

WAN HUA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

挽華校友會

Minutes of the Meeting Held on February 21, 2008

Recorded by Nora Kay

Attendees

Diana Tseng, Jean Chow, James Huang, Thomas Young, U Aung Myint, Francis Ting, Stan Liou, Lulu Liou, Joseph Lye, Steven Kong, Chou Kang Sun, Kyu Man Kee, Peter Young, Arthur Wong, Henry Lim, Cynthia Lim, Joe Chow, Nora Kay, Kenneth Kay, Charlie Tseng, Patrick Ho, Helen Ho, Sidonie Tain and Masie Chan.

1. At the beginning of the meeting, Steven mentioned that we should distance ourselves from alumni associations that are politically active. By attending social functions of those groups, we could be construed as endorsing their political views. Stan said that a vote on this issue had been taken at the last meeting with 16 to 1 in favor of sending representatives to social functions of other groups and that the issue can be revisited only if five or more members table a motion to reopen the issue. Henry suggested that we accept their invitation but not invite them to our functions. Stan believed that socializing with those groups does not mean that we endorse their political views. Diana concurred.

The first order of the day was to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Stan asked every member for his/her input. There were no objections. He thanked Nora for writing the minutes and Ken for assisting her. He also thanked Henry for his hard work and posting them on the Wan Hua Web. Henry said he wanted to give credit on the Web site to those who contributed food to this event.

2. Stan found out that to register with the State of California, a federal ID is needed and that it will cost the association eight hundred dollars (\$800) a year. At this point our association is not financially capable of doing so. Also, Henry pointed out that once registered, the organization could become a corporation and would carry a liability burden. Therefore we decided not to pursue the matter. Donated funds will be deposited into Lulu's account. Stan passed out an updated financial statement to Jean and James for review and later to Thomas for an audit.
3. Stan mentioned that he had emailed as an attachment the revised by-laws and election rules to all members and he needed their approval. Steven said that he had not received the email on the by-laws. He suggested that by-laws be also written in Chinese for certain members. Besides, he thought by-laws are important and that they should be discussed item by item instead of merely approving them. And once approved, the by-laws will sort of guide us on many issues. Arthur will draft the Chinese translation but will require some time to complete the assignment. Stan said by-laws should be adopted if voted for and approved by a majority of the members. Steven thought they should be approved if they were voted for by more than 50 percent of the EC members. In our last meeting, we had decided that the number of members attending each meeting is a quorum for the purpose of conducting business in that meeting. By-laws will be discussed in the future meetings.
4. Stan proposed that alumni who invite friends and have paid for their guests' dinner tickets be reimbursed if the invited friend(s) make a donation to the Association. Depending on how much money is donated, the maximum amount of reimbursement on each ticket shall not exceed the ticket value and if the amount of donation exceeds the ticket value, the excess would go to the General Fund. Diana said that idea would create confusion among our alumni.

She added that people do not attend not because of monetary issue, but because of time. And she can invite a lot more friends even if she does not prepay for them. Stan felt that his proposal would boost alumni turnout. But the majority of the members present at the meeting would not support the idea and it was therefore dismissed.

5. Stan distributed dinner tickets to those members who will take responsibility of selling them. Stan will invite former Wan Hua teachers to the New Year party. Stan sold the most tickets last year.
6. The next meeting will be held on April 5th at 11:30 a.m. Members may bring gifts for raffle drawing. Lulu will help out if the gifts need to be wrapped. Gifts in the form of cash are most welcome. The program sheet will show the names of donors and the emcee will read them out at the party.
7. Stan distributed copies of a draft program sheet for the New Year party. The program will be a subject of discussion and finalized in the next meeting. We need teamwork to make this New Year dinner party a success. James Huang agreed to be the emcee again this year. Ken, as the Association Photographer, will take pictures of this event. Jean took over the responsibility of purchasing balloons and some other decorating items. Diana suggested buying a centerpiece (a flower arrangement) for each table and using the centerpieces as raffle prizes toward the end of the party. But many people still preferred balloons. They felt that balloons would boost the atmosphere at the party. Stan reminded members of coming to the restaurant early for preparation work. Lulu will be at the front desk to receive/solicit donations. Patrick and Cynthia will help out announcing winning numbers for raffle prizes. Jean, Nora and other members will help guests with seating. Thomas will be responsible for purchasing prizes. Everyone agreed to set cash prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50 as 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes, respectively.
8. Stan and Lulu will attend the Chinese New Year party of the Burma Overseas Friendship Association which will be held on March 15, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at 644 Broadway, San Francisco (Phone: 415-296-7733). They will represent the Wan Hua Alumni Association and donate \$100.00 to the said association.
9. Stan appointed Charlie Tseng as Advisor, Sidonie Tain as Entertainment Director, and Cynthia as Assistant Program Director.
10. Stan mentioned that the Wan Hua Alumni Association sent flowers to the funeral of Teacher Katherine Win's husband. Stan, Henry, Steven, Joe and Francis attended the wake and funeral.
11. The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2008, at 360 Marcella Way, Millbrae. Stan urged every member to attend because at that time we will discuss details of the New Year party. To make the party a successful one, participation of members is crucial and would be appreciated.

Attendee's comments and suggestions

Diana: Whatever said to each other during the meeting should not be taken too personal. After all we are here to enjoy the company of each other, to socialize and to enjoy good food.

Jean: No feedback

Steven: Suggested that the Association reevaluate its relationship with other organizations. Many of them are politically active. Commingling with the heads of those associations would put us in the same category as they are. Stan did not think so. Just accepting their invitations and attending their functions and inviting them in return do not mean we share their political views.

Steven also suggested inviting some alumni who are financially stressed to the New Year party with free tickets; by doing so we are, in a way, increasing alumni attendance. Also he said that we should look after the social welfare of new Wan Hua immigrants. Stan agreed to look into this matter.

Francis: He said that if people attending the meeting have already voted on an issue, it should not be brought up again. Another point was that people should show more respect to each other during discussions and should not interrupt others; i.e., to wait for their turn to speak. He also wanted to know if there was a choice of restaurants, other than the one where we had our party last year. Everyone believed Grand Palace Restaurant is the best one so far. Some restaurants in San Francisco are not as spacious and the neighborhood not safe. And there are parking problems.

Patrick: The meeting progresses very well, but we should not dwell too long on one subject. Diana suggested that we set a time for each topic. Stan thought that doing so will restrict freedom of speech and will make some people tongue-tight.

Arthur: Asked for clarification on translation of by-laws. He suggested that Stan prepare and email the agenda to alumni 3 days prior to the meeting so people can send their feedback to Stan.

Peter: Suggested that our association help alumni who are financially stressed. We should make it a priority.

U Aung Myint is our visiting alumnus from Burma. His son, Kyaw Swa Linn, has been in the United States for seven years. The latter volunteered with social workers to help refugees from Burma and other Asian countries. They help them settle down and find them jobs. Many of them have a language barrier. If any of us owns a business and need help, please contact him.

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Nora: She thanked Lulu and Stan for the delicious food and for hosting the meeting. She suggested a potluck for the next meeting and everyone agreed. We will submit the names of dishes a week prior to the party to avoid duplicates.

List of dishes at today's meeting:

Jean & Joe Chow	boiled eggs & cake
Nora & Ken Kay.....	raspberry pastry bites and caramel toffee scones
Cynthia & Henry Lim	sweet rice cake
Janet & Arthur Wong.....	chocolate
Sylvia & SainFone Wong.....	sweet rice cake & fruits
Diana & Charlie Tseng.....	cookies
Man KeeKyu	egg rolls
James Huang.....	fried rice balls
Peter Young	fruits
Helen & Patrick Ho.....	coffee cake
Steven Kong	assorted candies
Maisie Chan	rice cake
Sidonie Tain	Thai-style chicken curry
Lulu & Stan Liou	<i>Mohinga, Beikyaw, Ngakbeekyaw, casava dessert & chocolate cookies</i>

Stan thanked everyone for their enthusiastic participation and the meeting was adjourned.