



希望の鐘 *The Bell of Hope*

The Y's Men's Club of Kawagoe

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Kawagoe Y's Men's Club Bulletin

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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: Edward Ong

Theme: Faith, Love, Action

Slogan: Together Stronger

Asia Pacific Area President: Tadashi Tanoue (Japan)

Theme: Act now with faith and love!

Japan East Region Director: Makoto Yamashita

Theme: Rediscovering Y's Uniqueness

July Scripture

So He said to them, "When you pray, say,
Hallowed be Your name,
Your kingdom come,
Give us day by day our daily bread,
And forgive us our sins,
For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us,
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one."
(Luke 11:2-4)

making our club meetings an opportunity for mutual friendship among members and for us to enjoy ourselves together. During the final meeting of the 2024-2025 fiscal year, I received various suggestions from members, and I would like to implement those that can be realized. Although I may be an unreliable president, the club members are powerful, so I would like to carry out my duties with your help. I look forward to another year of your support.

June Attendance (June)

Attendance 10 Participants 100%

Kawagoe Club President's Greetings

President Taro Tonegawa

The 2025-2026 fiscal year has begun. Once again, I, Taro Tonegawa, have been appointed as the president of the Kawagoe Club. Last year, we held a commemorative meeting for our 25th anniversary. Additionally, at the Japan East Regional Convention, we received the Most Outstanding Bulletin Award, and we concluded an IBC agreement with the Hyderabad Club. I am grateful for the support of all the club members who made this possible. Last year, we focused on supporting the Kawagoe YMCA, returning to our roots. This fiscal year, while continuing this initiative, I would like to focus on

Kawagoe Club June Meeting Report

President: Taro Tonegawa

It seems that the rainy season may have ended by the end of June, with sunshine pouring down, and it is predicted that the end of the rainy season and a heat wave will arrive earlier than usual this year. The end of the rainy season has already been declared in western Japan, and it is forecast that the declaration for the Kanto-Koshinetsu area will be made on July 7. I am already feeling a bit of summer fatigue, but I hope to switch my mindset to endure the long summer ahead while being mindful of heatstroke. Please also take good care of your health and enjoy the hot season. I will now report on the meeting held on June 28.

1. There were several reports.

- Mr. Bobby Ogwan, who gave a talk in May, visited a private kindergarten, Fuji Kindergarten, in Kitamoto City. Ms. Arai reported that Mr. Ogwan, who started a

school for young children in Uganda, was genuinely pleased with this visit.

- We sold the donated used books and completed the activity of rereading used books, which we started by following the example of the Salem Club, one of our IBCs.

2. Regarding the fiscal year 2025-2026-

- Approval was given for the financial closing forecast and budget proposal of the club.

- Approval was granted for the content of the Kawagoe Club activity plan to be submitted to the Kantotobu District Council.

3. The revision proposal for the Kawagoe Y's Men's Club constitution has been approved after modification. The regular meeting's schedule has been revised to match the current situation. The membership fee will be approved by the members each fiscal year. For the fiscal year 2025-2026, it will remain at 40,000 yen, continuing from the previous year.

4. As part of the summer vacation program for the Clover Class, funding of 50,000 yen for the tour of the Metropolitan Area Outer Underground Discharge Channel on August 11 (Monday, holiday) has been approved. However, regarding future financial assistance, we decided to reconsider how the club will provide annual support.

5. Regarding the activity plan for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the following proposals were considered:

- Keynote speech by Mr. Mitsuhiro Namekawa (Kaetsu University), whose mother was a pioneer in early childhood English education.

- Afternoon tea or a keynote speech accompanied by tea.

- Karaoke competition.

- Factory tour of Meiji Seika or visit to Santomi Konjaku Village, etc.

- Strolling

6. The next Y's Forest Coffee sale is scheduled for September 27th (Saturday) at the YMCA Festival.

7. Future Schedule

- July 26 (Sat) Financial results and accounting report

- August 23 (Sat) Undecided

- Sept. 27 (Sat.) Sweet potato tasting event (planned)

The above is a summary of the main points discussed.



From the International Stage

➤ “Keiko’ s Monthly Briefing of YMI/ASP”

Keiko Tonegawa

From August 1st to 3rd, the 31st Asia Pacific Area Convention will be held in Kumamoto, and it is finally coming close. According to information from the secretariat, there are currently 543 registered participants, including 134 participants from over 10 countries overseas. In conjunction with the area convention, the Legislative Representatives Meeting (International Council) will also be held at the Kumamoto YMCA, allowing the Area Representatives to join our convention, demonstrating our international presence. Six participants from Kawagoe are expected: Taro and Keiko Tonegawa, Goshiro Yamamoto, Hisayo and Kenji Arai, and Katsusaburo Yoshino.

Furthermore, from July 30 to August 4, the Asia Pacific Area Youth Convocation will be held at Aso YMCA, with Japanese youth playing a central role in the executive committee and preparations progressing smoothly. Youth from the Asia Pacific Area will gather to discuss the theme of 'peace' over five days, engage in cultural exchange, and deepen their understanding of the Y's movement through interactions with Y's members, leading to excellent expected outcomes. Unfortunately, we were unable to recommend youth from the Kawagoe Club this time. Still, there will be students participating from nearby clubs, so we hope to have the opportunity to report back during a regular meeting. Regardless, we would like to report on the results in the August or September meeting. Please look forward to it.



Promotion for the Area Convention at the Chiang Mai International Convention in 2024.

Kendo

Goshiro Yamamoto

I have been practicing kendo before I entered elementary school. The name "Goshiro" signifies "strength" in the character "剛" and "literature" in "史", given with the hope that I would live a life balancing both martial and cultural arts. My parents wanted me to learn some form of martial arts. For that reason, I began training at the Myobukan Koma Dojo in Hidaka City, Saitama Prefecture, before entering elementary school. At that time, I was not conscious of it, but this Myobukan dojo was one of the top dojos in Saitama Prefecture, and the practice was rigorous. I hated the tough training, but I could not quit, so I continued attending until I graduated from junior high school. Because I trained at such a dojo, I had the opportunity to win the team competition at the Saitama Prefectural Tournament during elementary school, and I even participated in the national tournament held at the Nippon Budokan. However, once I became a high school student and had a longer commute, I quit kendo, and for over a decade, I did not practice it again.

However, after turning 30, due to a lack of exercise and my interest in kendo, I became the kendo club coach. I started practicing kendo together with middle and high school students. For a few years after that, I practiced kendo at a local dojo and achieved the rank of 4th dan, but once my child was born, I became busy again and had to quit.

More than 10 years have passed since then. Still, when Noa, my elder daughter, entered middle school, she chose to join the kendo club as an extracurricular activity, and I started going to watch her occasionally and participating in the middle school kendo practices together. Moreover, the three girls of her same grade (currently in the second year of middle school) started kendo in middle school, and this year, the new first-year girls are complete beginners, so the girls' team is relatively weak. However, among the boys, many have been practicing since elementary school, making the boys' team fairly strong. Just the other day, I practiced kendo together with middle school students, but sometimes I found myself

falling behind in terms of speed and accuracy in basic training compared to those who practice every day. Even so, after many years of kendo, I feel like I won't lose in practice bouts. Anyway, it seems that Noa, despite being weak, is enjoying her club activities and continues to practice kendo without fail.

Kendo is a mysterious sport with very complex rules. Essentially, valid target areas for strikes are "men" (head), "kote" (wrist), "do" (waist parts on both sides), and for high school students and above, "tsuki" (throat). You can score by striking these areas with a bamboo sword, but some conditions must be met: 1) striking area, 2) spirit (kisei), 3) posture, 4) striking with the right part of the sword, and 5) following the correct blade angle. This can be not very clear. Judo, on the other hand, established "waza-ari" (a point scored for a partial victory) in addition to "ippon" (a full point) to make it an international sport, where two "waza-ari" can equal one "ippon." Also, if you commit three fouls (warnings), you lose, which makes it easier to understand. However, in kendo, any point other than a valid hit is considered invalid, and determining whether it is a valid point or invalid greatly depends on the referee's subjectivity. Furthermore, the referee's decision is absolute and cannot be overturned, which is also a characteristic of the sport. There are various reasons, but I believe that kendo finds it challenging to become an international sport compared to judo, remaining a martial art of Japan. If you are interested, please take the opportunity to observe kendo practice or matches once.

(Kendo practice at Yamamura Gakuen High School)
(With Noa, my eldest daughter, after the tournament)



Practice at Yamamura Gakuen High School

With Noa, after the tournament.

YMCA Report

Kyoko Kawai

[Water's Form] Since the beginning of this year, I have been participating in the volunteer activities of an organization called 'Water's Form', which works to preserve the local nature and living environment in a rice paddy in Minuma Ward, Saitama City, introduced by Mr. Asaba from Saitama Y's Men's Club. Last month, I challenged rice planting for the first time. It was a physically demanding task beyond my expectations, but it was an excellent opportunity to understand the preciousness of nature and the difficulties faced by farmers.



【Children's Meeting】 Starting this year, we are holding the Children's Meeting (Boccia & Pool Play) at the Tokorozawa Center about twice a month. In Boccia, the Rinrin leader who was active at the Taiwan YMCA is involved. At the same time, in pool play, Ms. Osawa from Tokorozawa Y's Men's Club (O-Leader) has joined as an assistant, allowing the children to participate in activities safely. Also, starting this month, Ms. Osawa's friend, Leader Sacchan, will enter, enabling the children to choose between swimming groups and play groups for their activities. We are grateful for the support of many people in creating a safe and fun environment where children can engage in activities.



Every year, when July arrives and the rainy season ends, the children's expressions brighten. The reason is the upcoming summer vacation. At the Kawagoe Center, we are planning daily programs so that during this summer vacation, the children can take on various challenges. Depending on the program details, there may be days when we are out all day, so please check in advance before

your visit. Lastly, please take care of your health and stay well.

Note: The Kawagoe Center will be closed from Aug. 14th through 18th.

● (Editor's Note)

It's been a hot spell lately, but how are you all doing, Kawagoe Club members? Have you made any plans for this summer yet?

From July 6th to 11th, I accompanied visitors from India, rushing around Osaka, Nagoya, Numazu, and Makuhari. It was a week that made me realize how little stamina I have, but I have finally recovered. For that reason, I apologize for the delay in issuing this issue of "Bell of Hope."

On July 19th (Saturday), the Kantotobu District Council was held at the Tokyo YMCA in Toyokocho, and I also attended. President Tonegawa Taro announced this year's theme for the Kawagoe Club: 'Return to the starting point and support the Kawagoe YMCA - Enjoyable exchange, support for Kawagoe YMCA, and enhancement of international exchange.' Let's promote fulfilling club activities under the leadership of President Tonegawa Taro for the coming year. The council was a content-rich meeting. The details will be reported at the Kawagoe Club's regular meeting on the 26th (Saturday) and are planned to be published in the next issue of the club bulletin. (KY)