JACL held its first in-person National Convention since 2019 in Las Vegas at Ballys Hotel and Casino.

JACL National Convention

Together Again

» INSIDE:

JACL Elects New National Board

What’s Next for the Organization?

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SPECIAL PHOTO SPREAD
The 2022 National JACL Convention Was Enjoyable and Memorable

By Floyd Mori, National Convention Chair

I have worked on many JACL conventions in various capacities, including as chairman, a member of the JACL National Board and on the JACL staff. I was happy to help.

Thanks to everyone who attended the 2022 National Convention earlier this month either in person or virtually. Special thanks to the JACL staff, headed up by Executive Director David Inoue, the convention workers and volunteers, as well as everyone who participated in any way. Congratulations to all the awardees who were honored at the convention.

Thank you to the outgoing National Board — Jeff Moy as president, and board members Matthew Farrells, Marissa Kitazawa, Sarah Baker, and Rob Buscher.

The incoming President is Larry Oda, who previously served four years as national president. There are other positions on the National Board that are unfilled, so Larry will be making selections and appointments. Any JACL members who are interested in serving on the National Board can contact Larry via email at loda@jacl.org. Be sure to also check out the JACL website to get additional information at www.jacl.org.

There were a number of JACL leaders and members who were recognized who have passed away since the last convention in 2019. The Hon. Norman Mineta was not present for probably the first time in decades. I have been attending JACL conventions for many years, and I always enjoyed seeing Norm and his wife, Deni, in attendance. He was one of the greatest leaders ever among Japanese Americans, as well as one of the greatest supporters of the JACL and other Asian American organizations. He was a friend to all.

In addition, two individuals who passed away after receiving awards in Salt Lake City at the last convention were Wat Misaka, the first nonwhite workers and volunteers, as well as everyone who participated in any way. Congratulations to all the awardees who were honored at the convention.

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In addition, two individuals who passed away after receiving awards in Salt Lake City at the last convention were Wat Misaka, the first nonwhite player in the NBA, and Greg Marutani, a JACL leader who did so much for the education aspect of the organization.

Two past national presidents who passed away were Lillian Kimura and Helen Kawagoe. Another who was normally at every convention for years was Mas Hashimoto, who passed away on June 20.

It was nice to see old friends and make new friends at the convention, all while JACL also took care of improvements, P.C.!

It was gratifying to see so many young people being willing to become involved JACL. They are our future and current leaders who will continue to guide the JACL as it nears its 100th anniversary and beyond.

Floyd Mori, who has served JACL as past national president and executive director, served as this year’s National Convention Chair.

PHOTO: ALLISON HARAMOTO

Larry Oda, Floyd Shimomura and myself.

Former Congressman Mike Honda was also present, plus other old-time JACLers such as Judge Dale Ikeda and Chip Larouche, who were both presented with Ruby Pin awards.

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By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

If you’re nearing your 65th birthday, it’s time to start thinking about Medicare. Medicare is designed to give you access to affordable, credible health insurance from 65 and on. It’s the federal health insurance program that helps older adults and younger people with disabilities pay for their health care.

However, understanding how to enroll in Medicare if you are turning 65 is the tricky part. If you’re not receiving Social Security benefits, you’ll need to take steps to enroll. Roll in mind, you can enroll only at certain times. If you sign up late, you could end up with gaps in coverage and costly penalties for the rest of your life.

I just turned 64 and thought it was time to start thinking about Medicare. But, after reading several articles on “How to Enroll in Medicare,” I ended up totally confused. So, this article is to help you get familiar with Medicare’s four different service types so that you’re prepared and ready to receive coverage as soon as you become eligible (source: AARP, Understanding Medicare’s Options: Parts A, B, C and D, Nov. 15, 2021).

Part A: Hospital Coverage
When you apply for Medicare, you will automatically be enrolled in Part A. It covers hospital stays, hospice care, and some skilled nursing care that you may need after being hospitalized for a stroke or other episodes that require rehabilitation in a nursing home or other facility.

Most people don’t have to pay a premium for Part A. You’ve already paid into the system in the form of the Medicare tax deduction. But, if you don’t have other insurance and don’t sign up for Part B when you first enroll in Medicare, you’ll likely have to pay a higher monthly premium for as long as you’re in the program.

The federal government sets the Part B monthly premium, which is $170.10 for 2022. It may be higher if your income is more than $91,000. You’ll also be subject to an annual deductible, set at $233 for 2022. You’ll also have to pay 20 percent of the bills for doctor visits and other outpatient services. If you are collecting Social Security, the monthly premium will be deducted from your monthly benefit.

Part C: Medicare Advantage
Medicare Advantage is the private health insurance alternative to the federally run original Medicare. Think of Advantage as a kind of one-stop shopping choice that combines various parts of Medicare into one plan. If you choose a Medicare Advantage (“MA”) plan, you’ll still have to enroll in parts A and B and pay the Part B monthly premium. You will have to choose a Medicare Advantage plan and sign up with a private insurer.

The federal government requires these plans to cover everything that original Medicare covers, and some plans pay for services that original Medicare does not, including dental and vision care. In addition, the Medicare Advantage plan may cover such extras as wheelchair ramps and shower gigs for your home, meal delivery, and transportation to and from doctors’ offices.

Medicare Advantage plans generally are either health maintenance organizations (HMOs) or preferred provider organizations (PPOs). In HMOs, you typically choose a primary care doctor who will then direct your care and usually will have to give you a referral to see a specialist. PPOs have networks of doctors that you can see and facilities you can use, often without the need of a referral. If you go to a provider who is not in the plan’s network, you likely will pay more.

Part D — Prescription Drugs
This is the part of Medicare that pays for some of your prescription drugs. You buy a Part D plan through a private insurer. Each generally has premiums and other out-of-pocket costs, either flat co-pays for each medication or a percentage of the prescription costs. It also may have an annual deductible.

If your total drug costs — the amount you and your Part D insurance plan have paid — reach $4,430 in 2022, you will be responsible for 2% of the price of the rest of the prescription drugs you buy during the year. If your drug costs continue to mount, you may reach the point of qualifying for catastrophic coverage.

Be sure to check at medicare.gov whether the plan you’re considering has the medicines you take or its list, called a formulary. Those lists change from year to year, so it’s important to recheck your plan every year at open enrollment time.

In conclusion, if you’re not receiving Social Security benefits yet, you’ll need to enroll in Medicare. You can enroll as early as three months before your 65th birthday. When it comes to how to enroll in Medicare when you turn 65, you have three options: (1) simply visit the Social Security website (ssa.gov) to apply online; (2) call Social Security Administration at (800) 772-1213; or (3) visit a local administration office.

One important tip is to make sure you keep proof of your attempt at enrollment in order to protect yourself from any late enrollment penalties should your application be denied. Keep any confirmation in form, note dates, times and representatives you spoke with, and request any receipts possible in person.

Judd Matsunaga is the founding attorneys of Elder Law Services of California, a law firm that specializes in Medi-Cal Planning, Estate Planning and Probate. He can be contacted at (310) 348-2995 or judd@elderlawcalifornia.com. The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Pacific Citizen or constitute legal or tax advice and should not be treated as such.
THE RETURN TO IN-PERSON CONVENTIONS

By Scott Tanaka

Earlier this month, I had the opportunity to represent AARP and the JACL Washington, D.C., chapter at the 2022 JACL National Convention. Okaeri had just received the Vision Award from the JACL’s National Youth/Student Council, an honor that was raising up the visibility of LGBTQ+ acceptance and acknowledging the work of so many who, since 2013, have helped to lift up the voices on this subject.

Okaeri’s vision is to create a world where all Nikkei LGBTQ+ individuals and their families are respected, embraced and celebrated. In that moment, all we envisioned felt present in the room... and we were so grateful.

Rino, a bisexual, nonbinary individual who uses they/them pronouns, shared in their acceptance speech, “I grew up with frustration and resentment surrounding my family’s silence about my queerness. And then my parents attended a Family Acceptance workshop facilitated in Japanese at the 2021 Okaeri virtual conference. During dinner that evening, my mom began to ask questions about how I identified as nonbinary and how she can change her usual vocabulary to support me.”

This conversation with Rino and their mom was such a wonderful example of how Okaeri is creating a space for families to have open and honest conversations. And these conversations can lead to stronger family connections and opportunities for healing and greater understanding.

Other opportunities for connection and raising awareness on the LGBTQ+ topic were made available at the convention through a workshop that Okaeri and the Transgender Law Center presented called “Fightning for our Humanity: Transgender Lives, Laws and Allyship.”

Led by Mariah Moore from TLC and Mia Barnett, an Okaeri co-chair, about 25 people were given a brief history about the transgender movement and ways that they could be even greater allies. The conversations and questions that followed were engaging and thought-provoking.

Tabling at the JACL National Convention was another way for Okaeri to lift up awareness and resources. We were thrilled that at least 12 chapters signed up to get more information about our work, and many expressed interest in working with Okaeri to bring programs to their area.

Okaeri is now in conversation with three of these chapters, and we hope to bring greater support and information into the homes of all Nikkei LGBTQ+ families who seek to find community and create moments of connection, just like Rino had with their family. Finding ways to speak to our shared humanity has always been important to me. In the end, I walked away from the convention seeing the shared humanity in all of us. This definition really resonates with me: Shared humanity means acknowledging that everyone needs to be seen, heard, recognized for who they are, taken into account, valued and given the chance to live a life of hope, freedom and fairness.

So, whether we are Japanese, Japanese American, mixed race, LGBTQ+, an ally to these communities or have intersecting identities, don’t we all want the same thing? As Okaeri continues to lift up conversations about the Nikkei LGBTQ+ community, I invite all leaders to reach out to us with questions, concerns or requests to discuss how to bring LGBTQ+ support to their cities.

As Okaeri can be reached at okaeri.la@gmail.com. And I can be reached at maizumi8888@gmail.com. It only takes one voice to start a movement.

I know that to be true because my son was only one voice, and because he had the courage to ask the questions, express his concerns and enter into discussion, he inspired me to start Okaeri.

What can you do in your area with just one voice? I believe more than you can imagine. Let’s work together...
**TOGETHER AGAIN**

After three years, JACLers unite in person to carry on the organization’s rich heritage, promote its civil rights and education mission and, above all, plan its future.

*By P.C. Staff*

‘W’e’re finally all here together!’ welcomed JACL Executive Director David Inoue during the organization’s welcome reception at the Bally’s Hotel and Casino from Aug. 3-7.

For the first time since 2019 because of the Covid-19 pandemic (and with Covid health protocols in place), JACLers from across the country united in person and virtually to discuss the organization’s goals, hold National Council meetings, elect a new National Board, pass the biennial budget and take part in workshops and plenary sessions. JACL also partnered with OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates to hold special joint programming sessions.

“Welcome everybody, we’re here. We made it!” said National President Jeffrey Moy in his opening remarks. “Thank you to all the staff for making this happen and to the National Board. It’s been such a crazy time. I reflected this morning that those of us who have been serving on the board — we met in person today for our last National Board meeting. . . . Everyone made it happen. They dug in, pushed through, and I thank you all very much.”

Echoed Convention Chair and past JACL National President/Executive Director Floyd Mori: “We have a very rich heritage here in JACL to carry on. We have many things to do today and in the future, and we can’t do it without people like you who show interest in the issues. . . . [Let’s] continue to be engaged in the future and do what we can to help JACL.”

The evening’s opening reception featured guest speakers and video messages from Rep. Dina Titus (D-Nev.), Honorary Consul General of Japan in Las Vegas Kathleen Blakely and Sen. Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.), as well as entertainment provided by Las Vegas Kaminari Taiko and a karate kata demonstration by U.S. Olympian Sakura Koku-mai. Kokumai also closed out the evening’s festivities by playing the koto alongside a special odori dance performance by Kara Yokoyama, daughter of Pacific Citizen Business Manager Susan Yokoyama.

**National Council Meetings**

JACL convened several National Council meetings throughout the convention to take care of its business agenda.

In spite of the Covid obstacles, JACL continued to support and advance civil rights issues, as well as grow its national staff to better meet the growing challenges. In his summary report, Inoue announced that JACL continues to focus on anti-Asian hate, support the Norman Y. Mineta Japanese American Confinement Education Act, is working with its coalition partners on HR 40, held an in-person Leadership Summit and is working with the Japan International Cooperation Center to resume the Kakehashi program later this year.

David Lin, vp of planning and development, presented an update on JACL’s Centennial Education Fund campaign’s $3 million goal. Launched last fall, the campaign aims to fund the organization’s education mission and as of July has brought in $1.3 million.

Among the convention’s main order of business was approving the 2023-24 biennial budget. Secretary/Treasurer Matthew Farrells brought JACLers up to speed with the organization’s current financial situation, stating that through May 31, year-to-date results were “improved relative to prior years primarily driven by net gains/losses on investments (unrealized losses).” Net assets declined by $1.6 million resulting in total net assets of $14.2 million.

“We have come a long way over the past two years,” said Farrells. “Recent market volatility has impacted us, but . . . overall, we’re in a good position.”

Farrells also presented the organization’s proposed budget for 2023-24, which was then voted on and approved by the National Council following an amendment to adjust the budget to match the newly approved Legacy Fund Grant investment policy (see Dale Beda’s article in this issue) voted on by the National Council on Aug. 6.

Spirited discussions were held about JACL’s Legacy Fund Grant policy, the purpose of which is to “establish the management standards and practices for the JACL Legacy Fund, including, without limitation, distribution and spending policies of the fund.”

*See TOGETHER on page 8*

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**LARRY ODA Back in the Saddle — AGAIN**

With no candidates for JACL’s presidency, the 2006-10 proxy retakes the reins.

*By P.C. Staff*

(Editors’ Note: This article was written after the Aug. 3-7 JACL National Convention, at which Larry Oda was elected to serve a two-year term as JACL national president. Oda held the same position in consecutive terms from 2006-10; a member of the Monterey Peninsula chapter of JACL, he also served JACL nationally in other capacities, including vp of general operations and national secretary-treasurer. Oda, 77, served the city of Salinas, Calif., as its maintenance superintendent until he retired in 2017. He also served as chairman of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation from 2015-19.)

At its 2022 National Convention in Las Vegas earlier this month, the Japanese American Citizens League entered uncharted waters: For the first time in anyone’s memory, JACL had zero candidates in the running to replace incumbent Jeffrey Moy, who served two back-to-back terms as national president, beginning in 2018. Fortunately, the organization did not have to implement a contingency plan in the event no one was elected. That’s because Larry Oda, who served as JACL’s national president in the first decade of the 2000s, agreed to run again.

Asked what compelled him to interrupt his retirement and take on this task, Oda told the Pacific Citizen that prior to the convention, he had heard that there was no one running for the office, which left him “surprised and concerned.”

*See LARRY ODA on page 8*
Making Memories

NCWNP District
PHOTOS: COURTESY OF CINDY SU

EDC District
PHOTOS: COURTESY OF CINDY SU

Las Vegas chapter's Delwayne Arakaki
PHOTO: ALLISON HARAMOTO

Sakura Kokumai (left) and Kara Yokoyama
PHOTO: CINDY SU

(Last left) Robbin Kawabata, Terri Nakashima, Sharon Uyeda, Arleen Mataga and Janice Luszczak
PHOTOS: CINDY SU

(Last left) Haruka Roudebush, Jeffrey Chin and Nicholas Hori

Floyd Mori and Irene Mori
PHOTO: CINDY SU

Las Vegas taiko group performs for JACLers
PHOTO: ALLISON HARAMOTO

IDC delegates Larry and Sandra Grant
PHOTO: CINDY SU

(From left) Hon. Kathleen Blakeley, Cecilia Shimizu, Carol Kawase, David Kawamoto, Carol Kawamoto and Dale Ikeda

PNW District
PHOTO: COURTESY OF EILEEN LAMPHERE

Executive Director David Inoue
PHOTO: DARRELL MIHO

President Jeff Moy
PHOTO: ALLISON HARAMOTO

Las Vegas chapter's Delwayne Arakaki
PHOTO: ALLISON HARAMOTO

Olympian Sakura Kokumai
PHOTO: ALLISON HARAMOTO

MDC District
PHOTO: CINDY SU

IDC District
PHOTO: COURTESY OF CATHY YASUDA

PSW District
PHOTO: CINDY SU
JACL National Convention attendees took full advantage of being reunited again while adhering to Covid health protocols, as members participated in various organizational activities and enjoyed all the fun Las Vegas has to offer. Memories were made, new friendships developed, business completed, information shared and future plans were set in motion.

In memory of longtime Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACLer Mas Hashimoto, ‘Onward’!

(From left) Eric Langowski, Rob Buscher, Brandon Mita, Sarah Baker and Paul Uyehara
PHOTOS: CINDY SIU

(From left) Mariko Fujimoto, Ayako Tischler, Ron Kuramoto, Vinicius Taguchi and Ryan Sudo
PHOTO: CINDY SIU

New JACL Millennium Club members Mark and Lisa Kobayashi with Paul Uyehara (right)
PHOTO: ALLISON HARAMOTO

NYSC and JACL staff at “Advocacy Through Art Workshop”
PHOTO: CINDY SIU

NCWNP JACLers enjoy some downtime.
PHOTO: CINDY SIU

NY/SC in Vegas
PHOTO: NY/SC

JACL thanks its convention sponsors.

Staffers Ashley Bucher and Phillip Ozaki
PHOTO: ALLISON HARAMOTO

Yoko Olsgaard (left) and Mia Furuichi Fong
PHOTO: ALLISON HARAMOTO

Sarah Baker (left) and Patty Wada
PHOTO: ALLISON HARAMOTO

Robert Buscher, Susan Yokoyama and Gil Asakawa
PHOTO: ALLISON HARAMOTO

(From left) Austin Eng, Naoko Fujii, Mike Honda, Alex Shinkawa, Bridget Keaveney and Florence Koga
PHOTO: CINDY SIU

Photo Contest Winner Akira Inoue
PHOTO: PATTY WADA

Eileen and Mark Lamphere
PHOTO: CINDY SIU

Phyllis Tajii and Meg Mizutani
PHOTO: ALLISON HARAMOTO

NY/SC with raffle prizes
PHOTO: DARRELL MIHO

Seattle JACL display
PHOTO: CINDY SIU

David and Akira Inoue with Maya and Alex Shibutani
PHOTO: DARRELL MIHO

(From left) Roberta Barton, Toshi Abe and Stanley Shikuma
PHOTO: CINDY SIU

Selanoco chapter
PHOTO: CINDY SIU

Eileen and Mark Lamphere
PHOTO: CINDY SIU

NY/SC and JACL staff at “Advocacy Through Art Workshop”
PHOTO: CINDY SIU

Congressman Mike Honda, Florence Koga, Carrie Huie-Pascua and Sen. Bob Hasegawa
PHOTO: CINDY SIU

Sarah Baker (left) and Patty Wada
PHOTO: ALLISON HARAMOTO

(From left) Austin Eng, Naoko Fujii, Mike Honda, Alex Shinkawa, Bridget Keaveney and Florence Koga
PHOTO: CINDY SIU

JACL thanks its convention sponsors.

NY/SC in Vegas
PHOTO: NY/SC

JACL thanks its convention sponsors.

NY/SC in Vegas
PHOTO: NY/SC

JACL thanks its convention sponsors.
We want to be more accurate. We want to better protect the future of its new National Board for the 2023-24 biennium.

A compromise on several points was ing policy and the true definition of the Twin Cities chapter, represented by President Vinicius Taguchi, received the George J. Inagaki Chapter Citizenship Award.

Among its chapter highlights, Twin Cities is celebrating its 75th anniversary as a chapter and created a four-part virtual program that was designed in response to the murder of George Floyd, as well as tirelessly works to improve community safety in Minneapolis.

Roberta Balkan and Toshi Abe, co-chairs of the JACL’s Legacy Fund Grant Committee, announced that six Legacy Fund Grant awards would be given this year:

- Portland JACL “Portland Public Schools: Japanese American Social Studies Third Grade Curriculum”
- Puyallup Valley JACL “Names Etched in a Horse Stall”
- Seattle JACL “Conversations on Activism and Advocacy”
- Ventura County JACL “Building Unity in the Community: Outreach and Education in Ventura County”
- Washington, D.C., JACL “Inquiry Through Graphic Novel Narratives”

The NY/SC Awards Luncheon honored Vision Award recipient Okaeri, which was accepted by Masa Aizumi, who founded Okaeri to connect individuals and families with LGBTQ+ Japanese/Japanese Americans and allies, and Rino Kodama.

“Today, more Japanese parents are not struggling alone. More families are having honest conversations with their LGBTQ+ loved ones,” said Aizumi. “Okaeri has become a place to come together and learn, grow and courageously share feelings. Okaeri’s vision is to create a world where all LGBTQ+ families are respected, embraced and celebrated.”

And at its Sayonara Gala on Aug. 6, Mayor awarded Congresswoman Grace Meng of New York with the President’s Award, and Sam Miyara and Dianne Fukami were named Japanese Americans of the Biennium.

“Supporting award-winning educators, activist, and leader, has given presentations on his personal incarceration experience at Heart Mountain during World War II to more than 90,000 individuals. Fukami, whose career spans decades in the TV news industry and now produces producing documentary films, including one about the life and legacy of the late-Hon. Norman Mineta, thanked the JACL community for its support of her work throughout the years and Mineta himself.”

“Strengthening our community through actions aligns with the way I have tried to lead my life. . . ." Over the years, I’ve learned much from Norm, but there are two things I want to share tonight [that he told me]: 1) Be involved; 2) Just go out there and do it," said Fukami.

JACL also awarded two Ruby Pins, the organization’s highest service pin, to Chip Larouche and the Hon. Dale Ikeda.

Following installation of the new National Board officers by the Hon. Mike Honda, guest performer Phero Hill liven up the crowd with original songs dedicated in memory of his grandparents.

But before he, as he put it, “was drafted to run, his chapter board first asked his wife, Anne Oda, who also serves on the board, what she thought.

“Usually, she’d be a little more reserved and say, ‘Well, you know, we should ask him’ or something like that,” said Oda. “But she said, ‘Yes, he needs to do this.’”

This was the week before the convention, and several formalities needed to be checked off and attended to first. Once, however, that had been accomplished, Oda had a clear path to the JACL’s presidency.

Asked if the circumstances that, in 2022, compelled him to take the role he held more than 10 years previously constituted a crisis for JACL, Oda answered, “We may be hiding our head in the sand, but, yeah, I think it is a crisis. I mean, for the whole slate to be empty.

“I think that we’re in unprecedented times.” Oda continued, “We’ve seen a crisis. Oda has happen, and we need to look at what are we doing. Why aren’t we generating the kind of leaders that will step up and take responsibility, make decisions for the group?”

Oda recalled his days as the maintenance supervisor for the city of Salinas, Calif., and compared it to JACL’s status quo.

“Regardless of if we were sick or whatever, we had to make sure that things were done,” he said. “I was in a position where, if there was an earthquake, if there was a fire, if there was a flood, a plane crash, we had to be there to help out to take care of things — stop the fire, divert the flood. . . . That’s my training.”

If 2022’s dearth of would-be leaders was an indication that JACL is in fact facing a crisis, it has some ideas on what he needs to prioritize between now and 2024. One of those priorities is setting up a succession plan to preclude what happened in 2022 from recurring.

“I don’t want to disparage the young board, but there was no thought of succession,” he said. Oda also told Pacific Citizen that he wants to look at the results of the actions JACL has taken. Using the escalation in anti-Asian violence as an example, he said, “We’ve issued press releases saying this is wrong and whatever, but what we’ve done hasn’t really had much effect.

“These incidences are still occurring, they haven’t subsided at all,” he continued. “What we’ve been doing has not been effective to me. You know, if we’re looking at the metric of our actions, you know, what we’re doing isn’t causing any effect.

“If you keep beating your head against the wall, and the wall doesn’t move — and if we’re trying to move the wall — we got to do something else.”

Oda said JACL needs to emphasize educational programs that “encourage the youth to become involved in the community” and discern what needs to be done to “encourage folks to become (JACL) members.”

Considering his game-time decision to throw his hat into the ring, Oda admitted that he is still “trying to formulate some coherent goals and objectives” under his presidency.

On JACL’s perennial problem of finance, he said, “What I’m hoping to do is to utilize some fundraising targets that we haven’t really gone after.”

“We talk about diversifying our funding sources,” he continued. “That’s a bunch of bull—. It’s words . . . there’s a whole lot more that goes into it to get to that point.”

As for growing the JACL’s membership, Oda said, “We need to do a better job of promoting ourselves to the population. . . . I think [there are] 850,000 JA’s — and we have 7,000 members, you know, less than 1 percent. What’s going on there? What can we offer that would encourage them to be members?”

As someone who has held the position of JACL national president before, Oda was sanguine about what he brings to JACL in 2022.

“I don’t consider myself one of the best presidents that JACL has ever had. But I think that I’m better than some of them. . . . I don’t see myself as equal to a lot of them, like Floyd Shimomura, or any of the early guys that really put their heart and soul into the organization,” he said.

Referring to a post-Larry Oda succession plan, he said, “I need to find someone that’s better than me.”

For now, however, Oda’s priority is simple: “I’m gonna do the best I can.”
JACL NATIONAL COUNCIL ADOPTS NEW LEGACY FUND MANAGEMENT POLICY

The unanimous decision successfully maintains the viability and sustainability of JACL.

By Dale Ikeda, Legacy Fund Review Committee Chair

I am pleased to report that the JACL National Council adopted a new Legacy Fund Management Policy (“Policy”) during its morning session on Aug. 6 during the recent JACL National Convention in Las Vegas.

The Policy was developed by the Legacy Fund Review Committee (“Committee”), which began its work in February 2021. Many thanks to the Committee’s voting members, including David Lin (vice chair), Matthew Farells (treasurer), Floyd Mori, Paul Uyehara, Ken Inouye and Kendal Takeshita, as well as ex-officio members Jeffrey Moy (national president), David Inoue (national director) and Brandon Mita (national legal counsel). The last time the National Council adopted a formal Legacy Fund Policy was in 2000. That policy expired two years later without the National Council adopting a new policy. The Policy conforms to and incorporates provisions of the 2009 Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA).

The impetus for UPMIFA arose out of the financial crisis of 2008-09 when many non-profit organizations, including JACL, were forced to access endowment funds during the market stock slump due to implied restrictions on invading the corpus based on their solicitation materials. The new law permits “prudent” spending even in years when the endowment portfolio loses money or involves spending a portion of the corpus considered restricted funds under the prior law. For JACL, the corpus has included rebates from chapters with separate corporate prior law. For JACL, the corpus has included in years when the endowment portfolio loses profits could not access endowment funds for the financial crisis of 2008-09 when many non-institutions had access to the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA).

The Policy has two safeguards or guardrails to preserve the value of the Fund. The first is an aspirational threshold called the “Inflation Adjusted Corpus” (IAC). This is defined as the “value of the Corpus taking into account the impact of inflation and deflation on its purchasing power” as adjusted by the Consumer Price Index as reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics. The Policy endeavors to avoid spending that reduces the Legacy Fund balance below the IAC and follow spending below the IAC with “steps to restore the Legacy Fund value to the level of the IAC.”

The second safeguard is to protect the corpus by requiring a two-thirds vote of the National Council to budget any withdrawal that would reduce the Legacy Fund value below the IAC and “take vigorous steps to restore the Corpus thereafter when conditions permit.”

The overall effect of these two policies is to provide a more predictable and steady income stream while protecting the original and inflation-adjusted value of the corpus, including funds reinvested in the corpus.

The Policy has a spending rate between 0 percent and 7 percent of the Legacy Fund’s value averaged over the 36-months trailing Fund values. The 36-month look back will help level out the swings in the Fund’s value, which consists mainly of stocks and bonds and mutual funds composed of the same.

The normal or “default” spending rate is set at 4 percent. (This is more conservative than the 5 percent proposed by the Committee and past practice since 2017.) The spending rate can be adjusted based on seven factors specified in UPMIFA, including general economic conditions, the effects of inflation or deflation and other resources available to JACL.

This year’s JACL budget, which originally proposed a distribution of 5 percent of the Fund’s 24-months trailing average, was approved under the new Policy using 4 percent of the 36-month trailing Fund value of $334,770 out of a total budget of approximately $2.4 million.

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JACL AVOIDS UN-PRESIDENTED TIMES

Analysis: Was dearth of national president candidates a mere blip — or something more concerning?

By P.C. Staff

At its 2018 National Convention in Philadelphia, the Japanese American Citizens League was still shy of its 90th birthday, but it appeared that a youthful wave had arrived with new energy, diversity and reinvigoration for the nation’s oldest Asian American civil rights organization.

At that event’s Sayonara Banquet, newly elected JACL National President Jeffrey Moy said, “You may have noticed something a little bit odd about tonight’s swearing in. I’m here to confirm that your worst nightmare is coming true: Young people are taking over.”

The tongue-in-cheek comment elicited laughs in the moment, but it did reflect the reality that JACL, which was for most of those nearly 90 years an organization led by its first-generation Japanese American founders (bolstered, eventually, by Sansei and others), had finally entered a new era as the Nisei waned by Sansei and others), had finally

Channeling Larry Oda — who, at 77, represents the oldest active JACLer — who had compiled the organization as its national president. Yes, there were occasions where a presidential candidate ran unopposed — but a JACL National Convention without a presidential candidate? It was without precedent. Some of the words used included “sad” and “embarrassing.”

All of those who spoke anonymously recalled when there were hotly contested campaigns not just for the position of JACL national president, but other national offices, too.

In a nod to author S. E. Hinton, that was then, this is now.

Without a doubt, the Covid-19 pandemic can get some blame for the status quo. After all, what didn’t the virus and all its mutations affect? Because of Covid-19, the 2020 JACL National Convention was canceled and 2021’s was a virtual affair, both unprecedented events. That the 2022 National Convention was a success as an in-person affair, with only one person reported to have tested positive for Covid, was a minor miracle. But none of the longtime JACL observers were willing to put all the blame on Covid.

NOTE:
During this pandemic until further notice, our office will be closed periodically, therefore, please contact us by email only.

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312 E. 1 Street, Suite 240 * Los Angeles, CA 90012
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Candidates running for JACL national office advertised in the Pacific Citizen to gain voter support.

PHOTOS: THE PACIFIC CITIZEN.
MEMORIAM

Hashimoto, May Ayame, 95, Los Angeles, CA, June 28; she was predeceased by her husband, John; daughter, Diane Hashimoto; she was survived by her children, Harvey (Yuko) Hashimoto, Dr. Lawrence (Stacy) Hashimoto and Michael (Erica) Hashimoto and Bernice Diatlevi; gc: 5.

Hirano, Sally Mitsuko, 83, La Palma, CA, June 15; she was predeceased by her husband, Ken Takamori Hirano; sister, Shirley Matsumoto; she was survived by her son, Kelly Saburo Hirano; siblings, Harriet Dunn, Janet Terri (Paul) Ogasawara, Wilfred (Jean) and Earl Kurayama; she is also survived by grandnieces, grandnephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

Hirokawa, Roy ‘Sam’ Kiyoshi, 82, Honolulu, HI, July 22; veteran, Army Reserve; he was predeceased by his brother, Joni; brother, Howard; he was survived by his wife, Jeanne S. Dickson; children, Richele (Kenny), Mari Ann (Craig), Mica (Liza), Sarah (Nate), Jeremy (Jennifer), Benjamin (Keachapaule), Rachel (Michael), Timothy (Cara) and John (Katie); sisters, Myrtle Kaneshiro and Dorothy Kometani; gc: 28.

Kimura, Roy Asao, 74, Sacramento, CA, April 5, veteran, Army (Vietnam War); he was predeceased by his brother, Stanley T. Kimura; he is also survived by his wife, Linda; children, Jamie and Paul; son-in-law, Chris; sisters, Pat (Griffin), Aiko and Sandi (Dick); brother-in-law, Richard; sister-in-law, Patsy; gc: 2.

Matsumoto, Lucy, 94, Los Gatos, CA, June 24; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ and the Crystal City internment camp in TX; she was predeceased by her siblings, Allyn Okasaki, Ada (Henry) Uyeda, Tom (Mitzi) Okasaki and Harry Okasaki; she is survived by her husband, Ray; daughter, Vera (David Hikoi); gc: 2; ggc: 3.

Nakao, Mitsuye, 83, San Ramon, CA, April 7; she was predeceased by her siblings, Ruriko (Yosh) Nakano, Tadami Nakao, Masakazu Nakao, Hitoko Nakao and Roger Nakao; she is survived by her sisters, Teuyuye Nakao and Iyoko Katsuyoshi; sisters-in-law, Thomas, George, Frank, Vincent and Taye; she is survived by her children, Frances, Joan Powers (Chuck), Robert (Lisa) and Mary (Karl); siblings, Roy, Ben, Paul and Dorothy Nambu; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 7; ggc: 6.

Nakasone, Carl Yoshiho, 65, Ewa Beach, HI, May 27; he is survived by his son, Justin Nakasone; siblings, Ronald Nakasone and Karen Nakasone; gc: 2.

Nonaka, Terry, 66, Sacramento, CA, March 25; he was predeceased by his brother-in-law, Alan Inouye; he is survived by his wife, Linda; sisters, Susan Nonaka (Glen Spanedy) and Judy Inouye, brother-in-law, Brian Shima-da; a nephew and 3 nieces.

Oku, Miyoko, 93, Los Angeles, CA, July 6; she was predeceased by her husband, Robert; sisters, Miyoko and Ayako; she is survived by her sons, Robert K. Oku and Ronald F. Oku; sister, Nancy Nishi; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Toyotome, Joie Meiko, 71, Capistrano Beach, CA, July 2; B.S., UC Berkeley; she is survived by her siblings, Faith Toyotome-Chap, Dr. Alphonus Nobusumi Toyotome and Philip Kasumi Toyotome; she is also survived by nieces and nephews.

Wakijiki, Takeko ‘Tachi,’ 102, Pasadena, CA, June 24; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Gila River WRA Center in AZ; she was predeceased by her siblings, Masako Shima, Hajima Wakijiki, Kaoru Wakiji, George Wakijiki and Mari Wakijiki; she is survived by many nieces and nephews.

Yamamoto, Rick, 62, Huntington Beach, CA, June 14; he is survived by his wife, Margaret; mother, Sumiko Yamamoto; siblings, Lynn (Jim) and Craig (Doris) Yamamoto; he is also survived by many other relatives.

Yano, Ukie, 97, Alhambra, CA, May 3; she is survived by her children, Christine Gunther (Harry Lewis) and Leslie Maeda (Ele); daughter-in-law, Susan Yano; siblings, Yo (Yasu), Ichiro (Mitzi) and Joe Takehara, Aiko Kida and Fumi Nakamoto; gc: 5; ggc: 3.

Yoshida, Yutaka, 101, Los Angeles, CA, May 16; he is survived by his wife, Sachie; children, Glenn (Marto) and Carol (Mark) Amico; gc: 4; ggc: 2.

PLACE A TRIBUTE ‘In Memoriam’ is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of $20/column inch.

CONTACT: Editorial@pacificcitizen.org or call (213) 620-1767 ext. 104

MEMORIAM

Archibald, Kyoko, 71, Madison, WI, March 11; she is survived by her husband, George; mother, Shizue; sisters, Yoko and Setsuko.

Chiba, Mitsuko, 88, Los Angeles, CA, July 20; she is survived by her children, Shigekazu (Mika) Chiba and Kimiaki (Sayoko) Chiba; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

Doi, David Isamu, 76, Los Angeles, CA, July 6; he was born during WWII while his family was incarcerated in an American concentration camp; B.A., CSULA; J.D., LMU; he is survived by his wife, Sanaye; children, Dana (Glen) Doi-Roillow and Ginni (Lori) Doi-Nguyen; sisters, Kathryn L. Todd, Melinda Manchester and Stanley (Alice) Doi; he is also survived by many nephews and nieces; gc: 4.

Enkoji, Renso Y., 94, Los Angeles, CA, May 27; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Minidoka WRA Center in ID, senior year class president, Minidoka High; veteran, Army, B.A., M.A., Univ. of Utah; he was predeceased by his wife, Mabel; he is survived by his daughters, Ann Enkoji, Renso Y., 94, Los Angeles, CA, July 20; she is survived by her husband, George; children, Ann Enkoji, Nancy Enkoji and Peggy Nishio (David); he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

Fujikawa, Teruko, 95, Parker, CO, June 10; she is survived by her daughters, Eva (Norman) Noda and Karen (Barry Koepeke) Fujikawa; sister, Mitsuko Fuchigami; she is also survived by a nephew, nieces, grandnieces, grandnephews and other relatives; gc: 1.

Fujimoto, Lillian Sadako, 93, Hilo, HI, July 17; she is survived by Jo-Ann (Craig) Shiroma and Laura (Lance Yamada) Fujimoto; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins; gc: 1.

Iba, Toshi, 97, Torrance, CA, July 22; activities: Faith UMC, the Go For Broke National Education Center and JAMM; she was predeceased by her husband, Shigeru; she is survived by her sons, Gary, Glenn (Gloria) and Alan (Patty); gc: 4.

Ichinotsubo, Roger, 95, Torrance, CA, June 25; veteran, Army; he was predeceased by his wife, Mildred; son, Van Ichinotsubo; he is survived by his daughters, Delia (Dane) Matsuura and Tammy (Justi Ezz) Ichinotsubo-Ezzi; daughter-in-law, Cathy Ichinotsubo; gc: 1.

Inouye, Katsue Jon, 78, Torrance, CA, July 20; he is survived by his wife, Hatsumi; children, Shaun (Nonko) Inouye and Eryn (Kevin) Tanaka; siblings, Mari (Stanley) Shirai, Keiko (Daniel) Mattsucuda and Judy (Neal) Tomita; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

Kawata, Shigetaka, 93, Garden Grove, CA, June 18; he is survived by his wife, Dorothy; daughters, Valerie (Bruce) Wakis; Joanne (Michael) Niebla and Pamela (Randy) Amuro; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

Nonaka, Terry, 66, Sacramento, CA, March 25; he was predeceased by his brother-in-law, Alan Inouye; he is survived by his wife, Linda; sisters, Susan Nonaka (Glen Spanedy) and Judy Inouye, brother-in-law, Brian Shimada; a nephew and 3 nieces.

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Yoshida, Yutaka, 101, Los Angeles, CA, May 16; he is survived by his wife, Sachie; children, Glenn (Marto) and Carol (Mark) Amico; gc: 4; ggc: 2.
In the Committee's draft report, the inflation adjustment figure was based on the IAC. However, the recommendation was revised when it became apparent that the data to calculate the IAC would not be available in time for the 2022 National Convention and might never be ascertainable given the state of JACL's records.

A majority of the Committee voted to change the recommendation to an Inflation Adjusted Principal (IAP) using the amount of the donations made to the Legacy Fund of $4,758,081 as the base and applying the Bureau of Labor Statistics' CPI calculator from June 1997, a year after the conclusion of the Legacy Fund Campaign, to the current date.

Since the IAP would be less than the IAC, it would also provide the National Council with greater flexibility in determining an appropriate spending rate. Paul Uyehara submitted a minority report urging the adoption of the original IAC followed by a Supplement to the Memorandum, which was joined by Shimomura.

At the National Council session on Aug. 6, I recommended the adoption of the IAP with the possible consideration at a future convention of converting to the IAC if and when the data points could be determined to make the calculations.

Applying the Policy to the current budget would suggest a spending rate of less than the approved 4 percent of the Legacy Fund value, which was $8,747,066 as of Aug. 3. Mr. Uyehara's estimate of the IAC as of Dec. 31, 2021, was in excess of $9.3 million. Due to the high rate of inflation through July, the IAC grew to over $9.9 million, over $1.1 million more than the IAP for the same time period.

The National Council approved the amendment to substitute the IAP for the IAC. The amended Policy was then adopted unanimously. Congratulations to the delegates for updating the Legacy Fund Policy. The Committee has successfully fulfilled its mission to propose reforms to maintain the viability and sustainability of JACL and conform to current law.

Thank you to all the members of the Committee, both voting and ex-officio members, and advisers David Kawamoto, Cressey Nakagawa and Floyd Shimomura.

Following the presentations, JACL chapter members shared their experiences in their home communities. New Mexico chapter members conducted a symposium with teachers in Santa Fe. The Twin Cities chapter worked to bring the Smithsonian exhibit on the Japanese American experience to the Minnesota History Museum. JACLers from Illinois and Colorado also shared their efforts. Inouye closed the session by emphasizing the importance of local chapter efforts to advocate for inclusive policies.

Even with the virus-inspired rise in anti-Asian violence, was it possible JACL had done too good of a job of breaking down societal and legal barriers that kept previous generations of Japanese Americans and Asian Americans from enjoying all the rights, responsibilities and privileges that came with U.S. citizenship? That notion didn’t fly, either.

One observer thought that it was possible that the organization had veered “a little too far left” with some of its positions, possibly turning off those members who were more middle of the road.

There was also the observation that Moyer had in his four years failed as national president to use his bully pulpit, via vehicles such as this newspaper, to communicate to the membership what he was doing to steer the organization during the rise in anti-Asian violence and the challenges the organization faced during a global pandemic.

Now, it must be said that desiring to be the elected leader of JACL — or any such organization — requires many things. Although it can be a thankless task at times, serving as JACL national president can truly be like a second job in terms of time and energy required — but minus a paycheck.

Also, one needs to be at the right place in life where kids and career aren’t paramount concerns. Furthermore, a healthy (emphasis on healthy!) ego is required, as well as a grounding in reality that one has the right stuff to be that leader.

Many of the problems facing JACL in 2022 are the same ones that confronted JACL of yesteryear: declining membership, relevance, fiscal woes. But JACL also offers avenues to getting real-world leadership experience, not to mention educational and career opportunities. JACL, as one of the few organizations to take on the federal government on civil and constitutional rights and win, also has something to offer with regard to the long-simmering issue of reparations for slavery.

In other words, it’s not over yet for JACL, which was fortunate that Oda, as someone with experience and institutional knowledge, was able to step into the breach. The answer to the question of whether dearth of candidates for JACL national president at a JACL National Convention — the theme for which, unironically, was “Strengthening Our Community Through Action” — was an anomaly or the new normal will be answered in 2024, when we find out at that event’s Sayonara Banquet whether the “sayonara” is figurative or literal.

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TIMES » continued from page 10

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