



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

International Committee

Monday, January 25, 2021

5:30 PM

*In an effort to be as safe as possible from the spread of COVID-19, the International Committee meeting will be conducted through video conferencing. The meeting can be viewed and listened to through the following link:
<https://stream.lifesizecloud.com/extension/6490504/2fa4bbf4-a513-4fe6-b10b-d4bd148f3c6d>*

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Irene Barmore, Todd Bye, Michael De Yoe, Gary Padesky, Art Marson, Heather Dutcher, Karolyn Bald

Absent: 4 - Julie Welch, Mackenzie Brady, Mary Rohrer, Melissa Giefer

Mission of the International Committee

Read by Art.

Welcome and Introductions

Treasurer's Report

\$5,000 this year.

Code of Ethics Review

All members who are present noted they've reviewed the Code of Ethics.

Approval of Minutes

Gary/Irene passed.

Agenda Items:

- 1 [21-0098](#) Election of officers.

- a. Secretary – Heather Dutcher
- b. Treasurer – Karolyn Bald
- c. Motion made by Irene and seconded by Gary to approve the above members into these positions. Passed.

2 [21-0099](#)

Budget discussion and approval.

We have \$5,000 in the 2021 budget. These funds are allocated as follows: \$850 for sister cities dues... \$500 for each sister city within the guidelines... balance of \$650 as a contingency... Gary made a motion to accept this budget allocation. Irene 2nd. Passed.

3 [21-0100](#)

Luxembourg Sister City update.

They would like to come to our meeting in March with a proposal to start a sister city in Luxembourg. There is a formal application process to become a sister city. Art will send out the form.

4 [21-0101](#)

Sister City and school reports/announcements: La Crosse School District, UW-L, Viterbo, Western, Luoyang, Kumbo, Friedberg, Forde, Epinal, Dubna, Bantry.

La Crosse School District – no rep present

UWL – Despite a challenging fall they are starting to rebound. They have 7 or 8 international students this spring. Three new students from France and one each from Spain, Malaysia, Nigeria, Japan and Bangladesh. When students arrive, they go into quarantine for 7 days. Reestablishing the ESL program this fall with some new programming. This spring they've partnered with API on a Global Community Engagement Lab. Every two weeks they will meet with an international expert on their topic and the opposite week they'll meet with a cultural expert to talk about the cultural implementations of their project.

Viterbo – no rep present

Western – no rep present

Luoyang – Gifted 30 Chinese international students going to Viterbo a care package just before the holidays. Still meeting monthly. Luoyang Foreign Language School #2, the school with which LLFA cooperates with exchange teachers, student delegations, and visiting scholars. There are now 4 campuses offering K-12 education. In 2001, the school began with one campus and served Middle School students only. School #2 has been face to face since May 2020 after a 3 month shutdown due to the pandemic. Individual students had limited technology so very limited virtual learning took place from Jan-May. They are face to face with precautions- masks, partitions in classroom and social distancing. Foreign Language School #2 is growing and thriving in a challenging environment.

Kumbo – no rep present

Friedberg – The LAGRA board has been meeting virtually. German classes in the Public Schools have remained virtual. Rita Murphy, German teacher at Lincoln Middle & Logan H.S. has organized a virtual "Meet a German" event with a different person in Germany each month. In December LAGRA

members had a wonderful Glühwein party with our Friedberg friends using an on-line platform even showing slides of our Christmas customs & playing trivia games. During the Tues. Jan. 19 Board mtg a pkg of gifts from Friedberg was delivered, two months in transit.

Forde – no rep present

Epinal – Covid info & holiday decorations can be seen on Facebook under Ville d'Epinal. The Riverside Gardens committee has been considering the new Eiffel Tower replacement, and asked Ken Nash to resend the quote he got late 2019. Keagan Lovejoy, French teacher at Aquinas, reports classes have been meeting in person all year: high school alternates half of the students in each day and the middle school has all students in. The student exchange for next summer has been cancelled. One family is still interested in trying something on their own, so she has reached out to Epinal in hopes they can find either a student or family to exchange with. French classes in the public schools have remained virtual.

Dubna – Established an endowment fund at the La Crosse foundation. It has been challenging. Cancelled the last couple of meetings.

Bantry – LBFA had a virtual holiday party with games, contests and prizes. They sent out a package with some small holiday items to members. The group also provided some items to international students at UWL and Viterbo wishing them well on finals and included Irish Breakfast Tea along with some candy. Now the group is gearing up for the 2021 Virtual Coulee Hoolie Ceili, using the Global Initiatives Week Kick-off as a blueprint. Local musicians and dancers are recording videos for the event. Members will do some cooking demos showing how to make different kinds of Irish foods. They'll have some videos from the non-profits for whom we are raising funds telling us how they will be using the funds we raise. Someone in Bantry is going to do a little walking tour of Bantry for us to include. We'll be doing an online silent auction, which, this year, will be our only source of income from the event. It will be found online at lacrossbantry.org/coulee-hoolie-ceili

Adjournment

Irene made a motion to adjourn. Karolyn 2nd. Passed.

The next meeting will be on March 22, 2021.

Notice is further given that members of other governmental bodies may be present at the above scheduled meeting to gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility.

NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY

Requests from persons with a disability who need assistance to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk's office at (608) 789-7510 or send an email to ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org, with as much advance notice as possible.