

35 People Join the 2019 Exchange Party

Following the CWA's annual General Meeting on Saturday, June 8th, 2019, an exchange party was held. Mr. Teruo Abe of the Steering Committee served as the Master of Ceremonies. 35 people participated. CWA Vice President Katsunosuke Osawa, in his opening greeting, observed that 2020 marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the sister-state relationship between Chiba Prefecture and the State of Wisconsin. He asked for further support and cooperation from all of the board members as well as the regular members with the association's activities. Next, Mr. Masanori Itakura, CWA Auditor, stood up and gave a toast. After fondly recalling the Farewell Party for the Goodwill Delegation from Wisconsin last year, he led everybody in the toast, and the party congenially got underway.

During the lunch, each of the Steering Committee's three working groups gave PowerPoint presentations about their ongoing activities. The first presentation, by Mr. Tetsuji Ogawa of the Delegation Planning Group, talked about the activities held with the Culture and Arts Group and the Education Group of the 2018 Goodwill Delegation from Wisconsin. He also reported the travel plans of this year's upcoming delegation to Wisconsin.

Ms. Kyoko Oura, Head of the Exchange Program Planning Group, reported on the 2018 exchange activities, including the Wisconsin ALT Farewell Party one year prior, as well as the Welcome Party for new ALTs. She also reported on the Food and Culture Exchange-themed Thanksgiving event, in addition to the group's plans for activities for the coming year.

Lastly, Mr. Tadao Miyazaki, Head of the Publicity Working Group, announced that English versions of CWA NEWS were published last year and uploaded to the CWA website. He also talked about the CWA's participation in "International Festa CHIBA 2019", held at Kanda University of International Studies in May.

Following this, Mr. Patrick Grimes, the ALT Program Coordinator working at the Chiba Prefectural Board of Education, along with two other Wisconsin ALTs who attended the exchange party, introduced themselves using PowerPoint presentations. Also included were video messages from the four departing Wisconsin ALTs who were unfortunately unable to attend the party. In these video clips, the departing ALTs expressed their sincere gratitude for the fond memories they gained during the time they spent in Chiba Prefecture, as well as appreciation for the kindness of the people around them. (*See Page 2 for detailed descriptions of the presentations and video messages.)

The exchange party was a grand success, being a fun event which brought people together, all of whom value the ongoing exchanges with Wisconsin.



Commemorative Photo of All Participants

CWA Newsletter No. 44

July 30, 2019(original Japanese version)



Teruo Abe of the Steering Committee Vice President Katsunosuke Osawa Auditor Masanori Itakura



Mr. Tetsuji Ogawa, a Member of the Delegation Planning Group



Ms. Kyoko Oura, Head of the Exchange Program Planning Group



Mr. Tadao Miyazaki, Head of the Publicity Working Group

CWA Newsletter No. 44

July 30, 2019(original Japanese version)

The ALTs and the ALT Program Coordinator who attended the exchange party on Saturday, June 8th, introduced themselves using PowerPoint slides. There were also video messages from the four Departing Wisconsin ALTs.

Evelyn Ewald (Awa High School, Nagasa High School)

I'm from Appleton, which is in eastern Wisconsin. It's the hometown of America's most famous magician, Harry Houdini (d. 1926), who was nicknamed the "The Handcuff King." I graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and studied at Seijo University in Tokyo for one year. On account of my mother's work, I once lived in a small town in the south of England, and also studied in Korea for a month. After these three experiences of living overseas, I was selected to be an ALT in Chiba last year.

Tina Brown (Matsuo High School)

Five years ago, after marrying my husband who is a video game designer, I came to the Town of Shimanto in Kochi Prefecture in Japan as an ALT on the JET Programme. After working there for three years, I moved to Chiba Prefecture two years ago, and have been working as an ALT on the Chiba-Wisconsin ALT Program. I currently live in Togane City; however, since I will be transferring to Matsudo Kokusai High School this coming August, I plan to move to Ichikawa City at the end of July.

When I have free time, I travel around Chiba Prefecture to places such as Mt. Nokogiri and Yoro Valley, and even rode once on the Isumi Railway. I am also interested in amphibians, reptiles, reading, and yoga.

Patrick Grimes (ALT Program Coordinator, Chiba Prefectural Board of Education)

I am from the City of St. Francis in Southeastern Wisconsin. The "Cheese Head" worn by fans of the NFL team, the Green Bay Packers, are produced in St. Francis (by Foamation, Inc.). I am the eldest son of a family of five, and while my parents have told me to enjoy my life in Japan, I know they are patiently waiting and looking forward to the day I come back home. Eight years ago, I studied Chinese History for three months at Peking University. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, I served as the ALT for Awa and Nagasa High Schools for five years. I was able to make friends and thrive in the workplace through *nomyunikeishon*, which is communicating over drinks.

CWA Newsletter No. 44

July 30, 2019(original Japanese version)

Video Messages from Departing ALTs

Jacob Stroth

I teach at Matsudo Kokusai High School in Matsudo. It's been about four years now already. Teaching English and studying Japanese culture and language was a very enjoyable experience. It was so much fun that I'm thinking of staying in Japan. I would like to thank everyone for support and kindness and hope that one day I will be able to repay the kindness.

Jacob Wiering

I want to thank everyone for helping me enjoy a wonderful experience during my four years at Sosa High School. I was truly moved by your support when I was having a difficult time adjusting to life in Japan. I was also extremely grateful for being taught Japanese culture. I really appreciate everyone's support in making this wonderful experience for me.

Melissa Janssen

I am grateful to the CWA for supporting me during my teaching for a total of the eight years - three years at Higashi Katsushika Junior and Senior High Schools, and before that, five years at Tomiyama Gakuen in Minamiboso City. I am very grateful for your kind support and the numerous experiences I was able to enjoy. I also feel that I have grown as a person thanks to everyone's support. Thank you very much.

Kaoley Vue

During my two years at Matsudo Kokusai High School, I was able to learn a lot. Thanks to you, I was able to become a more mature person. I'd like to bring what I learned here back to my hometown, and if someday I'm asked about the sister-state program, I will be able to say that it was a wonderful experience. Thank you so much.

CWA Newsletter No. 44

July 30, 2019(original Japanese version)



Evelyn Ewald



Tina Brown



Patrick Grimes



Jacob Stroth



Jacob Wiering



Melissa Janssen



Kaoley Vue

CWA Newsletter No. 44

July 30, 2019(original Japanese version)

Report on the Prefectural Makuhari Sogo High School Students' Overseas Training in Wisconsin

By Mr. Hidetaka Kitabayashi, Principal of Chiba Prefectural Makuhari Sogo High School

Introduction

As part of our credit system emphasizing academic advancement, a variety of elective courses are offered at Makuhari Sogo High School so that students can learn not only English, but also Chinese and French. In response to being selected as part of the Prefecture's "Global Human Resources Project", we emphasize cross-cultural understanding education through activities such as exchange meetings with international students at Kanda University of International Studies, lectures by international volunteer alumni, and concerts from other countries. In particular, the Study Abroad Program in Wisconsin that began in 2014 has become one of the pillars of these activities. The training at Concordia University was held for the fourth time last year, thanks to the cooperation of Wisconsin residents, including coordinators and volunteers. Last year, 25 first- and second-year students from the General and Nursing Courses participated in a 10-day program starting on July 29th.

Summary of the Training

During this training, students attended English as a Second Language (ESL) classes taught by a university instructor in the morning, and in the afternoon, they went sightseeing in Southeastern Wisconsin to learn more about American culture and lifestyles. In the ESL classes, students played games and had conversations with local volunteers, took walks along the shores of Lake Michigan, and learned English conversation while making American snacks. In the afternoon, they enjoyed various aspects of Wisconsin, such as touring farms and museums, going on city walks, as well as watching major league baseball games and stargazing. Among these activities, the students' favorite experiences were when they were being invited to the ESL teacher's home, swimming in the lake, and being taken for a ride on a private cabin cruiser.

In addition, during their visit, they attended church service on Sunday and introduced Japanese culture. Before their departure, the students worked hard on preparations to introduce Japanese culture through hands-on presentations, such as wearing *yukata*, playing traditional Japanese games, calligraphy, etc. The result was that their presentations were very popular and enjoyed by many people. The students were able to experience not only the joy and happiness of communicating in English, but also the beauty and virtues of traditional Japanese culture.

Benefits Gained from This Training

The overseas training is a wonderful opportunity to learn a lot through hands-on experience. In a travelogue compiled by the students, one of the lead teachers wrote: "If you're happy that Americans greeted you with a smile, then let's say hello with a smile back in Japan. If you feel that Americans are kind, then try to be kind to people around you in Japan. Everyone said that the starry sky they saw in the United States was beautiful; however, actually the stars you see in Japan and the United States are the same. Even if the language and culture are different, the important things in communication may be the same." What is most critical to understanding people from different cultures is the effort to communicate with them, and firstly having the drive and mindset to understand one another is the shortest route to understanding different cultures. Through this experience, the 25 participants have taken their first steps in becoming members of the international community. I hope that in the future, they will become individuals who can interact with people from all over the world.

CWA Newsletter No. 44

July 30, 2019(original Japanese version)

I would also like to express my gratitude to the people who helped the students during the training, and I hope that the exchange between our students and the people in Wisconsin will continue to deepen.



Mr. Hidetaka Kitabayashi, Principal of Makuhari Sogo High School



At Concordia University



At the Lake behind their ESL Teacher's Home



Demonstrating how to Wear *Yukata*

ALTs' Sales Strategy a Grand Success! "International Festa CHIBA 2019"

On the morning of Sunday, May 19th, on the campus of Kanda University of International Studies (in Makuhari, Chiba City), the venue for International Festa CHIBA 2019, participants' tents rose one after another, and the lively voices of young people echoed throughout the festival grounds.

CWA members, who gathered at 9:00 a.m., were also busy making preparations to open their booth. Fire resistant sheets covered the tables, and large pots for boiling sausages, portable gas stoves, hot plates, ketchup, mustard, and relish bottles were set out. CWA members ensured that all safety precautions were taken and preparations were properly carried out. These precautions were also checked thoroughly by a patrol from the Fire Department.

The CWA takes part in this festival every year to encourage people to become interested in the exchange activities with Wisconsin, which has a sister-state relationship with Chiba Prefecture. The main item sold were hot dogs provided by Johnsonville, LLC., which everyone loved. Immediately following the start of the hot dog sales, powerful helpers wearing the CWA's *happi* appeared, and began urging people to buy the hotdogs, shouting in loud voices, "Wisconsin hot dogs are OISHII!!"

The helpers, of course, were Wisconsin ALTs, and their sales tactics were outstanding. One person commented, "As soon as I took a bite, I realized that it was different from a normal sausage. It's very delicious!" The CWA staff's enthusiasm continued to grow. Close to noon, sales were so good that there was a long line of people waiting for hot dogs. The CWA staff were delighted by the response. Ms. Kimiko Miyazaki, a Wisconsin-Chiba, Inc. (WCI) Board Member, also rushed in to help out.

This year was different from past years because of the ALTs who volunteered to help out. In addition to contributing immensely to the improvement of sales with their unique sales promotion style, there were many other contributions that had never been seen before, such as taking commemorative photos with customers wearing a "Cheese Head," actively interacting with young people, and more.

It was also lucky that the weather was beautiful, and the hot dogs were completely sold out before the scheduled closing time of 3 p.m., leaving plenty of leeway to rest up after a hectic day. Finally, after taking commemorative photos with all of the staff, clean up got under way. To all of the ALTs and Steering Committee Members who helped out, thank you very much!



The Bright Smiles of the Entire Staff



Staff Absorbed in Preparations

CWA Newsletter No. 44

July 30, 2019(original Japanese version)



Doing the Utmost to Promote Sales



Customers First



Kids Interested in the Cheese Head

CWA Newsletter No. 44

July 30, 2019(original Japanese version)

2019 Board of Directors Meeting

On Tuesday, May 21st, at Hotel Port Plaza Chiba (Chuo Ward, Chiba City), the Fiscal Year 2019 CWA Board of Directors Meeting was held. In attendance were Governor Kensaku Morita, who serves as a Special Advisor to the CWA, one Advisor (proxy), thirteen Directors (including 4 proxies), and two Auditors.

At the outset, President Yuzaburo Mogi remarked, "Currently, active exchanges are developing across a wide range of fields. Next year marks the 30th anniversary of Chiba Prefecture's sister-state relationship with Wisconsin, and I would like to ask for your opinions on developing further exchanges."

Governor Morita stated that the celebration of the 30th anniversary of exchanges with the State of Wisconsin, which President Mogi helped initiate, is wonderful thing, and that he felt "continuity is the father of success." The Governor also commented that he strongly felt that the sister-city exchange with the City of Dusseldorf in Germany must also follow this example moving forward.

Afterwards, the following agenda items were discussed: the FY 2018 activities report and revenue and expenditure financial statement, the FY 2019 activities plan (draft), and the revenue and expenditure budget (draft). All items were referred to the General Meeting for discussion. Following these discussions, the Secretariat reported on the status of exchanges with Wisconsin, and the meeting ended with lively discussions between the attendees.

Please refer to the next page for the content (excerpts) of the discussions at the Board of Directors Meeting.

2019 Annual General Meeting

On Saturday, June 8th, the 2019 Annual General Meeting was held at the Hotel Plaza Nanohana (Chuo Ward, Chiba City) attended by twenty-seven regular members (53 members submitted letters of proxy). There was an opening greeting from Vice President Michio Oishi, commenting that next year will mark the 30th anniversary of Chiba Prefecture's sister-state relationship with Wisconsin. In this context, the activities of Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) from Wisconsin teaching English at Prefectural High Schools in Chiba Prefecture will be evaluated.

After that, with a regular member Kazuya Hayashi serving as Chairperson, the committee discussed the FY 2018 activities report and revenue and expenditure financial statement, the FY 2019 activities plan (draft) and the revenue and expenditure budget (draft), and the assignment (draft) of Directors and Auditors. All items deliberated were approved as drafted.



Board of Directors Meeting



Annual General Meeting

Opinions Exchanged by the Board of Directors (excerpts)

- ALTs from Wisconsin teaching English to our young students is a significant exchange that is highly rated. We can say they are successfully building friendly relations with Japan.
- Of course, a trusting relationship between the tops of two countries is important; however, long-term exchanges rooted at the local or regional level can contribute to building a strong relationship of trust between two countries.
- I want to continue to develop sports tourism following the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Wouldn't "Cycling Tourism", using the flat land of Chiba Prefecture, be effective? It would be interesting if we could form a connection between Wisconsin bicycle manufacturer Trek and Chiba Bank, who donates bicycles annually to each region of Chiba, to develop a new field of exchange.
- I want to further develop exchanges with Wisconsin as the Olympics progress. Goodwill Delegations from Wisconsin have visited various parts of the prefecture with cooperation from those local municipalities. It would be nice if acceptance across municipalities expanded. A Dairy Group will also participate in this year's Goodwill Delegation. In order to expand the gross output of agricultural production in Chiba Prefecture, we should put more effort into livestock and dairy farming and continue to expand exchanges in this field.
- There are many types of colleges in Wisconsin. We would like to promote exchanges with colleges in Wisconsin that specialize in producing health and medical professionals in areas such as rehabilitation, nursing, and registered dietitians.
- At my university, there are 14,000 students, including graduate students. We decided that from next school year, we will have all students study abroad at least once in their four-year career. Three years ago, a new department was created, stipulating that all students study abroad. Since then, the type of students who have enrolled has changed. They act like foreign students who eagerly raise their hands to ask questions, even during class. Once you study abroad, the way you see things changes. Beyond studying abroad, we will create a system where you can take university classes while living overseas. We would also like to promote exchanges with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.
- We also have an ALT from Wisconsin at our school. Yesterday, she gave a lecture on American culture to all of our first-year students as part of international understanding education. Afterwards, there was a lively question and answer session, and it was very meaningful for the students. The Chiba-Wisconsin ALT Program always provides extremely high-quality ALTs.
- By participating in member exchanges and farewell parties for Goodwill Delegations, I myself could experience different cultures. I could feel the contributions ALTs from Wisconsin make to English Education in Chiba Prefecture with my own skin. It would be very beneficial if these sorts of experiences and international exchanges with young people from overseas continue to expand.
- Since its establishment in 1998, JETRO Chiba has long been engaged in various overseas development by companies from within Chiba Prefecture, as well as the investment of foreign-affiliated companies in Chiba. Trek was mentioned in early discussion. In fact, the other day, I broke my own bicycle, and purchased a new Trek bicycle from a local bike shop. In this way, I contributed indirectly to the exchanges between Chiba and Wisconsin.

CWA Newsletter No. 44

July 30, 2019(original Japanese version)

FY 2019 Activities Plan

[Activities Policy]

Based on activity results up to last fiscal year, we will strive to further enhance activities in all fields so that more people are aware of the charm of Wisconsin.

[Activities Contents]

1. Regular Meetings

- Board of Directors and General Meetings (held once a year)
- As a general rule, the Steering Committee meets on the second Saturday of every month, and each planning group convened prior to the Steering Committee meeting.

2. Planning and Management of Exchange Activities with Wisconsin

- Time: Scheduled from Wednesday, October 16th to Thursday, October 24th, 2019
- Number of Delegation Members: 20

3. Exchange Activities for Members, etc.

- Members Exchange Event and Farewell Party (Saturday, June 8th)
- Welcome Party for the New ALTs (Monday, September 16th, National Holiday)
- Food and Culture Exchange (Sunday, November 17th)

4. Public Relations Projects Regarding CWA Activities and Wisconsin

- CWA NEWS (published four times a year)
- Variety of information provided on the CWA website
- Participation in various events
- Gathering of information on Wisconsin and exchanges with Wisconsin

CWA Newsletter No. 44

July 30, 2019(original Japanese version)

FY 2019 Revenue· Expenditure Budget

Revenue

Units: 1,000 Yen

Item	FY 2019 (A)	FY 2018 (B)	A-B	Comment
Membership Fees	599	589	10	
Subsidy	1,150	1,150	0	
• Subsidy from Chiba Prefectural Government for administrative expenses	150	150	0	
• Subsidy from Chiba Prefectural Government for business expenses	1,000	1,000	0	
Participation Fees of Exchange Activities, etc.	2,135	255	1,880	Goodwill Delegation, etc.
Carryover	1,567	2,151	△584	
Total	5,451	4,145	1,306	

Expenditures

Units: 1,000 Yen

Item	FY 2019 (A)	FY 2018 (B)	A-B	Comment
Operating Expenses	285	185	100	Printing, disposable expenses, etc.
Activities Expenses	4,682	2,805	1,877	
• Meetings	150	150	0	Board of Directors, General Meeting
• Dispatch and Acceptance of Goodwill Delegations	3,760	1,900	1,860	Goodwill Delegation Dispatch to Wisconsin
• Member Exchanges	255	243	12	Exchange Activities
• Public Relations	517	512	5	Publication of CWA NEWS
Reserve Funds	484	1,155	△671	
Total	5,451	4,145	1,306	

FY 2019 Board of Directors and Steering Committee of the Chiba-Wisconsin Association (as of July 1st, 2019)
[Board Members]

Title	Name	Affiliation
Special Advisor	Kensaku Morita	Governor, Chiba Prefecture
Advisor	Ikuo Kameda	Mayor of Kamogawa City (Sister city of Manitowoc, WI)
	Hiroshi Ota	Mayor, Isumi City (Sister city of Waupun, WI)
President	Yuzaburo Mogi	Honorary CEO and Chairman of the Board, Kikkoman Corporation Honorary Ambassador to Wisconsin
Vice President	Michio Oishi	Chairman, Kazusa DNA Research Institute
	Katsunosuke Osawa	President, Chiba Nippo Co., Ltd.
	Hidetoshi Sakuma	President, Chiba Prefecture Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry
	Toshihide Nagai	President, Chiba Prefectural Cultural Promotion Foundation
Executive Director	Tadanobu Sato	President, Chiba Convention Bureau and International Center
Director	Izumi Shinoduka	President, Chiba Television Broadcasting Corporation
	Yasushi Idemoto	Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology, Tokyo University of Science
	Toru Ishikawa	Executive Director, Policy and Planning Department Chiba Prefectural Government
	Yasuo Onozawa	President, Chiba Economic Council
	Nobuo Kojima	President, Chiba Prefectural Employer's Association
	Toshiro Sakakibara	Professor, University of Tokyo
	Hidetoshi Sakuma	Chief Secretary, Chiba Association of Corporate Executives
	Masahiro Tanabe	Chancellor, Chiba Prefectural University of Health Sciences
	Takeshi Tokuhisa	President, Chiba University
	Yoshimasa Miyazaki	President, Chiba Taiko Foundation
	Kenichi Yasuda	Chief Director, Chiba Dairy and Agriculture Organization
	Kazutoshi Miyama	Principal, Narita Kokusai High School
Auditor	Masanori Itakura	President, Chiba Industry Advancement Center
	Taku Sato	Chief Director, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) Chiba

CWA Newsletter No. 44

July 30, 2019(original Japanese version)

[Steering Committee]

Delegation Planning Group

Noboru Mimura (Advisor)

Shigeo Moriyama (Head of Steering Committee)

- ❖ Yasuko Aoki (Secretary General; Head of Delegation Planning Group)

Tetsuji Ogawa

Tadao Ando

Akio Asanuma

Exchange Program Planning Group

- ❖ Kyoko Oura

Teruo Abe

Takako Ishii

Sanae Mitsuhashi

Shizue Yamazaki

Publicity Working Group

- ❖ Tadao Miyazaki

Mihoko Ohara (Vice Head of Steering Committee)

Patrick Grimes

Bureau

Fumihiro Ono

Tomoko Ogawa

- ❖ *(Indicates Group Head)*

Event Staff: Naomi Sakakida, Tomiko Kakuta, Satoko Keigo, Madoka Usui, Yoshie Kato

[Editor's Note]

This year's Board of Directors Meeting was very exciting with specific and lively discussion of future exchanges. Next year will mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the sister-state relationship. Moving forward, we hope to discuss among the management staff what kind of activities we will continue to develop in the future. Moreover, this year we will dispatch a Chiba Goodwill Delegation to Wisconsin. The CWA will endeavor to further expand the scope of these exchanges.

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