

OUR AFFILIATES

KALMAR The historical tie between the cities began in 1638 when the ship Kalmar Nyckel brought the first Europeans to the area that is now Wilmington. In 1963, on the 325th anniversary of that landing, the two cities began a Sister Cities relationship. The State of Delaware has since built a full-scale sailing replica of the Kalmar Nyckel and, in May 2013, Wilmington hosted a Kalmar delegation to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their Sister Cities affiliation. Over the years, this successful twinning has fostered many long-lasting friendships with frequent exchanges in the areas of education, history, music, art, sports, and economic development.

WATFORD Feeling that there were enough similarities to make a bond attractive, Watford invited Mayor Daniel S. Frawley and a Wilmington delegation to the city in 1985. A subsequent visit by members of the Watford 36-member borough council in the spring of 1986 led to this twinning. Regular exchanges of educational, sports, art, and cultural delegations have made this an exciting Sister Cities relationship.

FULDA When the “Fulda Garrison” closed in 1993, the city looked for ways to continue its half-century of German-American friendship. Fulda Lord Mayor Dr. Wolfgang Hamberger visited Wilmington in September 1995 to propose a Sister Cities relationship. He and Mayor James H. Sills led exchange delegations, and in October 1997 finalized the affiliation. Further exchanges have included high school and university students, contemporary visual artists, runners, and jazz and classical musicians, with the Wilmington Children’s Chorus hosting the exchange visit of the Fulda Youth Chamber Orchestra in August 2013.

OSOGBO The Yoruba culture is significant to Wilmington’s majority African-American community, many of whom trace their ancestry to Nigeria. The Wilmington Friends of Africa (WFA) first proposed the affiliation in 1999, and Chairman Mudasiru Aresa of the Osogbo Local Government led the official delegation to Wilmington in October 2001. Under Mayor James M. Baker, the return Wilmington delegation visited Osogbo in June 2002 and finalized the affiliation. An ongoing activity has been the recreation of Osogbo’s annual Osun Festival on our own Brandywine River, beginning in 2002. In 2013, Wilmington completed a Sister Cities International African Urban Poverty Alleviation Program (AUPAP) grant, from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, to develop 29 boreholes providing clean, reliable water throughout Osogbo.

OLEVANO SUL TUSCIANO The Wilmington/Olevano Committee initiated the link with our Italian Sister City affiliation. Many local area residents trace their ancestry to the town through documentation at the Ellis Island Museum. Their forebears left Olevano in the late 19th century and settled in western Wilmington, where they contributed to the development of a vibrant Italian-American community. Today, their strong political, cultural, and economic influence, including the importation of olive oil, is felt throughout the City, and beyond. Sr. Adriano Ciancio, President of the Olevano Pro Loco, represented Mayor Rosa Maria Falasca in leading a delegation to Wilmington in October 2002, which representatives of Mayor Baker returned in 2003. Annual series of successful educational, cultural, and commercial exchanges have followed; and, under now-Mayor Ciancio, Olevano has since conferred honorary citizenship upon both Sister Cities of Wilmington Vice President Mary Ann Bogino and Mayor Baker, for their organization and support of the exchanges.

NEMOURS Several successful Delaware Department of Education language exchanges, both virtual and personal, with Nemours led Madame le Maire Valérie LaCroute to suggest a Sister Cities relationship with Wilmington. A Wilmington-Nemours project committee recruited various representatives from education, arts and culture, as well as DuPont legacy institutions like the Delaware Art Museum, Hagley Museum, and the Nemours Mansion and Gardens to develop the affiliation. Maire LaCroute led a delegation to Wilmington in May 2010, which was returned by Mayor Baker’s administration the next year; and the affiliation was confirmed. The first visits have featured cultural, educational, and economic development activities.

GOALS

Sister Cities of Wilmington espouses the goals of the national organization as set forth by its founder, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, in 1956: “Two deeply held convictions unite us in common purpose. First, is our belief in effective, responsive local government as a principal bulwark of freedom. Second, is our faith in the great promise of Sister City affiliations in helping build the solid structure of world peace.” Sister Cities of Wilmington aims to further international understanding at all levels of the community on a continuing long-term basis. Sister Cities of Wilmington fosters meaningful exchanges of ideas among people. Sister Cities of Wilmington operates a program of exchange visits on a personal and professional basis with all our official affiliations.

MEMBERSHIP

We invite you to join Sister Cities of Wilmington to:

- participate in monthly meetings
- attend special events
- honor visiting dignitaries
- travel to our affiliate cities

Tax-deductible dues are payable in advance each year on the first of January to “Sister Cities of Wilmington, Inc.,” a charitable non-profit organization.

CATEGORIES

Board	\$ 35.00
Individual	\$ 20.00
Household	\$ 35.00
Student	\$ 5.00
Corporate	\$100.00



SISTER CITIES OF WILMINGTON



Wilmington

&

Kalmar

Watford

Fulda

Osogbo

Olevano sul Tusciano

Nemours

For further information, please contact:

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The Mayor is Honorary Chairman of Sister Cities of Wilmington

or visit our WEBSITE:
www.sistercitieswilmington.org

SISTER CITIES “PEACE THROUGH PEOPLE”



Kalmar

Kalmar, with a population of 60,000, is a picturesque town on the Baltic Sea in southeastern Sweden. Kalmar is the home of the "Key to the Kingdom," the name given to the magnificent Vasa fortress, Sweden's best-preserved Renaissance castle. Since Medieval times, whoever controlled this fortress site ruled Sweden. As a result, Kalmar became the venue for important political meetings, a port for launching military and explorative voyages, and a major center of the Hanseatic League. The old city--with its Baroque cathedral, fortified walls and bastions, cobbled streets and stone-built houses from the 17th century--is a wonderful reminder of Sweden's time as a great power. Today the region draws visitors from all parts of the world to the Kalmar Läns Museum; the nearby glassworks of Orrefors and Kosta Boda; the emigrant regions of Småland; and, over one of Europe's longest bridges, the Swedish island paradise of Öland with its lovely beaches, vacation houses, castle ruins, and a restored Viking village.



Watford

Watford, population 80,000, is the largest town in the county of Hertfordshire and located about 20 miles northwest of London. The city was ruled by a succession of abbots and feudal lords during much of its early recorded history, which dates back a thousand years. In the Middle Ages, Watford emerged as a thriving market town and, with the arrival of the railroads in the 1840s, became a bustling commercial center. Well known for its printing and brewing and then crystal industries in the later 19th and early 20th centuries, Watford today is home to a wide variety of financial, insurance, and distribution companies. It is also building a growing reputation for film and television production. Its successful major league soccer team, the Watford Football Club, has long been associated with rock star Elton John.



Fulda

Fulda, with a population of 90,000, is an historic city at the geographical center of Germany. It owes its origin to the Benedictine monastery founded in 744 by St. Boniface, the missionary and organizer of the Frankian church. Boniface's vision enabled the succession of Benedictine Abbots to ascend from spiritual leader of the Fulda monastery to secular leader of the entire territory and, in 1220, to Prince of the Roman Empire. In time, their independence led to the flowering of the city. In the 17th and 18th centuries, they helped create a harmonious ensemble of Baroque religious, domestic, and municipal buildings now widely regarded to have great architectural and cultural value. During World War II, Fulda suffered heavy losses among its people and then, in its aftermath, found itself on the border between East and West Germany. Throughout the Cold War, it garrisoned the US 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Today, with national reunification Fulda is "in the midst of life," at the economic, political, and cultural center of Hesse, the hub of Germany's 16 states.



Osogbo

Osogbo, a city of approximately 350,000 people, is located in the heart of southwestern Nigeria's Yoruba-speaking people. Legend has it that Osogbo was first settled about 300 years ago by two hunters who had come to the flood plain of the meandering Osun River in search of game. Osun, the goddess of the river, who has mystical fertility powers for women, appeared to the hunters with an offer to protect all their descendants from outside tribal attacks in exchange for their promise not to hunt near her sacred river. The people began to worship her regularly, and today the colorful Osun Festival draws tourists from all over the world to celebrate "sacred people and sacred places." Osogbo is now the capital of Osun State, a major source of electrical power for Nigeria, and one of the foremost centers of Yoruba arts and culture in Africa.



Olevano sul Tusciano

Olevano sul Tusciano is a confederation of three small towns in southern Italy, situated inland a short distance from the Tyrrhenian seacoast. Olevano and its nearby communities have a population of approximately 7,500. Archeological finds in the connected Grotto of Nardantuono and the world-famous Grotto of St. Michael date its origins back to the Bronze Age. Throughout written history, the area has been inhabited by the Etruscans-- who named the river Tusciano, marking their southern-most expansion in Italy--the Greeks, and the Romans. The seven chapels or "Martyria" of the Grotto of St. Michael have been documented as one of the hundred "World Monuments" to be saved and protected. Olevano also boasts the Longobard Castle, the Roman villa in S. Maria a Corte, the 16th-century Dominican Monastery, and many works of art in various churches throughout the three towns. "A myth in the land of myths," Olevano is part of an impressive cultural heritage that unites Pompeii with Paestum, a preserved Greek settlement; with Velia, its neighboring seaport; with the Amalfi Coast from Sorrento to Positano; and with Ravello on the Coast of Cilento.



Nemours

Nemours, the ancestral home of the DuPont family, is a regional commercial and tourist center of 13,000 people on the Loing River about 40 miles south of Paris. Named for the surrounding woods (L., *nemora*), it was founded in 1120, and fortified throughout the Middle Ages by the dukes of Nemours. The town boasts a Gothic castle dating from the 12th century, with later modifications and now a museum, and the early Renaissance church of St. John the Baptist. In the 18th century, Pierre Samuel du Pont de Nemours was a government official in the Court of King Louis XVI, who opposed the French Revolution and narrowly escaped the guillotine during the Reign of Terror. In the following turmoil, he emigrated with his family to Wilmington in 1799, where his son Éleuthère Irénée founded what is now known as the DuPont Company in 1802.