



Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge Elected its 2022 Board of Officers

The GSGV Lodge held its monthly meeting on November 8 at Elite Restaurant, Monterey Park. At the meeting, President John Wong, Chair of the Election Committee, presented a tentative list of officer candidates of the Lodge for 2022. With quorum satisfied, the voting for each office went quite smoothly. Sister Lisa Yang nominated Charles Mau for president, who respectfully declined and commented that the Lodge was long overdue for the younger generation of members to assume the Board Officer positions. The list of elected officers is as follows:

President	Scott Kwong
Vice-President	Jason Dhing
Secretary	Dean Ng
Assistant Secretary	Sam W. Gee
Treasurer	Hollie Luong
Financial Secretary	Alex Ly
Compliance Officer	Angela Lai
Compliance Officer	Jessica Mei
Marshal	Alice Mah
Sentinel	Stuart Chan
Collector	Valerie Lee
National Representative	Paul Wong

The Board of Associates is to be nominated and voted on at a later date. Members of the Lodge all look forward to new campaigns and activities in the coming year, when the pandemic will hopefully subside. Pandemic permitting, all Officers and Associates are expected to be installed in the February 14, 2022 Lodge meeting.

Chinese American WWII Veterans and Families in Southern California are presented with Congressional Gold Medal Replicas

On November 13 and 14, C.A.C.A. in Southern California held the long-overdue ceremonies to present the Chinese American WWII veterans and their families with the Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) replicas. Two 2-hour sessions were scheduled on Saturday, Nov. 13 in the First Chinese Baptist Church of Los Angeles worship center located in Los Angeles Chinatown, where 153 WWII veteran families received the CGM replicas, and two veterans were awarded the Bronze Star Medal. The following day, Sunday Nov. 14, at the VFW Museum of Military

History in Simi Valley, saw 48 WWII veteran families receiving the CGM, and one veteran receiving the Bronze Star Medal in two sessions.

Presenting the Congressional Gold Medal replicas were retired Major Generals Robert G.F. Lee and Suzanne Vares-Lum (both from Hawaii), and retired Major General M. Ted Wong (from Orange County, CA). C.A.C.A. National President Melanie Chan drove all the way from Northern California to kickoff the ceremony in all 4 sessions, greeting the veterans and families, the Major Generals, and guests in attendance. In her opening speech, she gave a brief account of the history of the Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition Project, headed by Past National President Ed Gor, in its campaign to get the Chinese American WWII Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Act passed in Congress and signed into law in December 2018. [For details, visit www.caww2.org.] In closing, she thanked “all the Chinese American veterans, men and women who proudly answered the call to defend and preserve our freedom, and served our country during war and peace.”

A. WWII Veterans and Families from GSGV Lodge

Several members of our Lodge joined their families in the CGM presentation ceremonies on behalf of their deceased WWII veteran parents. Sister Valerie Lee’s father, WWII Veteran William Wong, personally received his Congressional Gold Medal replica in a private ceremony several months before the November event.



Brother Dean Ng and wife Shirley with CGM in honor of his father-in-law Fan Bong Chu. Behind are presenters (from L) Maj. Generals Bob Lee, Ted Wong and Suzanne Vares-Lum.



Sister Cindy Yee (L4) and her family receiving CGM for her father Michael Bow Lau Mar at Simi Valley event. Holding the medal is her brother Edmond. Presenters are (from L) Maj. Generals Bob Lee, Suzanne Vares-Lum, and Ted Wong.



Sister Diane Gin (R2) and her siblings Joanne Tajima and Gary Lok receiving CGM for their father Leung Kwok Lok. Presenters are (from L) Maj. Generals Vares-Lum, Bob Lee and Ted Wong.



Sister Judi Wong is presented with Congressional Gold Medal replica in recognition of her father Jim Ngim Wong. Presenters are (from L) Maj. Generals Bob Lee, Vares-Lum and Ted Wong.



Sister Valerie Lee presented her WWII veteran father, William Wong, the Congressional Gold Medal replica at a private ceremony earlier in 2021.

Sister Valerie Lee's father, William Wong, 97 years young and living, is a CGM recipient. He served with the 8th Army Area Command, in the Philippine Islands. He was assigned to ascertain the strength of the enemy and the number of Japanese in certain areas. One of his tasks was interrogation of prisoners, for which he made a daily report of all activities and gathered up Japanese soldiers after end of the war. He was a Staff Sergeant.



Brother Gilbert Lee and Sister Valerie receiving CGM in honor of Gilbert's father Gim Hong Lee in Los Angeles Lodge. Presenter is Captain Kelly Chan of US Navy.

B. The Story of WWII Veteran Gim Hong Lee [Based on input from Gilbert and Valerie Lee]

A recipient of the CGM, Sister Valerie's father-in-law, Gim Hong Lee, had an illustrious military service during WWII. Right after high school, at the age of 18, he volunteered for the Army Air Force in 1942 and flew with the 371st Bomber Squadron. Gim obtained the rank of Staff Sergeant



Gim Hong Lee included the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, World War II Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal and Good Conduct Medal.

Like many war veterans, Gim seldom talked about his military experience in World War II. It was only after his passing that Gilbert learned about his father's many military accomplishments from his discharge papers.

Even though Gim never went to college, the military educated him, trained him and taught him discipline to succeed in life. Soon after the war, he went back to China, got married and returned to America. Gim worked for Douglas Aircraft in Long Beach. He specialized in the hydraulic



Brother Gilbert Lee standing in front of the B-25 bomber his father flew during WWII, at the Palm Springs Air Museum.

systems of fighter jet aircrafts for the Navy. During those early working years he planned and saved to start a business of his own. He finally accomplished that dream and opened the first Chinese American restaurant in the City of Downey

in the 1950's. The restaurant was called the Lotus Garden. The business was a success and he operated the restaurant with our family for 24 years, until he retired in 1981.

Gim was a devoted family man who also cared for his relatives and friends. He enjoyed all sorts of family activities such as family dinners, dim sum, the holidays and cooking special dinners for each member of the family on their birthdays. He loved the outdoors, especially fishing. In his retirement years he would go deep sea fishing and catch dozens of fish. He enjoyed sports such as football, bowling and horse racing. He would also attend USC football games with son Gilbert and really enjoyed the excitement of the game. He also enjoyed Monday night poker with his friends and buddies, and traveling to Las Vegas and Indian Casinos to try his luck. He was indeed a lucky guy.

According to Gilbert, Gim was always friendly with people and greeted everyone with a cheerful smile. As one family friend remarked about him, Gim had a zest for life and enjoyed every moment of it.

C. Southern California CGM Presentation Ceremony was a Great Team Effort!

Starting in Sept. 2021, a SoCal CGM Presentation Committee, led by the LA Lodge, was formed to prepare and coordinate the event. It consisted mainly of members from the LA Lodge and others from Southern California organizations. They are: Eugene Moy (Chair), Susan Dickson, Rick Eng, Ryan Hopkins, Wenli Jen, Suellen Cheng Kwok, Wayne Ng, Al Soo-Hoo, Casey Young, Gay Q. Yuen [LA Lodge], Charles Mau [GSGV Lodge], Marjorie Lee [UCLA Asian American Studies Center], Grace Leo, Ricky Leo [Ventura County Chinese American Association], and Juily Phun [CSU-Los Angeles]. Numerous virtual meetings were held (until the event date Nov. 13-14) to invite and coordinate the reception of the three Major Generals as presenters, decide the event site, design the event agendas, guest lists and receptions, and recruit volunteer helpers for the event. The bulk of the work was focused on compiling the list of veterans, notifying their families, registering the attendees, and sending out electronic invitations. There was also the intricate timing and coordination with the C.A.C.A. National Lodge and the CAWW2 Project Organization for shipping the required number of CGM replicas and personalized certificates. There was also the call for

donations to the event, the most notable ones of which were from the UCLA-AASC and CIF Fund.



SoCal CGM Ceremony Committee members with the three Maj. Generals Bob Lee, Ted Wong and Vares-Lum, and C.A.C.A. National President Melanie Chan (Front row, R4), at the Nov. 13, 2021 ceremony in Los Angeles.

D. GSGV Lodge Members Participated in the SoCal CGM Event

Several members of the GSGV Lodge participated in the SoCal CGM Ceremony events. Past President Charles Mau is a member of the SoCal CGM Committee, and volunteered at the 4 sessions of the event. Lisa Yang, Dean Ng, Jessica Mei, Cecilia Huynh, Cindy and Stan Yee volunteered at different sessions of the ceremony. Major Stuart Chan, as Commander of the American Legion Chinatown Post 628, arranged for the Presentation of Colors at the Los Angeles Ceremony sessions. At the November 8 Lodge meeting, members voted to donate \$500 in support of the CGM Ceremony.



Some of GSGV Volunteers with the three Major Generals presenting at the CGM Ceremony. Back row: (From L) Maj. Generals Bob Lee, Ted Wong and Vares-Lum; Front row (From L): Charles Mau, Jessica Mei, Lisa Yang and Dean Ng.

GSGV Lodge Celebrated the Holidays with Dinner Party at La Vie French Restaurant

More than forty Lodge members, families and friends met at La Vie French Restaurant in Rosemead to celebrate the Christmas and New Year holidays on Wednesday, December 8. Everyone who attended was happy to resume our annual traditional party after by-passing in 2020 due to the pandemic lockdown. Dignitaries and guests included Yvonne Yiu, Mayor of Monterey Park and husband Albert Young, Betty Chu,



Lodge VP-Elect Jason Dhing with the ladies (from L): Treasurer-Elect Hollie Luong, Nancy Quon, Jessica Mei, Tammy Tam, Shirley Hwang, Yvonne Yiu, Carol Sullivan, Judi Wong and Qiang Bjornbak.



Partiers (from L): Kim Wang, Carol Sullivan, Betty Chu, Shirley Hwang, Julie Wong, May Gee and friend.



Around the table (from L): John & May Gee, Shirley & Dean Ng, Peter Yao, Kim Wang, Paul and Julie Wong.



Suellen Cheng and Munson Kwok

whom had not seen one another for almost two years. Thanks are due to Sharon Wong for coordinating the event and to John Wong who did an excellent job being the emcee and conducting a fun-filled quasi-Bingo game.

Munson Kwok and Suellen Cheng, and LA Lodge President Wayne Ng. The family of President-Elect Scott Kwong was present, while Mark Ang and John Gee, President and Past President of O.C. Lodge also joined the party. Everybody had a great, fun time, many of

AAPI Studies Becomes Requirement for Public High-School Graduation in New Jersey

New Jersey is now the second state to require Asian American studies in its public schools after Governor Phil Murphy signed the measure into law on January 18, 2022. The bills, which state Senate and Assembly voted overwhelmingly for, allow local boards of education to pick instructional materials, but a proposed Commission on Asian American Heritage in the state Education Department may also assist in the process. The combined legislation will require the history and contributions of the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities be taught within the framework of the NJ Student Learning Standards for Social Studies.

New Jersey follows Illinois in requiring public schools to teach Asian American history after Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed the Teaching Equitable Asian American Community History Act in July 2021.

We note that these developments appear to be in line with what was advocated in the 2021 C.A.C.A. National Convention Resolution #1 "Advocating for Asian American Studies for K-12 Curricula", submitted by GSGV Lodge.

Informal Weekly Brunch Get-Together Continues

Quite a few of our Lodge members and friends have been getting together for brunch and informal conversations every Tuesday at 10:00 AM at Sunday Bistro, 1032 E Valley Blvd, Alhambra, CA. Once in a while, we plan to meet at a different venue to break the monotony and to try out different menus. All members are cordially invited to attend, and you are welcome to bring your friends.



More Partiers (from L): Jessica Mei, O.C. Lee, Mr. Kwong (Scott's father), Hayward Eng, Pete Chinn and Mary Wong.



Charles Mau (L1) & MC/Pres. John Wong (R1) flanking Bingo winners Albert Young, Scott Kwong, Nancy Quon and Jessica Mei.



From Left: Board Officer Angela Lai, Janet & Jack Orswell, and LA Lodge President Wayne Ng.



Brunch buddies at Jolly Jug Restaurant in El Monte, Pete Chinn's family enterprise. From Left: Munson & Suellen Kwok, Paul Wong, Pek Chan, Lisa Yang, Charles Mau, Sam Gee, Dean Ng, John Wong, Pete Chinn, and Pedro Chan.