

Wisconsin Today —An On-Site Report—

In CWA NEWS No. 47, issued in September 2020, we reported on the various effects of the coronavirus in Wisconsin. This year, Patrick Grimes, who was a member of the CWA Steering Committee until this June, has provided a report on the current situation.

Wisconsin Covid-19 Summary Statistics (as of September 10, 2021)

Deaths: 7,740

Rates of Vaccination (as a percentage of the population)

One shot: 55.5%

Fully vaccinated: 52.2%

*For more details, see:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/data.htm>

◇ Pedestrian Traffic in Urban Areas and Restaurants

- Traffic is returning to its usual volume. Gasoline prices are also rising.
- The amount of people dining in restaurants is increasing, but there are still many establishments which limit the number of diners or which only offer take-out.
- Mask use in stores and restaurants is now optional for those who are fully vaccinated, but certificates of vaccination are not required. However, because of the explosive spread of the Delta variant, some stores are re-establishing mask requirements.

◇ Work

- Although some companies continue to allow telework, most are now requiring in-person attendance.
- Most places are offering recruiting incentives. However, many positions remain unfilled due to the low salaries for the high risk involved.
- The number of companies requiring employee vaccination is increasing.

◇ School

- With the start of the fall semester, all school districts are planning to re-start in-person classes. Students who contract Covid-19 will be sent home to participate in classes remotely.
- The CDC requires that students wear masks regardless of vaccination. Currently, children 12 and up are able to receive the vaccine.
- The University of Wisconsin is requiring masks regardless of vaccination, and is also promoting vaccination. Private universities such as Marquette University are requiring vaccination.

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◇ Sports, Concerts, and Other Events

- All professional sports matches in 2021, including baseball, basketball, and football, are planned to be held in person.
- Regardless of vaccination, athletes are being required to regularly take PCR tests.
- Large concerts and events such as Summerfest and the State Fair have resumed. In order to enter, either a vaccination certificate or a negative test result within 72 hours is required.

◇ Other

- Vaccines are freely available to all citizens over the age of 12. However, the rate of vaccination has not increased much.
- Although the CDC is pushing for mandatory mask use within areas of rapid infection, mask use is not currently required in Wisconsin or within individual counties.
- Coronavirus Economic Impact Payments were paid by the U.S. government, not through the state government, to each individual in three flat payments totaling \$3,200 (not including unemployment benefits).



At the supermarket, many wear masks, and glass shields have been installed

Messages from Departed ALTs

We would like to introduce messages we received from the four 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.



Amanda MacDonald (Prefectural Kimitsu High School)

For almost 3 years now I have been teaching at Kimitsu High School. While I enjoyed many aspects of my stay in Chiba, going through the pandemic made me realize how much I value the connections I have made here. Some of my favorite moments outside of school have been thanks to groups like CWA, my local international society, and the cat shelter I volunteered at (Kimitsu Neko Ranger). Being able to take part in these helped me to feel connected to Chiba and deepened my understanding of different communities. I truly appreciate the brief time that I was able to spend with everyone. Although I am moving on from the program as I am staying to work in Japan I hope to be able to meet you all again someday. Thank you!



International Festa CHIBA (May 19th, 2019)



Maximilian Gumble (Prefectural Toke High School, Prefectural Chishirodai High School)

Although I am not leaving Japan, nor really leaving the Chiba-Wisconsin Program, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who made my time as an ALT great. First, of course, are my coworkers at Toke High School, who helped me to adjust to being a

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teacher when I arrived fresh out of college with no experience. I would also like to thank my local Asumigaoka International Friendship Society for helping me to meet people from my community and for giving me all kinds of interesting volunteer opportunities. Of course, I would also like to give my thanks to the Chiba Wisconsin Association, who have been endlessly kind and helpful. I am very excited to be working together with them going forward. Last, I would like to thank all of the wonderful friends that I've made throughout my time as an ALT. Whether they are staying in Japan or moving on to pursue other things, I wish them all the best.

As I write this now from my desk in the Prefectural Office, it still doesn't seem quite real that my life as an ALT is over. I will miss teaching classes and talking with students, but I am excited at the opportunities that my new position as the ALT Program Coordinator will bring. The connection between Chiba and Wisconsin is very important to me, and I am happy that I can be a part of its future through heading the ALT Program. To everyone departing Japan, best of luck, and to everyone staying behind, I'm looking forward to working with you!



Food Culture Collaboration (November 17th, 2019)



Evelyn Ewald (Prefectural Awa High School, Nagasa High School)

I have been with the Wisconsin-Chiba ALT program for three years. During that time, I have grown as a person and learned so much about what it means to be a teacher. My students have given me so much joy and make me laugh even on difficult days. I knew very little about Chiba before I came here, but I discovered that it's a prefecture with many hidden treasures. Tateyama is one of them and I have been very blessed to call it my home these last three years. I will miss the beaches, sunsets, and the beauty of Tateyama and its kind people. I am immensely grateful for this experience and wouldn't trade it for anything. I would like to thank both of my schools, Awa High School, in Tateyama, and Nagasa High School, in Kamogawa, as well as the Wisconsin-Chiba ALT program for this incredible

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opportunity. I will be moving back to Wisconsin for now to pursue other dreams, but I hope we all meet again someday! Thank you so much!



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



Patrick Grimes (Prefectural Awa High School, Nagasa High School
Prefectural Board of Education, ALT Program Coordinator)

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to borrow this space to share a greeting. 8 years really flew by. Thank you very much for all of your support during my 5 years as an ALT at Prefectural Awa High School and Nagasa High School, as well as my 3 years as the ALT Program Coordinator at the Prefectural Board of Education and CWA Steering Committee Member. Especially, thank you for the last 3 years I spent living in Chiba City. The two events that stick in my memory are the Exchange Party following the CWA General Meeting two years ago, along with Wisconsin Governor Ever's visit to Chiba. I met many CWA Board Members and General Members for the first time at the Exchange Party following the General Meeting. The best part of that party was being able to enjoy my favorite Japanese word, "*nommunication*," (lit. "drinking while communicating") with all of you. Also, being able to serve as a representative and interpreter for the CWA when the Governor of my home state visited Chiba was an invaluable experience. It made me really feel that I, too, was able to become a bridge between Chiba and Wisconsin, just like the CWA.

Unfortunately, many events were cancelled or postponed these past two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, there were many people who I could not meet before returning to Wisconsin, and I feel very sad about that. However, even though I had to return to Wisconsin for the near future to take care of my parents, this is not a final "farewell." When the COVID-19 situation settles down, I will definitely be returning to Japan. Moreover, I want to continue to lend my support to future exchanges between Chiba and Wisconsin. On

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a side note, my home is very close to Milwaukee General Mitchell Airport, so if you happen to be nearby, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you again for everything. I am really looking forward to seeing all of you again in the near future.



The Steering Committee (June 12th, 2021)

FY 2021 Activities Plan

[Activities Policy]

Based on the results of the previous fiscal year, we will further enhance the content of our activities in all fields so that even more people can learn about the charms of Wisconsin. In addition, we will take appropriate measures, such as changing the content of activities, while keeping an eye on trends in the government's measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19. We will also consider the possibility of new activities utilizing new platforms such as the internet, and implement them as needed.

[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 2022 (due to the COVID-19 pandemic)
- Number of Delegation Members: approximately 20

Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the Sister-State
⇒ Under consideration (due to the COVID-19 pandemic)

3 Exchange Activities for Members, Etc.

- Members Exchange Event & Farewell Party
⇒ Cancelled (due to the COVID-19 pandemic)
- Welcome Party for New ALTs
⇒ Under consideration (due to the COVID-19 pandemic)
- 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

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FY 2020 Revenue · Expenditure Budget**Revenue**

Units: 1,000 yen

Item	FY 2021 (A)	FY 2020 (B)	A-B	Comment
Membership Fees	614	630	△16	
Subsidy	1,150	628	522	
• Subsidy from Chiba Prefectural Government for administrative expenses	150	150	0	
• Subsidy from Chiba Prefectural Government for business expenses	1,000	478	522	
Participation Fees of Exchange Activities, etc.	255	30	225	Food Culture Collaboration
Carryover	2,424	1,821	603	
Total	4,443	3,109	1,334	

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	2783	518	2,265	
• Meetings	150	0	150	Board of Directors, General Meeting
• Dispatch and Acceptance of Goodwill Delegations	1,900	0	1,900	Goodwill Delegation Acceptance from Wisconsin
• Member Exchanges	255	40	215	Exchange Activities
• Public Relations	478	478	0	Publication of CWA NEWS
Reserve Funds	1,375	2,306	△931	
Total	4,443	3,109	1,334.	

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**FY 2021 Board of Directors and Steering Committee Members of the
Chiba-Wisconsin Association (as of August 1st, 2021)
[Board Members]**

Title	Name	Affiliation
Special Advisor	Toshihito Kumagai	Governor, Chiba Prefecture
Advisor	Takao Hasegawa	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
	Yasuhiro Shida	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
	Koji Yamaguchi	Executive Director, Policy and Planning Department Chiba Prefectural Government
	Mamoru Suda	President, Chiba Economic Council
	Norio Saegusa	President, Chiba Prefectural Employer's Association
	Hiroyuki Sagawa	Professor, University of Tokyo
	Hidetoshi Sakuma	Chief Secretary, Chiba Association of Corporate Executives
	Ichiro Tatsuno	Chancellor, Chiba Prefectural University of Health Sciences
	Toshinori Nakayama	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

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[Steering Committee]

Delegation Planning Group

Kazuo Shimizu (Advisor)

Shigeo Moriyama (Chairperson of Steering Committee)

❖ Yasuko Aoki (Secretary General)

Tetsuji Ogawa

Tadao Ando

Akio Asanuma

Kenzi Saso

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)

Max Gumble

Secretariat

Masahiro Ishida

Kei Takaya

❖ *(Indicates Group Head)*

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

PR Staff: Naomi Sakakida,

[Editor's Note]

The CWA has been holding online meetings to discuss what kinds of activities will be possible under the pandemic. We are continuing to examine what we can do, in spite of the ongoing restrictions, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of our sister-state relationship, which has been carried over from last year.

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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)