Wow, it is hard to believe that 2024 is already halfway over! The first quarter of the year went by quickly with chilly and cold weather, but it turned into a beautiful spring. This allowed us to have an amazing event for our annual Cherry Blossom Festival. We had multiple tents with displays, a craft area, a snack pavilion, and the opportunity to try on traditional Japanese garments. We also enjoyed a performance by the J-Art Band from Columbus Ohio. We had record turnout for this event and hope it will grow even bigger in the future. Additionally, we welcomed many new members who signed up during the festival.

Moving forward from the Cherry Blossom Festival, we introduced new shirt designs which were printed and distributed. All the pre-orders have been fulfilled, and we have extras available for those interested.

We are thrilled to announce that we have received a grant from Visit Greater Lima, which will be used to create new informational materials such as tri-fold pamphlets, stickers, postcards, and training manuals for our trips. These materials are invaluable for distributing information to local schools, informing students about the LSCA Japan Youth Delegate trips we organize, and for use at various events such as multicultural festivals.

As we enter the summer months, we are preparing for our general meeting this weekend, on July 20th. This is a reminder that everyone is welcome, even if you are not a member. It is a great opportunity to ask any questions you may have about our organization.

At the general meeting, we will have a cookout with burgers, hot dogs, and drinks provided. We ask that attendees bring a side, snack, or dessert to share. We will discuss the future of Lima Sister Cities, our plans for next year, and the upcoming visit from Japanese delegates this fall. Additionally, we will talk about the potential for another youth trip in 2025.

We hope to see you there! Until next time, we wish you great luck in your future endeavors.

Matthew Neeley LSCA President