



A Very Successful Board Officers and Associates Installation and Fundraising Dinner for Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge

“Freedom is not for free, it comes at a price. A price that we all are willing to pay.” With such a compelling proclamation by MC and Founding President John Wong, the GSGV Lodge Officers Installation Dinner kicked off on a high note on Friday, April 4, 7:00 PM at NBC Seafood Restaurant, that culminated in a very successful fundraiser with a large attendance not seen in the last decade.

Brother John then continued his narrative with a brief history of Chinese struggles against discrimination in America, highlighting the enactment of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882 and its repeal in 1943 via the Magnuson Act in Congress. It is not until 1964 when the Civil Rights Acts were passed that Chinese constitutional rights were fully restored. A historical fact, not mentioned often enough, is that 20% of the Chinese population in America served in the military during World War II while only 6% of the US population was part of the armed forces. So, when the bill was signed into law on December 20, 2019 to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Chinese American veterans of WWII, it carries the significance of righting all the wrongs visited upon the Chinese throughout the history of this nation. It was an honor to have the principal author of the bill Betty Tom Chu, Former Mayor of Monterey Park, present at the event to be recognized.

Outgoing President Brother Charles Mau welcomed the guests and attendees to the event, including present and past C.A.C.A. National Board Officers, Lodge Presidents, elected officials, dignitaries and friends. We note here Past C.A.C.A. National President Saykin Foo, who would install the new officers, and Cindy Costales, recently retired MP Librarian who helped with many events at the Library co-sponsored by the Lodge.



**PNP Saykin Foo swearing
in President Sharon
Wong**

Incoming Lodge Board Officers and Associates, including President Sister Sharon Wong and Vice President Sam Gee, were then sworn in by PNP Saykin Foo in separate solemn ceremonies. Newly installed President Wong presented outgoing President Charles Mau



VP Sam Gee Being Sworn In

his accomplishments during his two-year reign as President and where more work still needs to be done. He is most proud of the role the Lodge played in helping pass the Congressional Gold Medal Act for WWII Chinese American veterans, and expressed confidence in the new leadership and board officers in furthering the mission of C.A.C.A. He also received special recognition from the City of Alhambra and MP Chamber of Commerce for his service to the community. The entire outgoing Board received certificates of appreciation for their service from the City of Monterey Park.

with the traditional plague and gavel, thanking him for his service as Lodge President the past two years.

In his departure speech, Brother Charles outlined



**Outgoing President
Brother Charles Mau**



**President Sharon Wong giving her
Inaugural Speech**

In her inauguration speech, President Sister Sharon Wong reviewed the history of GSGV Lodge and its many achievements in its almost 20 years' existence, including submitting a

resolution in the 2009 National Convention seeking an apology from the US Congress for the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. The related bills were passed in Congress in 2011-2 with an expression of regret. Other milestones for our Lodge include participating in the drawing of the CA-49th Assembly District map in 2011, and standing firm against SCA-5 in 2014 which, if passed, would have allowed the U. of California System to admit freshmen based entirely on ethnicity rather than merit. The most recent milestone for the Lodge is its role in conjunction with OC Lodge in getting Congressman Ed Royce to sponsor and submit to Congress the WWII Chinese American Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act which was passed into law in December 2018. For the coming years, Sister

Sharon proposed to bring in more talents into the Lodge membership to work towards achieving a number of



Board Officers and Associates After Installation; from left: Installer PNP Saykin Foo, Craig Miller, Dean Ng, Jack Orswell, Alex Ly, Hollie Luong, Valerie Lee, Sam Gee (VP), Sharon Wong (President), Mary Wong, Alice Mah, Sophie Wong, Jason Dhing, Angela Lai, Scott Kwong, David Lau, and John Wong.

goals. One of them is to “work toward a voter registration drive” to “provide the votes to get representatives in every political elected arena to protect our constitutional rights”.



GSGV Lodge Officers, Associates, Past Presidents, Members and Friends. Elected Officials, standing: Stephen Lam [MP](L1), Hans Liang [MP](L5), Betty Tom Chu [former MP Mayor](L6), Peter Chan [MP Mayor] (R3), Adele Andrade-Stadler [Alhambra Mayor] (R1); sitting: Bob Gin [AUDS Pres.] (L3).

Overall, the installation dinner event was very successful in that there are 15 tables of attendees. Success can only come about with many volunteers who helped with the preparations and presentations. Special thanks are due for Brother John Wong for a great job being the MC, Sister Shirley Hwong for singing “God Bless America”, Pek Chan and Tammy Mau for bringing in entertainment for the guests (Italian opera singing, and Sandy Chan



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playing the Guzheng), and Jason Dhing for taking care of the money. In particular, the Lodge thanks the table sponsors for their generosity: Andrew & Betty Sit, Charles & Tammy Mau, Sharon Wong & the MJ Club, John & Sharon Wong, Paul & Julie Wong, Scott Kwong, Bob Gin, Peter & Jenny Chan, American Legion and Stephen Lam. Last but not least, the support of Los Angeles Lodge was deeply appreciated.



MP Mayor Peter Chan Presenting Certificates to Outgoing Board Officers; From Left: John Wong, Adele Andrade-Stadler, Peter Chan, Hans Liang, Stephen Lam, and Charles Mau.



President's Table sponsored by John & Sharon Wong



Table Sponsored by Charles & Tammy Mau



Table Sponsored by Mayor Peter & Jenny Chan



Table Sponsored by Paul & Julie Wong



Stuart & Shirley Chan, Marc Ang & Friend



Table Sponsored by Andrew & Betty Sit



President Sharon and John Wong at Table Sponsored by MJ Club



Table of GSGV Brothers and Sisters Attending Event



Table Sponsored by Scott Kwong (with red tie)



Table Sponsored by American Legion



**At the Dinner Event, from left: Tammy Mau, Former MP
Mayor Betty Tom Chu and Shirley Hwong**



Table jointly Sponsored by Stephen Lam and Bob Gin

City of Monterey Park Passed Resolution Commemorating Senate Bill S-1050, The Chinese-American WWII Congressional Gold Medal Act

In the April-3 Monterey Park City Council meeting, Mayor Brother Peter Chan presented and signed a resolution commemorating Senate Bill S-1050, the Chinese American World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act. This Bill was signed into law by President Donald Trump on December 20, 2018, "ordering the creation of the medal to recognize the Chinese Americans who volunteered or were drafted in WWII when the Chinese Exclusion Act was still in place". The resolution stated "The commitment and sacrifice of Chinese Americans (men and women) demonstrates a highly uncommon and commendable sense of honor and patriotism in the face of discrimination". It further stated that The Act "is the result of a national campaign organized by the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) known as the Chinese American World War II Veterans Recognition Project."



Mayor Chan presenting Certificate to Lodge President Sharon Wong as Bro. John Wong, Council Members Mitchell Ing and Teresa Sebastian look on.

On April 16, in MP City Hall, on behalf of C.A.C.A., the Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge accepted from Mayor Chan a Certificate entitled "Commemorating Senate Bill S-1050 Resolution" recognizing C.A.C.A. efforts in organizing the national campaign to honor the Chinese-American veterans who served in World War II.



GSGV members & MP City Council Members, from Left: Mitchell Ing, John Wong, Stuart Chan, Pres. Sharon Wong, Mayor Peter Chan, VP Sam Gee, Charles Mau, Shirley Hwong, Cecilia Huynh, Cindy Yee with granddaughter, and Teresa Sebastian.

Lodge Welcomes Two New Members

At the March 11 Lodge meeting, two new members were sworn in. Sister Lily Kuo has a long history of active community involvement and has known many of the Lodge's senior members. Sister Qiang Bjornbak, a prominent immigration attorney, is a transfer from Los Angeles Lodge. Welcome, Sisters Lily and Qiang!



Sisters Lily Kuo (left pic) and Qiang (right pic) with Secretary Margaret Leung and President Sharon Wong

Help Our Veterans!

The Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition Project is a program of C.A.C.A., a 501(c)8, and the National C.A.C.A. Community Involvement Fund, a 501(c)3. After the passing of Senate Bill S-1050, this project needs your further support with a tax-deductible contribution to ensure that our Veterans receive their medal. Funds will be used to produce and award the Gold Medal to the Veterans, and to preserve their legacy through educational programs.

You may also help by registering veterans or their families who are eligible to receive the medal. You may submit their names, stories, documents or other supporting materials to the Project.

Please visit the project website www.CAWW2.org for further detailed information.

Our Next Monthly Lodge Meeting will be on Monday, May 13, 6:30 PM at OK Café, 550 N Atlantic Blvd #169, Monterey Park, located in Atlantic Times Square.



Rosemead City Council Recognizes C.A.C.A.'s Role in the Passing of Senate Bill S-1050 Chinese American WWII Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Act with a Proclamation, on February 26, 2019.