

**MINUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD
OCTOBER 23, 2019
10 A.M.**

Members Present: Beth Partington, Vice Chair, Laverne Baker, Nan Harper

Members Absent: Doug Trelfa, Chair, Jena Melancon

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Partington. A quorum was established.
2. Approval of Minutes—September 25, 2019

Motion made by member Baker, seconded by Member Harper to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2019 meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

3. Sister City Updates
 - a) Gero, Japan
No update given.
 - b) Macharaviaya and Borobia, Spain
Member Harper reported that a group from Pensacola will be going to Macaraviaya and Malaga, Spain leaving on November 20th or 21st. The DAR, the SAR, and the Granaderos y Damas de Galvez in Texas (Houston and San Antonio) will be presented an award in Spain on November 22 in honor of the educational programs they present. That group traditionally gives reenactments, going into schools in their uniforms, giving talks, etc. on Galvez. The delegation from Pensacola is going in support. While there, they hope to visit with the Mayor of Borobia.
 - c) Other Pensacola Sister Cities
Isla Mujeres, Mexico—Member Harper indicated that a diplomatic group including Tom Pace, Lisa Dunbar and John Mathews from Pensacola Yacht Club are looking at ways to broaden this relationship, exploring the possibility of having some of the children from Isla Mujeres come here for sailing lessons during the summer or possibly attending the Flight Academy.

Member Harper also provided an update on the group exploring establishing a sister city relationship with Vicenza, Italy. A representative from that group will be spending 3 months in Vicenza and hopes that several people from Pensacola can go during that timeframe to make more personal relationships, to explore as an economic development possibility.

4. Bernardo de Galvez Activities
 - a) National Meeting Granaderos y Damas de Galvez, New Orleans
November 15 – 17, 2019
 - b) Granaderos y Damas de Galvez National Office Recognition

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Member Harper indicated that there are 40 people signed up to attend the National meeting in New Orleans. A large number of individuals from Pensacola will be in attendance. As the local Governor of the Granaderos y Damas de Galvez, she has arranged for honorary plaques to be given to eleven Pensacolians who helped with the building of the Galvez Statute in Pensacola.

c) DAR and Granaderos y Damas de Galvez Premio in Malaga
November 24, 2019

The Granaderos y Damas de Galvez in Galveston, Texas have also formed a sister city relationship with Macharaviaya, Spain.

d) Sister Cities International Galvez Essay Contest

Update on the Galvez Essay Contest was provided by Vice Chair Partington. Because of the feedback received from the local school district, the submittal deadline was changed to December. However, the Pensacola Beach School advised that this change does not line up with their curriculum schedule and they may not be able to participate. There has been little interest from local 4th and 5th grade classes in the public school system as well as the Creative Learning Academy. Sacred Heart Catholic School has generated the most essays. The packet of information about the essay contest has been forwarded from the school district to all of the social studies classes. Also suggestions were made to possibly expand the contest to school mentoring programs as well as Big Brothers and Big Sisters and posting the contest information at the local libraries to reach homeschooled children.

5. Updates—Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council

No update given. Member Melancon was unable to attend the meeting. However, Vice Chair Partington did mention that her daughter was a member of the Youth Diplomats and that the program offers a lot of great leadership opportunities and opportunities to study abroad. It is very competitive.

6. New Business

a) Possibility of Grassroots Summit 2022

Member Baker provided information concerning the possibility of Pensacola being considered as a site to hold either the 2022 or 2024 week long conference sponsored by a non profit organization under the National Japan America Society. They hold the Summit in the United States in the even years with the Summit taking place in Japan in the odd years. The sites under consideration are Pensacola, Mobile, and Nashville. The Summit will bring about 300 people to Pensacola. They do home stays, have a keynote speaker, and at the end of the Summit, the National Japan America Society holds its annual meeting. She plans to meet with Nicole Stacy at Visit Pensacola to see what would be involved in hosting this type

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event in Pensacola. One of the biggest responsibilities would be getting host families for the 300 people, ranging in age from middle school to 60 years old, coming to Pensacola and developing regional activities for the participants to explore within a 100 mile radius. A suggestion was made by Member Harper to possibly look at connecting it during the same time that JUMP takes place at NAS Pensacola. That group could be a source to help with the host families.

b) November Meeting Rescheduled—November 20, 2019

Member Harper indicated that she would be unable to attend the November meeting. She will be in Spain.

7. Open Forum

There were no public speakers.

Member Harper shared a copy of *Lost in Heaven*, written by Dr. Leo F. Murphy who was a recent speaker at the Freedom Foundation event. His book is about James R. Polkinghorne, Jr., USAAF from Pensacola who was an early black aviator and chronicles the history of the Tuskegee Airmen. He challenged Pensacola to build a statute in tribute to him. Some of his family members still live in Pensacola. She is going to approach Robin Reshard to see if she may be interested in pursuing. A suggestion was also made to contact Lusharon Wiley.

8. Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.