

MANITOWOC INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ASSOCIATION
MEETING VIA ZOOM JANUARY 25, 2022

IN ATTENDANCE: Tina Prigge(MIRA President), Lori Denk(MIRA Secretary), Michael Cummings(Manitowoc City Alderman), Bob LeClair, Sirin Avci

ZOOM MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM.

PENPAL LETTER EXCHANGE: Manitowoc and Kamogawa have done penpal letter exchanges in the past with various elementary schools. It was agreed that we would like to see this program continue. Although the teachers who worked with this in the past are no longer there, we will find others with interest. The letters are collected by the teachers and Tina picks them up to mail to Kamogawa. Michael will reach out to a contact who is connected to multiple schools.

STUDENT ART EXCHANGE: It was also agreed to keep this exchange although the art from Kamogawa is displayed for Youth Art Month at the Rahr-West Museum which is coming up in March. It may be too late for this year but will see what kind of timeline works for Kamogawa to have art sent between cities. When Michael contacts the school, he will see if any art teachers are interested.

ONLINE MEETING BETWEEN THE MAYORS: Tina will verify with Mayor Nickels and will have an online meeting set up between Mayor Nickels of Manitowoc and Mayor Hasegawa of Kamogawa.

SECRET SANTA: The first Secret Santa gift exchange between MIRA and KIRA was a success. A group of 10 people from Manitowoc sent a gift of \$10 weighing 1lb or less to Kamogawa and they did the same. It was agreed to do this again in December 2022, possibly expanding the number of participants but keeping it limited to active MIRA committee members and active participants.

ONLINE EXCHANGE BETWEEN CITIZENS: In late 2021, Tina Prigge, Cindy Kaesermann, and Sirin Avci, took photos of places and things in Manitowoc that were new since the Kamogawa citizens have visited—like the new fountain and some new downtown businesses. They broke into Zoom chats with Kamogawa citizens. It went well and will be done again in 2022 including more MIRA committee members.

RAHR-WEST ART MUSEUM: With the Rahr-West Museum remodeling, they will no longer have a dedicated Kamogawa room. The items are considered on loan from the mayor's office. This includes the large items that were on display and also many small items like fans. A few paintings are part of the museum's collection but a place needs to be found for the Kamogawa items. Suggested places for display were City Hall or possibly the Manitowoc Public Library.

Other items discussed were putting a link to MIRA on the City of Manitowoc website, and reaching out to Kamogawa about the 30th sister-city anniversary in 2023 and their visiting delegation. Bob suggested designing a 30th anniversary pin.

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:40 PM

