

A Manitowoc International Relations Association (MIRA) meeting was held 11/14/2018 in the Planning/Engineering room at City Hall, 900 Quay Street Manitowoc, Wisconsin

In attendance were Cindy Kaesermann, Lori Denk, Kay Larson, Jim Larson, Scott McMeans, Tina Prigge, Debbie Gainey & Eric Sitkiewitz.

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM by Cindy Kaesermann.

Everything went well for the Manitowoc delegation that went to Kamogawa from October 17-25 for the 25th anniversary of the sister-city relationship. Tina will be checking into setting up a private group on Shutterfly or Google Docs for members to be able to share photos from the trip.

Cindy has compiled a short survey to be sent out to the delegation rating some items from the trip, from general (overall view of the trip) to specifics (activities & food selections). Responses will help both Kamogawa and Manitowoc with future delegation trips. Scott is looking into the best way to send out the survey.

The dates for the 2019 SEP student exchange have been set: Manitowoc students leave July 21 and return July 30 with the Kamogawa students who will be in Manitowoc until August 9. This program needs to be heavily promoted to generate interest and applications. Past students or MIRA members may be able to give presentations at schools or another location to generate interest. The brochures will be printed and distributed. There will be a SEP committee meeting in the near future.

A delegation from Kamogawa is planning to visit Manitowoc in 2023 for the 30th sister-city anniversary. MIRA would like to do something between now and 2023 to keep the sister-city relationship active, possibly a small delegation of SEP parents going to Kamogawa or something else.

The art exchange and library exchange are going well. Kamogawa displays the Manitowoc youth art in November. The Kamogawa youth art is displayed at the Rahr-West museum during Youth Art Month in March. Three books were given to Kamogawa (Scott presented the books to them) and in turn Manitowoc received two books for our library.

The pen pal program is on hold for this year but efforts will be made to revive it for next year. A few of the teachers in the public school system who helped with the program have retired and we will be reaching out to others.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.