make some revenue ? How to cover the cost with the revenue ? how to share the revenue ? We need to decide on the place to have the exhibit.

A. Pericard is in favor of it.

Duration ? at least a month considering the time to bring the pictures over. Space needed ?

Pictures 18*20 inches. 1000 usd for transportation.

Price of photographs to be decided. Not cheap since Griffin is a well known photographer.

Marc is not sure the jumelage want to sell anything since we are a non profit association.

René Prioux : associations may sell from time to time to increase their budget.

Didier : we need money to cover costs, staff to hang them up, insurance.

Albert needs to understand positions before going back to the museum. Marc : we want to do it and are going to study it in depth.

8. Skype session on results of elections

Annette : New presidential election coming. We are planning again this year to set up a skype session in SG town hall around 6 pm. Wednesday Nov. 9.

René Prioux will check the availability of the Town hall on that date since it is the anniversary of German reunification. Could it be held somewhere else ? at another date ?

Didier : how about a counterpart next year following the French presidential election ?

9. Trip to USA 2017 – October 6 to 13

Annette comments a powerpoint presentation.

It will be in Virginia. "In the footsteps of Thomas Jefferson" 3rd president and famous author of the declaration of Independence and of the Constitution of Virginia.

Jamestown. First official establishment of an English colony in the US.

The very scenic Appalachian trail, coastal park and mountain park.

French general parked at Yorktown. Lafayette was there.

The trip will begin at Dulles airport and reception in a close by hotel. If time, exhibit at Smithsonian space museum. A colonial fair is held in October with people dressed up in colonial clothes and colonial time activities.

Skyline drive in the mountains. Shenandoah. Several nights in Charlottesville. University of Virginia. Designed by TJ. Visit of his house and James Madison's house also president of US who cosigned the declaration of independence. .

Williamsburgh, a very interesting colonial town.

Richmond, state capital. Capitol building designed by TJ.

Fly out to Richmond.

Jefferson in France : desert de Retz and Chateau du Val.

Williamsburg restored by the Rockfellers.

Shirley plantation.

Monument avenue. Fan district.

Virginia museum of fine arts. Caytown, boutiques, cafés.

Depart from Richmond international airport.

Colleges of ? and many second oldest in the US after Harvard.

Hotel in Dulles airport 1 night, Charlottesville 2 nights,

Williamsburg 2 nights, Richmond 2 nights.

John McConnell coordinates. Annette and Tom on the committee and others. After January, the official agenda will be issued, costs...

Program will be on internet early next year for people to have an advanced flavor.

The trip will be presented to the French at the Thanksgiving dinner. Will send a save the date.

Annette will make the presentation to American members during a Taste of France in October.

10. Trip in France 2018

Marc gave an advanced preview of 2018 trip, maybe to Corsica, because place has constraints. Members will have time to discuss.

Need 15 to 20 minimum participants from the US.

Trip turned towards nature but physically demanding.