

Japanese American Citizens League – Silicon Valley Chapter
Annual Report
June 2009 – December 2009

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

Upon joining the Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District, Silicon Valley made the district the largest district in the JACL at 33 chapters strong. The next largest district is the Pacific Southwest with 32 chapters. The National JACL is composed of 114 chapters.

Established with the goal of creating an organization that bridges generations. The chapter vision is:

- 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

2009 Executive Board:

President: Gail Sueki
Vice-President: Mark Kobayashi
Secretary: Pat Nakashima
Treasurer: Jeff Yoshioka

2009 Board of Directors:

Colin Boon, Linda Fujimoto, Mariko Fujimoto, Nick Hori, Nancy Kerbel, Diane Morimune, and Sharon Nakamura.

2009 District Delegates:

Gail Sueki and Linda Fujimoto

Membership

The chapter boasts a membership of 130 and rises steadily up in the ranks. SVJACL ranks in the top 5 for the most youth memberships in the district. The chapter is currently ranked 42 out of 114 in total memberships. Impressively, SVJACL is ranked 1st in the number of new members recruited in 2009. Members of the Silicon Valley JACL include, but are not limited to the Silicon Valley. Our vast membership includes members out of state as well from regions in Sacramento, San Benito County, Monterey County, East Bay, and the Peninsula. The diversity of our chapter is reflected in the variety of ages, ethnicity, geographical location, interests, participation and ice cream flavor preferences!

Financials

We started in June with a beginning balance of zero. We exceeded our target profit goal by approximately 50%. Total Revenue was \$16,552. Total expenses was \$12,379. Net Income was \$4,343. The chapter does not derive any funds from our membership fees since we matched our fees to National. The funds received go directly to National to cover the National membership fees for our members. Operational and program expenses are funded through the generous donation of members, supporters, and fundraisers. We were fortunate to have a generous donation of \$5,000 and many donated expenses. In addition, our fundraisers (Bowl-a-thon, selling plants and rummage sales) netted us a profit of about \$2,900. As a result, we were able to provide subsidy or discounts to events while supporting the organization. Our major expenses this year were funding 5 youths and a chaperone to the National Youth Conference and our liability insurance.

Chapter and Social Responsibility

Although still in our infancy, we fully understand the importance and accept the responsibility of supporting district, national events and community events. We are proud to report that our chapter had the largest attendance at the Youth Conference in MN (5 plus chaperone), District Luncheon (table of 11), and District Hiroshima fundraising concert (11). The board voted to provide funds for program ads for the National Gala in Washington DC, Youth Convention, District Founder's Day Fundraising Luncheon, Pacific Citizen's special Veteran's issue as well as the Holiday issue. Our chapter has shown support by having representation at community festivals, dinners, and events. We are aware and foster a culture of Social Responsibility. In this vein, we were a speaker at a Social Responsibility forum and we collected money and over 70 pounds of food for the Second Harvest Food Bank at our Annual General Meeting last December. We support our community merchants and vendors when we can without asking for donations or discounts.

Events – Cultural, Civil Liberties, Social

Our inaugural event, Tanabata, reflected the focus of our chapter – culture, multi-generational, leadership development and networking. Tanabata, Star Festival, held on the evening of July 7th, brought out many people. The festivities included a play, music, refreshments and writing wishes and placing them on the bamboo trees. The dedication, enthusiasm, and fun involved with planning this event was also a valuable learning experience. We kept busy throughout the year participating in a book signing featuring a War Relocation Authority Photographer, distributed safety glow sticks for Halloween in Japantown, attended the SJ and SF Giant's Heritage Days, hosted a Youth BBQ and sponsored a Family Beach Day.

Communication

Communication is vital 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 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: 2010

We look forward to the New Year and New Decade! We will continue having fun and provide some of the events from last year, Tanabata, as well as some new ones, Hinamatsuri (Girls' Day).

Our goals include:

- Achieve chapter membership of 201 by the end of 2010
- Focus on Leadership Development and Succession Planning through regular training and discussions
- Strengthen and expand Committee structure by identifying needs, determining responsibilities and setting goals
- Improve events by applying project management skills and increasing attendance
- Continue to fundraise to support chapter member attendance at the National Convention in Chicago
- Improve communication within board and with chapter members by implementing easy to use tools and streamlining processes

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