



Asian American Coalition of Chicago

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24th ANNUAL LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION
2nd PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 15, 2006
MINUTES *(Corr. Rd 2)*

The second Planning Committee Meeting of the Asian American Coalition of Chicago for the 2007 24th Annual Lunar New Year Celebration, was held at the Chinese American Service League Senior Housing Center, 2108 South Princeton Avenue, Chicago, on Wednesday, November 15, 2006. The meeting called to order at 6:43 p.m. by Leonard Louie, 2007 AACC Chair.

The Chinese American Community is the 2007 host community. The five co-sponsoring host organizations are: Chicago Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, Chinese American Civic Council of Chicago, Chinese American Service League, Inc., Chinese Mutual Aid Association and the Organization of Chinese Americans, Inc., Greater Chicago Chapter.

ATTENDEES

Hon Bannapradist, Thakor S. Basati, Tim Brenmark, Jelly R. Carandang, C.W. Chan, M Sajid Chaudhry, Rashid Chaudary, Jennifer Chui, Jessica Chui, Irene Cualoping, Arthur Dilay, Alice Dungey, Kus Folkers, Kean Yin, Tran Khanh, Ronny S. Kular, Sunny Kular, Grace Lai, Julian Lalvani, Nadja Lalvani, Prem Lalvani, Chuck Lee, Jin Lee, Leonard Louie, Rajinder Singh Mago, Sarah Mak, Pat Michalski, John Miller, Roosy Miller, Lourdes Mon, Helen "Tomatoes" Moy, Joanne Moy, John Ng, Jean Ng, Jeffrey Otaka, Sandra Otaka, Paul Park, Mimi Runo, Onkar S. Sangha, Mohinderjit Singh Saini, Krishan Sant, Jay Singh, Woon-Wah Siu, Afzal Sodagar, Younus Suleman, Martino Tangkar, Darryl Tom, Esther Wong, Manwei Wong, David Wu.

1. Welcome – Leonard M. Louie, 2007 AACC Chair

- In order to get information out quicker, minutes and agenda will be distributed via email.

2. October 25, 2006 Minutes

- The minutes for the October 25, 2006 meeting were approved (Prem Lalvani motioned, Woon-Wah Siu seconded).

3. Committee Reports

A. Administration – Irene Cualoping

- Members should inform committee if they aren't receiving emails or can't access member's only section of website.
- Members prefer circulating contact information through hard copy rather than website.
- Room rate –10 rooms are on hold so reserve early (deadline Feb 12).

- B. Floral and Décor – Irene Cualoping reported for Judy Yuen.
- Committee is looking for sponsors for the arrangements for tables and reception area.
 - Need three more volunteers for assembly of floral arrangements during the 2-3 days before the event.
 - Committee wanted a referral from Thai community for an orchid supplier.
- C. Ticket Sales – Jean Ng
- Jean Ng has a supply of tickets at the meeting.
 - 31 tables have already been sold. The goal for this dinner is 130 tables. Two years ago, there were about 660 tickets sold by mid-December.
 - Certain sections of the ballroom are reserved for foreign consulate tables. The Chinese community will invite both the PRC Consul General and the Director General of Taiwan.
- D. Finance – no report from Denise Lam
- E. Sponsorships – Woon-Wah Siu
- Sponsorship forms are now available on the website.
 - 5 levels of sponsorship are available.
 - Advertisements should be camera-ready and preferably pdf or jpeg files which are at least 300 dpi
 - Ad forms and sponsorship forms were distributed. Ad deadline is January 17, 2007.
 - Government agencies will be eligible for non-profit rates.
- F. Programming – C.W. Chan
- Committee has met twice and is focusing on keeping the program simple and short. The committee has reviewed past program approaches: entertainment from each community versus one production piece reflecting various communities. The committee has adopted the one production approach.
 - Opening Ceremony - Jelly Carandang will coordinate the opening ceremony, which will have a “big bang” but also will be dignified.
 - Main performance - Mohinderjit Singh Saini will coordinate the main performance, which will be one piece that reflects many communities. Considering “Silk Road” as the main concept.
 - Keynote Speaker – The committee wants to identify an Asian American speaker.
 - C.W. Chan stated that the speaker reflects the message that we want to convey. What is our message? Focusing on the need to elect an Asian American in Illinois would lead us to invite an elected official who serves as a role model. Focusing on Asians making impact on society would lead us to invite successful individuals in fields such as arts, Hollywood, science, etc.
 - Jelly Carandang came up with some prospective speakers including: Steve Chiu (Chinese Nobel Prize winner), Gary Locke (former governor), Mike Honda, David Wu (U.S. Congressman) and Elaine Chao. Other names suggested include: Dr. David Ho, Yo-Yo Ma and Sandra Oh.
 - Jelly Carandang, Nadja Lalvani and Woon-Wah Siu will continue to research names and take more suggestions. Committee will decide who to invite.
 - Government Officials
 - The following government officials will be invited by the Host Committee to make a brief greeting on-stage during the program: The two U.S. Senators, the Governor, and the City of Chicago Mayor. Other local officials will be recognized by the emcee. In the past Coalition members have also invited other local officials to attend the event as their guest and appear on Open Mic.

- Open Mic – There was a discussion about whether to have an “open mic” during the reception for other elected officials and candidates to address the attendees. Since the elections will be over, some preferred not to have “open mic” as only a few people are listening during that time. Others thought that it was a good tradition, that elected officials and candidates do want an opportunity to speak and that we should try to improve it. Prem Lalvani and Rashid Chaudary will create a sub-committee to make recommendations on how to improve the “open mic” time.
- Committee would like program to end by 9:30 p.m.

G. Awards – C.W. Chan

- Awards have been the highlight of the dinner and a tradition of AACC.
- The Grand Asian and Ping Tom awards will be given out prior to dinner. The awardees will be decided by the planning committee.
- The Community Service and Youth awards will be given out after dinner. The recipients will be selected by each ethnic community.
 - C.W. recommended that the Community Service awardee be endorsed by three organizations so that there is broad support.
 - Rashid Chaudary noted that most of the awardees are first-generation immigrants and that communities should try to identify some second-generation Asian Americans to draw them into the event.
 - C.W. encouraged each community to be thoughtful in selecting the Youth Award. The impression was that youth were selected at the last minute and some did not even show up. The youth award is a good idea but can be improved. It was suggested that youth nominees write a short statement on the contribution that they can make to the Asian American community. Irene Cualoping said this would be a good suggestion for next year. (Forms are already out this year and we have received nominations already.)
- Award nomination forms were distributed. It was suggested that the forms be submitted electronically to assist the program booklet committee.

H. Program Book and Advertisement Sales – Esther Wong

- Esther Wong requested more help for this committee especially in selling ads. Jelly Carandang (last year's program book coordinator) has provided many helpful suggestions.
- The ad form was distributed and is available on website. The deadline for submitting ads is January 17, 2007.
- The committee is open to recommendations for printing companies.

I. Communications and Media – Irene Cualoping

- The press release for the AACC dinner has been sent to over 1,500 people. ABC and NBC have posted our event on their website. 150 ethnic papers (local and national) are on our mailing list. We are trying to get major media to cover the dinner and buy tables.
- We will invite all Asian American on-air talent from major television stations to serve as emcees. The committee needs volunteers to serve as liaison with celebrity media (1-2 volunteers per celebrity).
- Media coverage for Asian Fest. 5.4 million viewers watched Asian Fest coverage. We have purchased some of the clips.
- Encouraged AACC to individually contact media leadership about both gains and losses of on-air Asian American presence.

J. General Discussion about role of AACC:

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- Paul Park – In order to get Asian Americans elected, they need to participate on the local level to get name recognition beyond AA community. AACC also needs a permanent office and be an umbrella organization to other groups.
- C.W. Chan – Each of us need to truly represent our communities and not be leaders without followers. We also need to make an effort to reach the next generation.
- Prem Lalvani – 90% of the Asian Americans that he meets doesn't know about AACC. People are only involved when their community is the host and we need to change this.
- Rashid Chaudary – We should support candidates from each other's community and he is ready to support a Chinese candidate in Chinatown. We need to be involved in the political process (voters registration, get-out-the-vote, etc.) on a regular basis.
- Prem Lalvani – In a few years, we need to work on re-districting so that we aren't divided into different legislative districts again.
- Others: Attendance at AACC dinner has plateaued. We need to do more than just the dinner so that we are helping the community on an on-going basis. We have our non-profit status which facilitates our ability to do more.

K. Outreach –

- C.W. Chan reminded us to encourage smaller AA communities to stay involved. Irene reported that the Japanese community will have at least two tables and JASC has been able to stabilize organization.

4. New Business

Announcements:

- AACC members were invited to attend the Asian Indian community's Thanksgiving Dinner at Truman College on November 23.
- There is a Japanese American Service Committee holiday event on Dec 2nd at 10:30 a.m.
- Judge Sandra Otaka encouraged AA communities to put up candidates for judges. There have been inroads in electing Asian American judges recently.
- Punjabi community will be participating with a float in the Thanksgiving parade on State Street and also in the Museum of Science and Industry's "Christmas Around the World" on November 26.

5. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is Wednesday, December 13, 2006 at CASL Senior Housing (2108 South Princeton). (Please note corrected address; in some prior material it was listed as 2108 South Archer.) The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Wu, Secretary

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