

Salem Ota Cultural Exchange | MINUTES

January 29, 2018 / 7 pm | Salem State South Campus *Location*

Attendees

Chris & Denise Granniss

Constance Arlander

Pete Dolan

Abigail Clark

Ellen Soares

Mark & Vanessa Mazuzan

Joe Salerno

Jerry Sherman

Pamela Myrie

Deb Jackson

Bradford Martin

Kathleen Salas

Olivia Bracken

Agenda topics

Agenda topic 2018 State of the Organization Report

“Looking Back, Looking Ahead” letter draft was presented and revised, to be used on website with highlights of 2017. External links will be included (Odaiko New England, Edward Sylvester Morse). Revisions were suggested, including at least a sentence of his bio to generate interest.

Agenda topic Japanese Student Host Families

The search has begun, with 15 placements confirmed and approximately 15 additional families as possibilities. As always we anticipate need for families to take boys. Flyers were distributed, and Deb will distribute to all local schools. Everyone is encouraged to post these flyers around Salem to keep momentum.

Agenda topic Student Visit Subcommittee

To help Connie, it was agreed a subcommittee would be useful for assistance making calls for reservations at usual venues (Canobie Lake Park, YMCA, Bowling, etc.). Anyone interested should email Connie. Sometimes this means repeat calls to obtain discounts and deals. Any help appreciated.

Agenda topic 2018 American Student Trip Planning

For the first time, more than 10 students have applied; currently there have been 12 inquiries for the student trip to Ota led by Midori Oka and Ellen Soares. A more rigorous application process is necessary; Denise is getting advice from Academy lawyers regarding more documentation. A school letter of recommendation may be helpful since we cannot get student’s grades (without parent permission). Process must be fair and open to all Salem students, especially because of funding received from city of Salem. Application, essay and especially interview is needed to determine if student is a good fit.

Agenda topic 2018 Scholarship

Scholarship is open. Details are on the website.

Agenda topic Website stats

Website is up to date wrt applications and Paypal has been added for donations. Facebook page to be created by Ben A; currently there is only a small presence with a few families.

Agenda topic Membership Dues Letter

Letter draft was reviewed describing need for increasing membership dues. It will include that membership has doubled and other stats. Salem State is willing to help with some mailings thanks to John Keenan, so hopefully they can assist this batch.

Agenda topic Edward Sylvester Morse content Subcommittee

Salem School District responded quicker than anticipated regarding adding Morse to the Salem High curriculum. The task at hand is to draw on community resources (Wicked Good Books, First Church, local historians & professors, Maritime Center) to compile information about his many accomplishments, that have many applications in various subjects. He is an important person in Salem and Ota history that has been overlooked. It is unclear what format or how much content we will need, but this is just the beginning of the process. Anyone interested in being on the subcommittee, contact Denise.

Agenda topic 2018 Board Nominations and Elections

Chris, Denise and Connie were re-elected to their positions as co-presidents and vice president. Abigail Clark will also continue as student liaison. Ellen Soares was elected as new treasurer, and Kathleen Salas as new secretary.

Agenda topic New Business – Homestay needed for older student

Peter brought up that a student (the daughter of an Ota assembly member) is looking to stay with a family and visit Salem. Peter is making those plans and should be contacted if anyone can help or host.

Monday Feb. 12 will be parent meeting for prospective students for Japan trip at Salem Academy Charter School.

Next Meeting is February 26.