



# JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE/JACL

Headquarters: 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115  
1850 M Street NW, Suite 1100 • Washington, DC • 20036  
Phone: (202) 223-1240 • Fax: (202) 296-8082  
E-mail: dc@jacl.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Contact: Floyd Mori, Executive Director

July 2, 2010  
NatDir@jacl.org

## **JACL CONCLUDES NATIONAL CONVENTION IN CHICAGO**

Chicago, IL -The 41st Biennial National Convention of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization in the nation, has concluded at the Swissotel in Chicago. The JACL, which was established in 1929, had the convention theme of "Embracing Change" and will change to an annual convention format beginning in 2011 with the convention to be held in Los Angeles.

Chicago radio personality, Eugene Honda, lent his magnificent voice and talents to serve as Master of Ceremonies of the Sayonara Banquet. Edward Ozaki sang America the Beautiful to begin the program. Entertainment was provided by the Ho Etsu Taiko Group. Several awards were presented.

The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta, formerly U.S. Secretary of Transportation and Secretary of Commerce as well as a U.S. Congressman and Mayor of San Jose, was the keynote speaker. He was accompanied by his wife, Deni. A member and true friend of the JACL for many years, Secretary Mineta has been in attendance at nearly every National JACL Convention since the 1960's. He stressed the fact that JACL members must be "at the table" and be a part of the important policy decisions of this nation. There is still much work for the JACL to do.

A special President's Award for his efforts in building close relations between Japan and the Japanese American community was awarded to the Honorable Ichiro Fujisaki, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United States of America in Washington, D.C. Ambassador Fujisaki graciously accepted the award and also participated in a popular panel at the workshop on U.S. and Japan Relations held earlier in the day.

Leslie Moe-Kaiser of State Farm, Diamond Sponsor, spoke on behalf of the sponsors for the convention. Other major sponsors were: AT&T, National JACL Credit Union, Eli Lilly, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Comcast, Ford Fund, JACL Health Benefits Administration, Masuda Funai, Paramount, and the Pierce Family Charitable Foundation.

The outgoing National Board was thanked for their service over the past two years. They included: Larry Oda, President; Sheldon Arakaki, V.P. for General Operations; Ron Katsuyama, V.P. for Public Affairs; David Kawamoto, V.P. for Planning and Development; David Lin, V.P. for Thousand Club, Membership, and Services; Josh Spry, Secretary/Treasurer; Kimberly Shintaku, Youth/Student Council Chair; Brandon Mita, Youth/Student Council Representative; Michelle Yoshida, Legal Counsel; and Margie Yamamoto, Pacific Citizen Editorial Board Chair.

Elections were held, and the new National Board officers were sworn in by Secretary Mineta at the Business Session. The new Board consists of: David Kawamoto, President; Gail Sueki, V.P. of General Operations; Ron Katsuyama, V.P. of Public Affairs; Jason Chang, V.P. of Planning and Development; David Lin, V.P. of Thousand Club, Membership, and Services; Matthew Farrells, Youth/Student Council Chair; and Devin Yoshikawa, Youth/Student Council Representative. It was announced at the National Board Meeting that Josh Spry will continue to serve in the position of

Secretary/Treasurer. Floyd Shimomura will serve as Legal Counsel to replace Michelle Yoshida, who has served for ten years.

National Executive Director, Floyd Mori, commended the convention committee, JACL Staff, and National Board for their parts in staging one of the most successful and well-conducted conventions for the JACL.

**### End ###**

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization. Visit the JACL website for information or to join the organization: [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org).