

KOKORO

the heart and soul of our community
San Mateo Chapter Japanese American Citizens League July 2010
www.sanmateojacl.org
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San Mateo JA CL is dedicated to promoting the historical and cultural understanding of the Japanese American experience and to protecting and advancing the human and civil rights of our multi-ethnic society through educational and community programs.

Articles must be submitted before the first Friday (one month prior to publication) to katemotoyama@sanbrunocable.com

THEME FOR July *Community*

On Saturday, June 5th some of the board worked at a booth at the Belmont Flea Market to help raise funds for the chapter's scholarship program. Thanks to Mary Jo Kubota-Arcarese for arranging the booth and getting the word out to the community. We had a bunch of stuff to sell and a beautiful day to sell the goods. Thanks also to Diana Okamoto and Misa and Lisa Sakaguchi for sharing the entire day negotiating, selling and even buying some remarkable bargains.



National Convention

Wanted to give you a quick synopsis of what happened @ convention in Chicago. It ran well, it was sited in a great city, and we passed a budget that is workable, thanks to last-minute work by our district (NCWNP). Mary Jo and I both worked until THU, flew out, arrived near midnight, and joined

the convention the next day. Hanayo Spitz, our oratorical contestant, flew out several hours earlier and arrived earlier.

As for the resolutions, here is the status:

R-1. Nisei Commemorative Stamp. Defeated.

Apparently the JA Veterans' Assn, opposed this. This was the most controversial of all resolutions to our surprise and action had been taken prior to our arrival. However, the resolution would have been defeated anyway. In doing the voice vote and then having a roll call vote, votes were changed. Splits were observed among the districts, with NCWNP being the only district with unanimous support. Youth reps voted to oppose.

R-2. Power of Words. MSP.

Replacing vague terms with more accurate ones, such as forced removal for evacuation, etc. At least two chapters with older members and veterans were opposed, representing the wishes of their constituency.

R-3. Oppose SB 1070. MSP.

JACL will work to appeal, with AZ chapter; however, only the National President and National Director will make official statements on JACL's position on this issue.

R-4. Switch to calendar year membership. Defeated.

Good reasons on all sides. MJ and I felt there would be greater predictability of income with switching to a common start date; however, we will continue with the rotating membership dates. One point is that lapsed members will lapse anyway, regardless of which choice.

R-5. Topaz Museum. MSP

Our chapter worked with the museum in its promotion campaign in the Bay Area, as you recall. Thanks for your help with this.

Emergency Resolution-1. Oppose HB 2881. MSP.

AZ law that essentially defines ethnic studies as a disenfranchising, biased way of looking at history and the peoples who shaped it.

A biennial budget was passed, though we will convert to annual conventions in 2011 (to be held in Los Angeles). The budget is more austere than past budgets with an understanding that membership revenue will decline due to ongoing attrition in member base. More fundraising needs to happen; however, percentage of anticipated soft monies is much lower than past budgets I've seen. A couple of items of interest: Proposed dues increase was defeated due to cost savings realized by keeping the PC office in Southern CA and having its site shared with PSW District. In the amended budget, there's an additional 1% COLA to staff in 2012 (originally none in

2011, 1% in 2012). These changes were proposed by NCWNP and passed by the body.

Newly elected officers are:

National Youth Council Rep, Devon Yoshikawa

National Youth Council Chair, Matthew Farrells

No candidate for Sec/Treas, can be appointed by President & no write-ins allowable under our bylaws.

Membership Services, David Lin.

Planning/Dev, Jason Chang

Public Affairs, Ron Katayama

General Operations, Gail Sueki

President, David Kawamoto

Oratorical Contestant Hanayo Spitz did well but she did not win. Hanayo enjoyed her time in Chicago and learning about JACL; she'll transfer and begin @ UC Berkeley in the fall.

Immigrant's Day

On May 16th, The San Mateo History Museum sponsored a special day honoring all of the ethnic groups that helped to shape and grow San Mateo County in the early days of its history. The Museum created a day to learn more about the different communities, including Japanese, Chinese, Irish, Portuguese and Italian groups that contributed to the rich heritage here in San Mateo. The day consisted of the different foods that each group enjoyed as well as crafts for the kids. Outside on the stage, your president, Steve Okamoto, acted as the tour guide as he introduced and gave an insight in to each group's stories as we traveled around the world learning about each culture.





JACL

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