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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

DATE: February 24, 2018

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C.A.C.A. Portland Lodge Celebrates Its 97th Anniversary

San Francisco, February 24, 2018 — Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) extends its best wishes to one of its oldest lodges, C.A.C.A. Portland, on the 97th Anniversary of its charter. Portland Lodge was organized on February 24, 1921, with 50 men as charter members. It expanded the efforts of National C.A.C.A., combating exclusionary immigration and land laws, and fighting discrimination on behalf of Chinese Americans in Oregon. The Lodge held its 97th Anniversary and Chinese New Year Celebration on Sunday, February 18, at Wong's King Restaurant. Proceeds raised at the dinner help support the Portland Lodge's scholarships, cultural heritage, civic engagement, and youth programs.

Betty Jean Lee, one of Portland Lodge's most senior board members recalled the early days when she joined the lodge, "William Ding, Lai Wu, and Peter Hing were some of the founding members . . . with some financial help from National C.A.C.A., Portland Lodge became more community minded and is probably the most active Asian organization in the local community today."

Historically, Portland Lodge has led the way in keeping abreast with technology. In the 1980s, it hosted the first "electronic convention" having cell phones and computers instead of typewriters at the C.A.C.A. National Convention. "Portland Lodge was also the first to advocate computers for the C.A.C.A. Essay Contest," added Betty Jean Lee.

To attract young people to get involved, Portland lodge developed and lead several youth oriented programs. For over 40 years, Portland Lodge organized a boys and girls basketball program for middle and high school students with previous students coming back to serve as coaches. Taking a leadership role, the one day Asian American Youth Leadership Conference (AAYLC) boasts an annual attendance of over 400 high school students in Oregon and Southern Washington. This program is chaired by Helen Ying, Portland Lodge's past president and first woman president. Other Portland Lodge's community programs include the Bilingual Alcohol Server Education program for non-English speaking students, the Food Faire which drew over 500 attendance and participation from 100 volunteers and 30 restaurants, and the Voter Registration drive assisted by bilingual volunteers.

Last September, C.A.C.A. Portland was lauded for its efforts in advancing public recognition of the city's earliest Chinese settlers. The Lodge gifted the city with a plaque that commemorates the more than 5,000 Chinese dwellers living and working in Portland's original Chinatown between 1863 and 1900. "The plaque was designed by Suenn Ho and it took two years of perseverance and raising small donations to memorialize the contributions of past generations of Chinese Americans," said Betty Jean Lee, the brainchild of the plaque.

"Congratulations to C.A.C.A. Portland for 97 years of service. Thank you for your passion to develop leadership, serve the community, and promote civil rights in the 21st century," stated C.A.C.A. National President Davace Chin.



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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.