

Form #1

HISTORY OF
JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

Valley Civic League Chapter Questionnaire #1

I - ORGANIZATION

1. Date organized 9 15 1930.
Month Day Year

2. Number of charter members 13.

List below the names of charter members:

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Frederick S. Okimoto | Mineral M. Okura | Thomas Iseri |
| Toshio Naito | Minoru Terada | |
| Henry I. Arai | Kiyoshi John Arima | |
| Jiggs J. Naito | George Yasumura | |
| Kimio Hirose | James Yasumura | |
| Charles Nagata | James S. Okimoto | |

3. Give an account of the organization of your chapter, including the cause or incentive for the formation (was the need of a JACL chapter the gradual outgrowth of circumstances, or did a specific incident provide the impetus); the leaders actually instrumental in organizing your chapter and any interesting facts regarding their background; what, if any, aid was received from the parent generation; and any assistance or encouragement received from JACL bodies in your vicinity with respect to your organization or formation. Please include any other matters which pertain to the formation of your chapter that may be of interest or historical value.

Meeting at Thomas, Washington on the 15th day of September 1930, a group of American citizens of Japanese ancestry met with the purpose of forming what is now known as the Valley Civic League. It was with the following aims in view that the league was formed: "to encourage friendly intercourse, promote intellectual and cultural advancement, and by organized effort, to ameliorate themselves and their posterity to the highest standard of citizenship".

Some of those leaders instrumental in the formation of this chapter were: Mr. H. K. Fukuhara, Minoru Terada, Thomas Iseri, James Y. Sakamoto (who gave a brief talk on the object of the league) and George Ishihara, who explained the Constitution of the Seattle Progressive Citizens League. The league was attributed to having been an outgrowth of the JACL convention held in Seattle in 1930.

The inaugural banquet was held in the Auburn Chamber of Commerce rooms on Saturday, October 4, 1930, with more than one hundred and fifty in attendance with Mayor McKee giving the opening address. Fifteen prominent American business men were honored guests, besides the parents and several prominent Japanese of Seattle, Washington.

4. (In most cases, this question will probably apply to the rural districts.)

Do the members of your chapter or their parents more or less follow similar occupations? yes . /

If so, please state the occupation farming .

Did the problems of the stated occupation have some bearing on the cause for formation of your chapter? No . / If so, just how did these problems provoke the formation of your chapter?

Have these problems continued to affect the policy or activities of your chapter? _____ . If so, how? Farming as a problem affecting the nisei has often arisen, but the league itself has not materially aided its members as the parent generation still hold control over their young.

II- DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

1. Year by year, list the following information:

19____ (1st year of existence)

- a. Names of President and his cabinet, briefly outlining occupation and background of President.
- b. Notable activities or accomplishments during the administration and how such activities aided in the furtherance of JAACL aims.
- c. Number of total membership.

19____ (2nd year of existence)

- a. b. c. - as above.

Follow this outline from the time of your chapter organization up to the present year, listing the information for 1939 for the first six months. Please utilize the space below and on the following page, if necessary.

See attached sheet

2. Has your chapter found it advisable to form special interest groups, such as sports, music, drama, other arts, etc? If so, please outline briefly the story of its organization, including the reason for its formation and its contribution toward the work of your chapter.

3. How many members participate in your special interest group or groups at the present time? _____
4. Have these interest groups been found helpful in the general development of your chapter? _____
If so, explain briefly the manner in which they have been beneficial.

If said interest groups have not been beneficial in the development of your chapter, please explain why, and also your plans to remedy the situation.

5. What has been the response of your chapter to the Second Generation Development Program?

If your chapter has any constructive criticism to offer in connection with the methods used or objectives pursued by the Second Generation Development Program, please elucidate.

6. What is your chapter's opinion regarding the National Endowment Fund?

The opinion has been offered that the objectives of the Endowment Fund are worth while, but the accumulation of this fund requires too long a period and during that period curtails the respective chapter's income from its members who have subscribed to the fund. If your chapter is of this opinion, can you suggest a more practicable method of attaining a certain measure of national security as far as the JACL is concerned? _____
Please outline your suggestion.

III-CHAPTER PROBLEMS

1. Since ~~the~~ inception of your chapter, would you say that one of the most consistently important problems facing it has been that of raising funds to meet current expenses? _____
2. What solution or method has your chapter found most successful in meeting the problem of raising funds? (benefit movie-Japanese or English, benefit social, benefit carnival, dance, etc.) If necessary, please explain in detail.
3. With what other important problems has your chapter been beset from year to year?
4. What are your solutions to the problems you have outlined in answer to the previous question?

IV- APPENDIX

1. Please attach to this questionnaire a copy of your chapter Constitution as revised to conform with the National Constitution as revised and adopted at the Los Angeles Convention in September 1938.
2. If there are other interesting matters regarding your chapter not covered by the foregoing questions, kindly outline them and attach to this questionnaire.