

36TH ANNUAL LACAAEA INSTALLATION AND AWARDS DINNER

A historic Installation dinner took place at Ocean Star Seafood in Monterey Park on an evening filled with much excitement and anticipation. The audience was treated to an Installation Dinner that began with the Mistress of Ceremonies Janice Y. Fukai, Esq. welcoming everyone to the night's wonderful festivities. The speakers for the evening included: Reverend Terry Keenan, Judge Arthur M. Lew, William Fujioka, Phillip Ow, Karl Nobuyuki, Henry Yee, Irene Hamada, Wendy Watanabe, and Steve Kawamura. There were many awards presented to LACAAEA members, students, and a Special recognition for a woman who holds the highest political office in the State of California.

Many in the audience did not know that her father, Mas Fukai who served with Supervisor Kenneth Hahn was the Master of Ceremonies at the Association's 11th Annual Installation Dinner in 1983. Twenty five years later his daughter, Janice Y. Fukai, Esq. was our Mistress of Ceremonies for the 36th Annual Installation Dinner. What an honor to have two generations of support by the Fukai Family.

Phillip Ow, served as President from 1981-1982 and continues to be one of the longest serving members of the Association. He retired from the Chief Administrative Office in 2005, but continues to provide service to the organization. Mr. Ow presented a brief history on the development of the Association. LACAAEA began with a group of individuals seeking to form an Association that would focus on: 1) improving the employment status of its Asian Pacific Islander (API) members (2) support the recruitment, appointment and promotion of its members (3) advocate for Affirmative Action and work against discrimination on the job and (4) promote greater community and political involvement in the County and the Community.

The founding members of the Association were Mas Fukai (Board Deputy for Kenneth Hahn), Jim Miyano (Board Deputy for Supervisor Ed Edelman), Edward W. Lee (Director of Community Relations), Cynthia Kushi (Assistant Hospital Administrator), and Yoneo Yamamoto (Special Assistant to the Director of Health Services). Mr. Yamamoto, present in the audience, was recognized as one of the distinguished founder's of LACAAEA. Ms. Kushi was unable to attend the evening's recognition ceremony.

Yoneo Yamamoto served two terms as President (1973-1975) and in the early 1980's as the Executive Director for the Association. One of our departed past founders Edward W. Lee served a single term as President (1976-1977) and served as the Association's Board Chairman in the early 1980's. These early pioneers helped to guide and develop our Association into an organization that has been serving and

representing it's members on many cases of employment discrimination and issues of advancement in the County through the years.

Mr. Ow informed the audience of an important milestone discrimination case in the history of our Association. From 1979 to 1992 LACAAEA took part in supporting Dr. Carole Fujita in her race and discrimination case that was filed with the County's Civil Service Commission. At the time, all management and supervisory Pharmacy positions were held by males. During numerous promotional exams, she was repeatedly passed over, even though she was at the top of the Supervisor's Promotional lists for advancement.

With the support of LACAAEA and other groups including the County and City's Women Commission and the Japanese American Citizen's League she was finally able to obtain the Pharmacy promotion that she was seeking. Dr. Fujita was a pioneer of women's rights and helped to ensure that women today have access to Management and Supervisory Pharmacy positions in the County.

William Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer for the County of Los Angeles spoke of Howard Takata as one of LACAAEA'S most illustrious Presidents, whose commitment, and dedication to the Association serves as a role model to all new members of the Association. Mr. Takata served as President from (1988-1997). As President, he was a monumental force for helping API's advance in the County. He actively promoted for increased membership through Payroll deduction. He also worked diligently on increasing the networking ties between API groups in the County of Los Angeles, City of Los Angeles, State of California, and the Federal Government. Mr. Tanaka ideals, dedication, and passion are without equal. Although retired his thunderous voice and command of an audience was once again felt at the evening's festivities.

The swearing in of the New Officers was conducted by the Honorable Arthur M. Lew.

Irene Hamada	President
Steve Kawamura	Vice President (Operations)
Jackie Guevara	Vice President (Events/Programs)
Brian Lew	Vice President (Public Relations)
Connie Yee	Treasurer
Akiko Tagawa	Corresponding Secretary
Borina Nou	Recording Secretary
Jeremy Li	Web Master
Mason Fong	Editor-in-Chief

The Outgoing Officers worked tirelessly in carrying out the ideals and goals of the Association. Their outstanding service and dedicated service to the Association is

without compare. With gratitude and deepest thanks, the Association commends each and every one of these dedicated members for a job well done.

Henry Yee	President
Wendy Watanabe	Vice President
Ernie Takamoto	Vice President
Irene Ng Hamada	Vice President
Anna Imura	Treasurer
Catherine Mak	Corresponding Secretary
Mary Lam	Corresponding Secretary
Karen Lee	Recording Secretary

Dr. Judy Chu, Chair of the State Board of Equalization received the Association's coveted George Ban Public Service Excellence Award. Steve Kawamura highlighted Dr. Chu's outstanding political accomplishments and her dedication to the API community. Karl Nobuyuki presented a brief biography on George Ban and explained why Dr. Chu clearly merits the George Ban Public Service Excellence Award.

Many Special Recognition and Outstanding Service Awards were presented to the Association members for their many years of loyal and dedicated service to the Association. The Awards were presented by the Honorable Judy Chu, Chair of the State Board of Equalization, Honorable Mike Eng, California State Assembly; Irene Hamada, newly elected President of LACAAEA; Wendy Watanabe, Acting Auditor-Controller; and Henry Yee, Retired LACAAEA past President.

Wendy Watanabe awarded the Shirley Bollinger Scholarships to the following deserving students who best represented the ideals of this Award. The Award was created to honor the memory of an outstanding public servant whose career was highlighted by a determination and drive to make the County a better work environment for all. The student honorees included: Benjamin Chan, Albert Chu, Charlene Gomez, and Andrew Trinh. The families of each recipient were present to acknowledge the accomplishments of their children.

Our more recent past Presidents Ken Fang, Esq., Shig Kikkawa, and Henry Yee helped to carry on Mr. Tanaka's legacy, yet developed their own unique Presidential legacy. We are truly blessed to have such a group of dedicated President's who helped lead the Association. As we begin a new Presidency under Irene Hamada, may the goals and ideals of the Association continue to focus on helping our members become good ambassadors and spokesman for the Association.

This special event was made possible by the hard work and contributions of the many dedicated and hard working members of the Association. The Reception committee chair was Jackie Guevarra. Her committee was comprised of: Carmen Fong, Libby Gong, Irene Hamada, Darlene Hoang, Anna Imura, Steve Kawamura, Brian Lew, Jeremy Li, Dulce Maycumber, Linh Mok, Borina Nou, Wayne Sasaki, Tevy Sithan, Akiko Tagawa, Jennifer Yang, Connie Yee, and Nancy Yu. Additional, thanks go to these special members who went above and beyond the call of duty to produce a spectacular 36th Annual Installation and Awards dinner. They are Theresa Argonza, Irene Hamada, Kimberly Jo, Steve Kawamura, Jeremy Li, Tevy Sithan, and Akiko Tagawa.