

2010 Annual Report

Japanese American Citizens League – Silicon Valley Chapter
Annual Report
January 2010 – December 2010

Silicon Valley JACL was chartered on June 13, 2009. The chapter founders are Gail Sueki, Mark Kobayashi, Pat Nakashima and Jeff Yoshioka.

Silicon Valley is a chapter of the Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District, the largest district in the JACL at 33 chapters strong. The next largest district is the Pacific Southwest with 31 chapters. The National JACL is composed of 112 chapters.

Established with the goal of creating an organization that bridges generations, the chapter has been successful in executing our vision:

- Create intergenerational opportunities to build bonds and understanding
- Explore the Japanese culture and heritage in fun and inviting ways
- Focus on professional leadership development
- Foster a diverse membership network

Executive Board:

President: Gail Sueki; VP: Mark Kobayashi; Secretary: Pat Nakashima; Treasurer: Jeff Yoshioka

District Delegates:

Colin Boon and Linda Fujimoto

Board of Directors:

Mariko Fujimoto, Greg Hori, Nick Hori, Nancy Kerbel, and Diane Morimune.

Committees

The chapter is composed of 7 committees created to focus on our vision and fulfill administrative functions.

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| <i>Tomodachi</i> | Sends cards and gifts as appropriate to chapter members for various occasions. The committee coordinated registration and/or refreshments for main chapter events such as Hinamatsuri Exhibit and the Basketball Fundraising Tournament. |
| <i>Public Relations</i> | Manages the chapter's communication, visibility, outreach and image. Articles were released announcing our main events especially the movie screening of Valor with Honor with profits benefiting other community organizations. |
| <i>Nominations</i> | Assesses the board needs and develops criteria to recruit board members. The committee conducts the election process of the chapter board and executive board. The 2011 Executive Board has 2 new officers and the board gained 4 new members. |
| <i>Membership</i> | Manages the membership database, communicates status to board and chapter, analyzes data, develops recruitment and maintenance strategy and implementation, collects and takes action on member feedback. |
| <i>Finance</i> | Manages the chapter finances and goals. The Committee is also launching the chapter scholarship program. |
| <i>Civil Liberties</i> | Keeps abreast of issues and communicates information to the board/chapter. They recommend and lead activities that further educate and expand the awareness of causes and conditions. The activities related to civil liberties included the chapter participation in the Day Of Remembrance as banner carriers and sponsoring the movie "Valor with Honor". |
| <i>Constitution & By-Law</i> | Reviews and updates the Constitution and By-Laws as needed. No action was taken in 2010. |

Membership

This year our goal was to reach 201 members by the end of 2010. Although we ended the year with 163, SVJACL ranked in the top 3 nationally in the number of new memberships (27). As we continue to grow, we have moved up in rankings. Overall nationally we are the 29th largest chapter out of 112 and now 6th in youth memberships (25)! Members of the SV JACL include residents of, but are not limited to, the Silicon Valley. Our vast membership includes members from out of state, Oregon and Washington, as well as from regions of Sacramento, San Benito County, Monterey County, East Bay, the Peninsula and Los Angeles. The diversity of our chapter is reflected in the variety of ages, ethnicity, geographical locations, interests, and participation.

Financials

We set a 2010 budget of revenue income of \$11,800 and expenses of \$10,985 with an expected Net Income of \$815. We surpassed our targets with a Total Revenue of \$12,303 and Total Expenses of 8,183. Net Income \$4,120. The chapter does not derive any funds from membership fees which go to National JACL. The chapter's operational and program expenses are funded through the generous donation of members, supporters, and fundraisers. In 2010 our largest expense was the sponsorship of our delegates and partial reimbursement to chapter members as incentive to attend the JACL National Convention in Chicago. We had 18 chapter members attend including 8 out of our 11 board members (73%) and 6 youths. Similar to 2009, our liability insurance is a large expense. Since our fundraisers were profitable in 2009, we continued them on in 2010 (Bowl-a-thon, selling plants and rummage sales). A new and exciting fundraising idea emerged and we hosted both an adult and youth basketball tournament which yielded a net profit of \$4,548 to be used to launch our scholarship program. We also earned about \$400 cleaning gyms at midnight!

Events – Cultural, Civil Liberties, Community Giving

In addition to celebrating Tanabata (Star Festival) by placing bamboo trees in various businesses so the public could write wishes, we designed a Hinamatsuri (Doll Festival) exhibit. Over 300 people attended the exhibit and we surprisingly made about \$800. We were very thankful for our volunteers who carefully set up and cleaned up for this event since it was tremendous as the dolls are very fragile. The year was also highlighted by our chapter's first birthday celebratory picnic party at which we also helped complete tags with the names of internees for an artist's project. We continue to participate and support our community. We hosted 2 movie screenings of "Valor with Honor" by local film maker Burt Takeuchi. The ticket sales for this event were donated to Yu-Ai Kai and the Japanese American Museum of San Jose. Refreshment profits were donated the Placer JACL 442nd/100th/MIS Memorial Statue.

Governance and Communication

Communication is of vital importance and we utilize various avenues to obtain and share information. We have regular email updates to our membership, utilize Facebook and maintain a chapter Website. Monthly board meetings are held and are open to the public. As needed, we conduct committee and Executive Board meetings. We attend district and national quarterly meetings to ensure that we obtain and understand information so we can best communicate information to our board and members. We have an email address, chapter office and phone number for correspondence.

Future: 2011

The future is sparkling with brilliance as we welcome 4 new board members. We are pleased with the increase and diversity of our board. Uniquely, a chapter retreat in January provided a forum for group interaction where we discussed our programs to ensure alignment with our vision and develop our succession plan.

- Attend the JACL National Convention with a large chapter contingency.
- Achieve membership goal of 212 by the end of 2012.
- Focus on Leadership Development and Succession Planning through regular training, discussions and providing opportunities to grow with experienced and successful coaches and mentors.
- Clarify and strengthen Committee structure by identifying leaders, determining responsibilities, setting goals, recruiting volunteers, developing and executing a roadmap.
- Establish a chapter scholarship.
- Improve communication within board and with chapter members by implementing easy-to-use tools and Streamlining information and processes.

Contact: Gail Sueki, 2010 Chapter President, Silicon Valley JACL

Email: SiliconValleyJACL@yahoo.com

Website: SiliconValleyJACL.org