

Dispatch of the 2019 Chiba Goodwill Delegation

From Wednesday, October 16th to Thursday, October 24th, 2019, the Chiba-Wisconsin Association (CWA) dispatched the 2019 Chiba Goodwill Delegation to the State of Wisconsin. This Goodwill Delegation was composed of a total of sixteen members, including six members of the Culture and Arts Group (“Minami-Gyōtoku Flower Troupe” from Ichikawa City), three members of the Dairy Group, three members of the Cycle Tourism Group, and four members from the Secretariat. On Thursday, September 12th, the Delegation made a courtesy call with Governor Kensaku Morita (Special Advisor to the CWA).

In the beginning, Tadanobu Sato, Executive Director of the CWA, introduced the Delegation. Following this, Delegation Leader Shigeo Moriyama, serving as representative, declared: “Since the founding of the Chiba-Wisconsin Association, this is the seventh time that a goodwill delegation will have been dispatched from Chiba to Wisconsin. As next year will mark the 30th anniversary of the sister-state agreement between Chiba and Wisconsin, we will work to ensure that our visit will further develop relations and exchanges between our two states.”

In response, Governor Morita praised the Delegation by saying, “Just now, I met with Governor Evers of Wisconsin. I can say that he is a truly remarkable man. The fact that this sister-state relationship has continued for 30 years is certainly the result of the exchanges and deep feelings of friendship forged by you, the citizens of Chiba Prefecture, with the people of Wisconsin, at the grassroots level.”

Relevant members of the Ichikawa International Exchange Association also attended the courtesy call with Governor Morita.

The Delegation successfully completed their nine-day visit and safely returned to Japan. The details of their visit will be featured in the next issue of CWA NEWS.

Following the courtesy call, letters of sympathy were received from the Governor of Wisconsin and Wisconsin-Chiba, Inc. (WCI), in regards to the devastation caused by the typhoons and heavy rains in Chiba Prefecture in the autumn of 2019.

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Commemorative Photo with Governor Morita
(Front Row, 3rd from the Left: Delegation Leader Moriyama;
Back Row, Furthest to the Right: Executive Director Sato)



Thursday, October 24th: The Delegation Safely Returned to Narita Airport

CWA Board Members Meet with the Governor of Wisconsin

On January 7th, 2019, Tony Evers was sworn in as the 46th Governor of the State of Wisconsin. Choosing Japan as the destination of his first trade mission, he participated in the 51st Midwest U.S.-Japan Conference in Tokyo, held from Sunday, September 8th to Tuesday, September 10th. The mission was coordinated by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), led by Governor Evers, and included representatives from nine companies in Wisconsin, the University of Wisconsin System, and others.

On Thursday, September 12th, Governor Evers, First Lady Kathy Evers, and eight other relevant members of the trade mission visited the Chiba Prefectural Government Offices in Chiba City. In addition to a courtesy call with Chiba Governor Kensaku Morita, the delegation also met with a number of the Board Members of the CWA.

Among the CWA Board Members who participated were Vice President Katsunosuke Osawa (President, Chiba Nippo Co., Ltd.), Executive Director Tadanobu Sato, Director Masahiro Tanabe (Chancellor, Chiba Prefectural University of Health Sciences), Director Takeshi Tokuhisa (President, Chiba University), and Auditor Taku Sato (Chief Director, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) Chiba). Secretary General Yasuko Aoki served as moderator for the meeting.

In his opening greeting, CWA Vice President Osawa stated, “The sister-state relationship between Chiba Prefecture and the State of Wisconsin will mark its 30th anniversary next year in 2020. When the sister-state relationship was established, I worked as an on-site reporter at the Chiba Prefectural Government. Even now, I remember covering the subsequent press conference of Wisconsin’s ‘Alice in Dairyland’ when she visited the Governor of Chiba. I am pleased to say that over the past 30 years, the sister-state relationship between Chiba and Wisconsin has continued to flourish and develop, and I am happy to have been involved.”

In response, Governor Evers said that the CWA plays an extremely important role in further strengthening the precious relationship between the State of Wisconsin and Chiba Prefecture. He further offered his praise, saying that the relationship was not limited to the relationship between Wisconsin and Chiba, but extended to the nations of the U.S. and Japan at large. He went on to say that when the Chiba Goodwill Delegation comes to Wisconsin in October, he would like to offer them his warmest welcome.

Following these opening greetings, there were individual greetings from the other board members in attendance. Afterwards, 2019 Chiba Goodwill Delegation Leader Shigeo Moriyama introduced the CWA’s regular activities. Subsequently, the members of the 2019 Delegation entered the room, and Delegation Leader Moriyama introduced each delegation member in order by group.

After the introductions, CWA Vice President Osawa presented a commemorative gift to Governor Evers. Finally, a commemorative group photo was taken, concluding the meeting.

During the Goodwill Delegation’s trip to Wisconsin in October, the Delegation visited the Governor’s Executive Residence in Wisconsin. There were many beautiful works of art

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displayed on the wall. However, the Delegation was moved to find that among those beautiful works of art, the commemorative gift presented to the Governor in September was displayed foremost in the center.



Commemorative Photo (Including Members of the 2019 Chiba Goodwill Delegation)



The Commemorative Gift, a “*Kirega* (Fabric Painting)”, for Governor Evers made by Steering Committee Member Kyoko Oura

New ALT Welcome Party 2019 ~Welcome to Chiba!~

The 2019 Welcome Party for New Wisconsin ALTs was held on September 16th, a National Holiday (Respect for the Aged Day). On a beautiful autumn day, 27 people, including Wisconsin ALTs (see page 7), CWA members, and more, joined the activities in the Food Culture Research Room at the Chiba City Lifelong Learning Center. This year's program included fun activities such as making Bōsō Futomaki Matsuri Sushi, self-introductions from the ALTs, a talk from the Chiba Sports Concierge, as well as exchange time.

The making of the Bōsō Futomaki Matsuri Sushi was led by four instructors from the Chiba Traditional Local Cuisine Research Association: President Sachiko Sugizaki, Vice President Reiko Yamagata, Yoshiko Minegishi, and Sanae Mitsunashi (Steering Committee Member). The four instructors arrived early at 9 a.m. and began making preparations for the sushi making. Such tasks included frying lightly-fried eggs, dividing up sushi rice, seaweed, and other ingredients for the designs, and making sample Bōsō Futomaki Matsuri Sushi. The instructors, through what could be said to be the finest example of teamwork, quickly finished their preparations, and the event could begin as scheduled at 11 a.m. The participants, thanks to the instructors' careful guidance, were able to make their own beautiful Bōsō Futomaki Matsuri Sushi within an hour, and the satisfaction showed on their faces.

Just before lunchtime, the beautifully-designed Bōsō Futomaki Matsuri Sushi, made by the instructors and the participants, was lined up along the tables. With soup and fruits also prepared, the lunch party began in earnest. After a while, Sophia Silva (Higashi Katsushika Junior High School ALT), Ben Alden (Sosa High School ALT), Nancy Rose (Katori City CIR), and Amanda MacDonald (Kimitsu High School ALT), gave rousing speeches, introducing themselves, pointing out their hometowns on the Wisconsin State Map, talking about their work in Japan, and so on. Some of the ALTs came from regions affected by Typhoon #15 (which made landfall on September 9th), and talked about the loss of lifelines and how those places were still experiencing difficulties.

Starting at 1 p.m., Mr. Toshihiro Okubo, working as the Chiba Sports Concierge, gave a talk. Mr. Okubo discussed a range of topics in English, including the similarities between Wisconsin and Chiba Prefecture, his own experiences visiting Wisconsin as an educator, and his current activities and exchanges with the State of Wisconsin through the development of "Cycle Tourism." The listeners thoroughly enjoyed his talk, filled with humor and anecdotes.

Each year, many participants look forward to the Welcome Party for New ALTs, and it has become a staple of CWA's yearly events. This year was also a success, exemplified by everyone's smiles. Good job!

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Making Sushi with Serious Expressions



Sample Bōso Futomaki Matsuri Sushi



Lively Lunchtime Conversations



Mr. Okubo's Fun Talk



Commemorative Photo with Everyone's Big Smiles

Introducing the Wisconsin ALTs!

There are many ALTs from Wisconsin teaching at schools in Chiba Prefecture.

ALT, short for “Assistant Language Teacher,” is a foreign language teacher who assists with foreign language education. Currently, there are several ALTs working in elementary, junior, and senior high schools in Chiba for the improvement of English and international understanding. Among them are the following ALTs from Wisconsin:



Inserted Photos (from the Left):

Sophia Silva Prefectural Higashi Katsushika Junior High School
Natalie Stoeckel Isumi Municipal Misaki Junior High School,
Taito Elementary School, Furusawa Elementary School

Back Row (from the Left):

Clara Faile Isumi Municipal Misaki Junior High School,
Choja Elementary School, Nakane Elementary School,
Ohara Elementary School
Rose Yeazel Prefectural Narita Kokusai High School
Lewis Hurd Prefectural Matsudo Kokusai High School
Amanda MacDonald Prefectural Kimitsu High School
Ben Alden Prefectural Sosa High School
Gio Nava Garcia Sosa Municipal Yokaichiba Daiichi Junior High School
Max Gumble Prefectural Toke High School,
Prefectural Chishirodai High School
Matt Vosters Prefectural Matsuo High School
Jamison Taube Prefectural Togane High School
Grant Smith Oamishirasato Municipal Oami Junior High School
Jon Kangas Prefectural Sakura High School
Lucas Young Prefectural Chiba Higashi High School

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Middle Row (from the Left):

Jesse Chang	Prefectural Nagareyama Otakanomori High School
Paula Green	Prefectural Nagareyama Otakanomori High School
Callie Leone	Kamagaya Municipal 3 rd Junior High School
Tina Brown	Prefectural Matsudo Kokusai High School
Shelli Rodgers	Prefectural Kashiwai High School

Front Row (from the Left):

Josephine Kirkland	Asahi Municipal 2 nd Junior High School, Higata Elementary School, Kyowa Elementary School
Patrick Grimes	Prefectural Board of Education, ALT Program Coordinator
Andrea Ewald	Prefectural Matsudo Kokusai High School
Evelyn Ewald	Prefectural Awa High School, Prefectural Nagasa High School
Joseph Simurdiak	Ichinomiya Municipal Ichinomiya Junior High School, Ichinomiya Elementary School, Torami Elementary School

<A Word from Patrick Grimes>

This year marks my second year as the ALT Program Coordinator working at the Chiba Prefectural Board of Education. In addition, starting this year, I have been serving as a member of the Publicity Working Group of the CWA Steering Committee. As you can see in the picture above, the number of ALTs from Wisconsin has steadily increased over the years. It goes without saying that in recent years, the level of interest towards Japan among American youths has been increasing. However, more specifically in Wisconsin, the thought of “I’d like to visit Chiba; I’d like to live in Chiba,” has also spread. As for why, I think credit can be given to the CWA, Wisconsin-Chiba, Inc. (WCI), and the Board of Education’s Wisconsin ALT Program (*) for relaying a good image of Chiba Prefecture. As a result, more and more youths from Wisconsin have come to Japan and made large contributions to foreign language education in Chiba Prefecture. I am proud to serve as coordinator for such talented people.

On September 12th, 2019, Governor Tony Evers of Wisconsin visited Chiba. Along with Superintendent Sawakawa of the Prefectural Board of Education, I was able to introduce and emphasize the strengths of the Wisconsin ALT Program here in Chiba. Furthermore, I could serve as interpreter for the CWA during the Board Members’ meeting with Governor Evers. Despite the fact that several areas of Chiba Prefecture were still suffering in the aftermath of Typhoon #15, it was a very productive and informative discussion and exchange. Governor Evers affirmed that he would like to continue to strengthen the relationship between the sister-states, and he also mentioned that he would also like to make a Japanese language program like the ALT Program in Wisconsin one day.

Through the experiences of the meeting with Governors Evers, serving in the Publicity Working Group, and working as the ALT Program Coordinator, it has been quite an exciting year. I am not sure how long I will stay in Chiba Prefecture, but I hope that while I am still here, and even after I go back to Wisconsin, I hope that I am able to give back in some way, by working with the CWA as much as possible to strengthen the sister-state relationship between Chiba and Wisconsin.

(*) The Wisconsin ALT Program in Chiba Prefecture was started in 1991. With the help of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), youths from Wisconsin are hired to work as ALTs at Prefectural High Schools, as well as the ALT Program Coordinator (ALT-PC) at the Board of Education. Over the past three decades, these ALTs and ALT-PCs have assisted in the development of English education and international understanding across the Prefecture.

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[Editor's Note]

In September and October of 2019, Chiba Prefecture was hit by two typhoons and heavy rains, severely damaging a number of areas of the prefecture. This damage was unlike anything seen before. Our hearts go out to the victims and the areas that have yet to fully recover. We hope life will return to normal even one day earlier for all.