It is with the greatest of excitement that I bring forth the news that because of your support of the Chinese American World War II Veterans Recognition Project, led by volunteer Project Director Samantha Cheng, Paul Kincaid, Gil Thompson and numerous University of Maryland interns, there are now two (2) companion bills in each House of Congress to award the Congressional Gold Medal to these deserving patriots who served our U.S. Armed Forces. A press release was issued containing information about the sponsors of H.R. 2358 and S.1050 and their remarks.

To say that the easy part was getting the bills to the point of acceptance for introduction would diminish the work of the Project team members, but in reality, the hard part begins for ALL members of C.A.C.A. at EVERY lodge to make contact with your House Representative and both Senators to express your most adamant expression that they support these bills.

In the coming days and weeks, C.A.C.A. National will provide best strategies to contacting your elected officials, including phone calls to district offices, letters and emails. In mid-May, the annual Washington, D.C. Legislative Education Team will focus intensely on walking the Hill to visit as many of the key members of Congress we can. It’s going to require some social media contacts as well to spread the word to our relatives, friends and others who will finally hear of our brave parents and grandparents service.

Let me also acknowledge the very key work and support from the leadership and members of our Greater San Gabriel Valley and Orange County Lodges who stepped up to immediately engage and enlist the help of their important Congressional contacts to visibly shine attention to why we should make this the time to secure this honor of the Medal. Thus, EVERY local lodge should make efforts not only to help identify the Chinese American WWII Veterans in their area, but then mobilize their membership to contact your members of Congress to support the bills.

This is a proud day for C.A.C.A., but we look for a prouder day when we do our job to get the bills passed.

Download the News Release from the C.A.C.A. National website:
Phoenix: Bringing Chinese New Year to Schoolchildren

Richard E. Miller School in Phoenix has been celebrating Chinese New Year for fifteen years in a row. It all started when Helen Yee, a C.A.C.A. member and former teacher at the school, introduced the China curriculum to her Kindergarten classroom in 2002. “We were allowed to do some cooking in the room and I also brought in Chinese artifacts and clothing for the students to see. This gradually led to my kindergarten team joining in with craft activities. My own children got involved when they volunteered to help in my classroom. They made and painted the twelve Styrofoam zodiac animals, which hung on the cafeteria walls during the celebration week. They also made a lion’s head for display. One of their friends made four red banners with Chinese characters written in gold. It is quite festive when these are hung in front of the school library,” recalled Helen Yee. The annual Chinese New Year activities expanded when the school partnered with C.A.C.A. Phoenix Lodge in 2007 and the program has grown to include craft activities conducted by Diana Ho, Director of Cultural and Arts Programs for Phoenix Chinese Week.

This year, about 200 second grade and kindergarten students learned about the Year of the Rooster and Chinese New Year traditions, wrote a Chinese character, made Rooster crafts, and listened to Chinese folk tales. Students and teachers learned to use chopsticks while sampling Chinese foods such as Orange Chicken, Noodles, Fried Rice, Stir Fried Vegetables, and Fortune Cookies. One of the teachers’ comments sums up the enthusiasm for this partnership – “It was a well-organized and well thought out celebration with lots of hands on experiences from crafts to books to foods. The students are still talking about it!”

Thank you to Helen Yee for coordinating this cultural outreach program and to all the Phoenix Lodge volunteers for bringing Chinese New Year to life for the students. “This has been a wonderful opportunity to present information about the Chinese culture and the Chinese New Year celebration to the students. We love interacting with them as they gain a memorable experience through the program, and we look forward to doing this each year,” said Helen Yee.

San Antonio: Christmas Banquet and Community Events

San Antonio Lodge held its annual Christmas banquet on December 13, 2016, and announced the 2017 Officers. Members and guests enjoyed Chinese food at Teppanyaki Restaurant, while socializing and winning door prizes.

National President Ed Gor and his wife visited the Lodge on January 21. As members enjoyed their barbeque, President Gor briefed everyone on upcoming events and activities at the National level.

The Lodge held its third annual fundraiser selling Chinese food at the Asian Festival held at the Institute of Texan Cultures on February 4, 2017. Members cooked and sold fried rice, egg rolls, krab rangoons, shrimp chips, sesame balls, and hot tea.

San Antonio Lodge set up a voter registration table at the February 25 Mayoral Forum hosted by the Asian American Alliance of San Antonio.

On March 4, local high school students participated in the National Essay Contest at the Chinese School, with hopes of winning a national or local cash prize.
Oakland: Building Renovation Completed

Oakland Lodge is happy to announce that the building renovation is completed and will have its grand opening in March 2017. We are honored to host the National Essay Contest participants at our brand new facility. On January 15, 2017, Oakland Lodge installed its new Board of Officers. Members are excited about the upcoming year as the Lodge continues to work with other organizations as the Chinatown Coalition addresses community needs. The Chinatown Coalition is a partnership amongst local organizations and leadership dedicated to ensure Chinatown’s strength and growth.

Greater San Gabriel Valley: Changing of the Guard and Lodge Endorsements

The winter months have been eventful for Greater San Gabriel Valley (GSGV) Lodge. In December 2016, over 25 members and friends went on an exciting four-day Mexico cruise and over the Christmas season, the Lodge held its Christmas Party at La Vie French Restaurant. That same month, the Lodge, together with Brothers Winston Wu and Munson Kwok from L.A., attended a fundraising dinner to kick off the campaign to extend a city measure to provide continuous funding for Monterey Park Library via a parcel tax. January 2017 saw the “changing of the guard” when Bro. Charles Mau and Sister Sharon Wong were sworn in as President and Vice President of GSGV Lodge by Past National President Bro. Kwok.

Lodge members Peter Chan, Margaret Leung, and Hans Liang declared their candidacy for two seats in the Monterey Park City Council. The Lodge voted to endorse the former two upon their request. Sister Lisa Yang kept herself busy visiting Salt Lake City to celebrate and witness the inauguration of Karen Kwan to the Utah State House as the first Chinese American legislator ever in that state. Brother David Yuen attended a Comfort Women Memorial Service in Central Park, Glendale and a TV station interviewed him when he reiterated that the Japanese government needed to apologize and compensate all comfort women, and teach future generations about their military’s war crimes. In February, GSGV Lodge endorsed Brother Scott Kwong for the November San Marino City Council race. During these months, GSGV Lodge also co-sponsored two film events in Monterey Park Library, screening Honor and Duty: The Mississippi Delta Chinese in November and Bruce Lee My Brother in January, both with tremendous attendance.

Board of National Officers 2015-2017

National President:
Edmond J. Gor (Houston)

National Executive VP
Davace Chin (San Francisco)

National VP-Planning
Melanie Chan (San Francisco)

National VP-Membership
Helen Ying (Portland)

National VP-Public & Civic Affairs
Ted Gong (Washington, D.C.)

National VP-Education
Bob Gin (Greater San Gabriel Valley)

National Treasurer
Lawrence Gu (San Francisco)

National Secretary
Felicia Yu (Oakland)

National Assistant Secretary
Elaine Wong (Phoenix)

National Marshal
Richard Fong (Oakland)

National Sentinel
Joan Sung (San Francisco)

National Compliance Officers
Joanna Tom (San Francisco)

William Mei (Houston)

National Executives
Susan Dickson (Los Angeles)

Paul Wong (Greater San Gabriel Valley)

Albert Fong (Salinas)

Faye Woo Lee (San Francisco)

Michael Fong (Los Angeles)

Rudy Yee (Phoenix)

Warren Seeto (San Francisco)

Rick Eng (Los Angeles)

Ming Ming Tung Edelman (Seattle)
Las Vegas Lodge’s revitalization efforts clearly have been successful as evident in the multitude of community activities.

Las Vegas: Success of Revitalization Efforts

Las Vegas Lodge’s revitalization efforts clearly have been successful as evident in the multitude of community activities.

October 29, 2016: Professor Steve Yuen who is the Vice President of the Las Vegas Lodge, held a “Know Your Country: American Government and Politics” educational session. The event featured a synopsis of the historical background leading to the 1787 Ratification of the U.S. Constitution, the Madisonian Principles of Government complemented by the Bill of Rights, the political philosophies of the two major U.S. political parties, the critical historical events shaping partisan politics and platforms, and how party platforms often differ from policy specifics, implementation, and candidate platforms.

November 10-12, 2016: Las Vegas Lodge had the honor to co-sponsor with the Sino-American Aviation Heritage Foundation (SAAHF), a historical event to commemorate the history of Flying Tigers, its remaining Pilots and the Late Jack Schofield who was one of the original Flying tiger pilots. The Symposium was held at the Stratosphere Hotel while the Banquet was held at the Arizona Charlie Casino Banquet Hall. Both events were well attended with officials from China, Veterans, and a Congressional Representative to present Congressional Certificates of Recognition to the Principal of Jack Schofield Middle School. The namesake school was there to receive the American flag that was flown over the Capital Building in Washington D.C. Congressman Joe Heck donated the flag. Dr. James Bok Wong (former Grand Marshal, L.A. Lodge President and current President of C.A.C.A Foundation) and his lovely wife, Betty KC Yeow were honorary guests.

November 26, 2016: Las Vegas Lodge Board Members attended a private tour of Lucky Dragon, the newest and first EB-5 Chinese Owned Casino and Hotel in Las Vegas. The Vice-President of Marketing, Jordan Seager was very gracious and treated us to a sumptuous meal. We look forward to foster a collaborative relationship with Lucky Dragon for any future events that might be held there.

December 23, 2016: C.A.C.A. Las Vegas Lodge donated 8 bags of gently used winter clothing, 100 toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste, deodorants, socks, gloves, blankets and 200 backpacks filled with school supplies to Serving Hope Las Vegas, an organization which provides the living essentials to homeless veterans and low income school kids. Shortly after, we were pleasantly surprised to receive 200 written “Thank You” cards from the school kids who had received the backpacks.

January 12, 2017: Las Vegas Lodge was invited to the Las Vegas Mayor State of the City Address. There were over 400 invited guests and board members had the opportunity to introduce C.A.C.A. Las Vegas to members of Las Vegas City Council, the Metro Police Sheriff, and several Clark County Judges.

January 20, 2017: C.A.C.A Las Vegas celebrated its Inaugural Lunar New Year Celebration and the Pay-It-Forward Awards Presentation. The event was well attended with 30 elected officials and 220 guests. National President, Ed Gor was our honorary guest. He also presented Benson Lee, the first President and Founder of Las Vegas Lodge with an Appreciation Plaque for believing in the mission of C.A.C.A. and keeping the Lodge chartered while it was dormant for the past 13 years. A 10-course dinner was served and the symbolism of each traditional dish was explained as the dish was brought out. The celebration opened with a Lion dance to welcome the New Lunar Year and the legend and symbolism of the Lion Dance were shared with the audience. We also raised over $1,000 from our Raffle Drawings at this fun event.

January 28, 2017: C.A.C.A Las Vegas engaged with local judges, Chief Judge Cedric Kerns, Judge Richard Scotti, and Senator Tick Segerblom at the monthly South Asian Political Network Alliance Luncheon. Guests included Lena Walther (Consul of Sweden), Judge Richard Scotti, Umram Osambela (President of the Peruvian Chamber of Commerce), M Joseph Miller II, LV Lodge Compliance Officer, Chief Judge Cedric Kerns, Hui-Lim Ang, LV Lodge President, Jim, and Jeanne Kei, LV Lodge Treasurer and Secretary. Topic of discussion revolved around the recent Medical Marijuana and Recreation Marijuana bill passed by the Nevada State legislature.
Albuquerque: The Spy Next Door and the Traveling Resource Kit

The Albuquerque Lodge had a sold out Chinese New Year Celebration lunch. It was a jam-packed agenda with the installation of new officers, recognition of long time members and new members, a raffle to raise funds for the Lodge’s Scholarship Program, dance performances including the Lion dance, and a delicious six-course lunch!

The first Albuquerque Chinese American Film Festival (ACAFF) had a very successful grand opening in October 2016. In honor of Veterans Day, ACAFF screened Honor and Duty: The Mississippi Delta Chinese. Our next film will be the commercial family friendly film, Jackie Chan’s The Spy Next Door, which was partly filmed in Albuquerque at the family owned restaurant of the ACAFF Chair, Paul Jew. ACAFF is proud that Brian Levant, the Director of The Spy Next Door, will be on hand to introduce and air the film on March 11, 2017.

Lastly, ACAFF has a University of New Mexico Cinematics Department intern.

Albuquerque Lodge collaborated with the University of New Mexico Maxwell Museum to develop a statewide traveling Resource Kit that includes curriculum and objects to teach K-12 students about China. It includes various aspects of Chinese history, culture, language, science and art, and provides the student a glimpse of China and Chinese identity through a hands-on approach using objects and materials within the kit.

Seattle: Planning 2017 Activities

The Seattle Lodge held its second annual board members’ retreat on February 4 to plan activities for 2017, to increase membership and develop our long-term goals. Helen Ying of Portland Lodge traveled up to Seattle to facilitate our meeting.

Board members Maxine Loo, Bettie Luke, and Ming-Ming Tung-Edelman continue to add to and promote Chinese Exclusion Curriculum for K-12 students. Maxine met with Mrs. Ventura, a grade 5 teacher at Maple Elementary School, who is adding lessons about 1882. They will start this program in March. Ming-Ming and Bettie are also working with the Wing Luke Museum on a waterfront Chinese Expulsion memorial. This effort is to commemorate and educate Seattle about Chinese immigrant history.

Board member Jerry Lee is leading planning activities for Seattle’s Asian Heritage Month in May. The Seattle Lodge will co-sponsor, along with other Asian American community organizations, multiple events including Mariners Major League Baseball Asian Heritage Night and a screening of Who Killed Vincent Chin with a panel discussion.

Our recent activities included a Rice Drive with the Seattle Chinese Womens Club in November where we packaged and handed out tofu, oranges, and five-pound bags of rice to 160 seniors at the Chinese Information Services Center. Since it was the weekend before the elections, we engaged with Asian Pacific Islanders for Civic Empowerment (APACE) to provide voting assistance at a Ballot Party. Members from APACE were available to answer any questions about voting, translation assistance, and how to cast a ballot. There was a steady trickle of people for four hours taking advantage of the service. In December, we supported the Asian Counseling Referral Service Costco Chicken Drive spearheaded by Jerry Lee. The National Essay Contest drew students from around the Seattle area to vie for Seattle and National prizes.
**Mississippi: Supporting Chinese Culture from Memphis to New Orleans**

A quick overview of Mississippi (MS) Lodge’s activities in quarter 1, 2017, reinforced Lodge members to be strong activists, supporting, promoting, and preserving precious Chinese culture from Memphis to New Orleans. To start the year off in Greenville, successful businesswoman Jing Rosella, was welcomed as the new MS Lodge President. In Hattiesburg, the Historical Society had Dr. Sherman Hong (*pictured at left*), now a MS Humanities Speakers Bureau member, talk on growing up Chinese in the Delta; kudos, Dr. Sherman! Closer to home, Cleveland had much to crow about as the MS Delta Chinese Heritage Museum celebrated The Year of the Rooster, with Harry and Dorothy Gong providing tours and traditional tea to museum visitors. Meanwhile, Shirley and Randy Kwan, Sam and Helen Hong, Dana Gao Li, Blanche Yee, Louisa and Allison Huang, and Linda Yu celebrated at the Jackson Spring Festival, sponsoring a fund-raising booth. New Orleans, Louisiana welcomed Emily Jones, curator of the Mississippi Delta Chinese Heritage Museum (MDCHM), as a panelist on the topic of digital preservation with Frieda Quon, Gilroy and Sally Chow, and Cindi Q. Lofton participating in the breakout sessions. Our friends in Memphis have also enjoyed C.A.C.A. Mississippi Lodge’s involvement and support of Chinese culture. Our members are active, generous in their support, and “C.A.C.A. Mississippi-Strong!”

**Portland: Simon Tam Honored with 2017 Citizen’s Award**

On February 5, Portland Lodge celebrated its 96th Anniversary and Chinese New Year Banquet with over 200 guests. We had a successful fundraiser to support our programs for the coming year, including Youth Basketball, AAYLC, 1882 project, civic engagement, and scholarships. We honored Simon Tam with the 2017 Citizen’s Award. Simon Tam is an award-winning musician, author, entrepreneur, and social justice activist. He keynoted at TEDx, SXSW, Comic-Con, The Department of Defense, Stanford University, and over 1,200 other events across North America, Europe, and Asia. He has set a world record by appearing on the TEDx stage 10 times. He is best known as the founder and bassist of The Slants, the world’s first and only all-Asian American dance rock and anti-racism band. The band has been fighting a landmark case against the United States Trademark Office, which recently helped expand constitutional rights for marginalized communities. The case is now pending before the Supreme Court. Simon is the Marketing Director for Oregon Environmental Council and serves on the boards of the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) and Know Your City. He is a member of the Policy and Equity Committee for the Jade District and is an artist ambassador for The Color of NOW. Simon also serves on the Cultural Resource Centers Advisory Council for Portland State University. You can find Simon's appearances, writing, and current projects at [www.simontam.org](http://www.simontam.org)

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance Portland Lodge is issuing a call to action for support of Senate Bill 280 requesting funding for Oregon Studies. Senate Bill 280 will be heard on Tuesday, March 14, 2017, 1 to 3 p.m. in the Oregon Senate in Salem. The bill is seeking funding for Oregon Social Studies to be inclusive of all Oregonians as mandated under Oregon Law 329.492. While legislatively mandated in 2015, funding has not been adequate to develop content and curriculum, provide in-service training and professional development for teachers. Comprehensively telling the history and contribution of ALL Oregon communities, including communities of color will impact student understanding of their own identity and improve citizen participation. Additionally, including all students with relevant history of their communities develops leadership and brings together stronger, integrated communities.
The Windy City Awaits!

Chinese American Citizens Alliance
54th Biennial National Convention in Chicago
August 30 — September 2, 2017

Registration and information available at www.cacanational.org
## 2017 CONVENTION SCHEDULE

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Board Room</td>
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### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2017

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>White Sox Way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Board Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Opening Ceremonies &amp; Luncheon</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Opening Plenary Session</td>
<td>State Street Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Opening Reception &amp; Dinner</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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### THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2017

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>White Sox Way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Tour Option A or B Lunch served on tour</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Tour Option C or D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Tour Option E</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Optional Evening Tour</td>
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### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

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<td>8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>White Sox Way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Breakout Session 1</td>
<td>State Street Room</td>
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<td>10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Breakout Session 2</td>
<td>Board Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Breakout Session 5</td>
<td>State Street Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Afternoon Plenary Session</td>
<td>State Street Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2017

<table>
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<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>White Sox Way</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Morning Plenary Session</td>
<td>State Street Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Closing Plenary Session</td>
<td>State Street Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Gala Dinner</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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</table>

Schedule subject to change
Updated 2/22/17
C.A.C.A. Washington, D.C. opened its office in D.C. Chinatown at 508A I Street NW, Washington, D.C., 20001. There is still some carpentry to be done and office furniture and equipment to be purchased. We need to develop the intern program with input from National C.A.C.A. and particularly from the L.A. Lodge. Talks with National Parks Conservation Association resulted in letters to Congress about funding for parks and monuments. With the 1882 Foundation, we hosted a community discussion and screening of *April 1968* at the MLK Library. This was part of collaborative efforts to commemorate MLK Day. The following month, we hosted a Talk Story event at the Chinese Community Church that included a screening of AARP video on Chinese American caregivers (with comments from Lily Liu who is featured in the film) and on filial piety (Veronica Li, “Confucius Says”). We expect a good turnout for the next Talk Story event: “Beyond the Fortune Cookie: Passion, Fusion and the Future of Chop Suey.”

Ted Gong gave talks with Martin Gold to Georgetown University law students. He participated in another panel for APIA Student Association on topics that ranged from Asian American literature to 1968 D.C. riots and immigration reform. Ted also testified before the D.C. Neighborhood Advisory Committee on the historic value of two Chinatown Restaurants scheduled to be razed (including the iconic Taishan Restaurant where our lodge once held meetings and banquets). Twenty-three students took part in the annual essay contest. Eight students came from the immigrant youth association AALead. As in previous years, we have set aside for them prize money from the Harrison and Ann Lee Memorial scholarship fund. Sadly, this quarter, saw the passing of Brother Toon Lee.

Greater New York: Protests and Chinese American Advocacy

C.A.C.A. Greater New York thank fellow lodges and C.A.C.A. National for their generous support during its formal Chartering on December 3, 2017. It was a great day with the Chartering Ceremony at the Museum of Chinese in America, followed by a wonderful banquet. Greater New York Lodge had been very busy throughout the end of 2016 and beginning of 2017. The lodge led a protest in New York against YG, a rapper who rapped about how to commit crimes against Chinese Americans. Members also participated in demonstrations against having homeless shelters (with risks of criminals) in Chinese neighborhoods. Members, including founders who organized the massive demonstration supporting Peter Liang in New York, also commemorated that anniversary with other organizers. Greater New York Lodge continued its usual, direct dialog with legislators, officials, candidates, and activists for substantive Chinese-American advocacy and started an initiative on crimes with Chinese American victims.

C.A.C.A. Greater New York opted out of the National Essay Contest and held its own competition, using its own essay topic and award monies, thanks to gifts received at its Chartering. The contest generated great interest with 34 student participants! Other events included the Lodge’s first college admissions presentation. Greater New York lodge is delighted to join and share in the mission of C.A.C.A.
Houston: Recent Lodge Activities

Houston: Installation of 2017 Officers

C.A.C.A. Houston Lodge held its 2017 Officers Installation luncheon at the Kim Son Restaurant on Sunday, January 22, 2017 at 1 p.m. Outgoing President Shelley Ding and incoming President Henry Chan welcomed approximately 80 members and guests to the luncheon and ceremonies. Among them were many Houston Lodge past presidents, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office Director General Louis Huang, Culture Center Deputy Director Natalie Lee, Harris County Criminal Court At-Law Number 8 Judge Jay Karahan and his wife Cynthia Doerr, and HISD Board Trustee Anne Sung. Both Director General Huang and Trustee Sung provided remarks to the Lodge for this occasion.

After providing a brief history of the Alliance and an update on the numerous projects and issues underway at the National level, National President Edmond Gor had the honor of swearing in the 2017 Houston Lodge Officers. President Henry Chan provided brief remarks about his vision for the ongoing work of C.A.C.A. Houston Lodge in this community.

My Vote Counts: Houston Lodge Partners in Voter Registration Workshop

Six leading community organizations including Houston Lodge, AAREA (Asian American Real Estate Association Houston), Empowering Communities Initiative Houston, OCA—Greater Houston, On Leong Chinese Merchants Association Houston and the World Journal joined to conduct a citywide voter education seminar aimed at increasing turnout of Chinese Americans. The coalition arranged for county elections officials to conduct a voter registration and education workshop at the Chinese Community Center on October 8, 2016. A large audience gathered in the center’s assembly hall to hear explanations of voter rights, acceptable documents for voter identification and numerous assistance available to help citizens exercise their right to vote with minimal effort.

Recognizing the declining voting patterns of Chinese Americans in recent elections, the goal of the workshop was to increase the voter participation by this group as well as all Asian Americans. To assist many first time voters, Tracy Wang (pictured) from the office of Harris County Clerk Stan Stanart demonstrated how voters use the e-Slate voting machine to cast their ballots. Houston Lodge with their partners provided publicity, distributed workshop flyers, provided refreshments and at the end, handed out door prizes. Based on voting statistics available from the county’s office after the November 8 election, there was a 30% increase in ballots cast by Chinese Americans.

Trade Secrets and Economic Espionage Seminar

As Chinese scientists, technology professionals, and federal government employees in the United States have increasingly become the focus of criminal investigations and prosecutions involving national security, intellectual property theft, and corporate espionage in the United States, C.A.C.A. Houston Lodge co-sponsored this important seminar in exploring the legal risks in advancing technology between the United States and China. The seminar featured a cadre of leading professional organizations, including the Asian American Bar Association of Houston, Chinese Professional Club, Committee of 100, Houston Chinese Alliance, Houston Chinese Faculty Association, SINO Professionals Association, and OCA Greater Houston. An engaged audience of STEM professionals from public and private sectors and students attended this seminar at Rice University’s Duncan Hall on November 5, 2016.

Following opening remarks by C.A.C.A. National President Ed Gor, the session was moderated by Committee of 100 member Nelson Dong, partner with Dorsey & Whitney, LLP and frequent lecturer on intellectual property. Chinese American scientists Sherry Chen and Dr. Xiaoxing Xi both shared their experiences as Chinese American scientists who suffered professional, emotional and financial harm when they were accused of and arrested for espionage, only to have all charges dropped without explanation or apology. Each described the harrowing and humiliating events that led to their arrests, filing of criminal charges, terminations of employment and tremendous emotional distress upon them and their families.
Los Angeles: Sixty Years in Sixty Days (Op-Ed)

Anyone who experiences or knows our sad Chinese Exclusion history cannot help but notice the startling similarities.

THEN: 60 years 1882-1943 of a Chinese Exclusion Act
NOW: November 8 Election Day to now…

The country seems to be witnessing déjà vu—Deed for Deed. Action for Action. Today in 1882.

Ominously invented and SCRIPTED by Chinese Exclusion in history starting 130 years ago, May 6, 1882.

Except now the people are Middle Eastern Muslims. (Or soon may be Latinos.)

Except that 60-plus years of anti-Chinese has become 60 plus days of anti-Muslim, in this day of Internet time compression.

The history of Chinese Exclusion showed that a discriminatory act against one person and one race or belief becomes discriminatory actions against all. It is un-Constitutional.

Yet, all is not dismal.

Countering the practices of exclusion is the notion of Inclusion in America. Former State Assemblyman (Bro.) Mike Eng passed the resolution for an annual Day of Inclusion in California on December 17, 2009. It is far better to come together, gain a deeper understanding of each other, seek common goals and aspirations, and then work toward a better community TOGETHER.

Bringing together the best, the brightest, and the most energetic of the World’s people only makes more stable and stronger neighborhoods and therefore a better America. That’s the idea. As people of Chinese ancestry, who are the first to endure the isolation and discrimination of exclusion and therefore have suffered the worse of it for the longest time, the message to Overcome by Inclusion of All should have a more profound meaning. It should motivate us to speak up.

Can we Chinese in America remain silent? This is the Year of the Rooster. “The Rooster is never silent!”

Resolutions: “Voices” of Lodges at the National Convention

Every two years, C.A.C.A. lodges have the opportunity to convene and influence the course of the Alliance nationally by proposing resolutions whose topics range from amendments to the governing documents to declarations of support on issues on National public policy, to election of National officers and memoriam for past lodge leaders. Even the host and location of the next biennial convention is voted at the National Convention.

Under established National Convention guidelines, “Substantive and Constitutional Amendment Resolutions shall be submitted to the National Secretary no later than 75 days prior to the start of the biennial convention.” (See the National Constitution and Bylaws, Article XII: Amendments and Resolutions of Local Regulations, Time for Presenting, Section 7a.)

Therefore based on the start date of the 54th National Convention in Chicago on August 30, 2017, the deadline for completed submissions from Local and Regional Lodges to the National Secretary should be no later than Thursday, June 15, 2017.

What typically happens after resolutions are submitted to National C.A.C.A.? They must be reviewed by the Convention Committee and accepted or rejected. Then the National Secretary distributes them to all lodges no later than 60 days prior to the start of the convention for study and consideration by the membership and their elected delegates.

At the 53rd National Convention in Seattle in 2015, there were a total of 27 resolutions introduced during the General Sessions of the delegates, but only three lodges submitted them. All lodges are strongly encouraged to craft resolutions on issues they feel are important to raise for decision or action in Chicago in late Summer. Lodges also should consider cooperating with other lodges on resolutions on subjects of shared interests. Please direct any questions about resolutions to info@cacanational.org.

The two photos at right were taken at the 53rd National Convention in Seattle in 2015. The national president establishes committees of delegates to tweak resolutions (top) for final presentation.

At the General Sessions (below) resolutions are introduced and debated before voted for passage by lodge delegates.
THE WINDY CITY AWAITS . . .

Join us as the National Convention returns to Chicago for the first time in more than a half century!

CHINESE AMERICAN CITIZENS ALLIANCE
54th BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

AUGUST 30 – SEPTEMBER 2, 2017
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Registration Information
Registration begins January 1, 2017
$450 – Regular Registration (April 1 - June 30)
$500 – Late Registration (after June 30)
Additional information and registration: www.cacanational.org

Accommodation and Conference Information
Chicago South Loop Hotel
11 W. 26th Street, Chicago, Illinois
Room reservations must be made directly with the hotel
Telephone: (312) 225-7000
Ask for the “C.A.C.A. 2017” rate ($113 per night, plus taxes and fees)
Rate valid August 29 – September 4, 2017