FAPAC News

WASHINGTON—On January 16 FAPAC held a holiday event to mark the coming of spring and to charter the new chapters at the National Institute of Health and the United States Coast Guard. The occasion also witnessed the retirement of Dr. Kin Wong, the Immediate Past President, after 35 years of service in the federal government. He promised to continue his support of FAPAC. President Grace Spence also recognized the participants of the Mentoring Program CDHP under the steady hands of Aurea Franklin and Selina Lee. USDA Under Secretary Ed Avalos delivered the keynote address, focused on the importance of FAPAC’s mission and USDA’s commitment to continue supporting the effort to nurture future leaders. Then the Ladies in Red led the attendees in dancing to the music of band Manila Bay, followed by a multiple course dinner.

FAPAC, along with several AAPI organizations, sponsored the first celebration of Lunar New Year on Capital Hill on February 10 with members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) on hand to watch the Lion Dance. Congresswoman Judy Chu, CAPAC Chair, managed to show up the last minute to the delight of the die-hard fans.

To attract students to public service another career fair will be held on April 22 on the Rockville campus of the Montgomery College. With a bigger student body the event is expected to draw more attendees especially Asian Pacific Americans due to the higher representation of AAPI in Montgomery County.

Application for the next class of the Mentoring Program CDHP is open. Visit www.fapac.org for further information to sign up.

FAPAC Conference Planning Team Wrapping Up

FAPAC will hold its 31th National Training Program on May 9-13, 2016 at the Doubletree In Orlando, FL and as the planning team is wrapping up its work. Attendees should register and reserve their room at the Doubletree so they can take advantage of the government per diem rate. Those who planned to enroll in the special courses provided by OPM and EEOC are advised that space is limited and is on a first come first served basis. Registration is open and can be done online. If they need help contact registration@fapac.org or conference@fapac.org.

Speakers for the plenary sessions have been sent and waiting for confirmation. A number of exciting plenary is planned on a variety of topics, e.g. EEO, Diversity and Inclusion, Next Gen advances in transportation, collaboration with White House Initiatives on AAPI, Human trafficking, emerging perspective on global health, issues on Pacific Islanders and others of interest to our attendees.

Military and Civilian Awards are closed and the winners will be announced in early April.

Several agencies (USDA, EPA, FAA) planned to hold pre-conference agency forums on May 9 so they can provide agency specific training for their attendees. If your agency is interested, contact conference@fapac.org to reserve your space. Space is limited and is provided on a first come first serve basis.

Students and veterans are welcomed to the National Training Program on May 11. They can attend without pre-registration special designated segments of the program and to meet agency representatives at the Exhibit Area without charge.
The process and timeline for the 2016 election of officers in accordance with the constitution and bylaws. Information were sent to all members on record and in good standing by the Nomination and Election Committee. If you are interested in running for office or to vote in August please note the requirements in the announcement and make sure you pay the dues by the specified time to be in good standing.

As FAPAC grows, the need for member volunteers has never been greater. Some of the key areas are web design, use of social media for improving communication and organization events, financial management and fundraising. If you have talents with any of these or others please consider making commitment to help FAPAC by running for election or serving in many of the committees. You can find more information by attending the bimonthly membership meetings or by contacting one of the officers or member of the Board. When everything fails you can always contact fapac@fapa.org.

New NIH and USCG Chapters Chartered

On January 16 FAPAC charters two new chapters—one at the National Institute of Health and one at the Headquarters of the US Coast Guard. As noted in our strategic plan the future of the organization lies in the vitality of the local chapters. The chartering of these new chapters marks a milestone.

We have received a number of inquiries for potential new chapters in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Alabama, Philadelphia, Atlanta and Houston. If you are interested and able to commit some time to help to establish these new chapters please contact Chapter Chair, via Ronald.sagudan@va.gov. A new chapter needs 10 members within a serviceable geographic location.

Once the chapter is chartered FAPAC will provide assistance in development and programming. Popular activities are observance of the AAPI Heritage Month in May, networking events and one day training workshops. Some chapters have organized Lunar New Year events, Scholarship and disability awareness. Chapters can provide more membership participation and opportunities to develop leadership and organization skills.