

# Next Generation Group, Eng Family Association L.A.

Meeting Minutes for Sunday, July 9, 2006, 11:00am – 12:30 noon

The meeting was held at the Eng Family Benevolent Association of Los Angeles Headquarters, 418 Cottage Home in Los Angeles.

## **Call to Order**

Three of the five NGG officers were present and thus achieved a quorum for a meeting. They were Lance Eng, President, Serena Ng, Vice President, and Wayne Ng, Vice President. Absent were Alex Eng, Chief Financial Officer, and Janice Ng, Secretary. The meeting was called to order by Lance at 11:15am.

The following NGG members were in attendance: Steven Ng, Tracy Quinto, David K. Ng, Richard Ng, and Rick Eng. The following Eng Family Association members in attendance were Ed Ng, Ben Ng and Tenny Ng.

In absence of the secretary, the minutes were recorded by Rick Eng.

## **Approval of June 2006 Meeting Minutes**

The approval of the June meeting minutes was tabled since Secretary Janice Ng was not in attendance.

## **President's Report**

Lance indicated that the group faces all of the challenges of a start-up, mainly the recruitment of new members. Lance emphasized the importance of regularity and continuity, such as regular monthly meetings and communications to the membership. He suggested that the NGG Yahoo group site is a good beginning for ongoing dialogue among the membership on ideas for promoting the group.

## **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report was tabled since Alex was not available to attend the meeting.

## **Old Business**

*NGG Mission Statement.* The NGG Yahoo group site was suggested as the forum for members to contribute their ideas on formulating a mission statement for NGG. Rick suggested that a good starting point was the language in the Articles of Incorporation for the Eng Family Benevolent Association of Los Angeles, which states:

The specific and primary purposes are to promote and further the interests of members of the Eng Family of Chinese extraction living in California, by aiding in developing the fraternal spirit between the members of the family and to assist the

said members by social and educational means to be worthy citizens and residents of the United States.

Rick indicated that he will post the language on the Yahoo site to start a dialogue.

## **New Business**

### *Membership status of Engs/Ngs females and offspring*

Members discussed the issue of opening NGG membership to those who are Ngs/Engs by blood but not by surname. Currently the governing documents specify eligibility under the following conditions: a) is a member of the Eng Family either by birth, adoption or marriage b) whose family name is symbolized by the Chinese character “伍” c) is at least 18 years of age; and d) who is of good moral character. The argument for easing the patrimonial restrictions is to promote more equality between male and female members and to abandon practices seen as antiquated and unjustified in modern society. Some argued that to change the membership rules may dilute the original intent of the group and abandon the traditions of the Association. Serena suggested a possible compromise would be the introduction of classes of membership. The attendees agreed to use the Yahoo group site for ongoing dialogue on this issue.

### *Mrs. Kam Fong Lee Ng's 80th Birthday Party*

Members of the Next General Group have been invited to attend the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of Mrs. Ng on Saturday, July 29, at the Empress Pavilion restaurant in Chinatown. The NGG will have its own table and the cost will be \$20 per head. As a gift to Mrs. Ng, an honorary membership certificate will be created and presented to her at the event.

### *NGG Outreach*

Members were asked about their ideas for reaching out to new members both locally and regionally. Lance had mentioned another potential member would be John Eng, youth pastor of the First Chinese Baptist Church. One suggestion was to help other chapters setup similar NGG “cells.” It was mentioned that Boston might be a chapter that is ripe for its own NGG. The L.A. group could create a “template” which can be adopted by other chapters nationwide. Ben also recommended making visits to chapters when they have their annual banquets as a way of cementing ties. The attendees agreed to use the Yahoo group site for ongoing dialogue on this issue.

### *Need Chinese names of NGG members*

The request was made by Nancy Ng, who has been instrumental in the translations of the NGG newsletters. The group officially recognized and thanked Nancy for her contributions.

### *Upcoming visit of Wu Shih-Wen, former defense minister, ROC*

The former defense minister of Taiwan and current president of the Overseas Chinese Association, Wu Shih-Wen, will be visiting Los Angeles the week of July 10. Mr. Wu will make an appearance at the Association headquarters to be followed by a dinner banquet in his honor at the Golden Dragon Restaurant. Those who are interested should contact Peter Ng.

## **Committee Reports**

### *Communications/Marketing*

Committee chair Rick reported that the *NGG News* should be published monthly, unless special bulletins are mandated. He will continue to send out regular updates via email and posting on the website. The August newsletter will be published after the August 12 NGG meeting. Rick invited members to submit ideas for articles.

### *Finance/Fundraising*

No report given at this time since the Committee chair, Alex, was unable to attend the meeting.

### *Legal Affairs*

Committee chair Wayne is reviewing the governing documents and looking into the ramifications of the tax exempt status change for NGG (from 501(c)7 to 501(c)3).

### *Social/Membership*

Serena will work with Janice on ideas for promoting social event ideas for building membership and strengthening collegiality. She urged members to use the Yahoo group site for posting suggestions.

### *Special Projects*

Special Projects Chair Steven Ng spoke about the Podcast Academy (<http://podcastacademy.com>) workshop he attended in Santa Clara, California. It was an opportunity to learn about the technical and logistical aspects of producing successful podcasts, such as the Oral History Project for the Association. Some ideas on subjects were presented, including possibly Mrs. Kam Fong Lee Ng. What still requires some planning is how to approach the subjects on what certainly may be subjects that are painful to recall and articulate.

## **Next Meeting Date**

The next NGG meeting is schedule for Saturday, August 12, 4:00pm, at the law offices of Ng Do-Khanh, PC. David has graciously offered the use of his conference room facility for the next meeting. The offsite location offers a chance for some NGG members, commuting from long distances, to have a more convenient meeting site. The law firm is located at 1 Park Plaza, Suite #600, Irvine, CA 92614. After the meeting, members will gather socially for dinner at local restaurant. Rick will post announcements on website and send updates to all members.

## **Adjournment**

With regular business concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm.