From the Executive Director

It has been an eventful six months. Since the last newsletter, CAA opened a new office in Sacramento, vigorously debated whether to change our name, said goodbye to our dedicated executive director, Diane Chin, and helped form a statewide coalition to oppose the dangerous and divisive Proposition 54. This edition of CAA Voice looks at these efforts, but I want to focus on CAA’s current transition.

As many of you know, one of the most difficult issues faced by CAA in recent years has been the discussion among staff, board, and members about whether to change our name. In many ways, this discussion mirrors the ongoing debate within the larger Asian and Pacific American (APA) community about how to most effectively empower our communities—whether to look outward and build stronger bonds with other APAs, or to look inward, focusing on the strengths of each particular ethnic community.

The name change exploration grew out of the five-year strategic plan adopted by the board in 1999, which spelled out two important goals: 1) increasing CAA’s ability to provide statewide leadership on civil rights policy issues, and 2) expanding CAA’s work in other Asian and Pacific American communities. After interviewing numerous supporters and organizations that work closely with CAA, the board initially voted in July 2002 to recommend that members approve changing CAA’s name to “Center for Asian American Advocacy.” However, when several long-time supporters raised objections, the board delayed its decision and consulted additional members and supporters.

During the process that followed, many members and supporters endorsed the proposed name because it more accurately reflects CAA’s work and strengthens CAA’s civil rights leadership. But others raised questions about CAA’s commitment to our historical roots in the Chinese American community and whether we could speak effectively to Chinese Americans with the proposed name. Some also expressed reservations about the process itself, arguing that members needed to be more fully consulted.

After considerable discussion, CAA’s board passed a resolution that reaffirmed both CAA’s roots in the Chinese American community, as well as our commitment to work with and on behalf of other APAs. The resolution, adopted at the May 13, 2003 board meeting, keeps the organization’s current name. It calls upon Chinese for Affirmative Action to develop a plan to strengthen our work on behalf of Chinese immigrants, while at the same time establishing a new “Center for Asian American Advocacy” project to expand CAA’s work with the broader APA communities, particularly at the state level.

The resolution reflects CAA’s work of the last few years. Even with the departure of executive director Diane Chin in June, we continue to expand and deepen our efforts both locally and at the state level. CAA continues to serve thousands of Chinese immigrants each year in our Chinatown and Visitacion Valley offices, and we will soon launch a new community organizing and leadership development project in Visitacion Valley. And as described in the article on page 3, we are very proud to have opened the first office in Sacramento dedicated to advocating for the civil rights of Asian and Pacific Californians.

No matter what their position, everyone involved in the name change debate agreed that CAA must continue to fight for the civil rights of Asian and Pacific Americans. Right now, the fight is against Proposition 54. CAA has taken the lead in forming a statewide APA coalition against Prop. 54 and helped raise $20,000 for a campaign targeting likely Chinese and other APA voters. To beat Prop. 54 we must do what CAA has effectively done throughout its history: educate our constituents and build coalitions across communities. We thank each of you for your support and commitment to civil rights.

Theodore Wang
Interim Executive Director

Vote No on Proposition 54

Ward Connerly is back. Nearly six years after he led the effort to ban most types of public affirmative action programs in California, he has an even more dangerous measure on the ballot. Proposition 54 will ban most state and local government agencies from collecting data on race, ethnicity, and national origin. It will make it difficult to prevent discrimination and devastate the state’s ability to collect vital information needed to safeguard health and safety and combat hate crimes. Here are three reasons to vote NO on Proposition 54.

● Makes It “Easy to Practice Discrimination”

Connerly claims that his initiative will create a “color-blind” society, but Prop. 54 doesn’t eliminate discrimination, it hides it. Prop. 54 prohibits state civil rights enforcement agencies from collecting race data in almost all situations. Even when investigating racial discrimination or hate violence complaints, most agencies will not be able ask individuals (including victims) for their race or ethnicity, making it virtually impossible to enforce civil rights laws. Senator Dianne Feinstein, who is opposed to Prop. 54, has observed that it “would end the State’s ability to enforce civil rights and make it alarmingly easy for groups and individuals to practice discrimination.”

● Bans Information Needed to Save Lives

The initiative will make it illegal for public health agencies and research institutions such as the University of California to track diseases and health issues by race. The ban will prevent physicians and health workers from understanding how specific illnesses affect different... (continued on page 2)
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No on Prop. 54 (continued from page 1)

populations and make it impossible to create prevention programs tailored to different communities and cultures.

For example, current research shows that white women are more often diagnosed with breast cancer. Asian Americans are at higher risk for Hepatitis-B. Latinos are more likely to die from complications of diabetes. African Americans die from heart disease at a higher rate. Since most health studies use surveys or population data research, the initiative will rob our communities of critical information that can save lives. This is why Prop. 54 is opposed by the California Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, California Medical Association and many other medical groups.

- Bans the State from Collecting Information Law Enforcement and Local Communities Use to Combat Hate Crimes and Prevent Racial Profiling

Especially since September 11th, hate crimes are a serious danger for Asian and Pacific Americans. According to the Attorney General, the initiative will hurt efforts to combat hate crimes because local police can no longer collect data on victims. The initiative will also ban state agencies from collecting and analyzing the data that could demonstrate racial profiling.

The biggest challenge in defeating Proposition 54 is that almost half of the voters are not even aware of it. Please help spread the word about this initiative and urge your family members, friends and colleagues to vote NO on Proposition 54. For more information, please visit APAs for an Informed California at www.apasagainst54.org, or the No on 54 campaign at www.defeat54.org. Together, we can defeat Proposition 54 and send a message that Californians will not tolerate divisive attacks on our rights, health, and safety.

CAA Launches Innovative ESL Class

CAA has known for years that one of the biggest barriers for Chinese immigrants who want construction work is English. Workers with a wealth of experience in construction are often unemployed or underemployed, and large public works projects in San Francisco usually have few Asian and Pacific American workers. This spring, CAA partnered with City College to offer a Vocational English as a Second Language (VESL) project to help clients overcome this barrier. Our VESL class was for San Franciscans who had construction experience and basic English skills, but still needed to improve their English to access better jobs. Our class began in April with 32 very enthusiastic students.

The class was held at The Village in Visitacion Valley, where CAA has an office. We wanted the course to be accessible to the local community, and indeed, many students live in Visitacion Valley, Bayview and the Excelsior.

The classroom instructor, Janet Langon from City College, has years of experience teaching VESL classes. She took special care to develop and tailor the curriculum to this class’s needs, and she listened carefully to suggestions. Janet greatly enjoyed the project, commenting that the “students are highly motivated and cooperative.”

Le Quach, CAA’s newest Employment Advocate, has been providing individual job counseling to participants and assisted at most of the classes. She arranged on-site presentations by the cement masons, boilermakers, electricians, ironworkers, roofers and painters unions, and also led field trips. Supported through grants from the San Francisco First Source Hiring Administration and the Asian Pacific Fund, CAA will continue providing counseling services and ongoing workshops for the graduates through May.

Twenty-seven clients completed the class in August, with 21 receiving certificates for their consistent attendance and participation. Client York Ou told us that the most useful things he learned in the class were “the names of tools I use and interviewing skills.” Many students at graduation said that they would like to see this course offered again, and CAA is seeking renewed funding so that more community members will be able to benefit.
A Voice for Asian and Pacific Americans in California’s Capital

In March of this year, CAA opened a new Sacramento legislative advocacy office to promote and defend the civil rights of Asian and Pacific Americans in California. Asian Americans for Civil Rights and Equality (AACRE) is a collaboration between CAA and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC). Our advocacy on statewide issues has grown substantially in recent years — with AACRE we can now work for APAs civil rights in Sacramento full time.

CAA Legislative Advocate Vik Malhotra moved to Sacramento to spearhead the project. In just six months, AACRE has led efforts to address language access, educational inequity, discrimination, and voter participation through legislation and administrative advocacy.

Among our major accomplishments is a bill to remedy the fraudulent exploitation of limited-English speaking consumers. Assembly Bill 309, authored by Judy Chu (D-Monterey Park) and co-sponsored by CAA and APALC, requires businesses that negotiate certain agreements in the native language of limited-English speaking consumers.

Other recent AACRE activities include:
- Organizing an APA Legislative Briefing for lawmakers and their staff on issues important to the state's APA population, co-sponsored by the API Legislative Caucus and APA community groups;
- Drafting and supporting AB 526 (Chan), a bill to increase voter participation through an Election Day registration pilot program in Alameda County (the bill has passed the legislature and is waiting for the Governor's approval);
- Leading advocacy efforts for improved language access to the state Labor and Workforce Development Agency, with a coalition of labor and immigrant rights organizations;
- Pushing the state Department of Education to implement measures creating meaningful involvement in the educational process for limited-English speaking parents of public school children;
- Testifying against Proposition 54 on behalf of California’s APA communities before a joint state Senate and Assembly Judiciary hearing on the impact of the initiative; and
- Participating on the Secretary of State’s advisory committee to help draft a new state voting and outreach plan to implement the federal Help Americans Vote Act.

California’s APAs are approaching 14% of the population and a record seven APA legislators are serving in legislature — and now we have an independent advocate for our civil rights in Sacramento. CAA will be building on the success of AACRE’s inaugural year, and we invite you to join our growing statewide network of APA organizations and community leaders.

To stay updated on AACRE, e-mail your contact information to Legislative Advocate Vik Malhotra (vmalhotra@caasf.org) and we’ll add you to our informational list serve. Plus, don’t miss the CAA Community Briefing on AACRE’s work (see back).

Thank You  CAA staff would like to take this opportunity to bid a belated farewell to our fearless leader of 5 years, Diane Chin. Diane left CAA in June for Stanford Law School, where she is now the Director of Public Interest and Public Policy Programs. Diane brought all of us together in her tireless efforts to strengthen CAA’s capacity to advance and protect the civil rights of Asian and Pacific Americans, not only in the Bay Area but throughout the state. Diane is not only a leader, she is a mentor and a friend. Although we miss her terribly, Diane left a little bit of her strength and passion in each of us — so that we, too, can work fearlessly. Thank you, Diane.

Just a few of things we’ve been doing in 2003 . . .

February – Community Briefing on Supreme Court affirmative action cases, with CAA Policy Director Ted Wang and special guest Karen Narasaki
March – CAA is (H)API Hour beneficiary at Hukilau Bar & Grill
April – CAA and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center open Asian Americans for Civil Rights and Equality (AACRE) (see above)
May – CAA leads efforts to overturn UC Berkeley’s discriminatory ban on summer students from China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong
June – 34th Celebration of Justice (see page 4)
July – Community Briefing on new information from Census 2000
August – CAA kicks off campaign against Prop 54 with other members of Asian Pacific Americans for an Informed California (see page 1)

September – Gov. Davis signs AB309 (see above)
CAA Celebration of Justice

CAA celebrated our 34th year with our annual Celebration of Justice on June 11th at the Westin St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco. CAA was honored to have Wade Henderson, executive director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, as our keynote speaker. Mr. Henderson spoke about the need for multi-racial collaboration as we all work to promote and protect our civil rights in the 21st century.

The evening, emceed by journalist Hari Sreenivasan and CAA board member Teresa Lai, also included remarks by outgoing CAA executive director Diane Chin and by CAA’s interim executive director and policy director, Ted Wang, who spoke about the urgency of Proposition 54 and its potential damaging effects on the civil rights of our communities.

This year’s CAA Civil Rights Honorees were Kaiser Permanente’s National Linguistic and Cultural Programs and Sylvia Yee, Vice President of Programs at Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund. Congratulations to our honorees and we thank them for their commitment to social justice and their labors to create a more equitable society.

CAA would also like to acknowledge our Champion for Justice, Wells Fargo, who is consistently one of CAA’s biggest corporate supporters. Finally, we would like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers and everyone who attended the event for your support!

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### 行政主任致意

過去六個月活動頻繁。自從上次通訊編印以來，華僑會在州府開設一個新的辦事處，熱烈討論是否應改名，惜別我們投入工作的行政主任陳天蔚，及幫助成立一個全州的同盟，反對分裂性的五十四號提案。今期華僑會的通訊將集中於這些報道，但我想先談談華僑會現時的過渡。

正如你們不少人知道，華僑會近年面對最困難的議題之一，是職員丶董事和會員討論應否將華僑會改名。在很多方面來說，這個討論反映了更大的亞太裔社區內的論爭，即如何更有效地加強我們社區的力量——到底是向外看和其他亞太裔更緊密的合作，還是集中於力量於個別的族裔社區。

改名的探討，是董事會一九九九年通過的五年策略計劃一部分，重要的目標有二：（一）加強華僑會在全州推動民權政策議題的領導力；和（二）擴大華僑會和亞太裔社區的合作。經過和多個與華僑會緊密合作的人士及機構討論之後，董事會在二零零二年二月投票初步建議向會員徵求同意將華僑會的英文名稱改為「亞太權益促進中心」。但是，當有些長期支持者表示反對之後，董事會就延遲決定，向更多會員和支持者徵詢意見。

在跟著的過程中，很多會員和支持者支持建議的名字，因它更能反映華僑會的工作和加強華僑會的民權領導力。但有些人懷疑華僑會是否將一如既往對歷史根源的華裔社區盡心，以及新名字是否能更有效地為華裔講話。有些對改名的程序有所保留，認為應更有份的先徵求會員意見。

經過相當然討論後，華僑會董事會通過一個決議，重申華僑會以華裔社區為根，及致力與代表亞太裔合作。此決議於二零零三年五月十三日的董事會通過，保留華僑會的現名。它促請華僑會制定一個加強我們華裔移民工作的計劃，同時設定一個新的「亞裔權益促進中心」的計劃，以加強華僑會和更廣大亞太裔社區的合作，特別在全州層面。

這個決議反映華僑會過去幾年的工作。即使在行政主任陳天蔚在六月離職後，我們仍繼續擴大和加深我們在本地和州層面的工作。華僑會繼續在華埠和訪谷區，每年為數以千計的華僑服務，而我們即將在訪谷推出一個新的社區組織和領導發展計劃。正如我們在本期通訊一篇報導指出，我們很高興在州府設立第一個為亞太裔爭取民權的辦事處。

不論立場如何，參與改名討論的每個人都同意華僑會必須鍾續為亞太裔爭取民權。現時我們集中於反對五十四號提案。華僑會領導成立一個全州的亞太裔同盟，反對五十四號提案，並籌到二萬元專用於向華裔和亞太裔選民宣傳。要打敗五十四號提案華僑會必須像以前一樣，教育我們的選民，團結各個社區，在此感謝每個民權的支持者。

署理行政主任

### 謝謝你

華僑會職員願借此機會，向任職行政主任五年，大公無私的陳天蔚作道別的惜別。陳在六年內辭職出任史丹福大學法學院的公共利益和公共政策計劃主任。陳多年孜孜不倦加強華僑會推進和保障亞太裔民權的力量，不只限於灣區一地，而且遍及加州。陳不只是我們的領導，也是一個導師和啓蒙人。我們都很懷念她，她給我們每個人都留下力量和熱情——所以我們可無畏無懼地工作。感謝你，陳天蔚。

### 投票反對54號提案

康納利又回來了。自從六年前他領導禁止在加州推行大部份的平權計劃之後，現在他又提出一個更危險的提案。他提出的第五十四號提案，將禁止大部份的州和本地政府機構，收集或使用有關種族、族裔和原國籍的資料。五十四號提案限制政府無法收集保護健康和安全和對付罪案的重要資料。以下三個理由投票反對54號提案。

- **五十四號提案使「實行政歧視十分容易」**

康納利指出他的提案將會創造一個「無視種族上的社會」，但五十四號提案並沒有消除其隱蔽的歧視。五十四號提案禁止州政府執行機構將羌在所有的情況下收集有關種族的資料。即使在調查種族歧視或仇恨暴力投訴案件時，大部份的機構將不可以查詢個人（包括受害者）的種族或族裔，因此事實上無法執行民權法。反對五十四號提案的范士丹參議員已指

出此提案「將結束州政府執行民權法的能力，並使團體或個人實行歧視時，十分容易。」

- 禁止需要挽救生命的資料
  提案將使公共衛生機構和研究機構，例如加州大學等，如用種族來紀錄疾病或健康的問題，將屬非法。這個禁止，使醫生和衛生工作者無法明白某類疾病對不同人口的影響，因而無法針對不同社區和文化，制定預防計劃。

  例如，現時的研究指出白人婦女通常被診斷為多患乳癌，而亞裔則有較高患乙型肝炎的危險。拉丁裔則更多因糖尿病併發症而致命。非裔人士，患心臟病致死的比率較高。因為大部份的健康研究是使用調查和人口資料研究，此提案將剝奪社區能夠挽救生命的重要資料。因此加州家庭醫生協會、美國小兒科醫生協會、加州醫療協會和眾多其他的醫療團體，均反對五十四號提案。

- 禁止州政府收集執法機構和本地社區用來打擊仇恨犯罪，和防止以種族取人的資料
  特別自九一一之後，仇恨暴力對亞裔和太平洋裔更見危險。根據州察處的資料，提案將影響打擊仇恨罪行，因爲本地的警察將不可以收集受害人的資料。提案同時禁止州政府機構收集和分析可以呈現以種族取人的資料。

  要打敗五十四號提案最大的挑戰，是差不多有一半的選民不知道此事。請告訴其他人有關五十四號提案，並敦促你的家人、朋友和同事反對五十四號提案。查詢詳情，可瀏覽關注此提案的亞太裔組織的網頁　www.apasagainat54.org。大家合力，我們可以打敗五十四號提案，發出一個信息，加州人，不能容忍分裂我們權利、健康和安全的攻擊。

華促會舉辦創意性的 ESL英語班

多年來華促會知道華裔移民建築業工作的最大障礙之一，是英語。很多有豐富建築經驗的社區人士，很多時都無法找到工作或做低薪的建築工作，而三藩市很多大型的工程，亦少見亞裔的員工。因此，華促會和市立大學合作在這個春季開始推出一個職業英語 VESL 的課程，幫助求職者克服這個困難。

我們這個課程，主要招收已有建築經驗和有基本英文能力但仍未需要改善他們的英語以能獲得更好工作的三藩市居民。課程在四月開班，共有三十二名學員。

此課程在訪谷區內（華促會在該處設有辦事處）上課。我們希望課程能方便當地的社區，而事實上，很多學員都是住在訪谷區、灣景區和 Excelsior 區的。

教師 Janet Langon 來自市立大學，有多年教授職業英語的經驗。她特別用心發展課程，以求符合學生的需要，而她十分留心聽取意見。Janet 很喜歡教授此課，指出「學生都極有學習精神，十分合作。」

華促會最新的就業顧問郭雪莉為學員提供顧問，並幾乎參與協助每課的進行。她為學員在課上安排水泥工、鍋爐工、電工、鐵工、電工和油漆工工會的簡報，和實地參觀。在 First Source Hiring Administration 和亞太基金會資助下，華促會繼續在五月為畢業生提供顧問服務和講座。

在八月共有二十七名學員完成整個課程，其中二十一名因經常出席和參與而取得證書。學員之一的 York Ou 告訴我們，他在課上學到最有用的是「我使用的工具名稱，和面對技巧。」

很多畢業的學生說他們希望再開課，而華促會正尋求資助，使更多的社區人士能得益。

### 一些我們在二零零三年的工作：

- **一月**：周年會員會議，加州大學柏克萊分校教授 Taeku Lee 主講：《從神話到動員：亞太裔政治的改變潮流》
- **二月**：社區簡報高等法院平權案件，主講華促會政策主任王德威及特別嘉賓 Karen Narasaki
- **三月**：華促會在 Hukilau Bar & Grill 舉行 (H)API-Hour 籌款
- **四月**：華促會與亞太裔法律中心開設亞裔民權和公平辦事處（參看另文）
- **五月**：華促會領導參觀加州大學分校歧視性禁止接納來自中國、台灣和香港的暑期生
- **六月**：舉行第三十四屆周年籌款晚會
- **七月**：社區簡報 2000 年人口普查
- **八月**：華促會與其他亞太裔合作，開始反對五十四號提案運動（參看另文）
- **九月**：戴維斯州長簽署 AB 309 提案（參看另文）
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CAA Briefing: Update on AACRE’s First Six Months
Wednesday, Oct. 22, 6:30 - 8:30 PM  CAA Community Room

Celebrate Visitacion Valley
Saturday, Oct. 4, 11 AM to 2 PM
Visitacion Valley’s annual community celebration will be held this year at the Visitacion Valley Playground Clubhouse. Free immunizations and check-ups for kids, cultural performances and children’s activities. Everyone welcome!