

**MINUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD
MAY 22, 2019
10 A.M.**

Members Present: Vice Chair Beth Partington, Laverne Baker, Jena Melancon
Nan Harper (arrived late)

Members Absent: Doug Trelfa

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Partington. A quorum was established.
2. Approval of Minutes—March 27, 2019 and April 24, 2019

Motion made by Member Baker, seconded by Member Melancon to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2019 and April 24, 2019 meetings. The motion was unanimously carried. (Member Harper not present for vote.)

3. Sister City Updates
 - a) Gero, Japan—No update given
 - b) Macharaviaya and Borobia, Spain
Member Harper reported that Mayor elections were occurring in both cities. Therefore, neither Mayor would be available to participate in activities planned for the Fiesta of Five Flags. A small delegation, including Maria Davis and her son, Lipo will be going to Spain in July and will attend the Gálvez celebration with the Mayor of Macharaviaya on July 4. Hopefully, Mayor Prado will be able to attend the ceremony in Macharaviaya. Both Mayors have developed a good relationship and hope to be able to come to Pensacola next year.
 - c) Pensacola Sister Cities
Member Harper reported that Pensacola Sister Cities, the Pensacola Heritage Foundation, the Granaderos de Gálvez, and members of the Daughters of the American Revolution are collaboratively working together on the National Gálvez celebration to be held in New Orleans on November 15 at the Maria Hotel in the French Quarter.
4. Report on Gálvez Day Activities—May 8, 2019
Member Harper reported on the successful Gálvez Day ceremony, sponsored by Pensacola Sister Cities and the Pensacola Heritage Foundation. She expressed thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Jill Robinson for her hard work on the event, getting the street closed and supplying chairs and the students at Episcopal Day School for their active participation in the event. One of the students played a noted Spanish song on his guitar. Other students sang solos and Benson Ho, a first generation Chinese student

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from Sacred Heart Cathedral School, winner of the Gálvez Essay Contest, read his winning essay and was presented a \$100 check. He in turn presented the check to the Pensacola Heritage Foundation in order to purchase a brick paver with his name on it at the Gálvez Monument. Following the ceremony, the adults present attended a luncheon at Polonza's Bistro.

5. Updates—Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council

a) Annual Meeting—May 22, 2019

The annual meeting of the Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council is this evening, starting at 6 p.m. Member Melancon indicated that several of the Board members will be rotating off the Board and will be presented certificates of appreciation from the State Department.

b) Youth Programming for Department of State Program in July

Member Melancon updated the Board on the Student Youth Diplomat visit to Washington, DC. Twenty two students competed to participate in this event. Five students were selected, however one is unable to attend. She will be taking four high school students to Washington June 19 - 21. They will visit the Department of State, the Capitol, the Meridian International Center and network with other students from the Chicago Youth Diplomats program. A Department of State Youth Ambassadors group from El Salvador will be in Washington while they are there and depending on their schedule and availability may be able to meet. This year instead of using a transportation company, they will utilize the Metro system. Meals are planned at different international places, so the students can experience international foods. This program provides opportunities for students to learn leadership, explore international programs and career opportunities offered at colleges and establishes global friendships.

Member Baker suggested looking into exploring links with the Student Youth Diplomats and the Japan Center for possible student exchanges.

Also, Member Melancon reported July 18 – August 1, the Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council will host a student delegation from Mexico and they are looking for local host families for the students. They have created activities for the students to participate in during the day. The host family would be responsible for transportation for the students to the activities.

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6. New Business:

Board discussed meeting schedule for summer months. **Motion made by Member Harper to suspend meetings for June, July and August unless an event comes up that requires a meeting. Member Baker seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.**

7. Open Forum: There were no speakers

8. Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.