



希望の鐘 *The Bell of Hope*



The Y's Men's Club of Kawagoe

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川越ワイズメンズクラブ会報

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Chartered 1998

President Taro Tonegawa

Vice President Atsuko Matsukawa

Treasurer Kimiyo Yoshida

Secretary Katsusaburo Yoshino

Club President Theme 「Return to the starting point and support Kawagoe YMCA.」

International President: A. Shanavaskhan (India)

Theme: Together for a better world

Slogan: Arise and Shine

Asia Pacific Area President Joan Wong (Hong Kong)

Theme: Make a big impact!

Japan East Region Director Kohei Yamada (Utsunomiya)

Theme: Determine the direction of Y's Movement.

Kantotobu Director Goshiro Yamamoto (Kawagoe)

Theme: We may be small, but we are not helpless

The scripture of the month

We have courage in God's presence, because we are sure that he hears us if we ask him for anything that is according to his will.

He hears us whenever we ask him, and since we know this is true, we know also that he gives us what we ask from him.

(I John 5: 14・15)

December Statistics (14th & 21st of December)

Attendees 9 Attendance Rate 90%

On the Occasion of the Beginning of the Year 2025

Taro Tonegawa
Club President

Happy New Year to you all! I hope you all have a healthy and happy New Year.

We welcomed the New Year in Izu. We have had a series of clear winter days since the end of last year on the Pacific Ocean side, and we were able to see the first sunrise over Izu Oshima Island in the cloudless Sagaminada Sea. We prayed to the rising morning sun that this year would be a good year.

The year 2025 is the year of the Snake. It is represented by the two Chinese letters, 乙巳, with its reading as "otomi." The first letter, "乙" is the second of the ten signs of the Chinese zodiac and is said to represent progress through twists and turns despite difficulties. It also designates plants and trees that grow gracefully. The "巳," the Chinese letter for Snake, also means rebirth and change because of the image of a snake shedding its skin.

The combination of the two, "Otomi", represents the auspiciousness of making efforts and keeping things stable.

Kawagoe Y's Men's Club has been cooperating with Saitama YMCA Kawagoe Center through daily interactions. In the process, we feel that club members are beginning to pay attention to the challenges and difficulties that the YMCA is facing. We wish to express our respect for the YMCA staff for their dedication to the children and would like to cooperate with them in any way we can.

In addition, the Kawagoe Club has long been involved in IBC exchange with the Salem Club of America, but the Salem Club has ceased its activities.

2025 will be the year to explore exchanges with the Pangasinan Club of the Philippines, which became a new IBC last year. In addition, we plan to conclude an IBC with the Hyderabad Club of India.

Thus, when I overview the planned activities of the Kawagoe Club in 2025, I feel that it will be a year of flexible efforts toward "revitalization and change," just as befits the year of the "Otomi."

I wish to conclude my New Year's greetings by asking for your efforts and cooperation to make this year of hard work and stability a successful year. I look forward to your continued support in the New Year.

Kawagoe Club December Meeting Report

Taro Tonegawa
Club President

I hope you are all doing well in the New Year.
The Kawagoe Club held its regular business

meeting on Saturday, December 21, following the Christmas meeting with students participating in the Kawagoe YMCA program and a report by Shintaro Kimoto, who participated in the Youth Volunteer Leaders Forum.

I will leave the Christmas meeting report to Secretary Yoshino and the YVLF report to Kimoto-kun, and here is an overview of the club business meeting.

1. 2025-2026 Kawagoe Y's Men's Club Officers

- President: Taro Tonegawa, Vice President: Atsuko Matsukawa, Secretary: Katsusaburo Yoshino, Treasurer: Kimiyo Yoshida
- Fund Treasurer: Atsuko Yamazaki, Bulletin Translators: Miki Oikawa and Keiko Tonegawa

2. Bus trip on Saturday, March 29th

- The bus can accommodate 27 passengers.
- We will apply for a CS fund and use it for the activity expenses.
- We will consider the Chichibu area as the first choice for the destination, with a steam locomotive ride as the main attraction.

3. BF Representative Acceptance

- Kawagoe Club will host from Jan. 29 (Wed) to Feb. 1 (Sat).
- They will stay at Tobu Hotel and we will assign a person to be in charge of the BF representative couple.
- A welcome dinner will be held on January 31 (Fri.) at 18:00 at Kawagoe Hermitage.

4. IBC with the Hyderabad Club

- It was decided to conclude the IBC.
- The signing will be coordinated at either the Japan East Regional Convention in Utsunomiya in June or the Asia Pacific Area Convention in Kumamoto in August.

5. We will participate in the 2025 World Autism Development Day “Koedo Blue Marche.”

6. We will vote for Johann Wilhelm Ertvig for the International President-elect Election.

7. 49 applications for 55 boxes of “Kawagoe Imo” for the charity were received.

8. It was decided to resign the membership of the Kankyo Net.

These are the main contents of the report. The next meeting will be held at Kawagoe YMCA on Sat., Jan. 25 at 13:30. We plan to organize books after the meeting. Everyone, please come with your back in good shape.

1. YVLF (Youth Volunteer Leader’s Forum)

Attendance Report

Reporter: Shintaro Kimoto



The 36th Youth Volunteer Leader's Forum was held on September 6-8, 2024. This year, about 30 volunteer leaders from the Japan East Region gathered at the YMCA Yamanaka-ko Center with the hope that they would focus on social issues and initiate activities as a youth group. Last year, several Kumamoto YMCA leaders started a Youth Action program to help children who have not been attending school. It was a great success with a unique and typical idea of the YMCA. The number of children participating increased, and the number of youth volunteers also increased significantly. We asked them to present their efforts at this year's YVLF. We hope that the YVLF will give them something to think about and inspire them to start something of their own in their places.

“The timing is just right for us to receive a grant for a program to deal with children who are not attending school.” (This is a quotation from the report by Mr. Kohei Yamada, Regional Director of the Japan East Japan Region).

We, the Kawagoe Y's Men's Club, supported a part of the participation fee of Shintaro Kimoto, a participant from Kawagoe YMCA in this YVLF, and we heard his report on the day of the club meeting.

I was greatly encouraged to learn that we are involved, even if indirectly, in the development of the young people who will be responsible for the next generation. (By Katsusaburo Yoshino)



基調講演 伊藤 眞太郎氏



[“Keiko’s Monthly Briefing of YMI/ASP”](#)

RDE Summit (A Training Course for the Regional Directors-Elect)

Keiko Tonegawa

The first RDE Summit was held in Toledo, Illinois, the birthplace of Y's Men's Clubs, from November 14 to 19, 2019. The purpose of the RDE Summit, which was previously called Regional Directors-Elect Training Course, was to provide an opportunity for current directors, regional directors, incoming regional directors, incoming regional service directors, etc., to discuss and participate in the workshops, to understand the policies of the international president and each international service directors, as well as the most pressing issues, and to prepare for the operation of their respective regions. At the same time, the other significant purpose is to bring together leaders of the Y's movement from around the world to deepen fellowship.

I remember that November in Toledo, where the first RDE Summit was held, was already very cold and snowy in some places, making it difficult for the representatives of the Area Africa and the Southeast Asian Region to prepare for the cold weather.

This year, the conference will be held in Trivandrum, India, from February 11 to 14. Upon the request of the incoming Regional Director, Ym. Makoto Yamashita (Tokachi Club), who will attend from the Japan East Region, I will accompany him as an interpreter. In addition to the contents of the RDE Summit, I will also inform you about my reunion with my old Y's Men's Club member friends in the next issue.

Please look forward to reading “From the International Stage,” as I will do my best to write this column again this year.



The 1st RDE Summit group photo (November 2019, Toledo, Illinois, USA)



2. Christmas Club Meeting

Katsusaburo Yoshino

First, we listened to Mr. Goshiro Yamamoto's talk about Christmas based on the Bible and learned about the birth of Jesus. After that, we played bingo and exchanged gifts brought by everyone and had a good time. The total number of participants was 21.



YMCA Report

Happy New Year! Thank you very much for your support last year. As the New Year begins, YMCA Kawagoe Center has been open since January 4. We look forward to working with you again this year. As children tend to stay indoors due to the cold weather, we took the opportunity to take them outside as much as possible during the winter vacation program at the Kawagoe Center. We have included activities such as “Sliding on the bank and baked sweet potato,” “Visiting the Tama Rokuto Science Museum,” and “Building a secret base at the Water Park,” all of which are activities that make the children excited to go to the place with their friends and leaders. Children tend to play digital games with their peers these days, but we would like them to enjoy these real-life, hands-on activities with their peers.

As for camps, “Big Smile Ski Camp & Everybody Come Together Snow Camp” was held in Minamiuonuma City, Niigata Prefecture, from January 4 to 5. This camp, supported by the Challenged Children Program (CCP), teaches children the skills necessary for social life and the ability to live through group activities and interactions with leaders and peers. This year, 15 participants, ranging from elementary school students to adults in the Clover Club and UP (alum group), participated in the camp. Last year, the ground was visible due to the lack of snow, but this year, we were blessed with snow and could enjoy skiing and playing in the snow to the fullest.

With the help of many people, we hope to continue to enrich the YMCA's activities this year.

Thank you very much for your support.



(Editor's Note)

We are pleased to publish our first “Bell of Hope” for 2025. Although we publish a monthly bulletin, the title of our club's bulletin feels incredibly fresh in the new year.

Finally, we have entered the second half of the Y's year. As President Taro Tonegawa said in his New Year's greeting, the club plans many things for the next six months. I pray you will have healthy and fulfilling days throughout the year.

This year, we would like to devise a way for all 10 members to contribute to this bulletin, so please help us. Please let me discuss the details at the next meeting. (KY)