Message from the President

It is with great honor that I assume the role of President of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, one of the oldest civil rights organizations to serve the Chinese Americans. I was elected to the role during the 55th National Convention hosted by the Boston Lodge in the beautiful historic city of Boston. During the National Convention, we were so fortunate to have the opportunity to network and to catch up with old friends from our sister Lodges and to make new friends from the newer lodges and members. We were also treated to outstanding speakers who spoke passionately on a variety of subjects central to our mission and vision. Some of the highlights included “Chinese Americans & the Future of Civil Rights” by Professor Frank Wu, former Dean of UC Hastings College of Law and President of C-100, “Civil Right Advocacy during the Era of the Chinese Exclusion Laws” by David Lei, Chinese American Scholar and Community Leader and “The Failure of Asian Success- most likely to be hired, least likely to be promoted” by Buck Gee, Community Leader. The 150th Anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad was highlighted by Stanford Professor Gordon Chang’s presentation “Chinese Railroad Workers in American History: A Record of Extraordinary Accomplishment”. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Boston Lodge President Esther Lee and the members of the Boston Lodge for their wonderful hospitality during the 55th National Convention.

The city of Boston, also known as the “Cradle of Liberty”, which was instrumental for instigating the American Revolution is also symbolic of the history of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, also known as “The Alliance”. There was a time in our country’s not so distant history when Chinese Americans did not have access to the freedoms that we all enjoy today. The founders and subsequent leaders of the Alliance throughout history, with perseverance, determination and leadership fought against discrimination and for the same rights as every other American. It is from their successes and triumphs that I take my inspiration. As I begin my term, there are key goals and objectives that I would like to share with you.

**Future vision**: we are at a critical point in the history of our organization. To remain relevant, effective and create value to our membership and community, we need to look towards the future and develop a vision and plan for the next several decades.

**A call to action**: We cannot become complacent and assume that with the successes of many the Chinese American, that the Chinese Americans no longer face any challenges. We will continue to advocate on such issues such as unwarranted racial bias and profiling of foreign born Chinese and Chinese Americans, and supporting initiatives that are important or impactful to the Chinese American such as promoting fair treatment and eliminating discrimination. We also need to make sure that our Chinese American heroes are recognized for their heroism and service to our country and that their stories are heard. The Chinese American WWII Veteran Project continues its

(Continued on page 2)
mission to honor the WWII Chinese American veterans with the Congressional Gold Medal and to educate the public about their efforts and accomplishments and preserving their legacy.

Cultural Preservation: America is a land of immigrants who bring us a wealth of diversity and culture and although assimilation is encouraged, it does not mean that we become homogenous. By maintaining and preserving our cultural heritage, we maintain the sense of community and create social cohesion and others can learn from and appreciate the diverse experiences of our ancestors.

I am deeply grateful to my predecessor, Davace Chin for his leadership and outstanding contributions during the past two years and to all the Past National Presidents who inspire me with their commitment to the organization and all of their achievements. I also will look to you, the members to be personally involved with C.A.C.A. to help me achieve the mission and goals of this organization. It is you, the members that make this great organization a success since it was first started over a 100 years ago.

Respectfully,
Melanie Chan
C.A.C.A. National President

(Continued from page 1: President’s Message)

UPDATE: Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition Project
Ed Gor, Past National President / Project Manager

The Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition Project continues its mission to register our Chinese American WWII Veterans for the honor of receiving the Congressional Gold Medal. Authorized by 115th Congress and signed into law as PL 115-337 by President Trump in 2018, this concerted effort by not only members of C.A.C.A., but also by dedicated volunteers from American Legion and VFW posts, and historical societies has resulted in just over 1,800 confirmed to receive the Medal in ceremonies in 2020 with projections to reach 2,500 by year’s end.

While many of us had envisioned a Fall, 2019 Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) Ceremony in Washington, DC, the Recognition Project has determined that this Ceremony will be held in Spring, 2020. The exact date is still not known until the process of working with
the U.S. Mint on the design, reviews, approval, and manufacture of our Chinese American WWII Veterans CGM is completed. Once Congress sets the date in coordination with our Project team, we’ll be able to advise all confirmed veterans and/or their next-of-kin family members of specific travel details, including the hotel accommodations, optional transportation to/from designated events in DC (for veterans and those with limited mobility), other venues, costs, etc.

Regional Congressional Gold Medal Ceremonies will be conducted at locations across the country to be determined after the DC Ceremony. Local lodges are encouraged to redouble their efforts to contact local veterans’ groups, churches, senior congregate centers for assistance in locating and registering eligible veterans and families. The website has many resources including an FAQ to help. If you need help with conducting a Register-A-Veteran Day, please contact Ed Gor at ejgor@comcast.net for assistance, including applying for a grant from National C.A.C.A. to host such an event.

In this Update, the Project commends the exemplary efforts of Seattle Lodge President Cathy Lee, who’s organized a Seattle CGM Committee of like-minded individuals to register a confirmed 119 veterans, primarily from the Seattle-Tacoma metroplex. This includes locating one veteran, who at 102 years young, is the oldest living Chinese American WWII Veteran in our list. Also, the Project commends the zealous dedication of Marjorie Lee, archivist at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, for organizing the effort for the Register-A-Veteran Day every Saturday during August at the Cathay Bank, Chinatown Branch. Marjorie has been a member of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California and editor of “Duty & Honor: A Tribute to Chinese American WWII Veterans of Southern California”. Marjorie’s leadership almost doubled the number of registrations from southern California.

For those who have submitted an application or have registered their email to receive updates, please continue to look for these updates sent directly to your email from CGMCommittee@caww2.org or keep posted by visiting our website at www.caww2.org.

Finally, but equally important, is the Project continues to raise funds from individuals, organizations, and companies who support this recognition of our WWII Veterans so that every one of them or their next-of-kin family member will receive the honor of this unique Congressional Gold Medal at no cost to them. Their service to our country is priceless. Please visit our Donor page at https://www.caww2.org/donate or consider our Recognition Circle at https://www.caww2.org/cgm-recognition-circle.

We are pleased to announce that AARP has stepped up to the Gold Medal Circle to honor our confirmed Veterans with the first 1,000 Congressional Gold Medals (duplicates). This is the thanks and appreciation to the Chinese American WWII Veterans from a grateful organization—AARP!

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THE 55th BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONVENTION
Munson Kwok, Past National President

As unconventional as was the scheduling devised by Boston Lodge chairs Wilson and Esther Lee, the selection of the July 4th week for the Biennial Convention turned out to be memorable not just for sunny days and warm, late evenings of the transition from Spring to early Summer before the storm season, but for the concurrent July 4 holiday around town and the convention agenda crammed with a top-line of outstanding speakers fitted between the business sessions. The well-positioned venue of the historical Boston Plaza Hotel was steps away from the center of Boston, the Common and The Park, and also made for a nice walk to Chinatown locations. For the first time, C.A.C.A. experienced an attendance of 18 Local Lodges, plus new Sacramento observing the proceedings!

Topping the invited speakers was the Hon. Norman Mineta, returning to the C.A.C.A. convention after nearly two decades to serve as keynoter at the Grand Ball and as panelist presenting the excellent PBS documentary on his life, “Norman Mineta and his Legacy: An American Story.” Other featured speakers included Stanford Prof. Gordon Chang and scholar David Lei and Buck Gee, examining aspects of the Transcontinental Railroad story and summarizing following the intense scrutiny of this topic on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Golden Spike. UC Hastings Prof. Frank Wu, also president of Committee of 100, addressed Chinese
National Scholarship Program

For many decades, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance has placed its educational programs and scholarships at the center of its community involvement; our efforts in this area remain a hallmark of the Alliance’s work.

In the 1980s, the Walter U. Lum Foundation endowed a scholarship to honor the legacy of Past National President Walter U. Lum, a San Francisco Chinese American pioneer and community leader and one of the founders of the Alliance. First awarded in 1987, this biennial national scholarship is awarded to college students currently pursuing their undergraduate degrees. The 2019 recipients of this scholarship are Daniel Chan (Brown Univ), Margot Flynn (Colorado College) and Andrew Yam (UC Irvine).

After a ten year hiatus, the Chao Suet Foundation returned to award its national scholarships, which are named after Chi Chao Liang and his wife, Po Suet Liang, longtime supporters and advocates of the Alliance and promoters of higher education. This year, the Chao Suet Foundation is sponsoring scholarships for graduating high school students. The 2019 recipients are Clement Chan (UC Santa Barbara) and Albert Liu (MIT).

Finally, the Harvey Wong Memorial Scholarship is sponsored by the family of Past National President Harvey Wong, a strong believer in giving back to the Alliance and his community. These unique scholarships were presented to Marcus Yuen and Sonia Chan, both student interns who volunteered and worked tirelessly throughout the 55th Biennial National Convention.

National Essay Contest

Celebrating its 50th year, the National Essay Contest fosters creative thinking and self-expression and encourages an awareness of current local, national and world events. Throughout the decades, thousands of high school students across the nation have participated in the contest and competed to earn cash scholarships for their educational endeavors.

The topics chosen for the essay contest have covered a broad range of subjects of interest to the Chinese American community, including, for example, the depiction of Asian Americans in mass media, the lingering persistence of racial stereotypes, the generational gap among families, and the participation of Chinese Americans in politics.

162 students representing 12 chapters participated in the thought provoking 2019 contest, which asked students to comment on the perception and image of Chinese Americans.

2019 National Results
First Place  Amy Pang (Chicago)  
Second Place  Maggie Cao (Chicago)  
Third Place  Emily Chua (Seattle)  

Merit Recipients:
Katie Collins (Greater New York)  
Shena Han (Albuquerque)  
Caela Hung (Portland)  
Annabella Lee (Greater New York)  
Sharon Liang (Chicago)  
Yuanchen Liu (Greater New York)  
Donoven Ong (Phoenix)  
Rebecca Qiu (Phoenix)  
Carolyn Yee (Seattle)  
Richard Zhu (Greater New York)

National Art Contest

A remarkable number of gifted young artists submitted their creations for the 2019 National Art Competition, sponsored by the Chinese American Citizens Alliance and the Chinese American Museum. This biennial national competition provides students of all ages the opportunity to express their creativity, originality and extraordinary artistic skills using a variety of mediums including oil, watercolor, acrylic, crayon, pen, pencil and charcoal.

The competition encourages students to reflect on their cultural heritage, promotes diversity, and celebrates the past and continuing contributions of Chinese Americans.

(Continued on page 5)
Students from across the country submitted entries on this year’s theme, “Railroad workers marked the first wave of Chinese immigrants to come work in the United States. Today, Chinese Americans hold various jobs that contribute to the workforce. Look around your community. What kind of different jobs do you see Chinese Americans working in? Draw some of the jobs or kinds of work you see.”

**Grand Prize Winners**
Upper Division – Alex Gu (Age 14, Palo Alto, CA)
Lower Division – Julianne Yang (Age 11, Alameda, CA)

**Division 1 Winners (Kindergarten to Grade 3)**
First Place – Sylvia Mei (Age 9, Union City, CA)
Second Place – Hannah Chan (Age 9, Fremont, CA)
Third Place – Maggie Liu (Age 8, Milpitas, CA)

**Division 2 Winners (Grades 4-6)**
First Place – Cindy Lin (Age 11, Saratoga, CA)
Second Place – Jeffrey Fan (Age 11, Palo Alto, CA)
Third Place – Yiling Wu (Age 10, San Jose, CA)

**Division 3 Winners (Grades 7-9)**
First Place – Linda Zhu (Age 14, San Jose, CA)
Second Place – Kayla Jang (Age 14, Los Angeles, CA)
Third Place – Kevin Yu (Age 13, Palo Alto, CA)

**Division 4 Winners (Grades 10-12)**
First Place – Jacqueline Li (Age 15, San Jose, CA)
Second Place – Yifei Zhang (Age 15, Palo Alto, CA)
Third Place – Grace Huang (Age 17, Cupertino, CA)

*(Continued from page 4)*

"Constructing a Future"
by Alex Gu, Grand Prize Upper Division

"Roaring Train Camp by Chinese Generations"
by Cindy Lin, 1st Place Division 2

"The Railroad to American Dreams"
by Sylvia Mei, 1st Place Division 1

"Reaching" by Linda Zhu, 1st Place Division 3

"Ascending from Railroad Workers"
by Jacqueline Li, 1st Place Division 4
ALBUQUERQUE

The first Asian American exhibit at the Albuquerque Museum, *Invisible to Visible: the Chinese American Experience* has a second life. This very successful, 6-month exhibit, which ended in early January 2019, is now a virtual exhibit available to view on the Albuquerque Museum web site. The exhibition is organized into four theme areas: making a living, civil rights, education and community. All of the items in the exhibit are personal items from members of the community and cover historical events to present day Albuquerque. Siu Wong, former member of the Albuquerque Museum Board of Trustees and the President of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance – Albuquerque Lodge, was the lead community curator of the Exhibit. Past National President Carolyn Chan and Rusty Chan, VP of the Albuquerque Lodge, were also members of the Exhibit Committee. Please view the exhibit at [https://www.cabq.gov/culturalservices/albuquerque-museum/past-exhibits/from-invisible-to-visible](https://www.cabq.gov/culturalservices/albuquerque-museum/past-exhibits/from-invisible-to-visible) or Google *Albuquerque Museum: Invisible to Visible*.

The ABQ 4th Chinese American Film Festival is scheduled for October 19, 2019. The line-up this year includes ‘*ABACUS: Small Enough to Jail*’, ‘*Tyrus*’, and animator of Bambi, ‘*Bambi*’ and ‘*The Canton Army of the High Sierras*’. We are fortunate to have Chantrelle Sung, attorney and *ABACUS* family member and Pamela Tom, Director of *Tyrus* participating in a Q and A.

The monument to a landmark Chinese American Civil Rights case, *Territory of New Mexico v. Yee Shun (1882)* is completed (September). The monument is located at the Second Judicial District Court Bernalillo County (Courthouse) in downtown Albuquerque. The dedication ceremony will be November 2019 with an unveiling, speeches and seminar on civil rights. ABQ Lodge is honored to have raised over $300,000 for this monument which now represents ‘liberty, justice and equality for all’. Photo is of the fabrication of the monument, specifically the braid or queue which represents ‘the backbone of the sculpture and the Chinese use of the law to achieve justice and equality’. Please contact Siu Wong if you would like more information and/or attend the ceremony.

GREATER NEW YORK

GNY’s recent activities have focused on our continuing fight against the blatant anti-Asian racism of the NYC mayor and school chancellor. They continue to devise ways to reduce the number of Asian students in Specialized High Schools and K-8 Gifted and Talented programs, not because Asians have suddenly become dumber or lazier, but because they are Asian. We know that is racist and wrong, just as it would be racist and wrong if there were plans to reduce numbers of any student population based upon race. GNY demonstrated, appeared in newspapers, television, and radio to present our view; spoke in hearings and forums held by the City Council, State Assembly and State Senate, and traveled up to the state capitol to lobby against racist changes in the admissions policies that aim to reduce Asians in the best schools. One evening, the school chancellor came to a Chinatown school named after Sun Yat-sen, and opened the meeting in Spanish (he is one of several Hispanic NYC chancellors, but the only one who attacked Asians relentlessly). He had Spanish translators at the meeting but no Chinese translators when most parents at the school needed Chinese translation. Aside from this most important issue of discrimination in education, we participated in the fight against putting the world's tallest jail in Chinatown steps from a park filled with young children and seniors, and right next to a senior center. These seniors, who have already suffered through the dust, fumes, debris and toxins of 9/11, would have their lives shortened when we consider the noise and pollutants at their doorsteps with ten years of demolition and construction.
GREATER SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

For the just completed 55th National C.A.C.A. Convention in Boston, our Lodge sent a 9-member team to attend, including delegates Sharon Wong and Scott Kwong. President Sharon gave a report on our Lodge’s achievements for the past two years. Our Lodge submitted three resolutions, of which the one on H-1B Visa was passed with text modifications by the Council. Lodge Founder John Y. Wong made a gallant but unsuccessful attempt (by a handful of votes) for the National Presidency, while Charles Mau retained his position as VP on Education and Paul Wong was elected National Executive.

This past summer, Anrui Gu, our summer intern and a local essay contest winner, took on the Lodge history project to commemorate the upcoming 20th Anniversary of our Lodge’s establishment. She interviewed numerous founding members of the Lodge and those from LA Lodge who were intimately involved in the formative stages of our Lodge around the turn of the Centennial. They included Lisa Yang, John Wong, John Gee, David Yuen, Winston Wu, Pedro Chan, and Munson Kwok. Thanks are also due to those who provided photos, documents, and memorabilia related to our Lodge’s history. Before she left for UC-Berkeley in late August to start her freshman year as an economics major, Anrui handed in her draft of an article “GSGV: The Making of a Lodge”, which will undergo some editing before being published. Anrui also made valuable suggestions on how to improve on recruiting younger members to our Lodge, and on making changes to our newsletter and website. Anrui’s internship was funded by a 2019 National Lodge Capacity Building Grant.

WASHINGTON DC

Washington DC Lodge supported programs to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, the Library of Congress, and Department of Labor. We opened an initiative working with the 1882 Foundation and several agencies around the country to designate the Summit Tunnel and Summit Pass a National Monument. Lodge President Ted Gong represented the Alliance in a focus group convened by Senator Mark Warner on US-China relationship and Chinese American racial profiling. He traveled to Richmond to Governor Northam’s APIA Heritage and recognition event, and worked with DC Mayor’s office on the annual Chinatown Park Spring Festival and Mid-Autumn Festival, arranging for moon cakes, coordinating with TECRO for paper lanterns and providing Monkey King III for movie-in-the-park. With OCA, 1882 Foundation, and the new Chinese American Museum supported four Talk Story events on – Chinese Genealogy, Chinese American Music, Chinatown Poetry and a screening/community discussion of Flower Drum Song. Thanks to contributions from the Harrison and Ana Lee Scholarship Fund, the lodge supported summer community activities for 6 university interns and a Chinatown Arts Studio for young students. We are fund raising to rebuild the memorial patio at Range 99 Congressional Cemetery and to replace the rusting outer fencing the of the Gum Yum temple in Chinatown, corner of H and Sixth Streets. Very sadly, senior member and beloved community leader Linda Lee passed away this summer.
American identity today, challenging the Grand Council and the audience to gain that confidence of identity, up their game, and become a stronger voice for today’s issues confronting Chinese Americans. For C-100, one of those hottest issues of the moment is racial profiling, affecting our best naturalized citizens and potentially framing a negative stereotype against all Chinese Americans.

The Grand Council considered 21 Resolutions, of which eight were memorials of departed past Local Lodge presidents one resolution expressing appreciation to Boston Lodge and all key sponsors, including AARP, Veterans Administration, the U.S Census, Tufts Medical Center, South Cove Health Center, East Boston Savings and HeyLaMoon Restaurant. Five issues resolutions were adopted after revision.

A consensus could not be reached on language and actions on five proposals which were tabled in committee and two were withdrawn. The Grand Council accepted all these committee rejections as well. For a full list of Resolutions and outcome, contact your local Lodge President or National Representative.

Of all the planned tours, the most memorable was the very pleasant and congenial Boston Harbor sunset tour in perfect evening weather on July 3, affording a glimpse of the traditional 8pm cannon salute from the USS Constitution.

The next National Biennial Convention heads for Portland, OR in 2021 to observe the Centennial of Portland Lodge!!!

(Continued from page 3)

**SEATTLE**

C.A.C.A. Seattle is working with community friends and Cathay Post #186 to identify and register Chinese American WWII Veterans for the Congressional Gold Medal. In addition to The International Examiner, NW Asian Weekly, we had interviews with television stations KIRO (CBS affiliate) and Q13 (Fox affiliate), and with the region’s largest newspaper, The Seattle Times. We raised over $2500 ($750 in a raffle, $800 auctioning Corky Lee’s famous photo, and over $1000 in a Facebook fundraiser) for the Congressional Gold Medal Project Fund. We look forward to sending four living WWII Veterans to the DC Ceremony, including the oldest living at 102 years old!

This March, four years after a fatal Seattle crash involving international students, the Washington Legislature updated parts of the state’s wrongful death law. The update changed requirements that, after an accidental death in the state, family members must live in the U.S. and be economically dependent on the victim to be able to file a wrongful death claim in Washington State. The law was rooted in xenophobia against Chinese working in the early 1900s. Ming-Ming Tung-Edelman, past president Seattle Lodge, pulled groups together to form the Wrongful Death Law Coalition to change this law. The Coalition was made up of the National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum-Seattle, the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance-Seattle Chapter, The University of Washington Asian Student Commission, OCA- Greater Seattle, JACL Seattle, and C.A.C.A. Seattle.

Each year our Annual Awards Banquet coincides with Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. This year we renamed our awards after our brother Fred Yee, to commemorate his spirit of unity and community service. We were honored to bring Corky Lee to Seattle as the keynote speaker for the banquet. He was also the headliner for an event at the main Seattle Public Library, “Did Chinese Railroad Workers Make America Great?”

The Seattle delegation to the National Convention included Jean Chen, Cathy Lee, Bettie Luke, and Kevin Lee, who enjoyed Boston Lodge’s hospitality and great food, participated in educational sessions, and heard amazing speakers. Our brother Fred Yee was honored with the Spirit of America Award which his daughter, Andrea, accepted in his memory.
PHOENIX

Chinese American Citizens Alliance Phoenix Lodge (PCACA) opened its Chinese Railroad Workers and the Railroad photo exhibition on Friday, May 10, 2019 at the Phoenix Burton Barr Library. The photo exhibition honors the contributions of the Chinese Railroad Workers who were instrumental in the monumental task of completing America’s first transcontinental railroad 150 years ago. Members of PCACA spent two weekends assembling the exhibit, which consisted of 60 photo panels with captions depicting the courageous workers, mainly from the Guangdong Province in China. It told the story of thousands of Chinese migrants who worked in extremely harsh, dangerous, and discriminatory conditions to construct the railroad.

On hand in opening the photo exhibition were Barry Wong, Executive Director, Governor’s Office of Equal Opportunity, and Rita Marco, President, CEO, Phoenix Sister Cities who gave official proclamations of appreciation and the importance of the exhibit. The photo exhibit was organized by the Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project at Stanford University, Li Jiu, and Monica Yeung Arima and sponsored by PCACA and the Chengdu and Taipei City Committees of Phoenix Sister Cities. The exhibit was open to the public and on display for more than 6 weeks.

Over 12,000 Chinese workers worked on the railroad, yet little is known or written about them in school textbooks. Roger Lyman, a social studies teacher at Mesa Public School became aware of the Chinese Railroad Workers Project at Stanford University and approached Phoenix Chinese community leader Albert Lin regarding supporting the photo exhibit. Through these connections, PCACA President Eva Li and her team embarked on a journey to bring the photo exhibit to Phoenix and to co-sponsor the exhibit with the Phoenix Sister Cities Committees of Chengdu and Taipei.

“At this 150th anniversary, we need to let everyone know the Chinese contributions to the building of our nation,” said President Eva Li. “We need to have everyone visit this historic photo exhibit and to see and learn how Chinese railroad workers played a major role in unifying our country.”

MISSISSIPPI

C.A.C.A. Mississippi Lodge was excited to have the chance to partner with a sister Chinese Advocacy group to form a team for the Greenville Dragon Boat Races on September 7, 2019. Shirley and Richard Kwan generously sponsored both the boat and the team's t-shirts and were instrumental in the design of the shirt. They, along with Louisa Huang and several other Ms Lodge members worked together to provide snacks, fruit and a wonderful lunch for not only the team, but several guests including the Mayor of Greenville, Ms. The group enjoyed themselves so much that talk of practice for next year's team is already in the works. C.A.C.A. was also invited to share in our sister group's Mid-Autumn Festival on September 14. We truly are "sister" groups and look forward to working together many more times in the future.

ALLIANCE PUBLICATION SCHEDULE 2019 - 2021

The Alliance Connection will be published three times a year with the following schedule:
- Call for submissions - April 1, August 1, December 1
- Deadline for submissions - May 15, September 15, January 15
- Deadline for membership list updates for mailings - June 15, October 15, February 15
- Mailed out - June 30, October 31, February 28

Questions or comments may be sent to Rick Eng, VP Communications, info@cacanational.org
PORTLAND

Summer 2019 has been a busy season for Portland Lodge. Thank you to Boston Lodge for hosting a successful and enjoyable time at the 55th Biennial National Convention. All the speakers were informative, educational, and fantastic storytellers. It was wonderful to spend time with our fellow brothers and sisters from across the country, reconnecting with old friends and meeting new ones. Along with Las Vegas Lodge, Portland bid to host the 2021 National Convention. We are excited that we won the bid, and we look forward to seeing you all in Portland in two years.

On August 3rd we were invited to participate in the first annual Oregon Chinese Coalition Portland Chinese Festival in the heart of downtown Portland, Pioneer Courthouse Square. It was a full day of entertaining performances and family fun, connecting the city with the Chinese community. There was a great turnout from both within and outside our community, and we were pleased to share our work with our city.

On August 14th we partnered with the Portland Chinatown Museum to host an exclusive members event featuring E. Samantha Cheng and a screening of her documentary Honor and Duty: The Mississippi Delta Chinese. Samantha held a Q&A and discussed her work with the Chinese American WW2 Veterans Recognition Project to recognize, honor, celebrate and preserve the legacy of the Chinese Americans veterans who served in World War II. Portland Lodge is working to find and award veterans and their families with the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor.

We hosted our first Autumn Moon Festival moon cake making event on September 7. This was a free event for C.A.C.A. Portland members while non-members were required to purchase a ticket. We hope to host more events like this to attract new members to C.A.C.A.

SACRAMENTO

On August 5, 2019 we held a special meeting where we discussed and approved the re-chartering of C.A.C.A. Sacramento Lodge. At the meeting we voted for the board members. We had 20 members in attendance. The following were elected to the board.

President: Ken Ming Sou
Vice-President: Freeman Lee
Secretary: Christina Lam
Assistant Secretary: Wendy Constancio
Treasurer & Financial Secretary: Ed Lee
Compliance Officers: James Lam and Ben Hau
Marshal: George Tom
Sentinel: Bonnie Chow
Collector: Wendy Constancio
National Representative: Joe Cheung

At the meeting, members also voted to have the Installation Dinner on January 3, 2020. We currently have 41 paid and registered members for the Sacramento Lodge. We welcome all National and Local Lodges to attend the Installation Dinner. We also have been working on clearing out a warehouse next door to our office that will be used for member events and meetings.

On September 14, 2019, Ken Sou (President) and Freeman Lee (Vice-President) attended the National Meeting in San Francisco. The C.A.C.A. meeting was interesting, and the lunch and dinner were very appetizing. A great job of organizing and a great gathering of passionate members.
HOUSTON

C.A.C.A. Houston Lodge hosted the 49th Annual Miss Chinatown Houston Scholarship Pageant on July 27, 2019 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel. The scholarship pageant is a signature event which has started attracting mainstream community support over the recent years. Lauren Yang was crowned Miss Chinatown Houston from a field of eight talented and beautiful contestants.

The pageant is typically attended by community leaders and dignitaries. In addition to Peter Chen, Director General of the Taipei Economic & Cultural Office in Houston, his wife, and dinner attendees received greetings from Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner (which is the first time in the pageant’s history a Mayor has participated). Houston Lodge also invited Houston Police Department to celebrate the special occasion so we may continue building strong relations with the public sector. Assistant Chief Wendy Baimbridge, Commander Larry Baimbridge (SWAT Division), Commander Michael Faulhaber (Westside Command), and Commander Craig Bellamy (South Gessner Command) were guests of President Alice Lee and her husband Mark Lee. The Southwest Management District provides Chinese translations of numerous HPD safety brochures and videos to help educate new immigrants with limited English proficiency; these are great resources which may be used to share with potential members.

Another way to reach out to the Chinese American community is to share important information regarding early voting, as well as recruitment of Election Day poll workers who are bilingual in Chinese and English. In Harris County, ballots are in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Chinese. However, voters can easily get confused with what forms of identification are acceptable, as well as where they are registered to vote.

Finally, Houston Lodge along with the American Chinese Legion Post 596 Auxiliary will be celebrating the 65th anniversary, along with the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, with a dinner on Sunday, November 10. Dinner co-chairs are Vice President Alice Hung and National Board Executive member Dorothy Chow.

SAN ANTONIO

The San Antonio Lodge became an Official Partner of the 2020 Census. Our members have been working to plan outreach strategies with the US Census Bureau, the County and City Complete Count Committee. Lodge President Kin Hui has been building support and endorsement from Federal, State, County, and City elected officials to support the formation of an Alamo Asian Complete Count Committee to focus on outreach efforts to the Bexar County and City of San Antonio Asian community.

SATX Lodge efforts resulted in the Alamo Asian Complete Count Committee being formed on September 5 with support from over 20 Asian organizations in San Antonio.
DONATE TO THE Y.C. HONG DOCUMENTARY

Carolyn Hong Chan, Past National President

Delegates to the 2019 Chinese American Citizens Alliance – National Convention in Boston unanimously approved a $5000 pledge to kick-off support for Producer/Director Rick Quan’s educational documentary honoring the life and achievements of Y. C. Hong. *A Chinese American Giant – The YC Hong Story* will educate C.A.C.A. members and the public about the advocacy work and civic engagement of an outstanding C.A.C.A. pioneer, a past president of Los Angeles Lodge and Past Grand (National) President. Trailer at https://vimeo.com/344155270

Y. C. Hong, the second Chinese American licensed to practice law in California and the first to earn a law degree from USC Law School, specialized in immigration law during the Chinese Exclusion period. He advocated for equality, justice, and civil rights for our community. He argued more than 7000 cases and testified before Congressional and Presidential committees to seek repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act and the Chinese War Brides Act. His work may have directly affected your separated family’s ability to reunite in America, naturalize, and pursue the American dream.

When Los Angeles razed Old Chinatown to build Union Station, Y. C. Hong helped develop New Chinatown, using Chinese motifs to honor our heritage and attract tourists.

**Help reach the goal of $15,000 by December 31, 2019**

Mail tax-deductible checks made to payee National C.A.C.A. CIF with memo line “Y.C. Hong Project” to:

Munson Kwok, Treasurer
National C.A.C.A. CIF
P.O. Box 451261
Los Angeles, CA 90045-1261

Consult your fund manager or tax accountant if you wish to donate with required minimum distributions (RMD) funds from your IRA account. All donations will be gratefully and timely acknowledged.