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Chinese American Citizens Alliance

~ National ~

1044 Stockton Street, San Francisco, California 94108 • Telephone/Fax (415)829-9332

National Lodge
ESTABLISHED 1895

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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C.A.C.A. Las Vegas Lodge – Celebrating Its 16th Year with a Strong Comeback

San Francisco, August 2, 2018 – Las Vegas Lodge has reason to celebrate its 16th anniversary in July: membership (regular and associate) has grown exponentially in the last three years from 34 members in 2015 to 80 this year, thanks to its revitalization efforts.

On July 2, 2002, Las Vegas Lodge founder, Benson Lee, chartered the Lodge with 15 charter members and himself as President. Over the years, participation among members started to decline leading Las Vegas Lodge to become dormant. Fast forward to April 2015: President Benson Lee and two longtime members, Bobby Lum and Hui-Lim Ang, decided it was time to relaunch and revitalize Las Vegas Lodge to attract new members and to rebuild the Lodge as a strong voice in the community. One of their first tasks was to review and revise the bylaws to govern the Lodge's mission and policies. Term limit for President was set at three terms of one year for each term.

The revitalized Las Vegas Lodge elected Bobby Lum as President in 2015. “We wanted the Lodge to be relevant and significant in the community,” said current President Hui-Lim Ang. She credited her renewed interest to make a difference in the community to a conversation with Past National President Ed Gor when he visited Las Vegas a year and half ago. “I was asked to pick up then National President Ed Gor from the airport and our conversation during the ride energized me to start thinking about rebuilding our Lodge's presence in the community,” recalled Hui-Lim Ang. “We are also grateful for the seed money from National C.A.C.A. to help us launch our inaugural event: the Mid-Autumn Festival Art competition and celebration which generated more than 200 art entries from middle and high school students, and drew 200 attendees in the first year.” Each year, fresh themes and ideas continue to engage and educate mainstream America about Chinese history, culture and heritage. The well-attended annual Lunar New Year and Pay-It-Forward Awards Gala enlightened attendees to the significance of each traditional Chinese New Year dish and engages the community to nominate and honor community volunteers/activists.

As a civil rights organization, Las Vegas Lodge served as an advocate and voice for the Asian community. Through referrals, Las Vegas Lodge has often advised Casino workers on civil rights issues and has been influential in providing the Asian perspectives to many politicians. Las Vegas Lodge also has conducted classes to educate the Chinese speaking community on American Politics and voting rights. It is proud to have the support of several elected officials who are associate members of the Lodge.



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A big part of the revitalization effort for Las Vegas Lodge is collaborating and building partnerships with other organizations such as the Vietnamese, Thai, Laos and Latino communities, and corporate organizations to host joint events such as serving the veterans, free immunizations for senior citizens, community education and cultural outreach programs.

To grow the momentum of the relaunch, President Hui-Lim Ang believes in promoting passion and commitment in members and having fun as a team. A team goal next year is increasing the attendance of Las Vegas members at the 55th C.A.C.A. Biennial National Convention in Boston. One of Hui-Lim's favorite team quote is from the *Jungle Book*: "For the strength of the pack is the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is the pack."

"Congratulations to C.A.C.A. Las Vegas on your renewed presence in the community. Thank you for your energy and creativity to promote C.A.C.A. and making an impact in the Las Vegas community," said C.A.C.A. National President Davace Chin.

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1044 Stockton St.
San Francisco, CA.

Web: www.CACAnational.org
Chinese American Citizens Alliance

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance, established in 1895, is among the oldest civil rights organizations in the United States. Headquartered in San Francisco with chapter/lodges in Albuquerque (NM), Boston (MA), Chicago (IL), Greater San Gabriel Valley (CA), Greater New York (NY), Houston (TX), Las Vegas (NV), Los Angeles (CA), Mississippi, Oakland (CA), Peninsula (CA), Portland (OR), Phoenix (AZ), Salinas (CA), San Antonio (TX), San Francisco (CA), Seattle (WA) and Washington, D.C., the Alliance addresses issues regarding voter education, political participation, racial discrimination and hate crimes, and supports youth leadership training programs and equal employment opportunities for all Chinese Americans.