

**Seattle Lodge General Information**

**History and Mission**

Established just four years ago, Seattle is the second newest charter of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.), one of the nation’s oldest civil rights organizations, having been founded in 1895 in San Francisco.

The mission of the organization is to promote and protect civil rights, develop leadership in Chinese youth and provide community service.  C.A.C.A. connects Chinese Americans through its 19 chapters across the country to work together on issues critical to the Chinese American community.

For more information about C.A.C.A.’s national activities, history and mission, please see cacanational.org.

**Asian/Pacific American Communities in King County**

The 2010 U.S. Census Bureau reports that the Asian/Pacific Islander population make up over 16% of King County’s two million population with one of every six persons in Seattle identifying as Asian or of mixed Asian ethnicity.

**Seattle Lodge’s Activities**

*Education/Training*

The National C A.C.A. holds an annual program, Asian Students In Action (A.S.I.A.), where high school and college students are sponsored by their local lodges to participate in a leadership training program held at Rice University in Houston, TX. The Seattle Lodge plans to send two students each year. The A.S.I.A. program is designed to:

* Promote ethnic and cultural awareness in appreciation of diversity that exists within the Asian American community,
* Encourage pride in our various ethnic backgrounds and heritage,
* Engage students in team-building activities,
* Develop and practice leadership skills,
* Foster effective social interaction and communication among students,
* Connect students with college and professional mentors,
* Provide a vehicle through which students may provide support to one another.

*Political Involvement*

Yearly, the C.A.C.A. sends an advocacy team to Washington D.C. to lobby and educate politicians on issues relevant to the Chinese American Community. In 2013, C.A.C.A. celebrated the passing of H.R. 683, which expressed regret for the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the only law in American history to target an ethnicity.

Since 2013, the Seattle Lodge has developed and piloted a curriculum to teach students about the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act. In March 2014, C.A.C.A.’s youth met with WA Superintendent of Public Instruction, Randy Dorn to discuss the importance of public awareness about the Exclusion Act and its long term implications for the greater community and on current immigration reform. Future goals include continuing to educate the public about this important piece of Chinese American history and to lobby the Washington State Legislature to mandate the teaching of the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act in WA State public schools.

*Essay Contest and Merit Scholarship*

Each year, C.A.C.A. Seattle provides scholarships to high school students who complete a timed essay on a selected topic relevant to current social or political events and are pursuing higher education. All essays are sent to San Francisco where they are also judged nationally affording students the potential for an additional scholarship.

*Community Involvement*

The Seattle Lodge actively participates in the community and collaborates with local agencies. Activities include:

* An annual “rice drive” at the Chinese Information Service Center. Members purchase over 1000 lbs of rice, bag and distribute it in 5 lb containers to local seniors.
* Contributions each year to the Costco Chicken Giveaway at the ACRS Food Bank in the International District.
* Arranging opportunities for members and youth to tour local Chinese businesses, meet local politicians involved in Chinese American issues and learn about the political process.
* Co-sponsoring Asian Heritage Day with the Mariners, an event where proceeds from ticket sales go towards benefiting local Asian organizations.

**Meetings**

The Seattle Lodge meets the third Sunday of each month at various venues throughout the Greater Seattle area.  The chapter welcomes new members and is a great way for families to participate together toward a worthwhile cause.

**Contact Information**

For more information, see [www.cacaseattle.org](http://www.cacaseattle.org), www.cacanational.org or email event @cacaseattle.org or info@cacaseattle.org.