

JACL news

On Redress, I Guess the Subject Is Now Redress Payments

On October 1, 1990, which is the beginning of the federal fiscal year 1991, the Office of Redress Administration (ORA) of the Department of Justice plans to start paying out the first \$500 million of redress payments to 25,000 former internees from the eldest to age 70 who have been cleared as **ELIGIBLE**.

You are considered eligible if the ORA has a record of your name and address so it is able to send you a "Letter of Potential Eligibility" and if it is able to successfully verify the documents you send. Only then do you receive a letter from the ORA stating that you are eligible for redress payment.

If you or a member of your family have received the Letter of Potential Eligibility, please take care of the documentation immediately. The ORA has indicated that if your eligibility has not been determined by October, you may have to wait another year even if you qualify by age.

Instructions in the Letter of Potential Eligibility are different for each person depending on what documentation is required. If you have any questions or problems, call the ORA directly on its toll-free number: 1-800-395-4672.

I'm sure many of you sent in a form to the National Archives and may have received an acknowledgement from them, but you may not have completed nor sent in the Voluntary Information Form to the ORA. There is still time to do so, particularly if you are over 70 and have not yet received the Letter of Potential Eligibility.

Voluntary Information Forms, change of address forms and death information forms are available from me at 429-3410. If you know someone who was interned and was slated for payment but has passed away, notify the ORA at the above toll-free number.

And, I'm sure you are aware (from the PC) that redress payments are free from state income tax and are not included as income for determining eligibility to receive social services.

Finally, this will end my 12 years as your redress chair. It has been a long time since we entered camp under armed guards ... We (Japanese Americans) must protect the rights of all Americans ... Hopefully, no one will go through the same experience we did. I always said our chances of getting any restitution would be slim to zero, but that doesn't mean we should not pursue it. Good luck. I hope the payments come through without any problems.

— Sam Honda

Twin Cities Chapter Attends National JACL Convention

President Chris Sandberg and board member Kay Kushino could be seen on the beaches and in the exhilarating business meetings at the JACL National Convention held in San Diego in June.

The week-long event opened with an impressive beach party — filled with friends, fun and sushi — on the warm shorelines of southern California. Our delegates heard reports from the national officers and from committees on topics such as the long-range planning of JACL, U.S./Japan relations and redress.

Controversial resolutions, such as resolution #7 recognizing the patriotism of the "Nisei draft resisters of WWII," met with success, while a resolution to change the wording of our membership qualification "citizen" to "permanent resident" failed.

Many were recognized for their contributions to the JACL and the JA community. At the Masaoka Awards Dinner, special tributes were paid to Robert Prosh, director of *Go for Broke*; Edward Ennis, pro bono legal counsel for the JACL Anti-Discrimination Committee; and Senator Spark Matsunaga. The Mike Masaoka Distinguished Public Service Award was given to Roger Kennedy for his Smithsonian exhibit "A More Perfect Union," which depicts the Japanese-American internment experience during World War II.

The convention concluded with the re-election of the national JACL officers, including president Cressy Nakagawa, and the Sayonara Dinner and Ball.

Minneapolis MDC Meeting a Success

Many thanks to all those who participated in the Spring Midwest District Council Meeting May 4-6. It was an excellent opportunity to meet with members of other chapters, discuss the issues and concerns that affect our community and share ideas about the different programs and events going on in the Midwest JACL chapters.

The meeting defined many topics important to the Midwest, including the Civil Rights Act of 1990, treaty rights of the Chippewa Indians and the Rohwer Restoration Project, all of which were also discussed at the National Convention.

The MDC meeting was also important for building strong ties with other chapters and outside groups, such as the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, with whom we had a joint banquet on May 5.

Reprinted from *The Redress Monitor*, May 1990

ORA Update

ORA has sent out over 17,000 verification packets to potentially eligible individuals so far. Some 9,000 have returned all the requested documentation and received confirmation letters from ORA. ORA is currently sending out packets to living eligibles in their early seventies.

In order to expedite processing of the information, the ORA has asked us to pass on some general suggestions.

1. Except for the Voluntary Information Forms, Change of Address, or Death Information Forms, no information should be sent to ORA until you get a specific request from ORA.
2. Every individual should send back the information requested in his or her verification packet SEPARATELY in the envelope provided by ORA. Even if both husband and wife receive packets from ORA, they should NOT combine the documents in the same return envelope. In some instances that will mean duplicating documents so that each one will have a copy for his or her own packet.
3. Anyone who receives a verification packet for a deceased relative should call the toll-free number to let ORA know as soon as possible. Depending on the circumstances, ORA will let you know what further information needs to be sent in. A Death Information Form can be sent to ORA at any time, even if a verification packet has not yet been received. A copy of this form is printed elsewhere in this newsletter for your convenience.
4. The processing is being done in order of age. ORA will make

public announcements when they believe they have completed an age group. No announcements have been made yet. Note that as the age groups go from mid-seventies to lower-seventies to upper-sixties, and so on to younger and younger people, the age groups get larger and larger, and so each group tends to take longer to process than the one before it. Processing time also depends on how promptly people return their documents to ORA.

5. In any correspondence or communication with the ORA, it is very helpful to have the full name, date of birth, social security number, and current address. If the person in question has an ORA File Number, mention that as well. Only those who have received verification packets from the ORA will have a File Number.
6. Read the instructions carefully, ALL THE WAY THROUGH, before you start.
7. Veterans should send in a Voluntary Information Form. Fill out every section that applies to you AND add a note stating that you are a veteran, giving dates of induction into and discharge from the service.

Veterans will be processed separately. ORA will send a letter to veterans with a form to be filled out asking for additional information. Grounds for claim include property lost as a result of the evacuation; or if there was a denial of liberty (confined to quarters, denied permission to visit family, etc.)

8. If you are signing for someone else as their guardian, follow proof of guardianship instructions carefully. In the guardianship letter, be sure to include the penalty of perjury clause. NOTE: "guardian" as used here includes more people than just "legal guardian." It may also mean primary care-giver.

9. Encourage prompt responses in returning verification documents. ORA hopes to have most of the packets sent out to eligible individuals by the end of June. These packets need to be completed as requested in the cover letter and returned promptly in order for ORA to be prepared to send out payments in October.

The ORA has done a number of workshops and is doing their best to keep the Help-Lines operating (although they've had problems with the phone company). Keep trying until you get through. The toll-free numbers are 1-800-395-4672 (voice) and 1-800-727-1886 (TDD), and operate 9:30 am - 5:30 pm Eastern time. The verification process needs everyone's cooperation so that the payment process can operate smoothly.

Also, as part of their ongoing program of community workshops, ORA will have an exhibit at the JACL Biennial Convention this June in San Diego. Staff will be there to try to answer your questions.

Twin Cities Chapter Redress Chairperson:
Sam Honda 429-3410
3935 Lakewood Ave.
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

The age limit for the first year of redress payments is now down to 68, and the number of identified redress recipients is up to 27,000 from the original 25,000 estimate.

JACL GOLF TOURNAMENT

GROSS GOLF COURSE SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 1990
First Tee - 12 Noon

Entry Fee: \$4.50 Includes \$.50 Course Reservation Fee

PAY YOUR GREEN FEES AT THE COURSE

SEND ENTRY TO SAM HONDA
3935 LAKEWOOD AVE.
WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN 55110-4511

Checks made payable to O. Sam Honda

GET YOUR ENTRIES IN EARLY DEADLINE: JULY 30TH

NAME _____ PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____ Handicap
Index _____

FOURSOME PREFERENCE _____

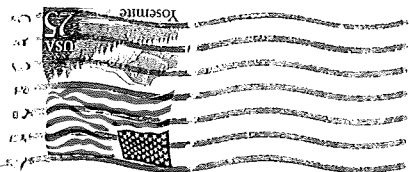
Handicaps..... USGA-MGA Handicap Index will be utilized. Those entries who do not have USGA-MGA handicap just put none.

The tournament will still have a modified Calloway system for those who do not have a USGA-MGA Handicap. For those who are in the USGA-MGA Handicap system, I need your handicap index. The number under current (lower left on your card). I will figure your handicap according to the table for 120 slope for men & 126 slope for women (Gross Golf Course.)

If you have a 15.6 handicap index from Ewan Golf Course(112 slope) Hcp. of 15 your handicap for Gross C.C. will be 17. If you have a 15.6 handicap index at Edinburgh USA (slope 127) hcp of 18....your Gross C.C. hcp will be 17. What it amounts to is that when you go from a relatively easy course to a more difficult course you will increase your handicap and visa versa.

I'm sure many of you are familiar with the USGA-MGA system.

Let's go on your Handicap Index as of July 22nd.



TWIN CITIES CHAPTER
3935 Lakewood Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Japanese
American
Citizens
League

Summertime Fun at the JACL Picnic

We couldn't have asked for a better day for this year's picnic. The warm, sunny day was perfect for BBQing, swimming, kids' games and snow cones. We had a strong turn out at the new Eden Prairie location.

Hope everyone had their fill of fun and fantastic food! See you all next year!

Congratulations!

Chris (Murakami) and Terry Noonan are the proud parents of a baby boy — Alexander Kiyoshi Noonan. Chris is our publicity chairperson.

David Hayashi graduated in June from the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management with a bachelor's degree in accounting. David is our program co-chair.

Upcoming Events

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|--------------------|---|
| August 5 | JACL Golf Tournament
Gross Golf Course, St. Anthony/Mpls.
(see flyer on page 3) |
| TBA | Fall Cultural Day |
| November 10 | Installation Dinner |
| December 1 | Holiday Party for Kids |

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members

Mr. Terrie Louie
Ms. Masaye Ono
Ms. Peggy Doi
Ms. Veronica Anderson
Mr. Noboru Hangai
Ms. Cindy Mayeda (associate member)

If you'd like to submit something
for the next issue of the JACL Newsletter,
call Mark Honda at 333-7679.