

CWA NEWS



Greetings from the President



Chiba-Wisconsin Association
President Yuzaburo Mogi

I would like to extend my best wishes to everyone with the publication of the first CWA NEWS of 2020.

I would also like to express my deepest appreciation for your continued support and understanding for the exchange activities of the Chiba-Wisconsin Association.

Chiba Prefecture and the State of Wisconsin established the sister-state relationship in 1990 and subsequently, this year marks the 16th year since the CWA became the focal point of exchange activities on behalf of Chiba Prefecture.

During this time, thanks to the efforts of everyone involved, robust and active exchanges have developed over a wide range of fields at a local level. As a result, the scope of these exchanges at the grassroots level has continued to steadily expand and deepen.

In October of last year, a 16-member Chiba Goodwill Delegation, consisting of a Culture and Arts Group, a Dairy Group, and a Cycle Tourism Group, visited schools, farms, companies, and other sites within the State of Wisconsin and had profound exchanges with a number of people. In addition, during a visit to the Governor's Mansion, the delegation was welcomed by First Lady Kathy Evers. The First Lady had previously met with the delegation when she visited the Chiba Prefectural Offices with Governor Evers in September. Because of that, I feel the visit left a very deep impression on the Delegation.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the sister-state relationship, and is also a year in which we plan to host a Goodwill Delegation from Wisconsin. Currently, we are making preparations to form a project team that will be charged with planning festivities to mark the 30th anniversary. From the bottom of my heart, I anticipate that we will be able to not only put to use the achievements of past exchanges to bear more fruitful exchanges in the future, but also introduce the wonders of Chiba Prefecture and further deepen the friendships and exchanges between Chiba and Wisconsin.

In closing, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to everyone, starting with the CWA Board Members and Regular Members, and humbly ask for your continued support and cooperation in regards to future CWA activities.

A Festival of Giving Thanks Together! ~Thanksgiving & Japanese Harvest~

On a beautiful autumn day on Sunday, November 17th, 2019, the Food Culture Collaboration was held at the Chiba City Lifelong Learning Center's Food Culture Laboratory. 15 ALTs (Assistant Language Teachers) from the State of Wisconsin joined CWA Members and others for a total of 35 participants, leading to this year's grand success.

CWA Steering Committee members gathered at 9 a.m., and with assistance from members of the Chiba Traditional Local Cooking Association, they placed the Thanksgiving turkey in the oven, made preparations for other dishes, and set up the venue. After quietly getting everything ready, the check-in time of 10:15 rolled along, and a large number of participants began arriving one after another and gathering in the room. The atmosphere in the room immediately became lively and filled with enthusiasm.

This year's menu included seven dishes: turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, green bean casserole, stuffing, apple cider, and pumpkin pie. All participants, including the ALTs, took charge of preparing each dish. In addition, Boso Futomaki Matsuri sushi, which has become a staple of these events, inari sushi, and vegetable soup were prepared in ample amounts. Perhaps it was because all of the ALTs decided which dish they would prepare in advance, but all of the dishes were prepared skillfully and in time for the feast. We were so grateful for their kind consideration! Just past noon, as everyone was growing rather hungry, the fragrant smell of the turkey, which had been roasting for over three hours, steadily filled the room and even the hallway.



The Food That Everyone Made Together Was Very Delicious!



Each year, numerous people want to try their hand at making Boso Futomaki Matsuri sushi. It is even popular with small children. At 12:30, with all of the dishes laid out and crammed onto the tables, everyone shouted, "Itadakima-su!" The feast began in earnest, and everyone started munching on the delicious dishes, with smiles and vehement conversation filling the room.

After all of the participants gave lively self-introductions and a commemorative photo was taken, clean-up time began. All of the participants, including the ALTs, enthusiastically took part and everything finished without a hitch. One of the ALTs said, "I ate so much that I probably won't need to eat for another two or three days. See you!" and left the room. If you take a look at the commemorative photo on the left, certainly you can see the satisfaction in everyone's faces.



A Commemorative Photo of Everyone

In the past, due to the venue's limited availability, the Food Culture Collaboration has often been held early in the New Year. However, this year, we were able to hold the Collaboration in November—the same month as American Thanksgiving. For this reason, more ALTs participated than in previous years. Moreover, it is rather difficult to find turkey, the main staple of Thanksgiving, in Japan.

Chiba Goodwill Delegation to Wisconsin Dispatch Report

The first Goodwill Delegation of the Reiwa Era, consisting of a Culture and Arts Group, a Dairy Group, and a Cycle Tourism Group, for a total of sixteen members, visited the State of Wisconsin and was able to engage in numerous in-depth exchanges with people living there.

In the field of Culture and Arts, six members of Minami-Gyōtoku Flower Troupe based in Ichikawa City, along with two members of the Secretariat, visited schools and other institutions in the Milwaukee area and put on a range of performances.

In the field of Dairy, three young successors to dairy farms within Chiba Prefecture, along with one member of the Secretariat, visited farms, a cheese factory, and other related places across Wisconsin.

In the field of Cycle Tourism, three members working in the differing fields of regional revitalization, regional development, and sports tourism, along with one member of the Secretariat, spent their time in Wisconsin focusing on the keyword of “bicycle”. They visited bicycle retailers and manufacturers located in and around Milwaukee and Madison, visited and rode along bicycle roads, and engaged in various other exchanges.

Please look at the following pages for detailed reports on each group’s activities. In addition, the CWA Secretariat, who also traveled as part of the 2019 Chiba Goodwill Delegation, had a meeting with representatives from Wisconsin-Chiba, Inc. (WCI). They discussed which groups they wished to dispatch the following year, as 2020 marks the 30th anniversary of the sister-state relationship.

Furthermore, on October 21st, all sixteen members of the Goodwill Delegation traveled together as a group. First, they visited Kikkoman Foods, Inc.’s factory in Wisconsin and received a tour of the factory. A Japanese White Silk Lilac was planted to mark the 25th anniversary of the sister-state relationship four years prior. Unfortunately, the Delegation was not able to see the tree in person due to inclement weather. Instead, they were shown a recent photo of the tree and were told about its healthy growth.

Afterwards, the Delegation headed to Madison and visited the Governor’s Mansion and were welcomed by First Lady Kathy Evers. Since it was only the first time the Delegation had visited the Governor’s Mansion, it can be said that First Lady Kathy Evers’s visit to the Chiba Prefectural Offices along with Governor Tony Evers in the September before certainly left a large impression on them due to the warm welcome. Besides, Delegation Members were pleasantly surprised to see that the fabric painting made by CWA Steering Committee Member Kyoko Oura and presented to Governor Evers by CWA Vice President Katsunosuke Osawa (see the bottom right photo) was hanging on the wall of the Governor’s Mansion in plain view.

Following the visit to the Governor’s Mansion, the Delegation visited the Capitol Building. Former Assemblyperson Marlin Schneider led the fascinating tour, sharing his 40 years of experience working in the Assembly.

Some members of this year’s Goodwill Delegation went through great difficulty to join, such as dealing with typhoon damage or rearranging their schedules. We would like to once again express our sincerest gratitude to the Goodwill Delegation Members.



Tour of the Capitol Building



At the Entrance to Kikkoman Foods, Inc. Headquarters



Japanese White Silk Lilac
on the Plant Grounds



Commemorative Photo with First Lady Kathy Evers



Commemorative Gift
from the CWA, Produced by
Ms. Kyoko Oura

In addition, we would also like to express our sincerest gratitude to the host families who warmly took us in, the schools, colleges, and companies that hosted us, as well as everyone in Wisconsin-Chiba, Inc. who took the time and effort to arrange our schedules and make the Goodwill Delegation visit possible. Thank you very much.

(CWA Steering Committee Chairperson & Delegation Leader,
Shigeo Moriyama)

Individual Group Exchange Activities

Culture & Arts Group

This year's Culture & Arts Group consisted of six members of the Minami-Gyōtoku Flower Troupe (*yosakoi* performers) from Ichikawa City and two members from the Chiba-Wisconsin Association Secretariat (CWA), for a total of eight members.

On October 17th, the Culture & Arts Group joined an event at North Division High School in Milwaukee where the Minami-Gyōtoku Flower Troupe performed *yosakoi*. Energized by the rousing applause and cheers of support from the high school students in the audience, all of the members of the Flower Troupe filled their dances with vigor. On that day, dances from countries other than Japan were also performed. Members of the Nefertari African Dance Company, who incidentally visited Kisarazu City in Chiba as part of the 2018 Wisconsin Goodwill Delegation, also participated in the event.

In the afternoon, the Flower Troup performed at the Italian Community Center. There, they met with their host families in person for the first time.

On October 18th, the Flower Troup performed at the Wilson Park Senior Center. This center is a facility where senior citizens in the area gather. On that day, the Flower Troupe had an exchange event with those senior citizens to practice Hawaiian dance.

On October 20th, the Flower Troup performed at Franklin High School, where Japan Fest 2019 was being held. There, the Master of Ceremonies introduced the Troupe as guests from Japan and welcomed them to Franklin High School. While performing for the audience, the Troupe received much warm applause.

On October 22nd, the Flower Troup performed at the St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care. This center is a facility where children and senior citizens with disabilities can spend time together. The members of the Flower Troupe performed energetically with kind smiles on their faces in front of small children younger than elementary school age and their caregivers.

(Yasuko Aoki, Tetsuji Ogawa)

<Delegation Members>

Chiyoko Nagai <Representative>, Yuriko Ishii, Mitsue Sugiyama, Keiko Nakane, Yoshie Hirabayashi, Chie Ando (Ichikawa City Minami-Gyōtoku Flower Troupe)
Yasuko Aoki, Tetsuji Ogawa (CWA)

Itinerary

October 17 Performance at North Division High School
Performance at Italian Community Center
October 18 Performance at Wilson Park Senior Center
October 20 Performance at Japan Fest 2019 (Franklin High School)
October 22 Performance at St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care



Performance at the Italian Community Center



Performance at Wilson Park Senior Center



Performance at Japan Fest 2019 (Franklin High School)



In Front of the Mural Drawn by Students at North Division High School



Performance at St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care



At North Division High School



"Love" Sign Found while Strolling along Lake Michigan



Inside the Governor's Mansion: First Lady Evers in the Back Right



Performance at St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care



Culture & Arts Group Chiyoko Nagai

I would like to thank the Chiba-Wisconsin Association for allowing me to be a part of this year's Goodwill Delegation. Before leaving for Wisconsin, I was worried about a number of things, including my own health and participating in a homestay for the first time. However, once I got to Wisconsin, I found that the eight days flew by.

I am extremely grateful to my host family member, Lynne, for taking such good care of me, including providing food, dropping me off, and picking me up. The six members of the Flower Troupe were divided into three groups of one, two, and three people respectively, and those three groups were taken care of by three different host families. Because no one had stayed with a host family before, we were all very nervous before leaving Japan. However, thanks to the kindness and consideration from the Chiba-Wisconsin Association and Wisconsin-Chiba, Inc., we were able to have someone to stay with and could have a safe and enjoyable homestay.

Some days of the performance schedule were very difficult. Partway through, one member hurt her knee. Thankfully, she was able to overcome it. At the many places we visited, we were able to meet with and engage in exchanges with people of various ages. These exchanges laid the foundations for some wonderful memories.

Along with the other Groups of the Delegation, we were able to visit the wonderful Governor's Mansion and State Capitol Building in Wisconsin. As we walked towards the Governor's Mansion along Lake Mendota, the large mansion grounds were bespeckled with trees covered in beautiful red autumn leaves and flower beds filled with splendid, blossoming chrysanthemums. There, First Lady Kathy Evers greeted us and we took a commemorative photo together. With explanations from one of the workers, we took a tour inside of the Governor's Mansion. It is truly a bright and wonderful residence. I was honestly moved by being able to visit such a wondrous place that one is not able to normally go. I am sure the other members of the Flower Troupe felt the same.

Including the homestay, we were able to have many wonderful experiences as part of the 2019 Chiba Goodwill Delegation. We are waiting for everyone to visit Ichikawa City in 2020.



In Front of the Wisconsin State Capitol Building

Individual Group Exchange Activities

Dairy Group

This year's Dairy Group consisted of young members who will succeed dairy farms within Chiba Prefecture. From Thursday, October 17th to Tuesday, October 22nd, we mainly visited and observed farms that raise dairy cows and produce their feed, as well as cheese and sausage manufacturers.

At the farms we visited, we observed daily work activities with great interest, including milking and feeding, as well as methods of storing hay. During the observation, group members asked a range of questions while also explaining Chiba Prefecture's farming situation by showing images on their smart phones. Thanks to this, the visits were impressive exchanges of information.

We visited two farms on this trip: a family-run farm and a farm with diversified management. However, both farms seem to be struggling with the issue of securing successors to run the farms in the future.

In addition, while en route between destinations, we had the chance to see a former dairy farm that had been transformed into a residential district. This gave me a glimpse into the difficulties that dairy farmers in Wisconsin are also facing. I wonder how the young members of the Dairy Group felt when seeing that.

Furthermore, as dairy producers, they naturally had great interest in viewing cheese production in Wisconsin, such as cheese manufacturing facilities and cheese products. It was an impressive sight to behold.

(Shigeo Moriyama)

<Delegation Members>

Misa Wakatsuki (Dairy Farmer)
Ayaka Hirayama (Dairy Farmer)
Takeru Miyauchi (Dairy Farmer)
Shigeo Moriyama (CWA)

Itinerary

October 17 Koepke Farms, Inc. (Dairy Farm)
Cozy Nook Farm (Dairy Farm)
October 22 Widmer's Cheese Cellars (Cheese Maker)
Usinger's Sausage (Sausage Maker)



Koepke Farms, Inc.: While Watching Feeding at the Barn, the Cows Approach the People



Koepke Farms, Inc.: Feed Is Moved from the Silos to the Feed Trucks



Cozy Nook Farm: Observing How Hay Is Stored



Koepke Farms, Inc.: Ms. Kim Koepke Explains about the Milking Facility



Cozy Nook Farm: Observing the Barn and Beautiful Straw Bedding



Cozy Nook Farm: One of Many Operations,
Children Play in the Pumpkin Patch



Widmer's Cheese Cellars: Touring the Operations



Widmer's Cheese Cellars: Cheese Taste Testing Time



A Big Tractor at Cozy Nook Farm



Dairy Group

Misa Wakatsuki

We, the three members of the Dairy Group, visited two dairy farms in Wisconsin. We realized that although the number of cows and other factors were similar to Japan, the sheer size of the fields in Wisconsin used to produce feed for the cows was incomparably large.

The feed used for the dairy cows was primarily corn. I was surprised to find that the feed was separated into roughage at the time of harvest in order to sync with cattle raising methods in Wisconsin. In Japan, it is common to do this process at the time of feeding. I realized that perhaps the reason for doing this process at an earlier stage in Wisconsin was that the volume of the harvest is much larger. Besides corn, they were also producing hay. However, since the climate of Wisconsin is much colder than that of Chiba, I was left with the impression that they need feed that they can produce in a shorter amount of time and is more resistant to the cold.

In addition, I could learn that dairy farms in Wisconsin experience many similar problems to Japan, such as problems with waste disposal due to the development of the suburbs, issues with a lack of successors, fickle weather, and so on. Even if the country changes, the root of the problems often remain the same.

The three of us went our separate ways as we stayed with three different host families at their homes. In the beginning, communication was quite clumsy and awkward, so I relied heavily upon translation software, body gestures, and hand gestures. However, I was happy that in time, I was able to communicate solely with words and facial expressions. We talked about a wide range of things, such as the differences between our foods and life styles, disasters caused by weather, and other things we wanted to ask or know about each other. I really felt I was able to treasure the time I spent with them. Also, the other Group members and I went to the city together to sightsee and check out a light-up event, as well as have a lot of fun, too.

On the last night, when my host family took me to my hotel, they stopped me for a moment and said, "What are you doing? Let's go home together!" This reminded me that we were already family. Even though it was just a short time, I really want to express my gratitude to my host family, John and Arlene.

Also, I would like to say thank you to the CWA and everyone in WCI for giving me this opportunity.



With My Host Family, the Jorgensens

Individual Group Exchange Activities

Cycle Tourism Group

As part of this year's schedule, the Cycle Tourism Group engaged in a wide variety of activities.

First, the Group rode a roughly 27 km segment of the Elroy Sparta State Trail, a bike trail representative of Wisconsin's suburbs. Due to rain which started to fall halfway through, by the time the Group completely finished the ride along the all-dirt course, everyone was soaked from head to toe and covered in mud. Fortunately, nobody caught a cold after the ride. Despite the inclement weather, riding the course was an invaluable experience, as Japan has nothing on the scale of that bike trail. Also, the Group rode the Hank Aaron State Trail, which, in contrast with the Elroy Sparta State Trail, is an urban course.

In Manitowoc, Wisconsin, a sister city of Kamogawa City in Chiba Prefecture, the Cycle Tourism Group had exchanges and discussions about bicycles with local residents. This visit ended up being the most exchange-based activity on the Group's itinerary.

In addition, the Group visited the Headquarters of bicycle and cycling product manufacturer and distributor, Trek Bicycle Corporation, based in Waterloo, Wisconsin. There, the Group Members received a presentation focused on the big theme of dealing with and combating the issue of climate change. This is a theme that Trek has placed a strong emphasis on in their corporate vision. From the Chiba side, a presentation was also given about the development of cycle tourism in Chiba Prefecture. Before and after the presentation, the Vice President of Trek gave the Group Members a tour of the factory and the research laboratories, as well as a trial run of a bicycle course in Madison.

As for other activities, the Cycle Tourism Group inspected some bicycle stores, visited the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Concordia University, and traveled to other places as the itinerary permitted. The activities allowed the Group Members to further deepen their understanding of the multiple facets of Wisconsin, as well as engage in a wide variety of fruitful exchanges with local residents.

(Tomoko Ogawa)

<Delegation Members>

Mutsumi Awaji (The Chiba Bank, Ltd. Regional Revitalization Division, Executive Officer and General Manager)

Yamato Okano (Wellness x Sports Kamogawa, Manager)

Toshihiro Ōkubo (Chiba Convention Bureau and International Center, Sports Concierge, Manager)

Tomoko Ogawa (CWA)

Itinerary

October 17	Concordia University Wheel & Sprocket
October 18	Hank Aaron State Trail
October 19	Elroy Sparta State Trail
October 20	Manitowoc, Wisconsin
October 21	University of Wisconsin-Madison
October 22	Trek Bicycle Corporation



Biking the Elroy Sparta State Trail



Biking the Hank Aaron State Trail



A Mural in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, of *The Great Wave* by Katsushika Hokusai, Which Was Influenced by Renowned Craftsman "Nami no Ithachi" from Kamogawa City in Chiba Prefecture



Even Bicycle Stores Had Genuine Halloween Decorations



Visiting Concordia University



Observing the Research and Manufacturing of Bicycles on the Tour



The 5 Ways Trek Bicycle Corporation Is Working to Combat Climate Change



"When I was in elementary school in 1968, 60% of kids rode their bikes to school, but today, fewer than 2% do," the Vice President explains.



Riding along a Bike Trail in Madison with the Vice President at the Front, and All Riders on the Right, Same as Automobiles



Cycle Tourism Group Mutsumi Awaji

Before taking part in the Goodwill Delegation to Wisconsin, I had conducted research on wide-scale cycle tourism with the goal of increasing the number of people involved in cycle tourism in Chiba Prefecture, as well as stimulating Chiba Prefecture's economy. Through my research, I found that one component of cycle tourism we simply cannot do without is a partnership with a major bicycle maker. When I heard that Chiba Prefecture would be marking the 30th anniversary of its sister-state relationship with the State of Wisconsin in the United States in 2020, I recalled that the headquarters of bicycle maker Trek Bicycle Corporation is located in Waterloo, Wisconsin. Feeling that Trek would make the most appropriate partner for Chiba Prefecture, I decided to visit as part of the 2019 Chiba Goodwill Delegation.

Immediately following our arrival at the headquarters of Trek Bicycle Corporation, the Vice President gave us a tour of the factory, followed by a presentation in one of the company's meeting rooms. At the beginning of the presentation, the Vice President expressed his sympathies for the enormous damage Chiba Prefecture had sustained earlier that autumn. In the presentation, the Vice President primarily focused on how the company is working to combat climate change. The end of the presentation emphasized that the popularization of Trek bicycles could help contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, an idea called "The Shift from Automobile to Bicycle." I was profoundly moved by the posture that Trek Bicycle Corporation has taken as a company to combat the risks of climate change.

Up until that time, I had always seen the implementation of cycle tourism primarily through the lens of tourism promotion. However, the visit made me realize that if you look at cycle tourism as a form of tourism promotion that substitutes automobiles for bicycles, you can also see that it helps with the reduction of CO₂ as well as the implementation of SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).

As mentioned above, Chiba Prefecture sustained large damage from a pair of typhoons in 2019. Therefore, I have come to feel that it is necessary for all regions of the world to become more sensitive and aware of the pressing issue of climate change.



Inspecting a Nearby Bicycle Shop

Let's Support Wisconsin's Professional Football Team, the Green Bay Packers!!

In this year's Super Bowl*, the San Francisco 49ers faced off against the Kansas City Chiefs, leading to a victory for the Chiefs. Earlier, on January 20th, the 49ers faced off against the Green Bay Packers, whose stronghold is in Green Bay (population approximately 100,000) in Northeast Wisconsin, to determine which team would enter the Super Bowl as the NFC Champions. Unfortunately, the Packers lost to the 49ers 20-37.

The Green Bay Packers are a famous team with a hundred years of history and thirteen league championships—the most of any professional football team in history. However, they are the only non-profit, community-owned major league professional sports team in the U.S.

To that end, players work enthusiastically to give back to the community not only with events, activities, and other programs held during the on-season in autumn and winter, but also with activities during the off-season, such as visiting children's hospitals or charities for struggling families. These activities are held across the state, demonstrating that the Packers are truly a community-based team.

The sales and quantity of stocks for the Green Bay Packers are limited. It does not include an equity interest, does not pay dividends, cannot be traded, and brings no season ticket purchase privileges. Despite this, Packers fans take great pride in becoming stockholders. Moreover, it is said to take over 30 years to become a season ticket holder.



Packers Fans Wearing a "Cheesehead"

With the regular season starting in September, it is not uncommon for the temperature to drop below 0°C in Wisconsin, so it is necessary to attend games in full protective winter gear. That being said, if you are fortunate enough to obtain a Packers game ticket, by all means please go and cheer for the Packers yourself.

On the Bulletin Board on the CWA's homepage, updates are periodically posted by fans with the latest information about the Packers.

(*) The Super Bowl is where the champions of the NFC (National Football Conference) and the AFC (American Football Conference) compete to find the No.1 team of the NFL (National Football League).

CWA Notices

Now Recruiting PR Staff

Every year, the Chiba-Wisconsin Association engages in a number of activities with its members and others, including sister-state exchange events with the State of Wisconsin, exhibitions at festivals, and exchange events with ALTs (Assistant Language Teachers) from Wisconsin. The CWA wishes to recruit staff to engage in public relations (PR) using social media to spread information about these activities. If you are interested, please contact us through the means below.

TEL: 043-223-2394 (International Affairs Division, Policy and Planning Department, Chiba Prefecture)

E-mail: kokusaig2@mz.pref.chiba.lg.jp

FY 2020 Board of Directors Meeting

- Tuesday, May 19th Hotel Port Plaza Chiba

FY 2020 Annual General Meeting and Exchange

- Saturday, June 6th Hotel Plaza Nanohana
- General Meeting begins at 11:00
- Exchange begins at 12:00

Chiba Prefectural Citizen's Day Central Event

Exhibit at Prefectural Citizen's Day Chiba Wakuwaku Festival 2020

- Sunday, May 31st Makuhari Messe International Exhibition Hall 8
- 9:30-17:00

A Snapshot of the Working Group Meetings Held Before the Monthly Steering Committee Meeting



Publicity Working Group



Exchange Program Planning Group



Delegation Planning Group

Editor's Note

This issue of CWA NEWS is primarily focused on the 2019 Chiba Goodwill Delegation's activities in Wisconsin. The Delegation Members discussed the valuable experiences they gained through exchanges in the State of Wisconsin as well as their feelings of gratitude to the people they met there. Moving forward, the CWA will continue to work hard to ensure that even more citizens of Chiba Prefecture can gain wonderful experiences like these in the future.

Published by the Chiba-Wisconsin Association

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