



Association of Chinese Americans, Inc.

Detroit Chapter of the OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates



Press Release

Association of Chinese Americans, Inc.
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ACA's 50th Anniversary Celebration Banquet Was a Success

Madison Heights, MI – On December 9, 2022, Association of Chinese Americans (ACA) held its 50th Anniversary Celebration Banquet at Wabeek Country Club in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. The ACA welcomed over 220 guests consisting of local government officials, sponsors, and supporters of the ACA. This year's theme titled "Passing the Torch: Remembering Our History, Reimagining the Future" was a celebration of 50 years of service and advocacy by the ACA.

The evening of celebration kicked off with an energetic lion dance performance by Michigan Lion Dance Team. Ian Shin, vice president of ACA and EMCEE of the event, greeted all guests of ACA, followed with the National Anthem performed by Jie Wang, ACA board member. President Elinor Ho delivered the welcoming remark and introduced the current year 2022 ACA board members and 9 past presidents who have built strong foundations for ACA in the past 50 years. The ACA Legacy of Service Award was presented to our President Emeritus Shenlin Chen for her 22 years of dedication to the growth of ACA. Chen proceeded to report the progress on ACA's 50th Anniversary Capital Campaign, introduced the silent auction at the Gala, and shared the production plan for the 50th anniversary commemorative book to help with ACA's fundraising effort. Representatives including Robert Wittenberg - Oakland County Treasurer, Tania Ganguly - Canton Township Trustee, and Jonita Bunch - Chief Administrative Officer, Detroit Area Agency on Aging from local government and



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Program sponsors were present to congratulate ACA's 50 years of dedication to servicing the local Asian American community.

The National President of the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) Asian Pacific American Advocates along with presidents from other chapters sent their greetings and congratulations to ACA, one of the 3 founding chapters of OCA, via video.

Acknowledgements were made to our annual sponsors including General Motors – Platinum; MGM Detroit, 168 Group and EMU CHDIS – Gold; Travel + Leisure – Silver; Comcast, Comerica Bank, DWIHN and EMC - Bronze. An outstanding corporate sponsorship award was presented to General Motors for their active engagement and generous support to different programs developed by ACA. ACA greatly appreciates all the friends, families and businesses that have contributed to our cause in an effort to help our community.

The keynote speech was delivered by Dr. Frank H. Wu, president of Queens College CUNY, also an active advocate for the civil rights of Asian Americans. This speech titled The Future of Civil Rights: Asian Americans After COVID-19, offered our guests an in-depth historical landscape for the Asian Americans, increased the awareness of the contributions and sacrifice that the Asian Americans have made to the US history in a larger context, and the challenges we have faced historically and currently.

Executive Director of ACA - Peggy Du presented a magnificent year in review of ACA's achievements through the contribution of donors, volunteers, community partners, corporate sponsors, staff and board members, and many others. A Guzheng performance was presented by Pingli Yi and Nancy Yan, and On Leung Music Group proceed with a traditional Cantonese musical instrument performance. These performances brought the guests a taste of traditional Chinese entertainment. The evening could not have ended on a better note with a magnificent snowfall. As a Chinese proverb saying: 瑞雪兆豐年- auspicious snow heralds a good year, we wish everyone a prosperous year ahead. To learn more, visit www.acadetroit.org.