

The Yee Fung-toy Family Association 24th National Convention 2012

This grand event was hosted first-time ever by the Seattle Chapter, chaired by Fred Yee, advised by 4 local elders, assisted by three vice chairs, and overseeing 11 subcommittees covering such areas as lodging, banquet/entertainment, transportation/tours, registration, volunteers, etc. Suffice it to say that a National Convention requires great effort, exemplary coordination, and successful preplanning in multiple areas.

The 24th National Convention was based at the Holiday Inn, SeaTac International Airport, and quite fully took up the official dates of August 11 (Saturday) through August 14 (Tuesday) with Wednesday the 15th being the general departure of delegates, families, and guests.

The Board of Directors consisted of these officers, elders and advisors:

Eastern Grand President	King Sun Yee	
Eastern Grand Vice President	Peter C. Yee	
Western Grand President	Larry Yee	
Western Grand Vice President	Alan Yee	
Grand Elders	Herbert K. Yee	John M. Yee
	Damon Yee	Wai Hing Yee
	Jack Yue Yee	Henry Yee
	Gim Dak Yee	Art Yee
	Peter Yee	Joseph Yu
	Hin Leung Yee	
Grand Advisors	James Yee	John B.J. Yee
	Gum E. Yee	Hsui Young Yee
	Gene K. Yee	Kwok H. Yee

Formally, the Planning / Local Committee consisted of all Seattle Chapter Officers and Auxiliary Members; assisting Chairman Fred Yee were:

Advisors: James Yee, Hing Ng, Shek Jing, Suey Yee, Jim Yee

Vice Chairs: Suey Yee, De Shum Yee, Yao Dong Yu

The delegates of the Phoenix, Arizona Chapter were led by Grand Elder John M. Yee, with President Joe Yue, Vice President Cheak Yee and Adviser David M. Yee formally designated as representatives. Also present were local Chapter Advisers: Rudy Yee and Edward Yee. [Non-delegates have admission to sessions if registered, but have neither voice nor vote.] Additionally, David M. Yee attended as a Website Committee Chairperson.

This report will briefly focus not so much on the activities of the Convention (the ceremonies, the banquets, the tours/sights, the program for guests, etc.) but on the formal business conducted on behalf of the Association.

August 11 – Preparatory Meeting

A preliminary session for Delegates convened in the evening; at this time, the appointments for the Convention were proposed and finalized. This included designating for each of the subsequent business sessions which delegate would be the presiding officer. Similarly the grand elders and grand advisors were formally recognized as well as committees organized. A total of 62 delegates were certified to be in attendance from the various Chapters in the United States.

Cheak Yee was designated as an English Secretary, which post periodically required brief absences from the convention floor; this factor may account for less than 100% accuracy with regards to this presentation, which is preliminary to the Formal Report being prepared for inclusion in the official Convention Book of the 24th National Convention. Peter Yu was designated as the Chinese Secretary and will have prepared more authoritative recordings in terms of comprehensive coverage.

Minutes of the preceding 23rd National Convention in 2009 were reviewed and approved.

August 12 – Convention Inaugurating Ceremonials

The Convention gathered in the morning to pay respect to the Model Ancestor, Yee Fung-toy/Yu Fengcai, a scholar official during the Northern Song Dynasty (960 to 1125 C. E.) so distinguished for his career of service that after his death in 1065 C.E. (at the age of 65), he was ennobled by the Zhiping-era Emperor Yingzong to the rank of Duke (Gong) with a sobriquet of “Loyal Assisting”: Zhongxiang. (*The character for “assisting” etymologically indicates rolling up the clothing to engage in agricultural labor – or in modern English parlance, to ‘roll up the sleeves and get the job done.’*)

After lunch, the Convention formally opened with the customary auspicious report of grand fireworks and dances of a dozen troupes not only of lions, but two dragons as well. Dignitaries were present not only of the State of Washington, but from abroad – not only the special guests among Yee Fung-toy delegations that had just recently attended the 5th World Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, but also the Minister (of Cabinet rank), the Honorable Wu Ying-yi, M.D., of the Overseas Compatriots Affairs Commission of the Government of the Republic of China on Taiwan as well as the local official representatives in the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Seattle.

August 13 – Plenary Sessions

The Convention heard reports of the activities of the Eastern and Western Grand Presidents during their terms of office (2009 to 2012).

Proposal #1 – regarding possible flexibilities in the administration of treasuries of local chapters. This was tabled.

Proposal #2 – regarding increasing by \$20,000 to a total of \$60,000 the Moo-kai Educational and Benevolent Foundation funds to be made available for scholarship awards due to increased income in non-profit tax status. This measure passed.

Proposal #3 – regarding use of Moo-kai Foundation funds of \$50,000 for repairs at the San Francisco National Headquarters. This measure was tabled.

Proposal #4 – regarding adjusting term of offices of Yee Fung-toy representatives sitting on the Board of Directors of the Hop Wo Association from one year to the usual two year terms of that Board. This measure passed.

Proposal #5 – regarding the uniform usage in local chapters of a single authorized portrait of the Model Ancestor, the version being that at the National Headquarters which had been carefully researched and prepared.

On this measure, there was considerable concern where local chapters have to replace what had been their own long usages and which will naturally be regarded with fond sentiment; it was clarified that the establishment of a single authorized portrait did not preclude or require local conformity in strictest terms, but all chapters should appropriately utilize and honor the authorized standard.

The measure passed with 33 votes out of 61 delegates present and voting.

Proposal #6 – regarding National Headquarters (officers) elevated to Grand Elderships in order to better supervise activities. This measure was defeated.

[Original Proposal #7 – regarding disputes among Auxiliary Members to be resolved either by dissolution or by suspension for three years.

[On this measure, there was considerable concern over recent discord in general, as well as over certain interpretations of the actions of the leadership of the Auxiliary (particularly whether or not the Auxiliary could be accused of undertaking political stances prohibited by our I.R.S. status), and on whether or not such matters were 1) germane to this Convention per se, 2) were possibly due to misinterpretation or misunderstanding, and 3) were best handled by National Headquarters and be brought to the next National Convention if that fails to achieve mutually satisfactory solutions.

[Given the full airing of all concerns, and especially with multiple expressions that the Yee Fung-toy Family Association regards its Auxiliary and all Yee kindred women with the highest esteem, this measure was WITHDRAWN.]

Proposal #7 – regarding production of a DVD version of the Centennial National Convention Book for distribution to the local chapters, defrayed by \$2,000 from the Moo-kai Foundation to reimburse the costs in time and materials. This would formally be released by the National Headquarters which would retain the copyright. This measure passed.

Proposal #8 – regarding the authorization of Special Youth Projects by local chapters with national support, which would not occur more frequently than once per year and which would not receive funding above \$1000, subject to submission of detailed plans in advance as well as a formal report on results in attracting participation by younger Yee kindred. This measure passed.

August 14 Plenary Sessions

Proposal #9 – regarding the provision of comprehensive bilingual documentation and discussion for all official Convention business.

This measure occasioned considerable discussion, noting the importance of accurate translation, especially in the context that proposals will be offered from the floor and cannot always be only required to be submitted well in advance, and stressing that a transition cannot be avoided where at the current (as well as previous) period the Cantonese is prevalent but that in the future among younger generations the English will become more requisite, which transition to be administratively effective will require as well a revision to the Bylaws of the Association.

In principle, this measure was passed, with the understanding that National Headquarters will strive to assist and ensure that future National Conventions will have adequate facility to provide for bilingual documents and translated discussions of official business.

Proposal #10 – regarding the accession of a renewed Washington, D.C. Chapter, which has more than exceeded the minimum membership requirements, given that proper forms and reports are filed with the National Headquarters which will then grant formal recognition, before which the official usage of membership in the National Association will only then become proper. This measure was passed.

Proposal #11 – regarding the nature and operation of the Auxiliary and of Youth Auxiliary. The original basic measure provided for autonomy of these organizations to elect their own officers and to maintain their own budgetary/financial operations. The autonomy, under discussion, would be interpreted to mean separate boards of directors which may occasionally cooperatively convene but do not constitute a single body. The measure was passed.

Additional discussion focused on the President of the Auxiliary being able to attend meetings of the National Association, Headquarters, or other bodies as may be appropriate. This motion passed.

Further additional discussion focused on adding formal seats to the National Association Board of Directors to a representative from the Auxiliary and a representative from the Youth Auxiliary. This motion passed.

Agenda Item #12 – this was the formal rubric by which a Report of the Website Committee was presented to the Convention by Chairman David M. Yee. Technical details are available if desired; the Committee was constituted for the upcoming three years' term with new officers. William Yee of San Francisco was additionally added to the Committee membership to assist in coordination with the National Headquarters.

Proposal #13 – regarding a possible loan of funds to assist the Seattle Chapter in project of relocating from current rented facilities to a potentially purchased site.

During discussion of this measure, an informal auctioneering-style pledge sessions raised \$54,900 towards the cost of this project, which will be held in trust at the National Headquarters for future deployment on receipt of detailed plans/data from the Seattle Chapter, which can further be added to by additional fund-raising, and which will administered in a separate account from other National Headquarters finances, with four signatories on the account, each transaction to be signed by two thereof. It was understood that should, in the future, some additional funds may be needed on a loan basis, this can be further considered at that time.

As defined in greater detail above, the measure in principle was adopted.

[Special Note: at the concluding banquet of the Convention, in appreciation of the warm general support for the effort to attain a new local Chapter site, a most generous donation of \$20,000 was further pledged by Adviser Hing Ng of the Seattle Chapter bringing total pledged to \$74,900.]

Agenda Item #14 – Western Grand President Alan Yee and a committee of delegates had undertaken a financial review of bank statements related to all accounts having any relevance to the National Association, its funds, trusts, etc. These were found to have been prepared by a CPA firm with long-standing acquaintance with the finances of the National Association. The financial portrait which emerged was of overall financial stability with conservative/prudent practices.

In floor discussion, the preceding history of financial operations was further clarified. The financial review of the 2009-2012 term was moved, seconded, and adopted as presented.

Agenda Item #15 – Bylaws Revisions:

Ten sections of the Bylaws were reviewed and appropriate revisions were made to reflect either perceived required alterations or the Proposals adopted as of this point in time by this National Convention. Additionally, two new texts affecting two Articles were added. The affected sections were:

- Chapter II. Article 4 - in 2 places
- Chapter II. Article 5
- Chapter III. Article 3
- Chapter III. Article 20 (new/replacing previous text)
- Chapter III. Article 22
- Chapter III. Article 24
- Chapter III. Article 24, Section 7
- Chapter III. Article 24, Section 9 (new)
- Chapter VI. Article 32
- Chapter VI. Article 37
- Chapter VI. Article 39
- Chapter VII. Article 41.

Article II, Section 7 was compared to Article VI, Section 40 to consider if an alteration might be needed, but it was determined that these could stand without revision.

Convention Business Item #16 – Chapter and Other Reports

Written reports were distributed from the National Headquarters, from the Website Committee, from Western Grand Vice President Alan Yee, as well as from the following Chapters:

New York, Seattle, Phoenix, and Southern California

Convention Elections

Elected for Eastern Region Grand President and Grand Vice President, respectively, were:

Peter Yee Gong Sum Yee

Elected for Western Region Grand President and Grand Vice President, respectively, were:

Alan Yee Fred Yee

Site for the 25th National Convention in 2015: Boston, MA