

**MINUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2019  
10 A.M.**

**Members Present:** Doug Trelfa, Chair, Beth Partington, Vice Chair, Laverne Baker, Jena Melancon

**Members Absent:** Nan Harper

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Trelfa. A quorum was established.
2. Approval of Minutes—May 22, 2019

**Motion made by Member Baker, seconded by Vice Chair Partington to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2019 meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.**

***\*NOTE FOR THE RECORD—THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD DID NOT MEET IN JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST\****

3. Sister City Updates
  - a) Gero, Japan
    - Summer Visit to Gero

Chair Trelfa reported on the summer visit to Gero. Five students from UWF met with a Jikei group. They spent 8 days in Gero, Anthony Biondolillo arranged activities, school visits and tours for the participants. They met with the Mayor of Gero and expressed the importance of the relationship. Met with the Pensacola Friendship Society in Gero. It was an all around wonderful visit and anticipate going again next year. Hopefully the Brown Barge student group will be able to go next year. They were unable to go this year.

Member Baker expressed the importance of getting participation from middle schools, possibly seeing if students from Episcopal Day School or Creative Learning Center would be interested, since middle school exchanges are a primary focus of the student exchanges. Some scholarship funds will be offered by the Japan America Society.

UWF Student Exchange Program

Chair Trelfa indicated that UWF students will participate in Japan Student Exchange Program again next summer.

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Macharaviaya and Borobia, Spain

No update given. Member Harper was unable to attend the meeting.

b) Other Pensacola Sister Cities

No update given. Member Harper was unable to attend the meeting.

4. Bernardo de Galvez Activities

a) National Meeting Granaderos y Damas de Galvez, New Orleans

November 15 – 17, 2019

Member Baker indicated that there is a group from Pensacola going to the conference in New Orleans. Pensacola Sister Cities International is sponsoring rental of a room and plaques.

c) Granaderos y Damas de Galvez National Office Recognition

No update given.

c) DAR and Granaderos y Damas de Galvez Premio in Malaga

November 24, 2019

No update given.

d) Sister Cities International Galvez Essay Contest

Vice Chair Partington indicated information was being sent out to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Deadline for submittal of the essays would be in December.

5. Updates—Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council

a) Youth Diplomats

Member Melancon reported that at the Leadership Summit held this summer, two dozen students, including the student delegation from Mexico participated in 13 days of activities. The Youth Diplomats are now at capacity. They hope to recruit more students next year from Navarre and Santa Rosa County.

b) Open World and IVLP Programs

Member Melancon reported on the recent Open World Ukraine delegate visit as well as another Open World delegation coming from Russia in November. Also, they are working on four other projects involving international visitors that will take place in the next month or so.

6. New Business

Chair Trelfa reported that the University of West Florida just opened the Center for Asian Studies, an evolution of the Japan Program. It is an opportunity to expand into other parts of Asia, offering Chinese and Korean language. They will be holding an academic conference next year to get the faculty at UWF who have interest in Asia to present papers, to reach out to their network and bring in people

to the University of West Florida to talk about Asia, bring in graduate students from Asia. The Confucius Institute agreement was not renewed. They are looking at strengthening ties with Chinese speaking countries and are also engaging with Singapore, China, Taiwan. Japanese and Spanish are the only foreign languages offered for credit at UWF. Other languages are offered through on-line continuing education classes. Enrollments in most foreign languages across the United States are declining. Japanese and Korean are the only languages that are growing in enrollment at the post-secondary level.

Items 3 b), 3 c) and Item 4 will be carried over to the next meeting, which will be October 23, 2019.

The November meeting will fall on Wednesday, November 27, the day before Thanksgiving. **The November meeting will be changed to November 20.** The December meeting will be canceled, since it falls on Christmas Day.

7. Open Forum: There were no speakers.
8. Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.