Council Elects 2006-2008 Nat’l JACL Board

JACL’s Executive Director Announces Resignation

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

CHANDLER, Ariz.—After more than six years as JACL national executive director, John Tateishi is stepping down. He made the announcement at the June 25 meeting of the new national board in Chandler, Arizona citing personal reasons.

"I’ve been thinking about it for quite some time," said Tateishi to board members the morning after all convention activities concluded. He cited the job’s stress, workload and lack of staff as some of the reasons, but his decision came amid national board elections controversy.

According to Tateishi, an individual from the Pacific Southwest District accused him of influencing the elections. Threats were made, he said.

"I don’t do well with threats," said Tateishi to the Pacific Citizen. "Ironically at that point, I decided not to resign." He was as he has always been in his long career in the civil rights arena — resolved to fight. But while standing in the footsteps of his ancestors at the rededication of the Gila River monument the morning after the elections, Tateishi reflected on a life that has not been his own for quite some time.

In the desert, a confluence of reasons led to his decision. He thought about camp a lot. He thought about all the moments that have lead up to this. Then he announced his resignation with an effective date of whenever a replacement is found.

JACL Sets New Course with Next Biennial Budget

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

CHANDLER, Ariz.—The national council adopted a biennial budget that includes aggressive measures to curb membership erosion, fund program and fill vacant staff positions.

At the June 21-24 national convention, council members examined the risks and benefits of some proposed fundraising measures. The 2007-08 budget includes the following fundraisers:

• a 50% dues increase in general (single, couple/family and youth) membership, which gets rid of the chapter/district insurance premium payment;
• an annual fundraising gala dinner in Washington, D.C.; and
• an annual golf tournament.

In addition, JACL districts and chapters need to meet aggressive new membership targets. The PSW district will strive to recruit four new Millennium Club members while the

Mineta Resigns, Citing ‘Time to Move On’

By: P.C. Staff and Associated Press

CHANDLER, Ariz.—Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, the first Asian Pacific American to serve as Cabinet secretary, announced June 23 his exit as the Bush administration’s transportation secretary — a position he held for over five years.

Mineta, 74, became the longest-serving transportation secretary since the department was formed in 1967.

“It is time for me to move on to other challenges,” Mineta said in a letter to President Bush. His resignation is effective July 7.

The news came as a shock for many JACLers amidst the flurry of convention activities. JACL Executive Director John Tateishi broke the news during the Youth Luncheon to guests and looks of disbelief from an audience that has

By LARRY ODA
Nat’l JACL, President

Following every biennial convention, JACL faces a transition of leadership. The national board frequently uses the first meeting after convention to survey the state of JACL and begin to take up the baton of leadership passed to them by the outgoing board.

The recent national board meeting on June 25 was a fine beginning. The

Special Arizona Convention Issue

PACIFIC CITIZEN

July 7-20, 2006
**BUDGET**

(Continued from page 1)

other districts have the goal of finding one each — a total of six. The national board was also committed to reducing the membership attendance rate, which has been in continual decline over the past year.

These measures have been implemented in part to fill vacant staff positions, increase membership and launch new initiatives.

New staff positions included in the next biennial budget are:

- a PCF regional director to be hired on January 1, 2007 (moved up from the initial start date of April 1, 2007);
- a part-time bookkeeper based in national headquarters (80 percent);
- a part-time assistant for the JACL executive director (80 percent).

The next biennial budget, which passed the national council with relative ease, was due to the preliminary work by the national board in marathon budget balancing sessions and in the workshops at convention, said newly elected JACL National President Larry Oda. Those who also pointed out the Program for Action was completed early enough this biennium for national board members to prioritize the budget.

"I've been mentioned that the capacity building effort of hiring another regional director will make membership outreach, program development, and completion much easier, and it will certainly assist in hiring new sponsors for the programs," he added.

With the announcement of John Tateishi's resignation as JACL executive director, the new national board unanimously approved June 25 a motion to hire the bookkeeper a priority.

"Compared to past budgets of my recollection, this one comes the closest in my mind to balance expenses and to make realistic revenue sources as possible," said National Treasurer/Know Your Money Mark Kobayashi. "That isn't to say that it hasn't been a struggle, certainly does as pointed out in my presentation to the national council about the budget especially in the areas of income. Legacy Fund distribution and the gala dinners, but the national council was weighed these issues and felt comfortable with the fact that we know of."

The next biennial budget shows a total of $4,320,766 in revenue and a total of $4,319,208 in costs. After the national council adopted the biennial budget, JACL said a passed motion introduced by Vice President of Membership Edwin Endo to implement a number of lifetime membership categories. To become a lifetime member, an individual pays a one-time lump sum. The new categories are:

- Century - $5,000
- Life Trust - $3,000

The increase — which will not affect the next biennium because the portion of the membership dues that goes into the program fund has already been determined — will go into effect Jan. 1, 2007. Any monies collected from this increase will be relied on the 2006-07 budget. A resolution introduced by

Midwest District Governor Ron Katsumura amended the proposed biennial budget by increasing the JACL staff's cost of living allowance (COLA) to 2.5 percent and another amendment, sponsored by the Seattle JACL allocated $15,000 towards strategic planning and organizational development.

A motion to help fund the strategic plan with monies from the 2006 budget was narrowly approved by the national board June 21 with immediate past president Ken Inouye casting the tie-breaking vote.

For the third quarter of the fiscal year, the national board reported a $90,917 surplus as of May 31. It is an inflated number because of the national convention is not yet reflected, said Gates. "We are definitely headed in the right direction," said Oda. "From this point forward the board will be identifying our objectives and reporting on our progress along the way."

Aggressive goals take hard work, said Kobayashi. But all these involved are ready to "take a step forward with both eyes open and ready to roll up our sleeves to achieve our goals." **JACL Summary of Investments as of May 2006**

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David Kawamoto Honored as JACLer of the Biennium

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM  Executive Editor

CHANDLER, Ariz.—It may have been a surprise to David Kawamoto when he heard his name announced as this year’s recipient of the “JACLer of the Biennium Award,” but for those who have known the former national board member, the award was expected and well-deserved.

“We knew the former national board member, the award was expected and well-deserved,”said Kawamoto. “I’m honored to receive this award...and I share this with all of you.”

See AWARDS/Page 8

Newbery Medal Winning Author Cynthia Kadohata Honored With Vision Award

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM  Executive Editor

Kadohata is the author of both adult novels and children’s books. Her first novel, “Kira-Kira,” was a National Book Award finalist in 2005.

She has “inspired youth to reach for their goals.”

“Kira-Kira” has “inspired youth to reach for their goals.”

For me being a writer means finding my “home.”

For me being a writer means finding my “home.”

See KADOHATA/Page 5

SNAPSHOT

JACL National Convention Workshops

Native Food and Preparation
Participants took in the traditions and flavors of native food.

Multiracial Identity: The New Face of Japanese Americans and the U.S.

The panel discussion focused on the history and culture of the Akimel O’odham, a Native American tribe that calls Gila River its home. Workshop participants also learned about current challenges facing the community.

Post 9/11 Impact on Ethnic Communities in the U.S.

Arizona’s two WRA internment camps are the only camps that were located on American Indian reservations. A panel discussion consisted of members of both the JA and Native American communities sharing their experiences and memories.

True Southwest: Indigenous Experiences

The panel included several speakers, including one from the Ijama Hall (above), district director of employment and recruitment at Metropolitan Community College in Phoenix. The interactive discussion was based on her dissertation research in 1979—the first ever study conducted on mixed race identity.

Shared History: American Indian and Japanese American Experience of Internment at Gila River and Poston

Since Sept. 11, effects of the Patriot Act and other government-enacted policies have rippled through the South Asian American communities. Participants heard from some members of a Sikh American group about what it’s like to look brown, as well as experiences of APAs as second-class citizens in the American society.

The Politics of Camp Preservation

The panelists discussed the creation of a “memorial” and protected status for the former internment camps.

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Cedar Grove Productions and Tanamachi Honored at Sayonara Banquet

(Continued from page 1) "Just as in the past, all of us in the JACL and the NAACP need to remember the common struggles. Hold fast to our common values. Keep fighting on our common struggles," he continued. "Just as in the past, if we just stand fast and stand together than eventually ... we will prevail!"

Shelton noted that since the 1930s, the JACL has fought for not only the rights of Japanese Americans but also for Chinese Americans and all Americans of color. "Just as the NAACP has done since its founding in 1909, the JACL has also fought for issues of "simple justice," issues like the desegregation of public schools, the disenfranchisement of people of color, immigration, and heroic World War II veterans and their contribution to our common struggle."

"All of us in the JACL and the NAACP know what it means to be on the wrong end of the disenfran­ chised, discrimination, and dehumanization," said Shelton.

Shelton honored there are no lasting victories in the fight for civil rights and civil liberties. We are challenged ... now more than ever before."

Honorees: Chris Tashima (left) and Tim Toyama were honored with the Japanese American Citizens of the Biennium Award.

Sandra Tanamachi was recognized with the Edison Uno Civil Rights Award for her decade-plus efforts to rid the state of Texas of "Jap" Roads. The awards were presented at the Sayonara Banquet June 24.

"This is a great honor," said Tashima, who called her niece Megan Toyama onto to join him in accepting the award. "The thread that connects all of us, who we are ... What binds us is our stories ... we have to pass our stories on to future generations," he said.

John Tateishi has repeatedly displayed such a willingness to put the interests of JACL at the top of his priorities and has held a deep sense of gratitude for his enduring commitment, a feeling I believe is reflected throughout the organization.

ODA

(Continued from page 1) and I believe the organization, including board, staff, and members are eager to work together to carry out the organization's mission.

However, JACL will soon lose a renowned champion of civil rights in Larry Oda, a most devoted servant to the organization, as John Tateishi announced his resignation as national director at this meeting. John will graciously stay on until another director is identified, and I thank him for continuing to serve JACL during the transition of executive leadership.

Larry Oda, JACL Natl President

"The recent national board meeting on June 25 was a fine beginning and I believe the organization, including board, staff, and members are eager to work together to carry out the organization's mission."

During John's tenure as national director, he has made numerous contributions and has done so at a time following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. John represented JACL as one of the first civil rights organizations to speak out against racial profiling and retaliatory attacks on Sikhs, Muslims and South Asians. John also warned against government-imposed violations of civil rights due to "hysteria" surrounding the war on terrorism.

The award-winning film, "Visas and Virtue," is a small way of saying thank you and that we have not forgotten your sacrifices," said Tanamachi.

Tanamachi was living in Beaumont when she first learned of the county's "Jap Road." She began efforts to educate the town about the history of the term and asked that the Jefferson County Commissioners make a name change. At first all of her efforts were rebuffed and she began receiving hate mail.

"I did this also for our future generations so we celebrate now because there are no more J-Roads in the state of Texas," said Tanamachi. The award was established in 1985 in honor of Edison Uno for his lifelong dedication to human and civil rights. Tanamachi now joins the company of Ismail Ahmed, Morris Dees, and Ross Hopkins as winners of this prestigious award.
HEPATITIS B
(Continued from page 3)

PHOTO COURTESY GILBERT LEE

All the lies. In happier times (left) Jason, Gilbert, Elizabeth and Tommy, who passed away in 2003.
Bay Area APAs (left) recently lined up to get tested.

health care provider, but to join in the coalition and help in organizing and raising awareness for screen­ings.

Katsuyama is active in the Dayton, Ohio Asian American Council and a coalition which counts JACL as a component. With his involvement in health confer­ences, he saw how important it was to help the underserved APA com­munities.

"One might ask, why should JACL be involved in such an initia­tive? We are basically a civil rights organization. My answer is that civil rights has many facets," said Katsuyama in a statement to the council. "We continue to vigil­ant in our anti-defamation efforts, and this must continue. However, we have not entered other arenas. As we move toward universal health care, it is said that health disparities in status, access to care, and provision of quality and appro­priate types of care will become among the subtlest civil rights issues of the 21st century."

The importance of the emergency resolution was underscored by the June 8 Food and Drug Administration approval of a vac­cine that blocks two strains of virus­es that cause cervical cancer.

"What they say about [the dis­eased people] is so twisted, when we… why did we have them for three and one-half months," said Gilbert, 30.

Looking back, he attributes his father's passing to lack of awareness even on his doctor's part. But he's encouraged by the national move­ment to push for more education.

"It becomes a situation where our community can embrace it as a responsibility, even on his doctor's part. But he's encouraged by the national move­ment to push for more education.

July 18 Glacier National Park & Rockies - 7 Day - Meals - $1995
Aug. 11 Lake Louise & Glacier National Park - 7 Day - Meals - $1995
Aug. 13 Eastern Canada & Niagara Falls - 9 Days - Meals - $2195
Aug. 30 South & Eastern Europe - 12 - 26 Meals - $3995 - Prague
Sept. 6-14 Bali & Jakarta - 9 Days - Meals - $2395
Sept. 7-14 Danube River Cruise - 7 Day - Meals - $1795
Sept. 22 Waterways of the Cuxes CANCELLED
Oct. 9 Hokkaido & Tohoku "Fall Foliage" - 11 Day - 24 Meals - $3795
Oct. 9-16 Tokyo, Sado Island, Kanazawa, Aomori, Otaru, Lake Towada, Hachimantai, Sendai & Tokyo
Oct. 16 Ushantosh "Otherwise of Japan" - 11 Day - 25 Meals - $3695
Oct. 27 Fall Japan Classic "Fall Foliage" - 11 Day - 24 Meals - $3480
Nov. 3-10 Tokyo, Kanazawa, Niigata, Takayama, Nagano, Matsumoto, Kanazawa, Sapporo
Nov. 8-16 Osaka, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Inland Sea Cruise to Shoda Island & Kyoto.
Dec. 11-18 Tokyo, Kamakura, Nikko, Lake Towada, Lake Toya, Sapporo
Dec. 18-25 Tokyo, Hiroshima, Inland Sea Cruise to Shoda Island & Kyoto.

KOKUSAI-PACIFICA 2006 TOURS

KADOHATA
(Continued from page 3)

been have been my childhood, my ethic­ity, my family, and the American landscape.

Born in Chicago and raised as a girl in Georgia and Arkansas, Kadohata says she knew at an early age who her siblings, her mom, and her dad were and what they did. Her parents, who lived on a chicken farm, spent long hours in chick­en hatcheries. With a chuckle she fondly adds "the highway" to her list of "homes." Growing up in rural Georgia and Arkansas with few JAs (the few JAs were mainly fellow chicken sexers), Kadohata's successful novel, which was named "Weedflower," took place in the same setting where she and her siblings returned to Chicago with her mother, "a voracious reader," who instilled a love of read­ing in her children.

Kadohata's successful novel "Kira-Kira" tells the story of her early childhood memories growing up in rural Georgia and Arkansas. And although her Newbery Medal for "Kira-Kira" has recently brought her much exposure and success, she recalls the difficulty in getting her first novel published in 1989.

"In those days there were very few Asian American authors," she said. Many of her relatives told her "no one wants to read about Japanese" and an editor told her to stop writing so much about Asian American characters.

But Kadohata never listened to her critics and chose the topic of the World War II internment camps for her most recent novel "Weedflower.

Kadohata first learned about the camps in fourth grade but didn't find out the details until she took an ethnic studies course in 1989 at the University of Southern California.

Her father had been interned at Poston and so she decided to make this setting for "Weedflower." But soon she discovered she was having a hard time getting the description of the camps right and missed her deadline by one day and a half years.

"I couldn't get it right," said Kadohata, whose research for "Weedflower" included extensive interviews with former internees and many visits to the Poston camp. During the course of her writing, she began a process of adopting her son Sammy from Kazakhstan. Her trips to this impoverished country, the depar­ture, and missing her home made her wonder if this experience was somehow similar to what her father once had endured in Poston.

"Writing about the camps - brought me closer to him than I had ever been," said Kadohata of her father. And she was finally able to complete her novel "Weedflower.

Kadohata makes her home in Southern California today and is currently working on her next novel for kids that deals with the Vietnam War. Her new work is set to be released next Spring.

Like her previous novels, Kadohata is determined to stick close to home, sometimes she has relied on ver­ ​​ stiff and over her during her career.

"Let us Asian Americans make sure to remember our own histories," she said. "We must be true to our homes when we write, just as we must be true to our hearts when we live." What About a JACL Future for Seniors?

KADODA?

as JACLers advance in age and statistics indicate people are living longer, past National JACL President Helen Kawagoe, National 1000 Club Chair Frank Sakamoto and Pacific Citizen Editor Emeritus Harry Honda talked about a JACL future for seniors.
LEADERSHIP—Convention Chair Ted Nambe (left), Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon and Ken Inouye, immediate past national JACL president.

Etsu Masaoka, JACL National President Larry Oda and Edith Ichii at the Sayonara Banquet's VIP reception.

Ken Inouye (left) and Jeff Itami are just a pair of cow-pokes in their gear at the convention's Welcome Mixer held at the Rawhide Steakhouse.

CAMP DANCE—The Carmen Miranda Boys show us what they've got.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION—(from left) Convention Chair Ted Nambe with Mas Inoshita, Joe Allman and Michele Nambe. Inoshita and Allman were recipients of a special JACL recognition award at the Sayonara Banquet.

Gary Okamoto of the Mt. Olympus chapter casts his vote.

Ken Inouye thanks the crowd and asks them to take a seat after he was presented with the President's Pin during the Sayonara Banquet.

Ethan Hirabayashi dreams of the day he can legally gamble as Helen Kawagoe, former national JACL president and current Gardena Valley member, looks on.

Arizona JACL's Jim Kubota (left) and Mas Inoshita at the rededication of the Gila River Camp monument. The ceremony was held before temperatures reached the 100s.

Elsie Taniguchi (left) and the Arizona JACL line dancers get their groove on. Elsie was a finalist for the 'Best Dressed Cowgirl.'
CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Members of the JACL National Youth Council before the Youth Luncheon. (Clockwise from top left): Brigham Walker, Blake Honda, Megumi Kaminaga, Kimberly Shintaku, Leilani Savitt and Caroline Kawaguchi.

MIN YASUI ORATORICAL CONTEST PARTICIPANTS—(from left) Winner Julian Antram, Sara Hidano-Cardinelli, Naomi Oren, Marí Michener Oye and Marc Stillman.

EDC MEN—(from left) Stanley Kanzaki of New York, Paul Uyehara of Philadelphia and Clyde Nishimura of D.C.

RUBY PIN AWARDEES—Former JACL National President Lillian Kimura, JACL Washington, D.C. Rep. Floyd Mori, and Irene Mori were awarded JACL's Ruby Pin. They are pictured with past national president Ken Inouye.

CONVENTION UNDERWRITERS—(clockwise, top left) National JACL Credit Union's Charlie Brown, Terrell Nagata and Silvana Watanabe; AT&T's David Lin, State Farm's Leslie Moe-Kaiser and Ford Motor Company's Michael Schmidt.

Rachel Hinchman and Kameron Shee were the winners of the Best Dressed Cowgirl and Cowboy contest at the Welcome Mixer.

Larry Ishimoto and the CCDC make sure to get their votes counted.

We'll see everyone in Salt Lake City in 2008. "You Bet'cha!"
Also Recognized Were ... National JACL presented a Special Recognition Award to Jeffrey Burton and Mary Farrell who, as husband and wife have worked tirelessly to preserve the architectural integrity of the WWII internment camps. The couple was invited in the recently dedicated Gordon Hirabayashi Recreation Site at the Coronado National Forest.

"All these sites need to be commissioned because this story needs to be told," said Burton. Burton and Farrell are also the authors of "Confinement and Ethnicity," which takes a look at the 1942 WWII JA education sites.

Michelle Sugi of Apple Valley, Calif, the 2005 Mike Murase Fellow, also spoke of her recent experience working out of Sen. Daniel Inouye's office.

"It was a once in a lifetime experience," she said.

Each year, a Mike Murase fellow is selected to serve a term in the office of a U.S. representative or senator to learn first hand the inner-workings of serving in public office.

This 2006 fellow is Dania Nakano who will serve his fellowship in U.S. Rep. Mike Honda's office.

Looking back on Mineta's career, Hirono said, "Norm worked hard to help eliminate the story of Japanese Americans and how dances played a vital role in the story of Japanese Americans and Japanese Canadians."

Bush said Mineta — the only Democrat in his Cabinet — played a vital role in strengthening the security of seaports and airports.

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The Watada family sits before an interview about Ehren's plight. Supporting his son's decision to refuse deployment to Iraq are his mom Carolyn Ho and father Robert Watada.

PHOTO: JEFF PETRISON

The first lieutenant has not been officially charged with any crime but is currently being restricted at the Fort Lewis, Washington base where he has been stationed. He has also been ordered to have no communication with non-military personnel except his attorney. The Army is currently investigating Watada for comments he has made in opposition of the war. Watada is not considered a conscientious objector since he is not qualified to go as a conscientious objector because of his educational background.

Regardless of dove or hawk, we all have the ability to question the war. The first lieutenant has not been officially charged with any crime but is currently being restricted at the Fort Lewis, Washington base where he has been stationed. He has also been ordered to have no communication with non-military personnel except his attorney. The Army is currently investigating Watada for comments he has made in opposition of the war. Watada is not considered a conscientious objector since he is not qualified to go as a conscientious objector because of his educational background.

Even who we are. We have the experience, the personnel and the ability to attend to not only civil rights, but also issues relating to immigration. "I've been considering resignation for about a year," he said, but refused to make it public for the time being until the American patriotism. Ehren is one of if not THE first- officer to have the guts to stand up for his convictions and say "I refuse to be silent any longer. I refuse to turn the tide of history ... ," said Watada's mother, Carolyn Ho, in a statement.

The Watada family sits before an interview about Ehren's plight. Supporting his son's decision to refuse deployment to Iraq are his mom Carolyn Ho and father Robert Watada.

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Buddhist Temple Ohon Festival; 5-7 Northern California free but limited to first 30 whose parish to share with the volunteers; JANM members. Info: ONLC, Paper Tree, 1743 Buchanan or SF Derby; San Pablo Dam Reservoir; PJldwest make it a family event and to bring a youth; families are encouraged to
p.m., Sun. 1 2-3 p.m.; traveling ver: Sat., July 15--JACL Youth Fishing

Evening:

Takewawa Ramos; 7 p.m.; Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 121 NW Second Ave.; Tues.-Sat. 11-3 p.m.; UCLA's Glorya Kaufman Dance Theater.


Feb. 16-18, 2007--All Vets Reunion; New Otani Hotel, Little Tokyo: open to all US veterans from all wars and conflicts; Maj. Gen. Rodney Kobayashi will be a lunchtime keynote speaker. Info: Sam Shimoguchi, 310/222-6888, sanku@verizon.net; Victor Muraoka, 818/638-4113, v.muraoka@veri

Los Angeles SIMI VALLEY Sat., July 15--Japanese America Society of Southern California 50th Anniversary Dinner & Gala Celebration; 5 p.m. silent auction, 7 p.m. dinner and program; The Huntington Library, Pacific Museum. Info: JASC, 213/627-6217, ext. 205 or info@jasc-ocal.org.

TORRANCE Sat., Sept. 16--PSW JACL Annual Awards Dinner; 5 p.m. program, 6 p.m. dinner. Torrance Holiday Inn. Info: PSW Office, 213/626-4471 or office@psw.jacl.org.

regardless of your age or skill level, this is an event that you won’t want to miss! Each team must include at least 3 female and 3 male members. Up to 4 alternates are optional. Each member will receive a commemorative t-shirt and gift package. Grand prizes will be awarded to the winning "recreation" and "competition" teams. Submit your completed registration form and your team’s $140 registration fee by Fri., July 21, 2006 to:
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Participants must be members of JACL, JACL CU, or /116 Asian/Pacific Islander and or spouse.

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NATIONAL CONVENTION

PROGRAM

(Continued from page 2)

Americans to enter fields where they can make the most impact on public policies, i.e., academia, poli­

tics, journalism, policy research. Encourage scholarship recipients to participate in and strengthen their local JACL chapters.

Encourage leadership skills by pre­

senting public-speaking workshops.

Education

Goal: To educate our member­ship and the public at-large about the Japanese American historical experience and the lessons that the internment holds for the future con­

duct of our government related to our Constitutional liberties.

Objectives: Continue to develop educational materials including books written about the JACL.

Promote distribution of the cur­

riculum guide and other materials to teachers by attending national and regional conferences of the National Conference for the Social Studies. Present workshops for teachers to educate and encourage integration into the curriculum.

Continued to advocate for the inclusion of Asian Pacific American experience as part of the national social studies standards.

Encourage chapters in each state to advocate for the inclusion of Asian Pacific American studies through changes in state learning standards and school codes and through the inclusion of questions related to Asian Pacific American experience in state and standard (ACT, SAT, etc.) achievement tests.

Encourage the need to educate about tolerance and diversity by promoting multicultural education.

Encourage and enable chapters to organize book clubs and film festi­

vals as a means to promote the dis­

cussion and understanding of APA history and culture.

Youth

Goal: To support and guide the youth into JACL at all levels, to pro­

vide programs of mentoring and leadership development to enhance their ability to succeed in life as well as to contribute to the future success of the JACL.

Objectives: Integrate youth partic­

ipation and create leadership opportunities at all levels of the organization, including national committees.

Promote and encourage youth participation and involvement in JACL sponsored events at all levels of the organization.

Actively support and fund youth to get to both the National Convention and the National Youth Conference.

Provide (a) guidance or training for districts to help accommodate new youth representatives to transition onto the Youth Council.

Membership

Goal: To increase and diversify the membership base of the JACL.

Objectives: Develop and imple­

ment a plan to retain membership over the next biennium.

Develop and implement a plan to attract new members that reflect the changing demographics of the Japanese American community.

Financial Development

Goal: To diversify the financial base of JACL with less dependence on membership dues as the primary income source for JACL.

Objectives: Organize a financial development committee to develop a plan for researching and identify­

ing income sources; monitor progress toward increasing income.

Hire a full-time financial devel­

opment staff person to pursue new sources of income; to cultivate pri­

vate, foundations, and corporations and to maintain regular contact with potential sources.

Support annual national conven­

tions as a means of on-going sup­

port.

Establish a closer tie with Japanese government and corpora­

tions for program and fund develop­

ment purposes.

Continue efforts to implement a planned giving program with effective marketing strategies.

Organize a planned giving commit­

tee to monitor and identify prospective planned giving sources.

Web site and Internet

Goal: To improve the public vis­

ibility of the JACL and increase dis­

semination of critical information by improving the design and content of the national Web site.

Objectives: Include an education/historical aspect to the site by including biog­

raphies of prominent Japanese Americans in politics, academia, business, etc.

Improve the design of the site to include more content and user direc­

tion on the home page (e.g. mission statement on the top of the home page, fully utilize the right side of the home page, and link to the Pacific Citizen).

Increase funding for web design to ensure online content is timely and relevant.

Work with the JACL chapters to ensure all chapter links are included in the national Web site.

Encourage chapters to create their own Web sites to be maintained with timely and current information.

Increase use of the Internet to dis­

seminate information to members.

Organizational Structure

Goal: To enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the JACL, to carry out its organizational mission.

Objectives: Establish a committee to study and make recommenda­

tions to improve the governance and operations of the organization and report its findings at the next meet­

ing of the JACL National Council.

National Strategic Planning Process

Goal: To develop a comprehen­

sive National Strategic Planning ini­

tiative that will create a 5-10 year plan or "roadmap" to ensure the organization remains viable, rele­

vant and vibrant for years to come.

Objectives: Establish and con­

vence a National Strategic Planning Committee with representatives from the National Board, district council and youth.

Identify and access new funding sources (internal and external) dedicated to supporting the development and implementation of the National Strategic Planning Committee and Initiative.

Work on ongoing Phase I imple­

mentation of the National Strategic Plan of the Pacific Northwest District

Develop and determine Phase II and III strategies for other geographic/district samples across the country.

Regularly share key findings and information on the Strategic Planning process with the national board, district councils, and chapters.

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Gordon Yamagata

National JACL CU

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M-F 8:30AM - 5:30PM
This spirited but of 28 years can't have it his way as supported by his family. No one forced the lieutenant to receive a commission after graduation and if he did not know what came with a U.S. Army commission then he should resign. Going to the stockade to avoid or refuse to be deployed to Iraq adds fuel to the enemy and endangers his fellow Americans. We who lived through WWII, internment, and serving in the military then we should consider moving and changing his citizenship to Canada.

Roy M. Takeuchi
Stockton, CA

I, too, agree with Lt. Watada that the war in Iraq was not justified, but I do not agree with the conclusion he has reached. Lt. Watada must understand that what is going on in Iraq is being done in the name of the United States not George W. Bush. The U.S. got itself into a terrible situation now with Iraqis killing each other, Iraqis killing Americans, and Americans killing Iraqis. Since the U.S. is responsible for the current situation, the U.S., with help from other allies, must restore order for the people of Iraq. We cannot, in our conscience, abandon Iraq in the middle of the mess we created.

What we need in Iraq are great front line leaders like Lt. Watada, who I am sure is capable. He and the men he commands can demonstrate to the Iraqi people that America is truly there to help them, not only in defeating terrorists, but in helping them gain some stability and peace in their lives.

Tom Miyasaka
Via e-mail

I applaud 1st Lt. Ehren Watada's decision to refuse deployment to Iraq. Instead of taking a position on the front lines of the war, he has chosen to be in the vanguard of those who refuse to deploy to Iraq because of a conviction that this war is immoral and illegal. I agree, along with thousands of other loyal Americans. To invade a country, slaughter its people and ravage their lands without provocation is a monstrous evil, totally unworthy of a great nation such as ours.

What makes Lt. Watada's action singularly courageous is that there have been other seasoned officers who've been there, done that, then returned to tell us the war was a mistake. He, on the contrary, a young man, probably on a fast track of promotion, will refuse to go at the outset, refusing "to be a party to the illegal and immoral war against people who did nothing to deserve it."

No doubt Lt. Watada will be castigated by some, even punished, for his considered decision, just as those 300 or so brave men in the WWII concentration camps were criticized and punished for refusing to report for induction because their citizens' rights had been violated. I believe the lieutenant knows what's in store for him and is still willing to follow his heart and stick to his principles.

I say bravo to him. And I thank him for making this hard decision. And by it, making this country a better, more honorable, place for our children and grandchildren.

Mori Nakano
Sebastopol, CA

First Lt. Ehren Watada will not win any military medals for his extraordinary act of conscience and moral integrity. That, apparently, is not what our military is all about. But Watada has proven himself a human being first and foremost, and a soldier second. As a fellow human he chose to fulfill his unspoken commitment to humanity rather than to violate that trust in favor of the impersonal machinations of an arrogant military. He dared to make it a personal issue. It will be a costly choice but his conscience will be clear.

Watada may never be recognized as a national hero, especially by his own image-conscious Japanese community. But he surely will be recognized for his honesty and courage by humanitarians throughout the world and throughout history.

Yosh Kawamoto
Heart Mountain Draft Resister of 1944

As a former WWII Army veteran and a 442nd RCT rifflaman, I have often wished that I had had them, the courage of conviction of the 1943 draft resisters and now, Lt. Watada, to protest and defy the Faustian "bargains" (interruption and opening of the draft) which were imposed unconditionally (and unconstitutionally) in 1942 and 1943.

Eli Sugama
Fort Meade, SD

I support very strongly 1st Lt. Ehren Watada's refusal to serve in Iraq. I applaud his decision and the courage it took to make it. He has behaved honorably and honestly. The repercussions might be very harsh but the consequences of violating his conscience would be even harsher.

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