

Japanese American Citizens League

NEWSLETTER

TWIN CITIES CHAPTER

June 1987

1987 MINNESOTA WOMEN'S STATE BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Due to the erratic winter storms in Minnesota, instead of going to the State Bowling tournament at Virginia and Hibbing during winter, we scheduled our auspicious debut on April 26-26. Everyone knows what a mild winter we had this year and perhaps we should have gone during our bowling season and the our scores would have been much better for the majority of the team members.

Top bowlers this year and winning "200 WIBC" pins and bowling scratch were Susan Takekawa Nelson 231, May Tanaka 210, and Carol Johnson 207. Although Susan did well in both her singles 544, and doubles 1078, her senior citizen partner fell down almost literally and thus were not able to bring in the "dough." Carol Johnson came in the money in her singles with 612 and did well with her partner, Sue Takekawa, in doubles with a 1165. Lily Honda and May Tanaka were very consistant with a singles score of 539 and 505 and a doubles score of 1031.

Susan Takekawa Nelson, May Tanaka, Lily Honda, Phyllis Takekawa and Carol Johnson of Jim Tabata's Auto Truck Service Team II in Division I came in the money with a total of 2926. High series in team event were Susan Nelson and May Tanaka, 546 and 514 respectively.

Auto Truck Service Team I in Division II just missed with a total of 2400. Team members are Kathy Workman, Ruth Yahanda, Susan Slater, Sue Takekawa and Helen Tsuchiya (who finally got moving and contributed with a 526). Next year, we will be bowling at New Hope and Scuthdale Bowl. We do not want to beg but we would appreciate more rooters.

FESTIVAL OF NATIONS: Bazaar Booth

The annual Festival of Nations held at the St. Paul Civic Center, May 1-3, went well. In its third year of renewed interest by JACL, ample participation by Board members and community members helped us pull it through. A special contribution of hand-made happi coats and other items to sell by the Issei ladies helped. Special thanks to Mrs. Koto Kirihara for making the two bazaar booth table skirts and to Linda van Dooijeweert and Mark Honda for getting the merchandise ready. A note of thanks to John Suzuki for getting the booth ready and closing it down. With the efforts of all, we raised approximately \$1,000. With another equal amount or more from the origami/ribbon fish exhibit and sales. The total will exceed \$2,000.

Listed below are the participants who made the Festival a success for the JACL:

JACL Board: Jay Yamashiro, Min Tsuchimochi, Roger and Joan Somekawa, Phil and Jane Nomura, Chuck and Jennifer Tatsuda, Connie and Dance Hayashi-Smith, Ken Ujifusa.

Community Members: Tom Scott, Kimi Hara, George and Toshi Nishida, Eugene Sako, Wes Iijima, Keith Sunahara, Ben Wong, Cindy Yanagita, Tom Briggs, Phil Saao, John Suzuki, Linda van Dooijeweert, Mark Honda.
Issei: Mrs. Chiyoko Kirihara, Mrs. Akio Kuga, Mrs. Seigoro Miwa, Mrs. Tomae Torii, Mrs. Tsuyano Sakai, Mrs. Akio Saito, Mrs. T. Takakazu, Mrs. Koto Kirihara.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to expand this month on the topic of activities and programs for the Chapter. There are two major reasons for this. First, JACL's major focus, both nationally and locally, for the past several years has been Redress. As we move to a critical period for Redress legislation this year, where we may finally be successful, I think we need to look beyond that horizon and plan for our key areas of activity in the future.

Second, as the Sansei population grows and matures, we need to look for programming that is responsive to their needs and which will hold them and their families as active members of the Chapter.

Clearly, we do not want to abandon our historic focus on human and civil rights, nor to lessen our significant commitment to scholarship and education support. But I do think we need to better define the types of activities we can do well, and which will be seen as important and valuable by our membership in the next five to ten years.

In order to examine these questions outside the on-going routine of running the Chapter, I have asked Phil Nomura to chair an ad hoc committee The New Program Task Force. Their charge is to review a wide range of programs and activities which the Board has discussed as potential areas for Chapter work, and come back to the Board with new, innovative programming ideas. The Day of Remembrance was the first product of the Task Force's work, and I think it was an ideal first event; it brought members of the community together in a new way, it was a significant cultural event and it reinforced our traditional concerns. The Task Force is now working on ideas for this fall.

This is a matter of concern to all members of the Chapter. As a small organization, we need to provide activities and programs that are important and worthwhile to our members, or we will simply cease to exist. I am committed to keeping the Chapter strong and growing; I urge you to give me or any members of the Board your ideas on the directions and priorities the Chapter should be pursuing.

NISEI STUDENT RELOCATION FUND

In 1979, a group of these former students, who were aided by the Council, formed the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund. Remembering how they were helped during WWII, they established a fund to assist other students whose education has been disrupted by war. Each year, the interest from the fund is used to support needy Asian Americans, or to support services or training programs sponsored by humanitarian organizations.

In 1982, the first award was made in Philadelphia to the American Friends Service Committee for their role in organizing the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council. Since then, annual scholarships have been awarded to Southeast Asian students in the San Francisco area, the New England area, the Greater Los Angeles area, and the Chicago area. This year, 1987, the awards will be made in Minnesota.

The Award Ceremony and reception was held on Saturday, May 9, 1987 at the Giddens Learning Center on the campus of Hamline University, St. Paul.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

The annual golf tournament will be held on Sunday, August 16, 1987. Tee-off is 11:00 a.m. at Gross Golf course, Minneapolis.

FROM THE EDITOR

This is the second issue of the revised JACL Newsletter, but despite the "new" look, we still have the same problem plaguing the organization.

We need more participation from all the members. Once again, this is your organization, but over and over again the same few people take on the responsibilities of planning and organizing events. This is true even of the newsletter.

The lack of participation can be seen clearly in this issue. There are very few articles and unlike in the past, this editor will not sit at his typewriter and create fillers. We need an organization with "guts" and the newsletter must reflect this, too. We need a commitment by all the members to do their share. The time is never better than now!

I hope that my candid opinion has been taken positively as there is genuine concern. Moreso, I will be leaving the Twin Cities to go to Graduate School in Japan this coming fall. Therefore, I wanted to make my last issue as editor reflect my thoughts and concerns about the newsletter and the organization as a whole.

Finally, the newsletter will need a new editor. If you are interested and have the small amount of time required for this challenging endeavor, please contact a Board member or the newsletter.

My best wishes for even greater success, but please remember, "nothing is free, and participation is the key!"

MINNEAPOLIS-IBARAKI CITY
CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

The Minneapolis-Ibaraki City Cultural Association was founded for the purpose of fostering the international brotherhood of man. The Association promotes cultural and other friendly activities between Minneapolis and Ibaraki City. There are opportunities for stimulating activities for persons with a wide variety of interests and professional and vocational backgrounds.

This year, 1987, is the seventh year of our sister-city relationship. In that period, we have had a host of exchanges between our two cities: pen friend, youth art, friendship delegations, festival and cultural groups, baseball and soccer teams, JC's, Lions Clubs, City council members and Mayors. We have hosted Japanese in our homes and they have provided home-stays for us.

This year, a Cultural Arts group led by Reiko Shellum will study Japanese dance, flower arranging and painting in Ibaraki. In addition, the Minnesota Boychoir will present concerts in Ibaraki as well as participate in a music competition in Tokyo. Ibaraki will send teenage soccer and baseball teams to play here. A Friendship delegation will also visit Minneapolis during Aquatennial Week.

Members of the Ibaraki Friendship Association have expressed great enthusiasm for their sister-city ties with Minneapolis and note that their organization has been cited as a model program in Japan.

A number of the Japanese have expressed a desire to meet more Americans in special fields as well as to become acquainted with more Japanese-Americans. We hope to continue to broaden our membership and to plan a number of joint activities with organizations such as JACL and JASM.

MIDWEST DISTRICT MEETING

The JACL Midwest District Council met on April 11 and 12 in Indianapolis for the annual business meeting of the District. May Tanaka and I, Chris Sandberg, attended as official delegates of the Twin Cities Chapter.

A major portion of the meeting was the updating of all the chapters regarding the business and other significant interests of the District. Some of the points I thought were noteworthy:

- District budget of \$5,000, is slightly ahead of the budget for this fiscal year, but is in decent financial health.

- District passed a motion supporting the possible appointment of Ron Wakabayashi (National JACL Director) to the United States Civil Rights Commission (I voted "no" based on my view that the Commission no longer is a meaningful voice for civil rights, and is not likely to be allowed to be an effective advocate for civil rights under the present Administration.)

- 11-state Midwest District, only 30 of the 112 U.S. Representatives are co-sponsors of the Redress legislation.

- LEC now has a \$227,200 annual budget and is only \$17,000 short.

- Nominations for MDC offices will close July 8, 1987.

We spent part of Saturday afternoon in small group workshops discussing the questions of how to attract and retain Sansei members. Beyond our traditional focus on human and civil rights, participants noted increased interest in cultural programs, a need for social activities, and the importance of Nisei helping Sansei "learn the ropes" of running Chapters in a way that fosters leadership and allows new leaders to take charge.

Beyond this meeting, there will be a joint Eastern District-Midwest District-Mountain Plains District meeting this year. This Tri-District convention will be held in Denver from August 5 through 9, and will feature workshops, sports events, shopping, tours, as well as the business meetings of the Districts. It looks to be a very exciting time and all the members of the Chapter are urged to attend. There is information available at your request. Please contact a Board member or the newsletter.

We also received preliminary information about next year's National Convention, which will be in Seattle from August 4 through 11, 1988. Again, a very full and exciting schedule is planned.

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