

Honolulu Chinatown Lion's Club 夏威夷華埠獅子會

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www.b2bchinadirect.com/honoluluchinatownlionsclub.htm

Mission: To create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world; to promote the principles of good government and good citizenship; to take an active interest in the civic, cultural, social, and moral welfare of the community; to unite with other Lion's clubs in bonds of friendship, good fellowship, and mutual understanding; to provide a forum for the open discussion of all matters of public interest, provided that partisan politics and sectarian religion not be debated by club members; to encourage service-minded men to serve their community without personal financial reward, and to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works and private endeavors.

History: In 1972, long-held dreams of organizing a Chinatown Lions Club in Honolulu became a reality. The subject had been discussed over innumerable cups of tea by Wilfred S. Pang and some close friends, who saw the need for a service club in Honolulu's rapidly developing Chinatown. Wilfred, who at the time was an officer of the Waikiki Lions Club, took it upon himself to mail out letters of invitation to potential Charter members of a Chinatown Lions Club. He convened an organizational meeting at the Nuuanu YMCA on December 13, 1972. Paul Goto, Albert Lum, David Young, Shigeru Kabei and Larry Ing were among those present. Subsequent organizing meetings were held at the Marco Polo Condominium boardroom.

It was through Lion Wilfred Pang's efforts that the club was officially chartered on March 7, 1973, with a charter membership of 46. The Charter banquet was held on Saturday, May 12, 1973, at the Wo Fat Restaurant, with three clubs—Bayview Lions Club, Honolulu Chinatown Lions Club, and the Hawaii Kai Lions Club—sharing in the festivities. There was the burning of the traditional firecrackers and the performance of the Chinese lion dance by the members of the Jeng Moo Physical Culture Association. Harry H. Yee, then the District Governor of District 50, officiated. Instrumental to the organization and foundation of the club were Shigeru Kabei, the late Henry Awa Wong and the Charter President Wilfred S. Pang.



*Members
distributing
T-shirts at
the Great
Aloha Run*



Top: Lions taking residents of the Convalescent Center of Hawaii on an outing to the zoo. Top left: Lions David Young (pointing) and Johnson Choi act as volunteer escorts. Top right: Lions Ralph Kiyon (with vest) and Stanley Lau (right) volunteering their time. Left: Residents break for lunch at the zoo.

Activities The Club's motto is "We Serve," and members participate in several categories of activities: 1. Disaster relief—it provided monetary support to victims of the 1991 Chinatown fire; the 1992 Hurricanes Andrew in Florida, Omar on Guam, and Iniki in Hawaii; the 1993 earthquake in Taiwan; etc. 2. Community service—club members assist the Salvation Army with its annual Thanksgiving Dinner at the Blaisdell Exhibition Hall and Christmas kettle fundraiser, and offers services and funding to the following organizations: Friends of Ho'opono (Services for the Blind Program); Great Aloha Run; Walk for Diabetes; Hawaii Food Bank; Hawaii Lions International Youth Camp; Red Cross Fundraiser; AARP Grandfather's Day Celebration; River of Life Mission; University of Hawaii Athletics Department, and the National Kidney Foundation's Walk for Life. The club also offers scholarships to the University of Hawaii music program, the Lung Kong Chinese Physical Culture Club and the Mun Lun Chinese School. 3. Youth activities—the club sponsors the Roosevelt High School Leo Club, which introduces young people to community service and leadership opportunities; helps Play-It-Safe International distribute coloring books to promote safety to second graders throughout Honolulu; sponsors the Child Abuse Hawaii's Breakfast with Santa Program; and, through the Adopt-a-Teacher Program, provides support to Pauoa Elementary School. 4. National and international relations—the club maintains a twinning (sister-club) relationship with the Lions Clubs of Kowloon and Hong Kong; the Kaohsiung Shou Shang and Lo Tung Lions Clubs of Taiwan; the Vancouver Chinatown Lions Club; the Port Hawkesbury Lions Club of Nova Scotia; and the San Francisco Chinatown Lions Club.

In order to support these endeavors, the Club participates in two annual fundraisers: a piano concert known as 'Christmas in Ensemble' and an event called 'Night in Chinatown' at the time of the Chinese New Year.

Association presidents

- 1973 Wilfred S Pang
- 1974 Cyril Chung
- 1975 Bo Tong Wat
- 1976 Ernest Q C Chang
- 1977 Alfred Wong
- 1978 Wayne Wong
- 1979 Lawrence Ing (Larry)
- 1980 Harry K O Chang
- 1981 Frederick Young
- 1982 David Y Y Young
- 1983 Theodore Chun
- 1984 Raymond Young
- 1985 Thomas Maekawa
- 1986 John S O Wong
- 1987 Kenneth Siu
- 1988 Stanley Lau
- 1989 David On
- 1990 Clifford Wong
- 1991 Eleanor Yep
- 1992 Steven Yoshimura
- 1993 Johnson Choi
- 1994 Keith Fukuda
- 1995 Ralph Kiyon
- 1996 Betsy Au Lum
- 1997 Harry K O Chang
- 1998 Raymond Yoshimura
- 1999 Steven Yoshimura
- 2000 Rick Hoo
- 2001 Leonard Ho
- 2002 Edna Ellis
- 2003–4 Tammie Ideta
- 2005 Robert K.Y. Lee

Sources: Correspondence with Steven Yoshimura.

Right: Lions Ralph Kiyon (left) and Harry Chang soliciting donations for the American Red Cross in Chinatown, for victims of the September 11 attack.



Below: Night in Chinatown fundraiser. Middle:

Lion Raymond Yoshimura conducting a palm reading. Bottom: Lion Ernest Chang telling fortunes.



Membership: Membership meetings are held at 6:30pm, on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, at the New Empress Restaurant in the Chinese Cultural Plaza. Board of Directors meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month. There are currently 38 members in the Club.