

Glendale and Ørland, Norway sign Sister Cities agreement

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Sister City ceremony



Photo by Bette Sharpe/Glendale Daily Planet

Nancy Lenox, Mayor Jerry Weiers Councilmembers Bart Turner, Ray Malnar, Joyce Clark and Lauren Tolmachoff, and Milt Laflen, president, Arizona Sister Cities

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By BETTE and ED SHARPE, Glendale Daily Planet, Special to The Glendale Star

Civic Pride Ambassadors have brought back a Sister Cities program to Glendale. The city and its new Sister City, Ørland, Norway, have much in common: Both have strong ties to a military air base, tourism, and agriculture.

Feb. 21, via Skype, Glendale and Ørland shared hopes for building a viable and long-lasting relationship, a friendship between the two cities. The reading and ceremonial signing of the formal agreement between Ørland and Glendale took place at the Glendale Elementary School District office. There is an eight-hour time difference between Glendale and Ørland.

Nancy Lenox, president, Glendale, Ariz. Sister Cities Board, said, "Glendale is now Sister Cities with Ørland, Norway. Ørland has pilots and support crew, as well as their families, totaling about 150 people here in the West Valley. I am proud of my Sister Cities board. We have put together a Sister Cities program in less than a year, and formed a partnership with Ørland, Norway. Having a Sister City for Glendale provides our citizens with the opportunity to learn about people from another country and possibly visit there.

Special guests from city governments, education, business and tourism were present on both sides of the ocean for the event. This is the first Sister City program with the Glendale AZ Sister Cities program.

Milt Laflen, president Arizona Sister Cities, was one of the speakers in Glendale. Nancy Lenox, president of Glendale AZ Sister Cities, welcomed both audiences, via Skype at the Feb. 21 ceremonial signing of the Sister City agreement.

The United States national anthem was sung by members of the Ironwood High School Choir. In Ørland, Norway's national anthem was sung by Uthaug Songlag. Once the official duties were completed and after the speakers, ceremonial gifts were exchanged, all via Skype. The sound was a little difficult to understand at times, but not during the ceremonial gift exchanges.

Mayor Jerry Weiers presented Ørland Mayor Tom Myrvold with a gift basket of Cerretta's chocolates and a book about Glendale. Myrvold, in turn, presented a bottle of cognac and a book about Norway.

Lorraine Zomok, manager Glendale Visitors Center, said, "We are thrilled to welcome Ørland as our new Sister City. The Glendale Ambassadors will be launching many initiatives to showcase this new international friendship. It was fitting that the ceremony was held at the Glendale Elementary School District as a major focus of the program will be education and connecting elementary school students through cultural and art programs in Ørland and Glendale. In addition, the Glendale Ambassadors look forward to showcasing the military connection with Luke Air Force Base and the Ørland Air Base."

Previously, Glendale had two Sister Cities: Delicias in Chihuahua, Mexico, and Memmingen in Germany (second Sister City added in 1976). Glendale had a strong connection with the German pilots training at Luke Air Force Base. So, it felt like a natural choice in 1976 to add a second Sister City, Memmingen.

In 1973, Glendale won a national award for the best first-year Sister City program but it ended due to budget issues.

Arne Solli, business development manager in Ørland, welcomed everyone via Skype.

Ørland Main Air Station is located at the mouth of the Trondheimsfjord in the municipality of Ørland, which is located on Norway's west coast. Ørland Main Air Station is operated by the Royal Norwegian Air Force. The station is important to Norway and is host to NATO exercises.

This is the first phrase of the new Sister City program; an elementary student exchange program is in its planning stage. Both cities hope to promote the other for travel and trade. Soon, the Glendale Visitor's Bureau will offer travel and tourist information to those planning to travel to Norway.

Norwegian guests in the Glendale audience included, Major Bjørn Tommy Eigeland and spouses from nine Norwegian servicemen stationed at Luke Air Force Base: Kristin, Nina, Ingrid, Ingrid, Hanne, Magnhild, Dorthe, Linda and Gunvor. Representing the Royal Norwegian Consulate in Phoenix was Honorary Consul Alex Boemark.

Glendale city officials in attendance included Mayor Weiers, Councilmembers Ray Malnar, Bart Turner, Lauren Tolmachoff and Joyce Clark. Also in the Glendale audience, Robert Heidt, president, Glendale Chamber of Commerce, Milt Laflen, president, Arizona Sister Cities, and Joe Quintana, superintendent of Glendale Elementary School District.

Dignitaries and special guests appearing on SKYPE from Ørland included: Ørland Mayor Tom Myrvold; Vice Mayor Finn-Olav Odde; Councilmembers Gunnhild Tettli, Therese Eidsaune, Bjørnar Dahlberg, Marit Sletten and Hilde Kristin Sandvik Nordass; Lt. Col. Frank Knutsen, F-35 Unit, Ørland Air Force Base; Silje Nasset, general manager, Ørland Chamber of Commerce; Silje Amundsveen, Ørland Ambassador Program; Mabel Slotterøy, principal, Hårberg Elementary School; Arild Kotte, principal, Ørland Middle School; Erling Eriksen, business development manager – defense related, Fosen Innovation Inc.; and Arne Martin Solli, business development manager, Municipality of Ørland.

List of the Dignitaries and special guests, appearing on SKYPE, from Ørland included: Ørland Mayor Tom Myrvold, Finn-Olav Odde, Vice Mayor, Councilmembers Gunnhild Tettli, Therese Eidsaune, Bjørnar Dahlberg, Marit Sletten and Hilde Kristin Sandvik Nordass; Lt. Col. Frank Knutsen, F-35 Unit, Ørland Air Force Base, Silje Nasset, general manager, Ørland Chamber of Commerce, Silje Amundsveen Ørland Ambassador Program, Mabel Slotterøy, principal Hårberg Elementary School, Arild

Kotte, principal, Ørland Middle School, Erling Eriksen, business development manager – defense related, Fosen Innovation Inc. and Arne Martin Solli, business development manager, Municipality of Ørland.

Sister Cities International was created at President Dwight D. Eisenhower’s 1956 White House summit on citizen diplomacy, where he envisioned a network that would be a champion for peace and prosperity by fostering bonds between people from different communities around the world. By forming these relationships, Eisenhower reasoned that people from different cultures could understand, appreciate, and celebrate their differences while building partnerships that would lessen the chance of new conflicts. Since its inception, the Sister Cities International network has played a key role in renewing and strengthening important global relationships. (Source: <http://www.sister-cities.org/about-sister-cities-international/>)

Glendale AZ Sister Cities Board Members

Nancy Lenox, president

Charlie Whiffen, vice president

Al Lenox, treasurer

Lorraine Zomok, secretary

Davita Solter, director, education programs

Bud Zomok, director

Paul Richards, director

Gary Hirsch, director

Patrice Sherwood, director

Ørland Sister Cities Board Members

Rikke Maske, president

Arne Martin Solli, vice president

Silje Tamara Amundsveen, board member

Mabel Slotterøy, education programs

Arild Kotte, education programs

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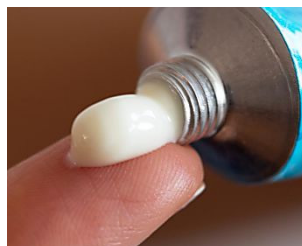
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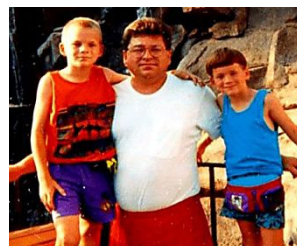
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