

Retiring President's Message

Rodney Lum, OD



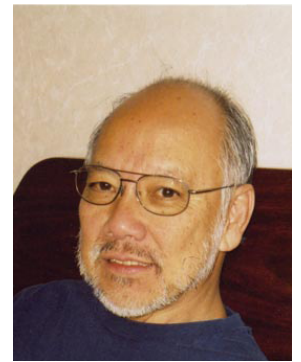
It is with a mixture of gladness and sadness that I write my last President's Message. I never could have imagined I would occupy this position for such a long term when I became president five years ago. At that time I was a novice at leadership and it took me time to get up to speed in handling the many demands of an active organization. I also had to get used to the idea of giving orders instead of receiving them. And I had to learn to both criticize others and take heat myself. And while it was easy for me to dole out praise, I found myself uneasy receiving it. I am happy to have had this apprenticeship since I have developed some good tools for life in general.

As I look back I can see a list of achievements which I will always be proud of and a team of colleagues who helped see them come to fruition. I cannot underestimate the contributions of all the folks who fall under the "CHCP family" banner. I also thank the many people from different parts of our community who I have had the pleasure to come into contact with through my participation with CHCP. The many projects and events, multitude of meetings, spectacular galas, parades, festivals, etc.. all seem to blend together in my mind. But the people will all remain as singular individuals and friends; fellow travelers along this wonderful journey.

In this past year CHCP commemorated its twentieth year with a book, Chinese in San Jose and Santa Clara Valley. I am very proud to have led CHCP in this effort, which though just one of our many projects, seems to encompass all that CHCP is about. This book documents over a century of Chinese American life locally and it includes many of the people who have contributed to this tapestry. The guiding ethic for my efforts is to use the past to inform future decisions and actions. One of my favorite sayings is that "you'll never know where you're going, if you don't know where you've been".

CHCP Director's Profile

Allan T. Low



Al became a CHCP Director in 2007 and co-chaired Save the Date card committee for the 20th anniversary CHCP Gala held in October at the Santa Clara Marriott. Al also was involved in helping with the sale of the book co-authored by CHCP - Chinese in San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley.

Al, born and raised in San Francisco, received a BA in Accounting from San Francisco State College. He was a federal government employee for 20 years, including a 10-year stint with the US Customs Service. He also spent over 20 years working for US multinational companies related to international trade.

His career in the private sector included trade management positions with Mattel Toys, Plantronics, Hewlett Packard, and Agilent Technologies. Al also served for over 2 years as the US business representative to the Customs Subcommittee of the APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) at various worldwide meetings. After retiring from Agilent in 2003, Al continues to be involved in the trade arena as a consultant to several high tech companies.

Al has 3 sons and 3 grandchildren and resides in Saratoga. He enjoys living in the South Bay and taking in the many cultural events in the area. He enjoys traveling and looks forward to future trips to Asia and Europe in 2008. Al also volunteers at the Diabetes Society of Santa Clara. He is an avid long-time 49ers fan and deep sea fisherman; he particularly loves the challenge of pursuing species like tuna and marlin in Mexican and Hawaiian waters.

Continued from Rodney Lum...

It has been a pleasure to serve CHCP and the community. I look forward to continuing my public work in the future and urge you to do the same, since the returns have been greater than the efforts.