



## Asian Pacific State Employees Association Central Valley Chapter

### *How it got started*

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1989, Dr Charles P. Lee, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Asian Pacific State Employees Association, Southern Chapter was transferred laterally from the California Youth Authority, Heman G. Stark Youth Correctional Facility in Chino to the Department of Corrections, Pleasant Valley State Prison in Coalinga. While working there, he and Jan Allianic of North Kern State Prison in Delano, planned to organize the Central Valley Chapter under the encouragement of Elaine Chiao. However, in December the same year Dr Lee was called to the CDC Ironwood State Prison in Blythe, California to serve as a staff dentist. So the Central Valley Chapter was put on hold temporarily. The following year Dr Lee was elected to the presidency of the Southern Chapter. In 2000, Dr Lee was re-elected to serve a second term. Just as things were going well Dr Lee was promoted to be the Chief Dental Officer at the CDC Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2000.

From the very first day, when he took office as the Chief Dental Officer at the Central California Women's Facility, Dr Lee recruited two of his dentists, a Correctional Counselor I and another dentist across the street in the Valley State Prison for Women. This dentist, in turn recruited another dentist and a dental assistant. As the days rolled on that small nucleus grew to a thirty-five members strong. At that time these thirty five new members together with the existing members petitioned Sacramento to allow them to organize into the Central Valley Chapter. In November, 2000 the Executive Board in Sacramento voted unanimously to draw up boundaries for the formation of the Central Valley Chapter.

So on January 30<sup>th</sup> 2001 officers for the Central Valley Chapter were elected and the birth of the new chapter was ushered into existence by Derrick Tsang, representing the Executive Board from Sacramento. The officers elected were: Dr Charles P. Lee -President, Benjamin P. Abriol - Executive Vice President, Joan Boothby - Treasurer and Adam See - Assistant Treasurer, Dr Josefina Nazareno - Corresponding Secretary (she later stepped down and Kimberly Wong was appointed to take her place), Pao Sagun - Recording Secretary, (she also stepped down and Dr Richard K. Asami was appointed to take her place). The following month Pao Sagun was appointed the Rule Committee chairperson, Eugene Tong was appointed as the Program Committee chairman, Dr Richard D. May was appointed as the Communication and Publicity Committee chairman, Toby Wong was appointed the Membership Committee chairman, and Don Hom was appointed the Employer/Employee Relation Committee chairman. And Adam See was appointed the liaison for the Scholarship Committee.

Central Valley Chapter immediately set into action. They knew that with all organization there must be money to run the various programs. There were See's candies sale to raise fund for general expenses, auction of goods including Dr Lee's origami swans and dragon boats for scholarship fund, raffles tickets were also on sale for the scholarship fund. The members participated in the functions put up by the Sacramento Chapter and the Southern Chapter, such as Christmas Holiday Mixer, Career Fair, Christmas party and Scholarship dinner and Recognition of Governor Gray Davis' Asian Pacific Islanders Appointees.

APSEA Central Valley Chapter is on the move and is growing. President Toby Wong and Membership Committee Chairman Rufino Orong have plans to recruit and expand the frontiers of the Central Valley. The future of the Central Valley Chapter is very bright. Let's all rally behind our newly elected and work with them that in return we all may reap the benefit.