



WVMSCA

FALL 2015

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **President's Message**
- **A Note From Misawa**
- **Fan Mail**
- **Editor's Note**
- **Membership Application**

Annual WVMSCA Meeting Minutes (greatly abbreviated)

Board Members elected until 2018;

LaVerne Bergstrom

Jeril Hansen

Tim Patrick

Treasurer: Deanna Walter
(assisted by Teresa Allen)

Other Current Board members:

David Kelts, President
Zach Davies,

Vice President

Teresa Allen, Secretary

Rosie Martin

Karen Breeden

Sandy McCourt

2015 Year End Accounts:

Main account: \$6157.27

Travel Account: \$9465.22

Memorial Fund: \$475.00

Next year's Trip:

August 12-21, 2016



By David Kelts
WVMSCA
President

Like Miss Veedol, Time Flies

Another year has almost come to an end, but it was another great year for our Wenatchee Valley Misawa Sister City Association.

We successfully hosted the Misawa Delegation in May, thanks to the many people in the valley who volunteered their time, talents, and homes. Comments by the 7 Misawa adults and 13 students included: "We could realize the strong relationships between Wenatchee Valley and Misawa", "I felt tears welling up in my eyes as I heard cheers of the Apple Blossom parade crowd",

"The kindness of the people was the most impressive thing", and "I had to stay up late and then get up early in the morning."

Our own Wenatchee Valley delegation of 26 members visited Misawa in August and agreed that the best part of the trip was time spent with Misawa host families. They also enjoyed the cultural activities and experiencing unique Misawa adventures.

A very touching part of this year was the generous, heartfelt Misawa response to the devastating fires in our area. We presented the NCW Community Foundation with a check for \$9422 from our Misawa friends.

Looking ahead, we are already planning the August 12-21, 2016 trip to Japan. Then we will be

hosting a delegation from Misawa during our Wings & Wheels celebration in October. We also have goals to increase contacts in area schools to promote the 85th anniversary of the Miss Veedol flight and the 35 years of our special sister city relationship. I hope there will be chances for many of you to participate in our 2016 plans.

To keep you well informed, we have our better, updated and expanded Wenatcheevalleymisawa.org web site and our Facebook page. Join us in keeping our close friendships alive and growing.



Trivia Quiz

1. There are over 5 million of these in Japan. A) Shrines B) Vending machines c) Robots D) Train routes
2. The oldest novel in the world was written in Japan. A) True b) False
3. What year was the instant ramen noodle invented? A) 1965 B) 1970 C) 1958 D) 1950
4. Japan has more active volcanoes than anywhere else in the world? A) True B) False
5. Osaka has the longest monorail in the world. A) True B) False
6. Approximately how many earthquakes does Japan experience each year? A) 100 B) 500 C) 1000 D) 1500

Digging Gobo Has Deepened Our Relationship by Rikako Hayashi *

At 6:00 p.m. on August 18, when the 26 members of Wenatchee Valley Goodwill Delegation led by East Wenatchee City Mayor Steve Lacy along with his wife, Mrs. Debra Lacy finally arrived at the banquet hall for the welcome reception, kindergarteners' lovely singing welcomed them and livened up the atmosphere for many people who had expected them hourly.

During the reception, Mayor Lacy, Mr. Edward Womack, Wenatchee Applarian Chancellor, and Apple Blossom Queen Gabby Waterman, Princess Anissa Sangster and Princess Francesca Nevil were presented the donations for the Sleepy Hollow Fire victims with the total of 1,146,263 yen (9,452.16 dollars). That was the moment that represented the strong relationship of our sister cities.

The delegates had many experiences while their stay in Misawa. Beside usual events such as visiting Sabishiro Beach and the U.S. Air Force base, learning Japanese culture at Misawa International Center and tasting BBQ and Mochi pounding at Mayor Taneichi's residence garden, they enjoyed novel experiences that we prepared this year: excursion to Kabushima Island and Tanesashi Coast in Hachinohe, which is part of Sanriku Fukko (reconstruction of the Sanriku coastal area from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami) National Park, exchanging with junior high school students in the northern area of Misawa, where the delegates tried origami (folding color papers), shu-ji (calligraphy), nagashi-somen (catch noodles flowing on water through a bamboo gutter and dip it in fish broth to eat) and suika-wari (a challenger puts bandage over their eyes and splits a watermelon with a long stick). Among such activities, digging gobo (root burdock) was the highlight of their visit to Misawa.

Some of the delegates delightedly dug gobo, and as soon as they got it from the ground, they bit and tasted it! We were pleased to see that they enjoyed a life in farming through digging gobo, which is Misawa's specialty.

We knew that many delegates had been looking forward to participating in the Misawa Festival Parade. "We want to go to the festival in spite of rain," said Mayor Lacy. Sad, the wet weather made the summer festival parade cancelled and spoiled their wish. But, looking at the bright side, the delegates could spend more time with their host families.

Thus, the six day long journey ended with a farewell ceremony at Misawa International Center in the morning on Sunday, August 23. The delegates and their host families had many hugs, took a lot of pictures and promised to keep in touch with each other.

Trying new things isn't easy for anybody. That may make you feel nervous and anxious but you never know what you can do until you try it. For the 26 delegates, their challenge for new things such as Japanese foods, instruments, cultural experience and language as well as their open minds and friendliness to their host families have surely formed new friendships and strengthened the bond between our three cities.

I am so appreciative that I could have a wonderful time to support the 26 delegates and to be part of this sister city relationship between Wenatchee Valley and Misawa City.

***Rikako Hayashi, Misawa International Center, Misawa International Relations Division, City of Misawa**



Moments and Memories from Our 2015 Delegates

I am so glad I took advantage of the wonderful opportunity at hand of going to our sister city. It is a true once in a lifetime opportunity. The kindness and respect I was treated with was jaw dropping. Not only did the people make the experience, but the Japanese have such a unique culture and I am so happy I got to experience it. I would highly recommend this trip to anyone considering it. Not only was it a great experience, but also so much fun! *Anissa Sangster, Apple Blossom Festival Princess*

Cultural day was a favorite of ours. We began by making our own lunch, sushi. It was fantastic to be taught by experts and have so many choices of fillings; from raw fish to cucumber. This was followed by learning to play the Japanese Koto instrument, we each sat at the large stringed instrument with our own instructor. Next, a tea ceremony performed by local students and then we were taught a cultural folk song and dance. It was a whirlwind of activities capped off by being fitted into our Yukata, a casual summer kimono specially chosen and fitted for each of us. Learning about these activities has not only been interesting and fun but has carried over into my professional life. As a teacher I will recall and use these experiences in my classroom for years to come. *Cyndi Noyd*



It's Called Sister City Because They're Family by Jerrilea Crawford *

I was proud to be a part of the Wenatchee Valley delegation to Misawa, Japan this summer along with 25 other community members and represent the Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce. The sister city relationship has been developed through the historical significance of the non-stop Trans Pacific flight from Misawa to East Wenatchee in 1931.

I've known about the sister city relationship for years but I really didn't grasp the full sense of the word "sister" until I traveled there myself. Our relationship with the Misawa community is like family. They welcome each delegate into their homes and shower us with gifts. But the best gift of all was the donation they gave our entire community of \$10,000 to support the fire victims in our area. In fact, while I sat in my host family's home, eating breakfast, I heard the word "Wenatchee" on the TV amongst many Japanese words. Trying to figure out what was being said I quickly realized it was a commercial encouraging residents to donate to the Wenatchee Valley as they flashed the all-too-familiar wildfire pictures on the screen. Then, the grandma in my home came over and gave me a hug and said something very sweet in Japanese that I can only assume to be words of encouragement that she wishes to pass along to our community. It felt like a hug from my own grandma. That is family!

I don't have enough room in this article to share all my stories of my travels to Misawa. Let me just say – it was all amazing! But I would like to encourage anyone in our community to look into being a part of this experience by either hosting a Japanese guest or by joining the next delegation. You won't be disappointed!

** published in the Wenatchee Valley Business Journal . Jerrilea works at the Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce*

More Moments and Memories from Our 2015 Delegates



Henry Talbot
ハリー タルボット
Henry Talbot



Here is a picture of the 2015 Apple Blossom Royalty- Princess Francesca, Queen Gabby, and Princess Anissa with Misawa City Mayor Taneichi. The girls are wearing the summer kimonos that the Misawa Sister City Association gave to each delegate. The Mayor of Misawa hosted a party for us one evening during our visit to Misawa. We were served a delicious Japanese style barbecue. After dinner we enjoyed a Mochitsuki ceremony and made mochi, a sticky rice dumpling. *Kate Bratrude*

To all students in the middle school, Japan is a good place to go to see a different culture, learn more about what other countries do that is different than our own country. and This trip to Japan is an amazing place to make new friends. I made a bunch of new friends, some people I already know, others I just met. The sights are magnificent. So many beautiful Temples, The Ocean. The Food is amazing, there is a whole lot more than just sushi. One tip is to keep one coin of each one 1 yen, 5 yen and 100 yen because the currency looks cool. This trip is a once in a life time chance. If you go to Japan you be changed by every person there in the best possible way.

Editor's Note by Jeril Hansen

I was supposed to write this newsletter weeks ago and, as usual, I missed the expected deadline. In my defense, it wasn't my deadline. I do better when I set my own deadlines so I can move the dates around if I choose. So, today was my deadline and I'm right on time! The fact that I moved the date 5 or 10 times prior to today does not count. I prefer to decide I am exactly on time.

Here's the beauty of turning 60 years old and being a volunteer. No one says much to you when you're old and late. And, when you're a volunteer, no one complains too much because they don't want to take over your responsibility. It's perfect really!

This is why I love being involved with the Sister City Association. I get to be around amazing, fun loving, dedicated and loyal people who believe our relationship with Misawa is a gift we must continue to nurture and grow. And, we only have to be on time a couple of times each year. 1. Getting people to Misawa and 2. Receiving those coming from Misawa. It's perfect for me. I can be on time two times each year — no problem!

Ready For Adventure?

Calling all adults!

Calling all Wenatchee Valley 7th-12th Students

Want to build friendships that last a lifetime?
Would you like to check out something different?
Do you like learning new things and having fun...
.....AT THE SAME TIME?



**Come with us to
Misawa, Japan!
August 12th – 21st, 2016**

Spend 7 memorable days touring Tokyo, the most exciting city in the world, & Misawa, our Sister City! You are guaranteed never to forget your journey!

As a treasured guest in Misawa, you will be able to visit the Science and Aviation Museum, tour the Misawa Joint U.S. - Japan Air Base, take part in the Misawa Summer Festival Parade and much, much more!

Stay with a local Japanese family to experience a new culture firsthand!



Submit your application today!

Applications available at
www.wenatcheevalleymisawa.org
Application deadline is February 27, 2016
For more info call Teresa at 886-6102
Or e-mail TAllen@east-wenatchee.com



Mailing Address:
City of East Wenatchee
Attn: Teresa Allen
P.O. Box 5385
Wenatchee, WA 98807-5385

Phone: 509-886-6102

Email: tallen@east-wenatchee.com

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Wenatchee Valley Misawa Sister City Association is to strengthen the climate of friendship between the cities of Misawa, Wenatchee and East Wenatchee by promoting cultural exchange. The Association is dedicated to furthering the historical significance of the first non-stop Trans Pacific flight by Clyde Pangborn and Hugh Herndon in October 1931.



We're on the web:
wenatcheevalleymisawa.org

JOIN WVMSCA TODAY!

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NAME: _____

BUSINESS
NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

☐ New Member
☐ Renewal



Annual Membership \$35.00

Annual Business Membership

☐ Bronze Level \$100
☐ Silver Level \$150—\$200
☐ Gold Level \$250
☐ Platinum Level \$500

Thank you very much.
Doomo Arigatoo Gozaimasu.