

TOM WELSH

JSCA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Tom Welsh on his selection as JSCA Volunteer of the Year for 2007-2008.

Tom is a true example of a dedicated, community volunteer and citizen diplomat. JSCA proudly recognizes Tom for his long years of devoted service to our organization. He and his wife, Lydia, have supported JSCA for 13 years together through their joint membership. During that time, they have volunteered to represent Sister Cities at every "World of Nations" celebration.



Tom served as treasurer for six years and as JSCA webmaster for four years. He traveled to Murmansk, Russia as a member of an educational exchange delegation in 1995. He traveled to Port Elizabeth, South Africa in November 1999, as a member of the delegation sent to assess the viability of that city becoming a sister city to Jacksonville. Subsequently, Jacksonville twinned with Port Elizabeth in February 2000.

Many former JSCA presidents had only to ask Tom for his advice and counsel, and it was given to them willingly and without hesitation. Tom served on countless committees, including assisting then-president Joan Brogan to update the JSCA bylaws. During his time as treasurer and webmaster, he always did what was best for the organization. As treasurer he might have been known as a curmudgeon, because he followed the rules; but as any board member who has worked closely with Tom will attest, he was "our favorite curmudgeon." And he always wrote that check if you had a receipt and your budget supported the expenditure.

With every inbound student delegation from Masan, Korea, Tom was the major organizer of their two-week schedule at various middle schools in Duval County.

Upon his retirement from the Duval County School Board at the end of the 2008 school year, Tom and Lydia moved to Maryland to be closer to their daughter and her family. JSCA was fortunate to have his commitment of time skills, and talents for many, many years. His contributions are deeply appreciated. He will be missed, but he will always be a part of JSCA.
