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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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CONTACT: info@cacanational.org

C.A.C.A. Seattle Lodge Celebrates Its 7th Anniversary

San Francisco, March 26, 2018 — National Lodge of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) extends its best wishes to one of its youngest lodges, C.A.C.A. Seattle, on the 7th anniversary of its charter. Seattle Lodge was organized on March 26, 2011, with 15 charter members.

Ming-Ming Tung-Edelman, charter member and Lodge President, remembers starting out as a Portland Lodge member: “My supervisor invited me to join a C.A.C.A. Portland meeting. I became very active in many of their community events and loved the camaraderie. When I came to Seattle, Helen Ying encouraged me to start a lodge here. She told me to contact Jerry Lee, who played C.A.C.A. Portland basketball as a kid. Together we were able to charter a lodge in 2011.”

For a young lodge, Seattle members have already made a mark on the community. Just four years after receiving its charter, Seattle Lodge hosted the 53rd C.A.C.A. National Biennial Convention in 2015.

Members are developing curriculum for the 1882 project, leading an effort to include the subject in Washington schools curriculum, teaching youth about the Chinese Exclusion Act and how to advocate for change. Community service events include an Annual Fall Rice Drive to bag and hand out rice, oranges, tofu and Lap Cheung to Chinatown low-income senior citizens. C.A.C.A. Seattle also hosts and sponsors multiple yearly events such as Asian Heritage Month Mariners Night, Mahjong Night at Kin On Health Care, a speaker series, film screenings and voter registration and assistance events.

C.A.C.A. Seattle actively advocates for causes affecting Chinese Americans, such as supporting the Seattle Waterfront Project to commemorate the Chinese Expulsion from Seattle. In September 2015, an amphibious Ride the Duck tour vehicle crash on a Seattle bridge led to five deaths and dozens injured. The families of victims who were international students were not allowed to sue for wrongful death based on a 1917 Chinese Exclusion era state law. Seattle Lodge President Tung-Edelman was instrumental in pulling multiple organizations together to form the Wrongful Death Law Coalition. The Coalition was able to get state house and senate bills introduced in the 2017-2018 session but it missed passing by just one vote. Undaunted, the Coalition will continue the fight for justice.

C.A.C.A. National President Davace Chin applauds Seattle Lodge, “Congratulations to C.A.C.A. Seattle on its 7th anniversary and for continuing the great mission of C.A.C.A. in Seattle. Thank you for your dedication to community service and advocacy to improve the lives of the Chinese community.”

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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.