



拿省華人協會

The Chinese Society of Nova Scotia

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CSNS NEWSLETTER Vol.1 04/05 December 1, 2004

1. Annual General Meeting

The annual General Meeting was held on Sunday October 3, 2004 at Franc's Restaurant. The following is the draft of the minutes prepared by the past executives.

Draft Minutes of The Chinese Society of NS 2004 AGM

Time: Sunday, October 3, 2004 4:30pm-9:20pm

Location: Fran's Restaurant, 451 Windmill Rd. Dartmouth

Present: 103 adult members:

Michael & Irene Chan, Ben & Faustina Chen, David Chen, Lisa Wu, Dedee Lim-Chen, Franklyn Chen, Diana Li, Leon Cheng, Wang Cheng, Zai Ping Liu, Fred & Linda Chu, Jie Dai, Mei Wang, Zhongmin Dong, Jing Yang, Dow & Sharon Fong, Mark & Alana Fung, Wenche Gausdal, Sui Hu, Wilber Huang, Sonny Huang, Hui Ying Li, Chaoqun Shi, Alice Hum, Jii Pei Jan, Jin Shi-Ru, George & Helen Kwan, Fred Lee, Spencer & Christine Lee, Yi Lee, Stanley & Betty Lai, Anita Gao, Maxwell Ma, Linda Li, Zhi Shun Wu, Paul Tong-Jun Lin, Yi-Song Wei, Paul Liu, Hui Li, YouYu Lu, Chunmei Yu, Charles Lu, Pei Zheng, May Lui, Catherine Ma, Kai-Jui Ma, YuYing Ma, Xiaoling Shen, K.G. Shih, Lynn Shih, Shawna Seto-Moore, Ping & Linda Seto, Rocky Siliker, Debbie Cameron, XiaoWei Song, Qun Gao, Genlou Sun, Fang Liu, Ted & Janet Tam, Eugene Tan, KokKeong & KweiYing Tan, KokHeng Tan, Doreen Liew, Charles & Anne Tang, Mao Tian, Soulvanh & Jeannine Vongkeo, Richard Wang, Chou Wang, Rudolf Wang, Yueping Wang, Guang Yang, Peter & Rebecca Wong, Philip Wong, Oscar Wong, Vincent Wong, Zhaolin Xu, Hua Xu, Hua Yang, Rui-Zheng Mi, George Ye, Yu Fung Mao, Pollen & KimLam Yeung, Alex & Diana Young, Kathy Yung, Gillian Zhang, Zheng Ze-Nan, GuiPing Zou, Lu Ping.

1. *Approval of Agenda:*

Motion: The society approves the agenda of AGM 2004. Moved by Oscar Wong and seconded by Fred Lee. The motion was carried unanimously.

2. *Approval of Minutes of AGM on Oct.5, 2003:*

Moved by Kim Lam and seconded by Spencer Lee. The motion was carried unanimously.

3. *President's Annual Report:*

Doreen Liew, our president, was very pleased to report another successful year. The Society participated in the usual activities and has also made some significant achievements, the most important of which, was the completion of the proposed new By-laws.

The following summarizes the achievements and events of the Society during 2003-2004:

- Proposed new **By-laws** was completed by our By-laws Committee, comprising of David Yung (Chair), Ted Tam, Zhongmin Dong and Paul Liu.
- Paul Liu reported that he has already filed the papers with the Registry of Joint Stock to re-instate the **Society's registration**, which has been in default since 1998.
- **Christmas Potluck Party** was attended by about 160 people.
- **Chinese New Year Banquet** was attended by about 380 people. Among our guests were the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, senator John Buchanan, and representatives from the Nova Scotia government and Halifax Regional Municipality. Our net earnings from this event was at record-high levels.
- **Bowling Party** was attended by about 70 members.
- **Mother's Day Potluck** was attended by over 100 people. After supper, we were entertained by a well-known magician.
- **Multicultural Festival 2004** was the 20th year of the Festival. We participated for 3 full days. We performed in the cultural shows, and operated a cultural, a food and a BBQ booth. Many of our members and the Chinese Language School participated.
- We organized the cultural entertainment program of the 7th annual **Dragon Boat Festival**. We also had a cultural booth, a food booth and a BBQ booth. Our team "Orient Express 2004" ranked 4th on an "A" heat semi-final.
- **Triple Gala event**, an event combining the AGM, Moon Cake Festival and a special meeting to vote on the proposed By-laws, was attended by over 100 members.
- We also participated in many **other Community Events**, among them:
 - Multicultural Day at Clayton Park Junior High, and Canada Day at Rockingham Community Centre.
 - During March break, our Society's Lion Dance costumes were displayed at the Museum of Natural History, as part of the theme "Asian Adventure".
 - We provided translation services to the Chinese Team during the World Woman's Hockey Championship games in Halifax.
 - Many Society members also participated in the various Asian Heritage Month events.
 - We gave a presentation on Chinese culture to ACOA at their invitation.
 - We attended the Lieutenant Governor's Christmas and Summer parties.

The president also identified the following issues which she hoped the next executive team could move further along:

- It is important that the Society keep the **registration at Joint Stock** current at all times.
- In the past, we have always relied on talking to past executives to pass along the corporate knowledge. Incoming executives often do not have a clue what to do. An **operational manual** would be useful to incoming executives. On this, Ted Tam has kindly volunteered to move this process further along.
- In the past, our Society has posted pictures of our events and newsletters on the **CSNS website**. This year, we have not posted much because of concerns of confidentiality. The PIPEDA act came into effect in January 2004. For those not familiar with this act, this is an act about privacy and disclosure of private information. We are not sure what legal ramifications this may have on our posting of pictures and members news on the web. We would therefore like to recommend that the next executive team or another committee look into the information we post on the web.

- The Society has an **insurance** policy which we paid about \$1000 a year. The insurance coverage should be reviewed to ensure that the coverage is updated to be in line with our current activities.
- In May, we had an incident at our regular Friday night gym. Some of our children made a mess in the library and there were also children running in the restricted parts of the school. As a result, we received a letter of warning that we could lose the use of the facility should similar incidents happen again. At the same time, they told us that the library will no longer be available to us. We had to write a letter of apology and also agreed to implement a **gym usage policy**. This policy is yet to be developed.
- The **lion dance** program needs to recruit new members as most of the current performers are in their late university years. We also need to replace the equipment such as the lion head and drum within the next year or two.
- Over the years, we noticed that there are members who made significant contributions to the Society, year after year. Some of us discussed the idea of a **recognition program** for these members. George started this idea with an appreciation plaque for Shawna for serving three consecutive terms. The current executives followed with a similar plaque to George for serving two consecutive terms as President. It would be nice to have this extended to long term contributors.

The president congratulated Dr. Oscar Wong for being the recipient of the Order of Nova Scotia, adding that this is indeed very good news for the Society as it brings us visibility and recognition in the larger community.

The president thanked all Society and various committee members who have contributed and participated in the many Society events over the past year.

4. *Treasurer's Report:*

Linda Li, our Treasurer, presented the Financial Report. Our revenue exceeds our expenditures and we were able to transfer some money to the Capital Fund. Our biggest expense was for the gym rental.

5. *Capital Fund Report:*

George Kwan, one of the three members of the Capital Fund Committee presented the Capital Fund report. He reported that since the Society's registration at Joint Stock was in default, it was not possible to make any changes to the management of the Fund, as called for in the last AGM. The Fund recorded a positive return.

The Financial Report and Capital Fund report were both passed together, as follows:

Motion: The financial statement of 2003-2004 to be accepted by the Society.

Moved by Christine Lee and seconded by Zhongmin Dong. The motion carried unanimously.

6. *By-laws:*

Ted Tam, on behalf of David Yung, Chair of the By-laws Committee who was out of town, presented the draft proposed By-laws. The By-laws cover the Society's objectives, mandate to comply to Nova Scotia Companies Act, guidelines on all operational activities, descriptions of memberships, officers (Executive Committee), and Board of Directors.

There were some concerns on the opening paragraph of the By-laws, family membership fee coverage, and the merit of Honorary Membership. After some discussion of these issues, the following motions were tabled:

- Motion to remove the first paragraph in the draft By-laws, and to replace all pronouns from *his* to *his/her*; and *chairman* to be replaced by *chair*. Motion brought forward by May Lui and seconded by K.H. Tan. The motion was carried by 21 votes in favor of the move and 2 votes against. Motion carried.
- Sections 9.1, 9.2, 10, and 11 under Membership:
Motion to eliminate the Honorary class membership. Motion was brought forward by Anne Tang and seconded by George Kwan and K.G. Shih. Forty four (44) voted in favor of elimination and 17 voted against the motion. Motion carried.
- Section 12 on Membership paid:
Some discussions were made on the definition of family membership. Ted Tam, on behalf of the ad hoc committee, made amendment to the proposed By-laws by modifying section 12 on the last sentence: A Family Membership shall include a named member, his/her spouse, *dependent* parents, and grand parents. It was unanimously approved.
- Section 59, under The Capital Fund Committee:
Tony Tam, who was absent during the meeting, sent in an earlier comment suggesting an additional clause to this section, "The people on this committee should not be held accountable for the investments except out of gross negligence, fraud or willful misconduct." Tony felt that by adding this clause, it should avoid conflicts and blame to committee members as a result of declining values of stocks or equities. It was felt that since it is a volunteer committee, memberships on the Committee should be protected.

Some of the agreed changes involved many sections of the By-laws document, so not all changes were made on the spot. The By-laws Committee was mandated to make all the agreed changes after the meeting.

All members then cast their votes. The votes were counted by three members, Betty Lai, Wilbur Huang and Pollen Yeung. At the meeting, they reported 148 "Yes" votes, but subsequent to that, it was discovered that there was one "No" vote sandwiched in between. This brings the number of "Yes" votes to 147 and "No" vote to 1. This represents an approval rate for the new By-laws of about 83%, which is more than the 75% required to pass the new By-laws, and the By-laws was passed.

8. Other Business:

No other business were raised.

9. Election of 2004-2005 Executives:

Ted Tam nominated Fred Lee, a retired Engineer and entrepreneur. Prior to his retirement, he was a director at the NS Department of Transportation and also operated many restaurants. He is

a former President and Vice President of the Society. He and his wife, Miranda, are great ballroom dancers.

George Kwan nominated Guang Yang, a chemistry lab manager at Dalhousie University. Guang served as the Education/Recreation Officer for the Society two years ago, and has continued to be an active supporter and volunteer in many of our Society functions..

Oscar Wong nominated Ping Seto, a retired Scientist. Before his retirement, he was a senior research fellow with the National Research Council of Canada. He and his wife, Linda, have been long-term supporters and contributors to the many Society functions, very often behind the scene.

Zhongmin Dong nominated Wilber Huang, a computer software expert with a Halifax consulting company, to serve for another term. Last year, Wilber served as our webmaster, email postmaster, and translated all our newsletters into Chinese.

David Chen nominated Zhongmin Dong, chair of the Biology department at St. Mary's Univeristy. He is one of the members of the By-laws Committee. Zhongmin and his family have been enthusiastic volunteers in many of our Society functions over the years.

10. Remarks from the new president:

Mr. Fred Lee, our new president, was honoured and wish to thank everyone who put their trust in him and elected him as the President. The President of the Chinese Society is expected to work hard and face many challenges. Fred assured all members that he will do his best to fulfill the goals of the Society.

11. Adjourn the AGM 2004

Motion: The AGM 2004 of CSNS to be adjourned. Moved by Ted Tam and seconded by Linda Seto. The motion was carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

2.Executives- Fiscal Year 2004-05

The following members were elected to serve for the 2004-05 fiscal year:

- Fred Lee.....President (455-9507)
- Zhongmin DongVice President & Secretary (445-2882)
- Ping Seto.....Treasurer (479-2461)
- Guang YangRecreation (431-0481)
- Wilber HuangC o mmunication & Website (431-9288)

3. Nomination for Board of Directors:

The society approved the new By-laws in principle with minor editorial changes at the last Annual General Meeting on October 3,2004. These changes have been made by the By-laws Committee and final version of the By-laws has been filed with the Registry of Joint Stock. The new By-laws calls for the election of the Board of Directors within 6 months of its enactment. This will be our first election of the Board. The society has to elect four (4) directors. If you wish to serve as a director or you wish to nominate someone, please contact one of our executives. A special meeting for election of Board of Directors will be held in the near future.

4. Upcoming Events:

a) **Christmas Party**

You may have already received a call counting on your family's presence for our annual Christmas potluck supper. This year we extended our invitation to The Family of Children from China (FCC). We would like to share our common value of family traditions and cultures with them. As you may notice we already have members of our society who are also members of FCC. If you see new faces in the party, please approach them and talk to them. Please show our warm hospitality by welcoming this group. Bring your delicious homemade dish to share with others. Our popular guy "The Santa" will be there to give seasonal gifts to the children. Mom or dad please assist Santa by gift wrap present(s) for your child (children) and labeled his/her names on the gift. We will have entertainments for everyone.

Date and Time: Sunday, December 5, 2004, 5:30-9:00p.m.

Place: Canadian Martyrs Church, 5900 Inglis st. Halifax

b) **Chinese New Year Banquet**

At sunrise, February 9th, 2005 we will be waken up by the sound of a rooster cry to mark the beginning the glory of the new year. In this first Saturday, **February 12th**, on behalf of the society & H.K.business Association the Executives invite all members and their guests to join us in celebration for the year of Rooster in **Casino N.S. Hotel at 6p.m.** Cocktail drinks will be served at this time, followed by entertainments, and a succulent dinner at 6:45p.m. After dinner, ballroom dancing will be our main feature until **1pm**. Please reserve your tickets with Fred, Ping or Terri Burgess at your earliest convenience. Due to the popularity of this event as experienced in the past, we anticipate that tickets will sold out quickly. We will reserve and guarantee tickets for all members until December 25th, 2004. The price for each ticket is \$60. Two discount tickets at \$50 each are available for family membership and one discount ticket at \$50 is available for single membership.

5. Friday Gym Schedule

The Fairview Junior High School (FJHS) gym (155 Rosedale Ave. Halifax) will be available for members of the Society on most Fridays during the school year. Our regular gym hours are from 8:00pm to 10:00pm. The following schedules are subject to change and cancellations on short notice from the School Board due to special school events, in-service days, or bad weather. Please note that if the School Board has notified the media that schools are closed on a particular day, this will imply the school will be unavailable for the Society to use, e.g. snow storm, power outage. The cancellation notice will pass on to members by emails and on the website. Please pass the message along to members who do not have access to the internet. The following are the gym schedule up to the end of the March.

December **3, 10, 17**, 2004

January **7, 14, 21, 28**, 2005

February **4, 11, 18, 25**, 2005

March **4, 11**, 2005

6. Communications to Members

To help keep the cost of running the Society down, we will be implementing the following communications plan.

For members who have given us the e-mail addresses, you will automatically receive newsletters via e-mail. For those who have not provided us the e-mail addresses, you will receive newsletters by regular mail. However, for those with e-mail addresses who also wish to receive a hard copy of the newsletter through regular mail, we will be happy to send them to you. Please contact any of the Executives if you wish to receive your newsletter by other methods and if your mailing address has changed.

7. Welcome New Members , Return Members & Announcements

- **The Wu Family:** We would like to welcome our new members, Mr. Pak and Lily Wu and their family. Pak and Lily are the owner of The Dragon Buffet King in Bayer's Lake Business park, Halifax. Pak and Lily invite all society members to use their dining room facility for family or corporate party needs.
- **The Wong Family:** Dr. Alan and Vivian Wong are our returning members. Alan was once served as President of CSNS. Alan is a retired professor of physiology at Dalhousie University and his wife Vivian is a retired teacher.
- **Ms. Rosita Kwong:** Our returning member, Rosita, is the proprietor of a Gourmet Shop, Wok's Cooking on Wyse Rd., Dartmouth. We are often greeted with Rosita's cheerful face when we go to her store. Apart from being a business executive, Rosita is also a talented singer and ballroom dancer
- **Congratulation to George Kwan:** George recently received a Life Long Membership from The Association of Professional Engineers of Nova Scotia (APENS), George is a retired engineer. Congratulation, George, on your career achievement so honored by the engineer profession.
- **Congratulation to the first time grandparents of Ping & Linda Seto:** Our society's treasurer, Ping and his wife Linda are proud grandparents of a baby girl, Maya O'Higgins. Maya was born in November 1st. In Sunnyvale, California. Congratulation! Lynda Seto and Brendon O'Higgins , parents of Maya.
- **Business moving to a new location:** Mr. Franz & Lilian Ha, the proprietor of West Art Furnishings, invite our members to visit their store at its new location. The store has moved from 201 Chain Lake Drive to 187 Chain Lake Dr. Bayers Lake Business Park, Halifax. West Art Furnishings offers many unique and quality furnishings.

8. Membership Fee:

- Just a friendly reminder to all our members that membership fees are now due. There is no change in membership fee: It is still \$35 for a family membership and \$20 for an individual membership. Please remit your payment by mail or to one of the executives. For your convenience, we will be collecting membership fee at the reception desk during our Christmas party. Thank you for those who have paid the membership fees.