

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE  
Pacific Northwest District Council

Memorandum

TO: ALL CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS, Pacific Northwest District Council

FROM: TORU SAKAHARA, Chairman

Date: July 18, 1963

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER AWARDS

This memorandum is going out because of the urgency of this first item. I received a notice that the Pacific Citizen Board would like to get nominations for awards for chapter newsletters under the Jimmy Sakamoto Memorial Newsletter Awards by July 29. Chapter Presidents and newsletter or bulletin chairmen are requested to forward their entries to our District Council Pacific Citizen Chairman, Dr. Sam Uchiyama, 1002 Fife Heights Drive E., Tacoma, Washington. Please do this immediately if you wish to receive consideration in this contest.

ISSEI STORY PROJECT

Dr. Scott Miyakawa reminds us that Instruction No. 2 on the Issei Project was mailed April 30, 1963. On June 12 a follow-up form was sent out by him for the purpose of making a progress report on Instruction No. 2. The progress report form requested information on location of letters, diaries, and other documentary materials, and should be mailed to Dr. T. Scott Miyakawa, 332 Haines Hall, University of California, Los Angeles 24, California. Chapter Presidents and Issei Project Chairmen are requested to follow this up if they have not already done so.

CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVITIES

Since our last District Council meeting, the big issue faced by our organization on National, District Council and Chapter levels is the matter of civil rights activities and the recent public clamor for immediate recognition of equal opportunities in education, employment and housing by Negroes in every part of the country. If not in chapter membership meetings, at least in Board meetings, the question of JACL stand on the extent of participation in demonstrations, sit-ins, as well as in public hearings, should be discussed. Prior to making any definite policy decisions as to your Chapter stand and recommendation to your own membership, the District Council and the National JACL, every person concerned should make a personal investigation by discussions with Negroes, other minorities, as well as members of the Caucasian community so that up-to-date information on causes, attitudes and effects is before you when the matter is discussed by the chapter board.

DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING

The next regularly schedule District Council meeting is Sept. 15 under the sponsorship of the Seattle Chapter. If three chapters request a meeting on Civil Rights before Sept. 15, I will call an emergency meeting and give all chapters 10 days notice.

DISTRICT COUNCIL CONVENTION

At the last report I received, the Portland Chapter has set Nov. 9 and 10, 1963 at Portland for our District Council Convention.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING

March 24, 1963

The first quarterly meeting of the Pacific Northwest District Council was held on Sunday, March 24, 1963, at the Poodle Dog Cafe in Fife, Washington. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Toru Sakahara.

Those present were:

NATIONAL JACL: Tak Kubota, Nat'l 2nd Vice President; Masao Satow, National Director

PNWDC: Toru Sakahara, Chairman; Dr. John Kanda, Vice Chairman; Frank Natsuhara, Treasurer; Mits Takasumi, 1000 Club Chairman; Henry Kato, Issei Story Chairman

GRESHAM-TROUTDALE: Tosh Okino, Henry Kato

MID-COLUMBIA: Mits Takasumi

PORTLAND: Emi Somekawa, Dr. Mitsuo Nakata, Iku Nakata, Kimie Tambara, Mary Iwasaki

PUYALLUP VALLEY: George M. Iwakiri, Kaz Yamane, Dr. John Kanda, Tosh Tsuboi, Sam Uchiyama

SEATTLE: John Aoki, William Y. Mambu, Tak Kubota, Frank H. Hattori

SPOKANE: Absent

WHITE RIVER VALLEY: Hiroshi Nakayama, William Maebori, Joe Nishimoto, Tedi Kanda, Frank Natsuhara

Minutes of the last District Council Meeting of December 2, 1962 were read and approved, with a correction changing the word "donated" to "appropriated" with reference to Arlington observance.

Frank Natsuhara, Treasurer, reported no activity and no change in the balance of funds reported December 2, 1962, in the amount of \$120.13. A billing from the Pacific Citizen in the amount of \$35.00 for greetings from the District Council in the Holiday Issue was presented. After discussion, payment of this bill was authorized. After further discussion, all Chapters were informed that chapter dues to the District Council were now due and payable and that the treasurer would send out a billing based upon \$25.00 per chapter and 20¢ per member in each chapter in the previous year 1962.

Mits Takasumi reported on 1000 Club, that every Chapter in the District Council is doing extremely well, being over the goal set for each chapter. As of March 1, the Pacific Northwest current membership was 165, which is 45 over the goal of 120. Mas Satow pointed out that the number of lapsed members showing in the 1000 Club report does not represent current lapsed members, but includes 1000 Club members who had been on the list at one time or another in the past 7 or 8 years.

Alien Land Law Repeal: Tak Kubota, Chairman, gave the financial report as of December 31, 1962, showing the total amount collected \$29,151.85; total expenditures \$24,865.85; amount returned to National JACL \$4,000.00; amount remaining on hand \$286.00. He pointed out that since the last District

Council meeting the Washington State Legislature has been in session since January; that Senate Resolution No. 5 was introduced into the State Legislature by Senator Ed Riley. The resolution contained the identical language as Senate Joint Resolution 21, which was voted on by the people of the State of Washington in 1962. SR 5 was passed by the Senate with a vote of 43 Yes's and 4 No's. It then went into the House of Representatives, was reported out favorably by the House Judiciary Committee, never came out of the House Rules Committee, and died when the regular session of the State Legislature ended. Tak reported on the discussion concerning the repeal measure at the National Board Meeting in February; that there was considerable and divided opinion as to the advisability of placing the repeal measure on the ballot for 1964. He reported that he called two members of the House Rules Committee from Los Angeles while the National Board was in session to get the latest word and the same type of divided opinion seemed to prevail in the House Rules Committee. Basically it was a question of timing and not necessarily the question of support for the repeal measure.

Mas Satow supplemented Tak's report concerning National Board action. National Board opinion was basically split over the issue of timing, whether to push for 1964 campaign or for 1966. Final action was to the effect that if Senate Resolution No. 5 passed, the National Board appropriate \$10,000 for this campaign. If Senate Resolution No. 5 failed to pass, National Board will strongly push recommendation to the National Council at the 1964 National Convention for strong support in pushing a campaign for 1966. Also, National Board recommends that the advisability and feasibility of a test case for court decision on constitutionality of the Washington Alien Land Law in the event a question is raised why a test case was brought before, the answer is that there was no appropriate test case found, that constitutional repeal requires affirmative vote of the people, and in view of the success in California the direct approach to repeal was considered the most practical. Tak Kubota reported that no action had been taken to re-introduce the repeal resolution in the Special Session of the Legislature which is now going on. John Kanda inquired (1) Is the repeal measure dead for all practical purposes? and (2) If no action is taken to follow up after this session, will it not be interpreted by legislative leaders in the State of Washington that JACL is no longer interested? The answer to the first question was Yes. The answer to the second question was that positive steps should be taken to keep the legislative leaders in the State of Washington advised that JACL on the national, district and chapter levels is interested in this repeal measure. Masao Satow and Tak Kubota will confer with others on the National Board as to the most appropriate time and means to take this step.

Issei Story: Henry Kato reported that every chapter in the Northwest District Council has completed Instruction No. 1 except Seattle. Toru Sakahara was requested to write a letter to Mr. Terumitsu Kano, Issei Story Project Chairman for the Seattle Chapter, with a copy to Henry Kato, John Aoki, and Akiji Yoshimura, concerning the completion of Instruction No. 1. Masao Satow reported that on the National basis about \$211,000 has been pledged and about \$178,000 collected in cash. At this time, the allocation of these funds is planned as follows:

\$100,000 to University of California at Los Angeles  
\$90,000 to reimbursement to National JACL for preliminary expenses, writer's fee for popular history, translation into Japanese of the popular history, purchase of books for distribution to donors in excess of \$100, and for distribution into libraries, public and private

Remainder for suggestions such as endowment of the chair at the University of California in Los Angeles for studies in history of Japanese in the United States, supplementary to the main study, to UCLA for expenses of stories of documentary material. At any event, funds solicited for Issei Story will not be used for any other purpose.

Scott Miyakawa is in process of preparation of Instruction No. 2 for the purpose of location and description of resource material. It will be out in the near future. Progress reports will be made from time to time, will be in Pacific Citizen and will be published in Japanese also. Tape recorded interviews will be made following completion of Instruction No. 2. However, tape recorded interviews are now being conducted by Dr. Gladys Stone.

Oregon Evacuation Claims Income Tax: Henry Kato reported that when the issue of the attempt by the Tax Commission of the State of Oregon to tax evacuation claims awards as income came up, the Portland, Gresham-Troutdale and Mid-Columbia Chapter representatives met in Portland and in Ontario, Oregon to discuss ways and means of legislative or other relief for those who faced claim from the Oregon Tax Commission. Review of the amount of tax collectible by the State of Oregon was made, contacts were made with the Tax Commission, Attorney-General and legislators. It develops that in view of the fact that the ultimate tax liability because of offsets in credits will be extremely small and not worth the administrative cost to the State of Oregon to vigorously pursue these claims. It appears at this time that the matter will be dropped and no legislative relief will be necessary. District Council appreciation for the work of Henry Kato and the Oregon chapters in this matter were expressed.

PORTLAND CHAPTER: Has completed its membership campaign. Now has 156 members compared to the 79 in 1962. Rev. Waiichi Oyanagi is their bulletin editor and he is putting out a fine one. Portland requests exchange of bulletins between all chapters in the District. They will have a general membership meeting on March 30. Older members inviting new members to dinner and social, and the preliminary response seems to be very good. Planning District Council Convention in early October on the 5th or 12th. At this time, National President Pat Okura has indicated he is available on either date. Speaker is not set, but would like to get Congressman Matsunaga or Senator Inouye. Contacting State Democratic Central Committee on question of sharing expenses. Other summer activities planned.

PUYALLUP VALLEY: Has regular bulletins which contain minutes of previous meeting, activity notices. Plan picnic under joint sponsorship with White River Valley. Invitation to be extended to Seattle Chapter. Plan to support dance to be sponsored by Seattle Chapter.

WHITE RIVER VALLEY: They have newsletter. President Nakayama feels that emphasis should be on membership and activities which will acquaint members with JACL. Are planning general meeting with potluck dinner and bingo.

SEATTLE CHAPTER: Membership drive still on. Now has 318. Plan summer bowling clinic, dance class and a dance for the public to which Puyallup Valley and White River are invited. To be held in the fall. Sponsored a dinner at the Olympic Hotel on March 1 for Senator Inouye.

HOOD RIVER: They are planning bridge classes, dance classes and graduation banquet in the spring. Regular chapter activities will be carried on.

GRESHAM-TROUTDALE: Mixed bowling league has been sponsored by the chapter. It has helped with the membership campaign. All of the regular social and membership activities will be carried on.

Masao Satow stated that in line with the policy of internal public relations, Chapter activities will be featured in the special Pacific Citizen issue of April 26 to help chapters work their programs. Present plans call for a report on chapter activities from the Mount Olympus Chapter, which has the highest membership participation; from the Sequoia Chapter which has been successful in working out an interesting program for the young married group; the San Jose Chapter which had a successful membership campaign and now has 883 members. Masao Satow asked the Portland Chapter to send a report for publication in the Pacific Citizen and Mary Iwasaki promised to send this report by April 17.

Discussion returned to the District Convention. Final agreement was to set the District Council Convention date on the weekend of either Nov. 9 or Nov. 16.

NATIONAL REPORT: Masao Satow stated that one of the problems by reason of the presence of Congressman Matsunaga and Senator Inouye in Washington, D.C., is the tendency of other legislators to look to them for opinions representing Japanese Americans. This is natural in view of the close association between legislators and because the fact that these men are essentially representing the State of Hawaii and not necessarily all persons of Japanese Ancestry. He urges that we should keep our Congressman and Senator aware of the fact that they represent Japanese American constituents. One of the suggestions is that each chapter should contact their own Congressman and ask for a flag flown over the capitol. Such flags are available and at a cost less than they can be purchased at regular stores. Each chapter should have an American flag and the general size ordered is 3 ft. by 5 ft. Also, each chapter is urged to have its own flag which will have on it the official seal of the organization, the words Japanese American Citizens League, name of the chapter and the motto.

MISCEGENATION LEGISLATION: The National Council appropriated \$2500. General opinion is that it is preferable to have a test case passed upon by the United States Supreme Court to wipe off

all anti-mixed marriage statutes, but the problem is always finding an appropriate case. At this time, the legislatures of Maryland, Nebraska and Utah are considering bills on this subject. The legislature has passed the bill in Utah and is waiting governor's action.

Recent events have indicated that every chapter should have legal counsel in view of the many problems which they face as an organization. National Counsel William Marutani is working out a general memorandum for release to all chapters. Also, it is suggested that every District Council have and retain legal counsel.

Akiji Yoshimura, National Public Relations Chairman, will meet with his committee to prepare a public relations brochure against the use of the word "Jap." Their report will be out soon. In connection with public relations, Sam Engel, who was formerly with 20th Century Fox and is now an independent producer, has obtained movie rights to the book "Home Again", a story of evacuation. When Mr. Engel produces this movie, JACL will try to make sure that they are actively participating so that the result of the movie will be good public relations.

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS: Masao Satow reported that because of the donation of Mrs. Tomoye Tsukamoto, widow of Col. Walter Tsukamoto, of an annual scholarship of \$500.00, the National Scholarship program is extended. Presently scholarships are set up as follows:

1. The Pvt. Ben Masaoka Memorial Scholarship of \$300 open to any high school graduate, nominated by the chapters
2. There will be two \$250 National scholarships known as the Col. Walter Tsukamoto Memorial Scholarship, but limited to children of JACL members and Jr. JACLers.
3. The four National JACL Supplemental Scholarships of \$200 each, also limited to children of JACLers and Jr. JACLers.

Chapters may now submit two candidates for the National JACL scholarship. One for the Pvt. Ben Masaoka Memorial Scholarship and the other for the remaining six scholarships. Every chapter, in April or early May, will receive a memorandum stating that the nominations are open for these scholarships and will receive notice of a deadline. Deadline will be observed, no nominations sent in after the deadline will be considered. Responsibility for sending in nominations on time will be upon the chapter, and Masao Satow warned every chapter that the failure to observe the deadline by responsible chapter officers may mean that some deserving student will not receive consideration.

ARLINGTON OBSERVANCE: The ceremonies for the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of Nisei participation in World War II have been changed from June 14 to Memorial Day weekend of June 2. Additional suggestions have been made that steps be taken for congressional approval concerning a side land in Arlington for the purpose of erection of monument to the Nisei in military service. There are only two other monuments of this nature, both of them dedicated to divisions in the army. Problems