



National Lodge Successfully Held the First-Ever Virtual C.A.C.A. National Convention

The 56th Biennial C.A.C.A. National Convention was held on a virtual platform, August 7-14, 2021. The full program included (1) two full days' business meetings, (2) one day of "rest" for the Citizenship, Financial, and Planning Committees to deliberate on the submitted resolutions, (3) one day devoted entirely to commemorating the Centennial Anniversary of the Founding of the Portland Lodge, (4) one day on honoring the Chinese American WWII Veterans recently awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, and (5) three full days of workshops and seminars on topics of concern to the Chinese/Asian American communities, on on-going Alliance projects and on the future directions of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance.



Screen Shots of Most of the Attendees of the 56th C.A.C.A. National Convention on Virtual Platform

In the virtual meeting, the Spirit of America Awards were presented (a) to Ret. US Army Major General William Chan for his outstanding service to the country, (b) posthumously to Photographer Corky Lee for

documenting many key events in history, and especially Chinese American history, with his cameras, and (c) posthumously to Judge Michael Kwan who made contributions in numerous areas in the State of Utah, including his pivotal role in helping honor and properly credit our ancestors in celebrating the 150th anniversary of the completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad. More details about these recipients can be obtained from the Convention Book at www.cacanational.org.

Three speakers were invited to give keynote addresses to the audience. On Sunday, August 8, famed writer, speaker and activist promoting social justice, spoke on "Standing Together: AAPI Communities' Role in Advancing an Equitable World." With the pandemic, society's reckoning with systemic racism, and the rise of anti-Asian violence, he encouraged C.A.C.A. and other civil rights groups to work hard to face the challenges ahead. On Tuesday, Aug. 10, NY Congresswoman and co-author of the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, Grace Meng spoke on the "Importance of a National Museum of History and Culture for Asian Americans", and highlighted the initial steps in creating an AAPI museum to be located in Washington DC. Then on Thursday, Aug. 12, CA Congresswoman and Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, Judy Chu spoke about the issues facing the AAPI Community today. In particular, she described efforts to minimize the often abusive racial profiling practice on scientists, engineers and professionals of Chinese heritage by the Department of Justice under the so-called China Initiative program.

On the first day of business meeting, National Board Committees and individual chapters presented reports of their work for the past two years, and candidates for election to national board offices were put on ballot.

On the last day of business meeting, new National Board Officers were elected via an electronic voting system overseen by Past National President Davace Chin. National President Melanie Chan was re-elected after staving off a challenge from John Y. Wong, our Lodge President. Without challenge, Helen Ying (Portland) will repeat as Executive Vice-President for the next term. Ted Gong (Washington DC), Charles Mau (GSGV) and Eugene Moy (LA) opted not to run for re-election. Their offices were filled respectively by Rick Eng (LA) as NVP Civic and Public Affairs, Christina Yu (Oakland) as NVP Education, and Dorothy Chow (Houston) as

NVP Planning. Cathy Lee (Seattle) was elected NVP Communications, a position previously held by Rick Eng. Brothers Ted, Charles and Eugene were subsequently elected National Executives among a slate of ten. Perhaps because of uncertainties related to COVID-19, there was no bid for hosting the National Convention in 2023; it was decided the matter would be taken up at a later date.

GSGV Lodge Submitted 3 Resolutions to the Convention

The theme of this year's National Convention is "Stand Up, Stand Out, Stand Proud!" which is fitting with what the Asian American communities have endured during the last 18 months of the pandemic outbreak and the rising anti-Asian hate incidents and attacks as a result. As such, many of the submitted resolutions are related to how C.A.C.A. can help fight this anti-Asian sentiment both in the short and long terms.

In this Convention, Bros. John Wong and Scott Kwong served as delegates for GSGV Lodge, with alternates Sis. Qiang Byornbak and Bro. Dean Ng. Our Lodge submitted three resolutions, and three of our members participated in the deliberation of these resolutions. Brother Paul Wong was a member of Citizenship#1 Committee chaired by Helen Ying; Brother Charles Mau chaired the Citizenship#2 Committee; and Sister Sharon Wong was a member of the Planning Committee chaired by Susan Dickson.

Resolution No. 1, "Advocating Asian American Studies in K-12 Curricula" was examined by the Citizenship#2 Committee. All members agreed that Asian American Studies need to be taught in elementary and secondary schools, even more urgently in view of the recent re-surfacing of anti-Asian sentiment. These studies have the additional benefits of allowing students to develop cultural sensitivity and competence at a young age. Many states already mandate ethnic studies in K-12, but not all include Asian American content. As a pioneer, the State of Illinois recently passed legislation requiring one unit of Asian American Studies to graduate from high schools. The resolution was re-written to reflect the comments and ask local lodges to strongly support legislations and policies that require at least one semester of Asian American Studies to graduate, and to provide relevant resources to local educators and establish a system of accountability via evaluation. The resolution was passed as amended.

Resolution No. 9, "Vigilance for Growing Anti-Chinese/Anti-Asian Sentiment in the United States and Coordinated Efforts to Curtail Related Hate Crimes" was considered by Citizenship #1 Committee. It turned out

there is overlap between its content and that of Resolution No. 2, "Condemning Asian American Hate", submitted by Los Angeles Lodge. At the suggestion of the Chair, the two submitting lodges agreed to combine the two resolutions, retaining the title and essentially the text of Res. #9 but including two paragraphs from Res. #2 on the White House's Memorandum and Fact Sheet condemning anti-Asian hate, and on the Congress passing of the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act. The combined resolution asks the Alliance to form a focus/advisory group, consisting of members of all ages from the Lodges across the Nation, to construct a strategy to keep watch for local outbreaks of anti-Chinese hate crimes; solicit guidance and coordinate suitable responses from the local Lodges; devise a long-term plan to work closely with elected officials and in partnership with like-minded organizations to soften the anti-Chinese sentiment via education and/or passing laws to curtail repeat violations; and ensure the implementation of the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act. The resolution was passed as combined and amended.

Resolution No. 16, "Support for Film and Documentary Projects that Provide a Positive Narrative to Contributions of Chinese Immigrants to America" was deliberated in the Finance Committee, chaired by Bro. Lawrence Gu (SF). The Committee asked for specification of what "support" for the film and documentary projects entails. GSGV Lodge, that submitted the Resolution, clarified that support for documentary projects is not more than \$5000, while for big entertainment studios film productions, National Lodge would provide support in the form of critique and/or endorsement targeting the Chinese/Asian communities and the general public, after careful examination of the content of the finished product. The amended resolution was passed.

All sixteen resolutions in their final form will be distributed to the local lodges in the near future.

GSGV Lodge Resumed In-Person Monthly Meetings Starting in June

With the easing of the pandemic in Southern California, our Lodge decided to resume meeting in-person with requisite social restrictions as defined by the County. On Monday, June 14 was our first such dinner meeting



June 14 Lodge Meeting at OK Cafe, Monterey Park

at OK Café in Monterey Park. It was evident that everyone present had a great time attending the meeting, and enjoying the food and socializing afterward.

About the same time, the Lodge also resumed its tradition of meeting every Tuesday morning 10:00 AM, for social brunches at Sunday Bistro, Alhambra, circumstances permitting. Interested members from Los Angeles and Orange County Lodges are welcome to join.

2021 Essay Contest Winners Award Ceremony in Southern California

This year's National Essay Contest was run on a virtual platform because of COVID-19 medical restrictions. There are 12 participating lodges and a total number of 106 essay entries. Students were asked to write about how they and their communities coped with the pandemic, and what lessons they have drawn from it. A panel of five judges scored the essays according to a set of criteria.



Essay Contest Winners present, outside Los Angeles Lodge, from left: Sally Ho, Vivian Ko, Amy Zhang, Rebecca Wu, and Sophia Hua.

The joint LA-GSGV team of participants won six of the top 14 prizes, including: Rebecca Wu, 2nd place (\$700); Sophia Hua, 3rd place (\$500); and Sally Ho, Kathryn Luo, Janice Wong and Amy Zhang each winning the Merit Award (\$100). The top place finisher is Carolyn Yee from Seattle. The local contest was scored by a separate set of judges with Rebecca Wu, Tiffany Wang and Vivian Ko being the top three finishers.

The Award Ceremony took place at the Los Angeles Lodge in Downtown Chinatown on Saturday, June 19. It was hosted by LA Lodge President Wayne Eng, Elizabeth Wu (LA) and Scott Kwong (GSGV), Co-Chairs of the Local Essay Contest Committee, MC'ed the event, with Winston Wu, Director of the Youth Council, in attendance. Munson Kwok, PNP, and Charles Mau, NVP Education, were also present, while Brother O.C. Lee took pictures.



At the Award Ceremony: Back row: Winners and family members; Front row, from left: Scott Kwong, Elizabeth Wu, Charles Mau, Winston Wu, Wayne Eng, and Munson Kwok.

Brother O.C. Lee Wins CEO's 2021 Citizen of the Year Award!

Congratulations to Bro. O.C. Lee (LA Lodge) for winning the 2021 Citizen of the Year Award conferred by the association of Chinese-American Elected Officials. The official citation is "For demonstrating outstanding service and leadership promoting civic engagement and political participation. You are a tireless volunteer for many community organizations and activities. Our community is stronger because of you."

Lodge VP Charles Mau especially thanks O.C. Lee for the many pictures he took that he generously provides to the



Bro. O.C. Lee at Aug. 6 Award Ceremony with friends: Pek & Pedro Chan (L1,2), wife Jessica Mei (L4), Presenter Mike Eng (L6), and Mike Fong (R4), CEO President and Assemblyman candidate.

Lodge for use in our Newsletters. It is noted that Jessica Mei, O.C.'s wife, is an active member of GSGV Lodge.

Lodge Mourns Passing of Past President Maureen Sur

Lodge members were saddened to learn that Lodge Past President Maureen Sur (2003) passed away on July 17. Born on April 5, 1935, and after WWII, she escaped communism to Taiwan, where she graduated from Taipei's First Girls High School. In the '60s, she arrived in Buffalo, USA and studied Accounting and Finance at Seton Hall University. She worked for the Internal Revenue Service, and later at the Kiwanis Club in Monterey Park. According to Sis. Shirley Hwong, she served many years at the Community Relations Commission. Maureen loved playing the stock market and a good game of scrabbles. She retired to live in Chula Vista. Maureen is survived by two sons, Dr. Roger and Doug, and their families. Our condolences to her family, and may she rest in peace.

