

Wisconsin Today —An On-site Report—

COVID-19: a global pandemic. We can see many effects of the pandemic around us, but how about our sister state, Wisconsin? Steering Committee Member Patrick Grimes interviewed his parents, a friend who owns a small dairy farm, and former ALTs regarding pandemic's effects in Wisconsin. The information has been summarized in the following report.

Wisconsin COVID-19 Summary Statistics (As of September 7th, 2020)

Testing Data Total: 1,308,553

Positive: 81,760 Negative: 1,226,793

Confirmed Case Information

Recovered: 72,478 (88.7%)

Active: 8,096 (9.9%)

Deaths: 1,168 (1.4%)

* For more details, see: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/data.htm>

◇ Pedestrian Traffic in Urban Areas & Restaurants

- Wisconsin is a region where people traditionally move around by car, but the number of people walking the streets has decreased, not just in larger cities like Milwaukee and Madison, but smaller cities like Green Bay and Appleton.
- The number of customers eating at restaurants has decreased, seating capacity is often limited, and many restaurants try to seat customers as far apart from one another as possible. Some restaurants have even set up additional outdoor seating (in parking lots, etc.) and asked customers to eat outside.
- The use of drive-thrus and curbside pickup (ordering food online in advance, and then picking it up at the curb) from restaurants has increased, with some people eating the food in their cars in the restaurant's parking lot. The number of people using delivery services has also increased.

◇ Work

- It depends on the job, but more places have their employees telework (completely work from home) than Japan.
- People who work at supermarkets and hospitals are forced to do lots of overtime, while the number of people being laid off continues to increase.
- Smaller businesses and non-profit organizations are receiving some economic relief from the federal government.

◇ School

- Statewide school closures began in March. Since the U.S. school year starts in fall, all students will move up to the next grade in September.
- School districts in cities with larger populations, such as Milwaukee and Madison, have already decided to move the fall semester online. School

CWA Newsletter No. 47

September 23, 2020 (original Japanese version)

districts with smaller populations are considering having classes in-person.

- The University of Wisconsin will hold larger lectures online while smaller discussion classes will be held in the classroom.

※As senior high school is considered compulsory education in the U.S., there is no entrance exam for high school. For the most part, university entrance exams were already held in fall and winter, finishing before the pandemic reached the U.S. However, universities are debating how to proceed with entrance exams for the 2021 school year.

◇Sports, Concerts, and Other Events

- The MLB (professional baseball)'s Milwaukee Brewers will play a shortened season of sixty games. For the foreseeable future, they will play without fans, with the games only being televised. The NBA (professional basketball)'s Milwaukee Bucks will take similar measures.
- The NFL (professional football)'s Green Bay Packers are currently undecided, but they will likely play with no or few fans.
- Large-scale concerts like Summer Fest have been cancelled. Other small-scale concerts have been cancelled as well.

◇Other

- Governor Evers declared a Public Health Emergency and issued an Emergency Order requiring all individuals over the age of five to wear face coverings (something that covers both the nose and mouth) when indoors and not in a private residence. Intentional violations are enforceable through a civil fine up to \$200, with some people already being fined.
- Coronavirus Economic Impact Payments are not paid through the State Government, but directly by the Federal Government (IRS) to each individual, for an amount of up to \$1,200 (approximately 127,000 yen).



Former employees protest outside of the café where they used to be employed demanding compensation after being suddenly laid off (in Milwaukee)

Messages from Departed ALTs

We would like to introduce messages we received from the eight ALTs who departed this year. We hope that the ALTs will be able to take the valuable experiences that they gained in Chiba Prefecture through the Chiba-Wisconsin ALT Program and apply them in their lives going forward.



Lucas Young (Prefectural Chiba Higashi High School)

I've stayed with the Chiba-Wisconsin Program to the max: five years. A great part of my reason to have stayed so long was because of all of you wonderful people who are or were part of the Association. Whether you were a Chiba-Wisconsin Association member, an ALT, or in one way or another involved with anything to do with this program, I sincerely thank you for everything. I truly felt welcome in Chiba and could enjoy my time here. I'll never forget my time here on this program, and wherever I end up next, I know I'll be taking a part of Chiba with me.



Welcome Party for New ALTs (September 2nd, 2018)



Shelli Rodgers (Prefectural Kashiwai High School)

During my 4 years at Kashiwai High School, I was able to learn so much from my teachers and students. Thanks to them, I was able to become a more experienced teacher. I'd like to bring what I learned here back to my hometown, so that I can benefit the students here as well. I had a wonderful experience, and I'm so grateful to have had the opportunity to be a part of the Chiba-WI program. Thank you so much.

CWA Newsletter No. 47

September 23, 2020 (original Japanese version)



Paula Green (Prefectural Nagareyama Otakanomori High School)

I learned so much from my experiences teaching at Nagareyama Otakanomori High School. Teaching students was not something I knew I would enjoy when I took this position, but it very quickly became the reason I got up in the morning. It is so rare to have a job and a community that makes you feel cared for and valued the way I have felt on this program. The time I spent as a Chiba-WI ALT will always be precious for me. Thank you again and again for a transformative three years.



Andrea Ewald (Prefectural Matsudo Kokusai High School)

During my time at Matsudo Kokusai High School, I learned a lot about myself and about being a team player. This year has changed me for the better and I wouldn't trade my experience for anything. I want to thank everyone involved in the Chiba-Wisconsin Program for helping me on my journey and for giving me the opportunity of a lifetime. Thank you!



Food Culture Collaboration (November 17th, 2019)



Tina Brown (Prefectural Matsuo, Matsudo Kokusai High Schools)

I spent almost 3 years as a Chiba-Wisconsin ALT and was fortunate to work at Matsuo High School and Matsudo Kokusai High School. I attended CWA events and enjoyed spending time with many interesting people. I hope to continue attending sister-state events because I will continue to live in Japan. The next chapter of my life has begun at Kanda University of International Studies. I am so grateful I can enter this new job with the experiences I gained from the Chiba-Wisconsin Program. I look forward to seeing some of you again! Thank you so much!

CWA Newsletter No. 47

September 23, 2020 (original Japanese version)



International Festa CHIBA (May 19th, 2019)



Natalie Stoeckel (Isumi Municipal Board of Education)

Going on three years ago, I arrived in Isumi, Japan. When I came to Japan, I was expecting to see cityscapes. However, Isumi was a pleasant surprise. I'm from Mayville, Wisconsin, also a very small town. Mayville's neighboring town, Horicon, is home to the largest freshwater marsh in the world. Many bird watchers and wildlife researchers come from all over the world to the marsh. From Wisconsin to Isumi, I traded marshlands for fantastic ocean views and beautiful beaches. I have also been able to eat many delicious foods and fruits from Isumi's famous seafood market and many pear fields.



Callie Leone (Kamagaya Municipal Board of Education)

For the last two years, I have enjoyed teaching at Kamagaya 4th Municipal JHS. I've done many exciting things in this time, but among my fondest memories will doubtless be the time I got to spend with the many wonderful people affiliated with the CWA. I cannot express the depth of my gratitude for the support and kindness I have received over the last two years. Chiba will always be my second home, and I hope to maintain this connection when I return to America. There may be dark times ahead of us, but I know that with open hearts, generosity, and compassion that transcend borders and nationality, we will overcome this together. Thank you!

CWA Newsletter No. 47

September 23, 2020 (original Japanese version)



Rose Yeazel (Prefectural Narita Kokusai High School)

I want to thank everyone at the CWA for your support over the past four years. This experience has been even better than I imagined it would be when I joined the program. I am sad to be leaving Japan, but I know that I will carry the lessons that I've learned and the friendships I've made with me no matter where I go. Thank you very much.



Food Culture Collaboration (January 1st, 2018)

FY 2020 Activities Plan

[Activities Policy]

Based on the activity results up to the last fiscal year, we will continue to strive to further expand activities in all fields so that even more people are aware of the charm of Wisconsin. Furthermore, in order to abide by infection prevention measures taken by national and local governments, we will make appropriate changes to our activities as deemed necessary.

[Activities Contents]

1 Regular Meetings

- Board of Directors Meeting and Annual General Meeting (held once a year)
*held on paper only due to COVID-19 pandemic
- As a rule, the Steering Committee meets on the second Saturday of every month, with each Planning Group convening prior to the meeting.

2 Planning and Management of Exchange Activities with Wisconsin

Reception of Wisconsin Goodwill Delegation

- Hosting Period: Postponed to 2021 (due to the COVID-19 pandemic)
- Number of Delegation Members: approximately 20

3 Exchange Activities for Members, Etc.

- Members Exchange Event & Farewell Party
⇒ Cancelled (due to the COVID-19 pandemic)
- Welcome Party for New ALTs (to be held in conjunction with Food Culture Collaboration)
⇒ Under consideration (due to the COVID-19 pandemic)

4 Public Relations Projects Regarding CWA Activities and Wisconsin

- CWA NEWS (published three times a year)
- Providing a variety of information on the CWA homepage
- Participation in events and gathering of information

CWA Newsletter No. 47

September 23, 2020 (original Japanese version)

FY 2020 Revenue · Expenditure Budget**Revenue**

Units: 1,000 yen

Item	FY 2020 (A)	FY 2019 (B)	A-B	Comment
Membership Fees	630	599	31	
Subsidy	628	1,150	△522	
• Subsidy from Chiba Prefectural Government for administrative expenses	150	150	0	
• Subsidy from Chiba Prefectural Government for business expenses	478	1,000	△522	
Participation Fees of Exchange Activities, etc.	30	2,135	△2,105	Food Culture Collaboration
Carryover	1,821	1,567	254	
Total	3,109	5,451	△2,342	

Expenditures

Units: 1,000 yen

Item	FY 2020 (A)	FY 2019 (B)	A-B	Comment
Operating Expenses	285	285	0	Printing, disposable expenses, etc.
Activities Expenses	518	4,682	△4,164	
• Meetings	0	150	△150	Board of Directors, General Meeting
• Dispatch and Acceptance of Goodwill Delegations	0	3,760	△3,760	Goodwill Delegation Dispatch to Wisconsin
• Member Exchanges	40	255	△215	Exchange Activities
• Public Relations	478	517	△39	Publication of CWA NEWS
Reserve Funds	2,306	484	1,822	
Total	3,109	5,451	△2,342	

**FY 2020 Board of Directors and Steering Committee Members of the
Chiba-Wisconsin Association (as of August 1st, 2020)
[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	Minoru Ito	President, Chiba Convention Bureau and International Center
Director	Izumi Shinoduka	President, Chiba Television Broadcasting Corporation
	Hiroyuki Ito	Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology, Tokyo University of Science
	Kotaro Nakamura	Executive Director, Policy and Planning Department Chiba Prefectural Government
	Makoto Iwayama	President, Chiba Economic Council
	Nobuo Kojima	President, Chiba Prefectural Employer's Association
	Hiroyuki Shinoda	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	Junichi Haokabe	President, Chiba Industry Advancement Center
	Taku Sato	Chief Director, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) Chiba

CWA Newsletter No. 47

September 23, 2020 (original Japanese version)

[Steering Committee]

Delegation Planning Group

Noboru Mimura (Advisor)

Shigeo Moriyama (Chairperson of Steering Committee)

❖ Yasuko Aoki (Secretary General)

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 Chairperson of Steering Committee)

Patrick Grimes

Secretariat

Masahiro Ishida

Tomoko Ogawa

❖ *(Indicates Group Head)*

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

PR Staff: Naomi Sakakida,

[Editor's Note]

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CWA was affected adversely in a number of ways, including being forced to cancel or postpone a number of events. Despite the pandemic, the Steering Committee continues to hold monthly online meetings and other activities, making an effort to resume normal exchange activities in the upcoming year. Furthermore, we hope that the ongoing protests and violence stemming from the shooting of a black man by a police officer in Wisconsin will be resolved a moment sooner.

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<http://chiba-wisconsin.net/>

〒261-7114 14F Marive East WBG, 2-6 Nakase, Mihama-ku, Chiba City

Chiba Convention Bureau and International Center

TEL: 043-223-2394 (International Affairs Division, Chiba Prefectural Government)