

Chinese American Citizens Alliance
Salinas Lodge Newsletter
August 2009

So, how is your summer so far? Have you done anything new and exciting, daring, bold, and adventurous that you are willing to share with others? Your newsletter needs all the Chinese and general community contributions you can provide.

Often, important things are discussed and decided upon outside of regular monthly meetings, and when the meeting rolls around it is already old news to those in the know, but new news for those of us who are 'outside' the power core. So, please feel free to contribute what you know, suspect, or just want to start rumors. The focus and purpose of your newsletter is to inform, enlighten, and possibly, entertain, so any and all contributions are welcome, preferably in writing or email since your current newsletter editor has severe brain leaks and memory chip malfunctions. Okay, on with the show!

A Review of July's Monthly Meeting: 19 intrepid C ACA members and 1 guest attended the July 13th meeting. Several correspondence items were forthcoming, including a synopsis of AB 42, reference to the ChopSuey sign article in the July 10th issue of the Californian, an update and website for the status of the two Asian reporters captured by North Korea, and a letter of appreciation from Judy Yung.

The financial report was tabled until this month's meeting because Financial Secretary, Clara Chan was not available to field questions and respond to comments. Jerry Cheang reported that the 10-course Chinese banquet and silent auction was a big success and again extended his appreciation to all who assisted in making it so. Sherman Low advised that a bid for providing lunches at the annual First Tee Golf Tournament was submitted. Louis Lee encouraged the Chinese community to participate in next year's Kiddie Kapers parade.

Mark your calendar; the annual Chinese Association picnic/BBQ is scheduled for Sunday, August 16, the Buckeye area, at 1:00pm. Volunteers are always needed to help prep the cooking, serving, and eating areas.

It was decided that CACA and Chung Wah will alternate responsibility for chairing the upcoming "Parade of Lights" float entry. Chung Wah will chair this year's entry. CACA President Ira Katz proposed an Asian team for next year's "Relay for Life" shindig. This seems to be a good idea, especially since Chinese community members have previous and long-standing commitments to other organizations. Please let your suggestions be known, especially your level of commitment, since it takes literally months to organize an endeavor such as this. Many people are needed in many different ways, from organizers, to fund raisers, communication coordinators, donors, walkers, etc. Louis Lee proposed that "Family Day" be reinstated sometime soon, in early September or early October. Again, volunteers are needed to make this happen. Also, Louis encouraged everyone to begin thinking of entering a float in next Year's 100th Salinas Rodeo! The Chinese community is a multiple-year winner in the past and this is a good opportunity to present a positive Chinese 'face' in an enjoyable community event.

Linda Low advised that two students have expressed an interest in attending the Asia conference. A motion was forwarded, discussed, and passed to fund a maximum of \$1,000.00 in total to help with conference expenses for those selected to attend. Finally, Tye Chin proposed that CACA reinstate the 'member of the year' award. One more... Vic Blea proposed that CACA follow-up CACA events with letters of appreciation and applications to non-members as a way of possibly stimulating more membership.

As you can see, there are many noteworthy topics of discussion and importance that occur during the regular monthly meetings, held on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Confucius Church/Chinese School. All CACA members and guests are invited to participate and contribute. The next meeting is this Monday, August 10th and Vic Blea will provide sil yeh in lieu of Ira Katz, per his plea for assistance.

Thirty-eight Womens Club members and guests were feted at the home of Allen and Linda Gin in their annual July meeting. Your newsletter editor/reporter was not in attendance this year so no news is good news...or so the story goes. If the past is any clue to the present, 'twas a grand and glorious affair!

The Chinese Golf Club held its monthly tournament at the newly renovated Monterey Pines Golf Course, you know, the one by the Monterey County Fairgrounds...at the Naval Postgraduate School. Again, your editor/reporter, duffer was unable to attend due to a prior commitment to the Japanese Obon Festival, held on the same day. Hearsay has it that the course renovations have seriously upgraded the course, making it both a challenge and an accomplishment upon a successful round of golf. I had the pleasant opportunity to play golf with a recovering John Gong, who is slowly but surely mending from a painful back ailment. He seems to be getting back to form as, down-the-middle-John hit fairway after fairway and proved equally adept with both chipper and putter. Any aspiring golfer can contact either John Gong or Vic Blea if interested in joining the Chinese Golf Club. New members are always welcome!

Anyone who attended the Garlic, Berry, Obon Festivals, or the rodeo or air show is encouraged to contribute their perspective and adventures for the next newsletter. More roving reporters are continually needed to contribute interesting accounts of activities and situations that effect our Chinese community.

How's this for a noteworthy note; it appeared to me that there were many more spectators attending the Kiddie Kapers parade than the horse parade during rodeo week. Watching kids be kids is always entertaining, even the one who was asleep the whole route, slumped over his ride and oblivious to the world.

Don't forget to attend the Monterey County Fair from Aug 12th-16th. Unfortunately, Tower of Power will not do it's fabulous show this year, but Big Bad Voodoo Daddy is not a bad second choice...a contemporary big band sound with jive!

Hold the Presses! News Flash!! Browsing through my emails I noticed that CACA has been awarded the responsibility of providing lunches again this year for the First Tee Golf Tournament. We may be making many sandwiches from August 31st through September 6th. Many, many volunteers are needed to satisfactorily complete this fund-

raising CACA activity so mark your calendars and store up your energy for this big upcoming event. Watch for email blasts and other imminent news flashes. Contact Jerry Cheang and/or Sherman Low for more details or to volunteer. Other volunteer opportunities may be as van drivers for those who are stout of heart and like to be road warriors. Sherman Low is your contact person for that job. That's all folks!! See you next month! Stay healthy and happy. Wei Coh