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# Chinese American Citizens Alliance

~ National ~

1044 Stockton Street, San Francisco, California 94108 • Telephone/Fax (415)829-9332

National Lodge  
ESTABLISHED 1895

## MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***“Inspiration, Integration, and Interaction”***

## Seattle Convention’s Theme Drives 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CHINESE AMERICAN CITIZENS ALLIANCE

**San Francisco, CA** - July 27, 2015 - The Chinese American Citizens Alliance, the nation’s oldest Asian American civil rights organizations, will hold its 53rd National Biennial Convention at the Best Western Plus Executive Inn, 200 Taylor Avenue N in Seattle, from Thursday August 6, 2015 to Sunday August 9, 2015. As delegates and guests from around the country convene to elevate their fraternal bonding and strengthen the Alliance’s initiatives and presence nationally, host Seattle Lodge has arranged events to highlight the Emerald City’s myriad restaurants and tourist attractions.

The Alliance was founded in 1895 in San Francisco in response to the repressive 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act and other laws that forbade Chinese to naturalize and severely restricted their immigration until the law was repealed in 1943. The Alliance played a major role in the 1882 Project’s attainment of unanimous expressions of regret for the exclusions laws by both Houses of Congress in 2011-2012. The laws limited legal rights for Chinese in America until the passage of the Equal Rights Act of 1965, fifty years ago this year. The Alliance will celebrate 120 years of community advocacy on behalf of civil and human rights and addressing social needs such as equal access to education and housing fair immigration laws, and voting rights.

In plenary sessions, Ed Gor, of Houston, TX, will report on the achievements of the Alliance under his two-year term as National President. Delegates from Alliance chapters across the country will share their programming of 2013-2015. The Delegates will elect a new Board of National Officers and deliberate on a number of resolutions submitted by local chapters that relate to governance, historic preservation, education, immigration reform and political participation.

Education workshops closely align with the convention theme **“Inspiration, Integration, and Interaction.”** Presenters will focus on synergistic collaboration with government entities and historical preservation organizations to preserve sites and history of Chinatowns and regional areas settled by Chinese Americans. This year’s 150<sup>th</sup>

M O R E



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*Chinese American Citizens Alliance National Convention in Seattle August 6-9, 2015*

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Anniversary of Chinese workers building the Central Pacific section of the Transcontinental Railroad is an opportunity to develop cultural and historical tours that tell the story of Chinese Americans' continuing contributions to building America in diverse industries and professions.

Delta Airlines is the major sponsor of the convention. Other sponsors are the Furuta-Lee Foundation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of China (Taiwan), and the Overseas Community Affairs Council, Republic of China (Taiwan).

Gary Locke, former Washington governor and Ambassador to China, and Taichung "Ted" Hsueh, Director of OCAC (Overseas Community Affairs Council) of Taiwan, will welcome the delegates and guests to Seattle at the opening dinner at China Harbor Restaurant on Thursday, August 6. C.A.C.A military veterans will be presented a special pin to recognize their dedicated service and sacrifice in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The Alliance will honor five outstanding leaders with its most prestigious recognition, the Spirit of America Award, at a Reception/Gala at the China Harbor Restaurant starting at 6:30pm, Friday, August 7. Awardees include Carolyn Hong Chan, Immediate Past President of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, of Albuquerque, NM; Reverend Norman Fong of San Francisco, CA; Honorable Roxanne Song Ong, of Phoenix, AZ; the late Wing Luke of Seattle, WA; and the late world-renowned Bruce Lee. All have uniquely served their community, state, and our nation while motivating and empowering Asian Americans. The honorees will be introduced at a press conference at 5:00 PM at China Harbor Restaurant, 2040 Westlake Ave N, Seattle, preceding the Gala.

Past recipients include former Washington State Governor and U.S. Ambassador Gary Locke, Olympic medalist Michelle Kwan, Jerry Quinn Lee, Seattle architect and philanthropist, Congressman Mike Honda, and Congresswoman Judy Chu.

Saturday, August 8 is the day planned to honor Pioneers with a visit to the Wing Luke Museum, where Eric Liu, author of "A Chinaman's Chance" and CEO of Citizens University, will be a featured speaker. The Albuquerque chapter will present to the Wing Luke a framed copy of a poster commemorating the induction of Chinese railroad workers into the Department of Labor's Hall of Honor. Delegates and non-delegates will take a Touch of Chinatown Walking Tour and view a performance of the Chinese Community Drill Team. The day will end with a Chinese Pioneer Dinner at the Four Seas Restaurant.

The convention will end on Sunday, August 9, with the election and installation of a new Board of National Officers and selection of the site of the 54<sup>th</sup> Biennial National Convention in 2017.

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