

WAN HUA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

挽華校友會

Minutes of the May 18, 2008 Meeting

Time: 12 noon till 5 PM

Place: 360 Marcella Way, Millbrae, California

Lunch provided by:

Mohingar	Stan & Lulu Liou
Thai-style vegetable curry & steamed rice	Sidonie & Chow Hpaw Tain
Dan bout Htamin	Thomas & Valerie Young
Fresh cherries	Nora and Ken Kay
Watermelon	Jean and Joe Chow
Watermelon	Patrick and Helen Ho
Egg Role	Man Kee Kyu
Chocolate cake	Henry and Cynthia Lim
Sticky rice Role	Diana and Charlie Tseng
Bei-ya-kyaw Thoke	Steven & Susan Kong
Red wine	David Wong

Attendees: Stan Liou, Shan Khin, Patrick Ho, Helen Ho, Henry Lim, Thomas Young, Kyu Man Kee, Catherine Win, David Wong, Peter Young, Francis Ting, Kenneth Kay, Nora Kay, Jean Chow, Oliver Young, Diana Tseng, Charlie Tseng, James Huang, Steven Kong, Joe Chow, Charlie Tseng and Lulu Liou.

1. Stan thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
2. He acknowledged success of our Chinese New Year Party except for a slight glitch at the karaoke.
3. He mentioned that in private functions, only members and officers who are in charge are allowed to make speeches. The Master of Ceremony controls the podium. This will be reinforced in the by-laws that he will announce and get approval.
4. On the morning of Monday, May 6th, Stan received a call from Steven asking him what the alumni association could do for cyclone victims in Myanmar. At that point Stan realized that Wan Hua nuns and church in Myanmar could be affected by this natural disaster too. Stan emailed all members and also contacted Francis who in turn contacted Noel and teacher Catherine. Through them, he found out that the roof of the building where the sisters live had been blown off. The church itself sustained no damage. Noel had suggested that our association help the church and nuns in Burma. Stan said that the roof damage was caused by the cyclone; money for the roof should come from our cyclone relief fund. He also said that last year, around this time, we donated \$500 to the church and we planned to repeat that this year.

We have so accumulated \$1,234.30 in our fund earmarked for the church. Teacher Sao donated \$600 to cyclone relief thru Wan Hua Alumni association. Henry suggested that

the Association disburse \$600 to the church and \$500 from the Nuns and Teachers Fund. Members have donated \$3,500 to our cyclone relief fund. Stan suggested that members decide how much should come from our general fund, which stands at \$6,633.77. He said that the association should chip in one to two thousand dollars.

5. Charlie, Joe and many of us offered our views on sending aid to cyclone victims, which was the main agenda of this meeting. Several reputable organizations experienced in large-scale relief work were mentioned. Among them were:

1. UNICEF
2. INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF RED CROSS
3. UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME
4. CARE
5. DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS
6. Tzu Chi

The problem is that all the above organizations have to go through the military government and let them distribute funds or relief goods to the victims. It was the desire of all members to get the donation to the needy directly, effectively and efficiently. In other words, we want to do our utmost for the victims.

6. Steven said that his Hakka association is planning to send their donations to monasteries that house cyclone victims through trusted contacts in Burma, and Wan Hua association can follow suit. Joe and Charlie were concerned about the effectiveness of small organizations compared to large global organizations such as Red Cross and UN. Small organizations do not have the manpower to distribute the relief supplies. They do not have the buying power or resources to get the relief supplies. Small organizations have to get the supplies from local market at much higher prices since there are shortages in supplies. That is why it is more cost effective to donate to large global organizations.

Francis said that we have to have faith in this mission and trust them. What happens after the funds leave our hands is completely out of our control. Steven said that “trust” is important in our endeavor to do a good deed. Joe and Charlie also wanted to know how the middlemen would purchase food for victims in a poor country facing this kind of disaster. They said if we go through international organizations it would not be an issue. All food and supplies are bought and shipped from foreign countries and there will be no transportation problem either. Many are convinced that in Myanmar there is no scarcity of food if there is money to pay for them.

Peter also reminded all that United Nations is negotiating with the Myanmar government to send aid to the victims directly. Stan thought we should hold on to our donations until that problem is resolved with the government. Joe and the rest thought that time is crucial. The victims need our help now.

Many agreed Tzu Chi is not a good choice since it would not be able to fend off government intervention.

7. Shan Khin mentioned actor Kyaw Thu who is a humanitarian and has sacrificed a lot in helping the poor and disadvantaged. Kyaw Thu has been doing charity work for many years. Because of his reputation, the government is hesitant to obstruct his charity work.

He thought that the actor might be able to serve as conduit for our assistance to the cyclone victims.

Henry said the International Buddhist Monks Organization (IBMO) is a huge, reputable organization and has connections with monks in Burma. He thought that they are a good choice to entrust with our donation. Teacher Catherine said that since monks are political target of the government they might not be able to do relief work effectively.

Henry assured the attendees that there is a huge population of monks in Burma. The population respect them and look to them for help.

8. To minimize the possibility of the military government reducing or even siphoning off some of the donated amount, both Peter and Stan pointed out that we should divide our money and donate it to different organizations.
9. After debating all the pro and cons of these different organizations and groups, Diana suggested that we should set up different scenarios and let members vote.

The three scenarios are:

- a. One hundred percent of donation to international aid agencies.
- b. Donation to be equally split among Kyaw Thu's organization, IBMO and an international aid organization.
- c. One third of donation will go to Kyaw Thu's organization and IBMO, and another two thirds will be split between Tzu Chi and international aid organizations.

The majority of the attendees voted for scenario (b).

As for choosing an internationally known organization, the attendees voted for UNICEF.

As of this date, the donated amount is \$3,830 and the association will come up with \$1,270 from the general fund bringing the amount of donation to \$5,100.

10. Our next campaign will be for China Sichuan Earthquake Relief Fund.
11. Stan introduced two new by-laws that he wanted to take effect before the upcoming Wan Hua family picnic.

Arthur had translated the by-laws into Chinese Mandarin. The original ten (10) by-laws and rules were revised. There are three new by-laws proposed by Steven, Arthur and Stan.

Please review the two new by-laws from Stan and new and modified by-laws from Steven. The by-laws will be discussed and voted on at the July 12th meeting.

Stan's proposed new by-laws

No one, except those authorized by the current president of Wan Hua Alumni Association, shall take to the floor or appear on stage at WHAA functions to make an announcement or speak to the audience. Such authorized speakers are current WHAA president, current vice-president, the event's emcee, teachers, and karaoke singers who have registered with the Association.

The Association's current president shall, after an investigation, issue a warning to any member who is found to have violated any Alumni Association By-laws.

Steven Kong's proposed new and modified by-laws:

Member meetings shall be the highest decision-making body and shall write by-laws or modify them. It shall be authorized to call for volunteers for the office of president and vice-president. It is empowered to issue cash flow and accounting statements. It shall make important decision and be conducted in a democratic way.

Both the President and Vice-President shall be elected for a two-year term. The president's term can be extended for an additional two years if members so voted.

The president can be a male candidate or a female candidate and vice versa. If the president with highest number of votes is a male candidate, then the vice president shall be a female candidate with highest number of votes among female candidates, and vice versa.

The president and vice-president shall appoint twenty-seven officers.

The Association shall accept relatives of Wan Hua alumni as members if they agree to abide by the by-laws of the Association.

Objection is raised to the existing By-laws #10.

(The reason: Wan Hua Catholic School had ceased to exist after nationalization by the Burmese military government and therefore alumni of the new school, Government High School Number 6, that replaced it, shall not be eligible for membership.)

Wan Hua Alumni Association shall send flowers and condolences to any alumni if his or her spouse or a family member passes away. Wan Hua alumni association shall inform members to send condolences.

Donation to Wan Hua General Fund shall be voluntary.

The date that by-laws are passed shall be noted formally.