



A Report from GSGV Lodge Members attending C.A.C.A. National Convention in Boston; Charles Mau and Paul Wong Re-Elected to National Board membership

The 55th C.A.C.A. Biennial National Convention held in Boston, MA ended on July 6, 2019. Representing GSGV Lodge and attending were President Sharon Wong, National Rep. John Wong, Financial Secretary Scott Kwong, Associate Dean Ng, NVP Education Charles Mau, National Compliance Officer Paul Wong, and member spouses Julie Wong, Shirley Ng and Tammy Mau.



GSGV Lodge at Convention: From L: Sharon, Shirley, Dean, John, Julie, Scott, Paul, Tammy and Charles.

One of the major themes of this Convention was to push for the follow-on work on the successful project on Congressional Gold Medal for the WWII Chinese American veterans. There is an on-going rigorous campaign to raise funds to produce the medals for the veterans and their family members. PNP Ed Gor, who provided superb leadership in the entire campaign, was recognized with the presentation of a plaque citing his efforts. For their efforts in spearheading the legislative process through Congress, Congressman Ed Royce (CA) and Senator Tammy Duckworth (IL) received the newly created National Impact Awards from C.A.C.A. For those who would like to donate, please visit <https://www.caww2.org/donate>.

In this commemorative year of the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad, it is most apt for the Convention to have Gordon H. Chang, a prominent Chinese American history scholar and Professor from Stanford University to give the plenary lecture, entitled “Chinese Railroad Workers in American History: A Record of Extraordinary Accomplishment.”

Author of the books “The Chinese and the Iron Road” and “Ghosts of Gold Mountain”, Prof. Chang also give an update on the C.A.C.A. National’s archive at Stanford University.



GSGV Members at the Convention Opening Banquet at Empire Restaurant, with Boston City Council members Michelle Wu (L1) and Ed Flynn (R3).

Buck Gee, a former executive in a Silicon Valley high-tech firm, gave a memorable plenary talk on “The Failure of Asian Success – most likely to be hired, and least likely to be promoted” and made interesting points on how to fight the “bamboo ceiling”. Prof. Frank Wu, former Dean of UC Hastings College of Law and President of Committee of 100, talked about “Chinese Americans and the Future of Civil Rights”, particularly in the context of US-China diplomatic tensions.

Other than the reports from the presidents of various local Lodges and vice presidents of five National Committees, the Grand Council examined 21 submitted resolutions. Of the three jointly submitted by O.C. and GSGV Lodges, the H1-B resolution advocating the need for best and brightest from outside of US was revised and passed. The resolution “A Common Values Initiative” was withdrawn, while that on “On the Electoral College” was tabled. In the absence of a formal report from the National Lodge, you may refer to the September issue of SoCal Times from LA Lodge for a complete report on this topic.

With the withdrawal of Davace Chin from running for re-election as National President, the race became that between John Y. Wong, Founding President of GSGV Lodge and past National Vice President, and Melanie Chan of SF Lodge, the incumbent National Executive Vice President. It was a close fight between two worthy candidates with Sister Melanie emerging as the winner by a handful of votes. Brother Charles Mau was re-



John Wong making his speech as a candidate for National President

elected as NVP Education with no opposition, while Brother Paul Wong, withdrawing as a candidate for NVP Civic and Public Affairs, was elected a National Executive. A complete list of the incoming National Board Officers is available in the September issue of

SoCal Times of LA Lodge.

The Las Vegas and Portland Lodges both made a bid for hosting the 2021 National Convention, with Portland emerging as the winner.

The Convention was held in downtown Boston at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, conveniently located with easy access to major city attractions and Chinatown. In fact, the hotel is just steps away from the world-famous Legal Seafood Restaurant. Overall, the convention program was well thought out and considerate, and everybody had a great time. Kudos to Esther Lee, Convention Committee Chair, Ed Gor, Convention Co-Chair, and all the volunteers who worked their hearts out to make this Convention a success.

Portland, we are all looking forward to a successful 56th National Convention in this great city in the Northwest!

Anrui Gu Completed Her Project as Summer Intern

Our Lodge was very happy to have Anrui Gu, our summer intern, take on the Lodge history project to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of our Lodge's establishment. She interviewed numerous founding members of the Lodge and those from Los Angeles Lodge who were intimately involved in the formative stages of our Lodge around the turn of the Centennial. They include 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 economic major, Anrui handed in her draft of an article "GSGV: The Making of a Lodge", which will undergo some editing of the final draft before being published.

Anrui also made valuable suggestions on her view on how to improve on recruiting younger members to our

Lodge, and on making changes to our newsletter and website to that end. Thanks Anrui for a job well done!



Summer Intern Anrui Gu with GSGV Lodge President and Past Presidents

GSGV Lodge Gained Two "Young" Members

In the August 12 Lodge meeting, two new members were inducted into our Lodge. First, is Hongzhe "Hugh" Zhao, who is a good friend of Brother Scott Kwong since 2011, when they met at UCSD. He got his Bachelor's Degree in 2014 at UCSD, and his JD from University of San Diego in 2018. He is now an attorney, having passed his bar examination. He is presently employed at Oriental Heritage Inc. His hobbies include basketball, football, and camping.



New Members; From L: President Sharon Wong, Anrui Gu, Hugh Zhao, Secretary Margaret Leung, and IPP Charles Mau

Our summer intern Anrui Gu also joined the Lodge as a Youth Associate Member. She is presently a freshman at UC-Berkeley as an economics major. Anrui says she is interested in visiting with the Oakland Lodge while she is in the Bay Area.

Hugh and Anrui, welcome on board!

Scholarships Awarded to Two Promising Young Men

On July 17, at our Wednesday breakfast in OK Café, MP, we welcome two promising young men to receive scholarships awarded to them this year. Representing the Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge, Clement Chan received the 2019 Chao Suet Foundation Scholarship for

\$500 from Lodge President Sharon Wong. This scholarship is presented to students “who have demonstrated academic excellence, a strong record of school and community involvement, and achievement through personal essay”. Clement graduated from Mark Keppel High School in Monterey Park, and he will be attending UC-Santa Barbara in the fall, majoring in Chemistry. Among his numerous achievements, he is Co-President of the C.A.C.A. West San Gabriel Valley Youth Council, he led numerous community and educational projects, including earthquake preparedness programs, teaching resume writing and interview tips for college-bound students. We thank Brother Winston Wu for nominating Clement for this award.



Scholarship Presentation: From Left: Winston Wu, Yi-Feng Ho, Clement Chan, Sharon Wong and Charles Mau.

From Past President Charles Mau, Yi-Feng Ho received the Charles and Tammy Mau Scholarship for \$1000 in the youth scholarship program jointly run by the Los Angeles and GSGV Lodges. Yi-Feng Ho, from Alhambra HS, will be attending UCLA this fall, planning to study Chemistry. He served as a teacher’s assistant and a translator in the Alhambra Library for homework assistance. He is a writer and circulation manager for the school newspaper. He is a Junior Civitan and member of Academy of Future Educators and Math Olympiad. He is a straight-A student in his academics.

Brother Hans Liang Installed as MP Mayor

On July 22, Brother Hans Liang was installed as Mayor of the City of Monterey Park, succeeding Brother Peter Chan who is now a City Council Member. Congresswoman Judy Chu was there to swear him in. After the ceremony, there was a reception in Lincoln Plaza Hotel just a couple of blocks away. A few of our Lodge members were there to congratulate Hans and lend him support.

Asian Americans Continue to Face Hurdles in Getting Admitted to Top-Notch Universities

In the midst of a lawsuit against Harvard University questioning the fairness of its admission policies towards



GSGV members with Mayor Liang; From L: Hayward Ng, Stephen Fong (CCBA), Peter Luong (CCBA), Mayor Liang, Sophie Wong, Charles Mau, Peter Chan, and Jessica Mie.

Asian American applicants, the College Board announced a new measure called ‘Adversity Score’ that looks at applicants’ socioeconomic background as one of the criteria to determine the applicant’s admissibility, all in the name of achieving diversity of the student population. The original tool, called the “Environmental Context Dashboard,” combined about 15 socioeconomic matrices from a student’s high school and neighborhood to create the “adversity score” that will be submitted together with the SAT scores to universities that consider that student’s application. This move appears to allow universities to outsource their consideration of the applicant’s background to the College Board in the form of a numerical score, perhaps to stave off future lawsuits on their admission policies.

Facing strong criticism from parents and educators, the College Board recently abandoned its “adversity score” campaign, and will try to capture a student’s socioeconomic background into a broad array of data points collectively known as “The Landscape”, instead of a single score. The College Board claims that Landscape is designed to help colleges compare an applicant’s test scores to those of other students in their high schools and beyond. It also aims to give a picture of the quality of the school and relative wealth and stability of the neighborhood.

For many years, Asian American families who care for their kids’ college education worked very hard to move to neighborhoods with a high-quality school district where their kids can get well-prepared for college. The move by the College Board, in cohort with top colleges, will negate all these efforts. It is disheartening!

Calendar of Selected Events

1. Monday, Sept. 9, GSGV Lodge monthly meeting; 6:30 PM, NYC Seafood, MP. Dinner: \$18/person. Contact Sharon Wong, smonicaw12@gmail.com, cell: (323)719-3287.
2. Friday, Sept. 13, MP Library Foundation Fundraiser “Masquerade Gala”, 6 PM, Almansor Court, AL, \$65/person. Contact (626)307-1269; or www.montereypark.ca.gov/library.
3. Friday, Oct. 18, MP Sister Cities Commission “International Friendship Dinner/Fundraiser”, Capital Seafood, MP; \$65.00/person. Contact Charles Mau, takmau888@gmail.com.