

MANITOWOC INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ASSOCIATION  
MEETING OCTOBER 12, 2022 AT VAGABOND CREATIVE  
STUDIO 621 YORK STREET MANITOWOC WI 54220

IN ATTENDANCE: MIRA President Tina Prigge, Lori Denk, MIRA Secretary, Cindy Kaesermann, Andy Kaesermann, Bob LeClair, Kelly Meyer, April Meyer, Kay Larson

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:30 PM.

Andy Kaesermann, a Manitowoc native who recently returned from 6 years in Kamogawa, presented the MIRA committee with a slide show of his time in Japan first as an English teacher, then working at Kamogawa city hall as part of the JET program, with the arrival of the 2018 Manitowoc citizen delegation among his first tasks. He showed photos of life in Kamogawa ranging from student lunches to KIRA activities which included some familiar faces to MIRA.

MIRA had a float in a prior Lakeshore Holiday Parade so it was discussed for 2022. Most MIRA members are either unavailable or are participating in the parade with other groups so won't be participating in 2022. Some ideas were discussed for future parades.

November 4, 2022 at 6:00PM Manitowoc time there will be an online exchange hosted by Kamogawa. After Tina and a few others successfully hosted this last year, it is expanded to a few more participants this year.

It was agreed to have the secret Santa exchange with Kamogawa again this year. Gifts of \$10 and weighing less than a pound will be mailed out in early December. Last year we limited it to 10 participants. This year we will try to include a city council or tourism representative. Tina will reach out to KIRA for a participant number.

2023 is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sister-city relationship. Tina will contact city hall to confirm we will welcome a KIRA delegation and then contact Kamogawa before going ahead and planning activities. The best times we suggest they visit is between July and September as there is usually good weather and many city activities to show them.

Going forward, we need to think of ways to keep interest in the sister-city relationship and possibly sparking interest in the Manitowoc youth. MIRA is still trying to continue the penpal exchange and an idea of having a Manga author visit the library or having an event where the youth can dress in cosplay or anime costumes.

MIRA will have more frequent meetings and the next meeting scheduled is November 16, 2022

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:45 PM

