

# Salem Ota Cultural exchange meeting minutes March 27, 2017

Salem State South Campus

**Type of meeting:** Bi-monthly regular

**Invitees:** members and friends of the Salem-Ota Cultural Exchange

**In attendance:**

Chris and Denise Granniss, co-presidents	Connie Arlander, vice-president	Jerry Sherman, acting treasurer
Abigail Clark, student liaison	Dr. Joe Salerno	Sandy Sheckman
Laura Degelmann	Pamela Myrie	

**Absent:** Steve Manning treasurer, Julie Budd secretary

*Happy Anniversary to Peter and Erin Dolan!*

**I. Approval of last meeting minutes from January 30 were tabled until we have them typed and distributed.**

**II. Open Issues**

**A. Treasurer's report is attached.**

Some highlights that were discussed:

\$20,000 was given from the city. \$5,00 is earmarked as compensation for the city liaison to the club.

\$3,345 balance was carried over from last year.

8,000 was spent last year.

Peter has outstanding bills to give to Jerry for reimbursement.

AI- Questions for Steve

- Was membership for 2016 put in with donations as it's not listed?
- When is membership due for 2017?

AI- Question for mayor/liaison

- Is the \$20,000 from the mayor a one-time sum or a yearly line item?

It was suggested that with this new award we should be aware of greater accountability and keep very good records, perhaps separate records. Unresolved. Chris indicated that bills we want them to pay go directly to the liaison for her to draw from that account.

Once we have the answer to the amount, we as a club need to discuss our spending and what the city funds should be used to cover. Included in this discussion should be the traditional fundraising events which were tabled until we knew what funds we would have from the city.

*The treasurer's report was approved as written.*

**B. City Liaison**

The city has appointed Deborah Jackson liaison to the club, with the approval of Connie, Denise, Chris, and Steve (via email) effective immediately. We are delighted with this choice as she has

been involved with the club in the past. She and her family have hosted students and her children travelled to Japan. As she is Salem's tax assessor, she has valuable access to the mayor and the city services we use. She was a little leery of the list of priorities our club had put together for the position and so it was agreed this was a 1-year trial. She would have attended tonight's meeting but she had a prior engagement. She is working on a press release from the Mayor's office and a Salem Evening News article.

**C. Host Families**

Connie apprised us of the progress in finding host families for this summer's student group. 9 girls and 1 boy have been placed. Finding host families is a priority for the club. The dates are July 23- Monday, July 30.

Chris and Denise will have the flyer updated and shared with the membership by Sunday. Please post and share as appropriate. We will also work with the liaison to get these into the schools. Sandy plans to post them at the PEM.

**D. Website Review**

Members were asked to share their photos for the website. We are also looking for some text on hosting the adults if anyone cares to tackle it. Laura was going to email one of the Ota City Assemblymen she knows and ask for his perspective on the visits "from the other side" as it were. Midori had sent some feedback via email which will be incorporated. Anyone with suggestions, corrections or photos should email chris ([chris@granniss.com](mailto:chris@granniss.com)).

**III. New Business**

- A. An adult trip is going to Ota this summer. June 22 - July 26. In fact, Peter held a meeting of that group just prior to ours. There are 5 going + the Dolans.
- B. No Scholarship Update. Applications are due May 1. We will be sure Betty Burke has an updated member list so she can solicit applications from new members too.
- C. It was brought up that we should consider how we store club records. This is tabled but will be given some thought. City Hall was suggested. The Salem History section of the Public Library was suggested but discarded because much of the info includes names, addresses, etc. For this reason, the website is also out.

**Next meeting:** Monday, May 22

(Not the last Monday because it is Memorial Day weekend.)

**Other meetings include:**

July 23 at 2pm at the House of the 7 Gables just prior to the setup time for the Welcome Party pending approval from them.

Possibly August 28, Salem State Campus.