

Hosting Corner

OSHKOSH, WI — Seven Wisconsin Open World hosts and grantee **World Services of La Crosse, Inc.**, were recognized during the July 12 opening of the **Oshkosh Public Museum's "The Tsar and the President"** exhibition, which illustrates the parallel lives of Alexander II and Abraham Lincoln. **Rep. Tom Petri** was on hand to greet the Open World honorees and other attendees. The show was a fitting venue for celebrating Open World hosts, who bring Eurasian and American leaders together to learn from and about each other. There is also a direct Open World connection to the exhibit: it was organized by the **American-Russian Cultural Cooperation Foundation**, whose chairman, former Mis-

souri **Rep. James Symington**, was Open World's first executive director. Both he and current executive director **John O'Keefe** participated in the host recognition ceremony. The Open World hosts who received certificates of recognition conduct exchanges through **Fox Cities-Kurgan Sister Cities Program, Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee, Green Bay West Rotary Club, Madison Area Technical College, Northcentral Technical College, and Hedberg Public Library**. The honorees were selected for recognition based on the quality programming they have provided and their continued contact and work with Open World alumni. Please click [here](#) to see a video stream of the ceremony.



From right, Rep. Tom Petri joins honoree Doris Mueller, former Rep. James Symington, and honoree Robert Blazich at the Wisconsin host recognition ceremony held July 12. Blazich and Mueller host through Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee.

In the Field



Open World's Maura Shelden (left) and World Services of La Crosse's Sandra McCormick at Sister Cities International's mid-July annual conference in Kansas City, MO.

KANSAS CITY, MO — Open World's **Maura Shelden** teamed up with national grantee **World Services of La Crosse, Inc.**, to promote the Open World Program and World Services' partnership with **Sister Cities International (SCI)** at the **SCI annual conference** in Kansas City, MO, July 16–19. World Services President and CEO **Sandra McCormick** and Shelden hosted an information booth and served as panelists for a breakout session on Open World. Many local sister-city organizations have hosted for Open World over the years, and the conference offered a

useful setting for recruiting new hosts, as well as renewing ties with old ones. Some familiar faces included hosts **Mendy Nitsch** of the **Maryland Sister States Program**; **Enda Brennan** of the **Santa Cruz (CA) Sister Cities Committee**; and **Dmitri Kabargin** of the **Greater St. Louis – Samara Sister City Committee**. Shelden also discussed with conference attendees how Open World programming can support SCI's mission to stimulate economic development in U.S. and international communities through sister-city partnerships.

Making a Difference

BERKELEY, CA — The Berkeley, CA-based **Center for Safe Energy (CSE)**, at the invitation of a number of its Ukrainian Open World alumni, sent four environmental specialists to Ukraine May 24–June 5 to lead workshops, conduct consultations, and attend a major environmental conference. CSE co-directors **Francis Macy** and **Enid Schreibman**, San Francisco's deputy coordinator of solid waste programs, and Berkeley's sustainable business coordinator made up the team. One alumnus arranged for

them to advise the Kharkiv city director of municipal services on recycling; another alumna invited the Americans to Poltava to conduct a teachers' workshop on environmental ethics and consult with city officials on waste management. An alumna in Zaporozh'e put together a group discussion with the mayor and senior department heads for municipal services. Also in Zaporozh'e, the CSE team presented on Bay Area environmental initiatives at the annual conference of the **Khortitsky Forum**, the largest

alliance of environmental groups in Ukraine and an Open World nominating organization. A Khortitsky Forum official publicly thanked CSE for being a strong partner by hosting Forum members through the Open World Program, and said that CSE's Open World exchanges have significantly strengthened his network's ability to support its member organizations. The **Trust for Mutual Understanding** in New York paid for the visit.