

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

OMAHA SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION

Book Drive Fundraiser For Carlentini Elementary Schools

Members of Omaha's delegation to Sicily delegation raised over $900 to purchase English language books for the school libraries of Carlo V and Pirandello schools in Carlentini. The Santa Lucia Festival Committee and OSCA also donated toward the cause.



OSCA Delegation Trip to France- May 2-12, 2026

Join OSCA and Alliance Francaise Omaha, for an exciting trip to our sister city of Isigny-Omaha Intercom led by Omaha Mayor John Ewing. Stops include Omaha Beach, the American National Cemetery, the beautiful region of Normandy, St. Malo, Mont St. Michel, and Paris. Registration is currently open and can be accessed at https://omahasistercities.com/news/events/france-trip.html. Questions? Please email Laura at travel@omahasistercities.com

Member Event- Go for the Gold! An Olympic Social

OSCA is excited to introduce a new Olympic-themed member social that brings our global community together in a fun and relaxed way. Members are invited to DJ's Dugout to enjoy the spirit of the Games while connecting with fellow Sister Cities supporters, celebrating international culture, and cheering on athletes from around the world. It's a great opportunity to gather, socialize, and experience the joy of global unity - OSCA style. The event will be held at DJ's Dugout, 114th and Dodge, on February 15th from 12:30-4:30pm. Non-members are welcome to join to see what OSCA is all about.

- Ice skating pairs short program (@12:45pm on USA)
- USA vs Germany hockey game (@ 2:10pm on USA)
- Men's freeski big air qualifying (@ 12:40pm on NBC)

Jamestown,Ghana

Mayor Ewing is meeting January 23 with a group of persons he and OSCA have invited to serve on the new OSCA Ghana Committee. Pictured below with Mayor Ewing are OSCA Members (l-r) Steve Gerdes, President, Tim Clark, Vice President, Laura Willey, Executive Director, Sal Issaka, Board Member and Thomas Warren, Mayor's Chief of Staff and OSCA Ex-Officio Board Member.



Lauritzen Gardens

OSCA recently met with Ennis Anderson, the CEO of Lauritzen Gardens, to reaffirm the enduring partnership between the two organizations. This year's Japanese Ambience Festival promises to be the best yet, and discussions also encompassed the future developments of both the Japanese and Lithuanian Gardens. Pictured below are Tim Clark, Laura Willey, Ennis Anderson, and Steve Gerdes.





Shizuoka, Japan (1965)

SHIZUOKA VISIT



Steve Gerdes, President of OSCA, traveled to Shizuoka over the holidays. He delivered the artwork Omaha gave to Shizuoka at the 60th Anniversary banquet in Omaha. Omaha artist Lita De La Guardia created the piece to symbolize the enduring friendship between the cities.





A friendly game of tennis was also enjoyed between Steve and Mayor Nanba while in Shizuoka. Steve appreciated the warm hospitality of Mayor Nanba and expressed his enthusiasm for the continued strong ties between Shizuoka and Omaha.

Braunschweig, Germany (1992)

STUDENT EXCHANGE UPDATE

The annual high school student exchange with Braunschweig coordinated by the OSCA Braunschweig Committee and the German Americal Society will bring Braunschweig's students to Omaha in April and Omaha's students to Braunschweig in June. Both groups will be smaller than in previous years.

From the city of Braunschweig: The Christmas Market held during the month of December was festive and successful, offering enticing food, beverages, and ornaments. Seasonal aromas filled the air and colorful lights added a festive touch.

Siauliai, Lithuania (1996)

COMMITTEE UPDATE

Omaha plans to send a delegation to Siauliai to celebrate our 30th anniversary as sister cities and Siauliai's 790th birthday. The delegation will be in Siauliai September 10-12. The trip will include stops in other cities in Lithuania. Watch for the formal trip announcement.

Yantai, China (2010)

COMMITTEE UPDATE

The newly formed Yantai Committee will be meeting on February 3rd to discuss activities for 2026. A possible student exchange is on the agenda. To get involved or to learn more about the committee's initiatives please reach out via email at, executivedirector@omahasistercities.com.

Membership Renewal

Renew your membership today! The Omaha Sister Cities Association will be increasing membership rates soon—so now is the perfect time to join or renew and lock in the current lower rates. Don't miss this opportunity to stay connected and support our international partnerships at the best value!
Visit www.omahasistercities.com to renew.

HOST A STUDENT for OSCA

Have you ever thought of hosting an international visitor or student? Please email executivedirector@omahasistercities.com for more information. Hosts are needed this summer for our Japanese students.

Upcoming Events

- Ghana Committee Inagural Meeting- January 23
- Black Elk Elementary- Celebration of Nations Night- February 6th
- Member Event- Go for the Gold: An Olympic Social event- February 15
- Meet and Eat group lunch February 19, for more info or to join, please email omahasistercities19@gmail.com
- OSCA Annual Association Meeting, UNO CEC building, February 26, 12:00-1:00pm
- Delegation trip to Isigny-Omaha Intercom, France from May 2-12, 2026.
- Delegation trip to Siauliai, Lithuania in September.
- Follow us on FACEBOOK and INSTAGRAM for up-to-date information, pictures, and videos of all our activities!