

May 25, 2015

Shali Zhang

Awards Committee

Chinese American Librarians Association

Dear Shali and CALA Awards Committee:

I am honored to nominate three highly accomplished CALA colleagues for consideration of the 2015 CALA President's Recognition Award in recognition of their years of dedicated service to CALA and their significant contributions to our Association.

Nominee 1 Maria Fung

Co-chair of CALA 2014/15 Finance Committee and Co-chair of CALA 2014/15 Finance Committee

Maria is a veteran CALA colleague who started to actively participate in CALA activities since she joined CALA as a life member. She has served as CALA's officers in many important positions for about a decade, including: Northeast Chapter President (2006-07), member of Nominating Committee (2007-08), member and chair/ co-chair of the Public Relations /Fund raising Committee (2008-2015), member of Sally Tseng's Professional Development Grant Committee (2010-12) , member of Awards Committee(2011-12), member of CALA Presidential Initiative Task Force (2011-12), member of CALA Executive Committee (2012-14), Treasurer(2012-2014), and co-chair of the Finance Committee (2014-15). Her achievements were well recognized by CALA administration, and she was awarded the President's Recognition Award in 2013.

After enumerating Maria's past achievements listed above, I am nominating her again for the 2015 President's Recognition Award because of her contributions to CALA during my term as President. These include:

- Fund Raising: Maria is the head of Purchasing Department of the World Language Division of New York Public Library. She has cultivated and maintained cordial and affable relationship with many important vendors and publishers. Making full use of such an advantage, Maria and co-chair Esther Lee of the Public Relations/Fund Raising Committee raised a total of \$5,250 by soliciting advertisements for CALA's print membership directory in the past 4 months since this January. Maria painstakingly talked to vendors in person, emailed them to follow up until they submitted their donation checks, and keeps precise**

and accurate files of the advertisements the donors sent so that they could be ready when the directory goes to print in August. Because of the money raised, the costs of printing the directory would be fully covered, a saving of approximately \$4,000 from CALA's operations budget.

2014/15 is a year of abundance for CALA's fund raising. With the additional donations from Mr. John Fung and other friends of CALA, a total of \$22,500 has been raised by the Public Relations/Fund Raising Committee. While I congratulate the Committee for its extraordinary success, I also want to acknowledge Maria's unique contributions to this outstanding accomplishment.

- Treasurer Assistance: Before I took office as President this year, I never realized how difficult and complex the job of a CALA treasurer could get. The duties of this position are varied, most of them difficult and confusing to a beginner. All CALA's money matters must be covered, from investment accounts, to budgetary planning, to income tax filing, to receiving and sending out checks, etc. are all the charges of the Treasurer. We have a new treasurer this year, and although she is trying her best to learn the job, she needs guidance and advice from an expert, of which I certainly am not. Maria, on the other hand, has expertise in all these areas since she has been a treasurer for three years and also served as head of the Finance Committee. Without being asked, she voluntarily offered her assistance by giving her meticulous and well organized files of all the accounts she kept as a treasurer to her successor, and spent hours discussing issues and possible problems with her, advising her how to deal with these issues. From time to time, the current treasurer still has to ask her about old transactions, and Maria always responded to her questions. As of now, the new treasurer is doing a capable job of handling all the important tasks, but in the beginning Maria's help was definitely needed. I want to recognize her assistance and her full cooperation in helping the treasurer and myself to make the new transition period painless and smooth despite the many questions we had. I also want to acknowledge her willingness to give an informal "chatting" session to the new treasurer and EC members in the upcoming CALA meeting during ALA this June so that we can all learn from her experiences.**
- Investment Activities: Maria has been the committee member of the Sally Tseng Professional Development Grant for two years and is still helping to manage this account which she originally set up in New York. This year, the donor of the Outstanding Library Leadership Award in Memory of Dr. Margaret Chang Fung and the donor of the Jing Liao Award for the Best Research in All Media requested CALA to turn their investments into endowments so to generate annual dividends which could be offered as grants. As the co-chair of the Finance Committee, Maria spent hours in negotiations with banks and**

brokerage firms to find suitable funds to invest for CALA. Since CALA is a non-profit organization, there are many complicated legal restrictions that have to be ironed out. As I am located in New York also, I helped her to visit these financial firms many times but still cannot settle some of the legal issues. At times I was very discouraged and almost lost interest and confidence in dealing with investment matters, but Maria is persistent in her endeavors to continue the pursuit of finding solutions. I admire her spirit of endurance and her efforts to search for investments that are best for CALA. If and when the funds are securely invested in suitable mutual funds, Maria should be the first and foremost commendable officer for CALA's investment venture.

Nominee 2 Esther Lee

Currently Co-chair of the 2014/15 Publications /Fund Raising Committee; Member the 2014/15 Outstanding Library Leadership Award in Memory of Dr. Margret Fung Committee

Esther is certainly one of the most prominent and well known veteran CALA officers. She has served in many important CALA committees in her career, including several times as the co-chair and chair of the Public Relations and Fund Raising Committee and the Finance Committee. In 2005, she was awarded the President's Recognition Award, and was elected as CALA's President in 2012. Esther's best services to CALA are her fund raising contributions and her expertise in financial management. This year, her accomplishments excelled in those two capacities and her efforts deserve to be acknowledged and honored.

- **Fund Raising:** As the co-chairs of Public Relations and Fund Raising Committee, Esther and Maria Fung collaborated in a campaign to seek advertisements for CALA's 2013-15 print membership directory. Before her retirement, Esther was the head of the Media Library of Queens Public Library. As in the case of Maria, Esther also cultivated and maintained a cordial and pleasant relationship with many major vendors of videos, CDs, and musical recordings. At the ALA Mid Winter Conference this January, Esther contacted those dealers either by letter or in person, asking them to place advertisements in the upcoming directory. Most people she approached were willing to support her pleas. Then, after they have fulfilled their pledge and sent CALA their contributions, Esther wrote very tactful and gracious acknowledgment letters to each of them individually as a measure of courtesy and also to maintain the good relationships in order to ensure their contributions next year. From January until May, this collaborated campaign of Esther and Maria raised a total of \$5,200. Because of this windfall, costs of printing the new directory are all covered, a saving of \$4,000 from CALA's operation budget.

This year is a very successful year of fund raising. With the additional contributions of donor Mr. John Fung and other CALA friends, the Public Relations/Fund Raising Committee raised a total of \$22,500, a most impressive amount of funds. Further, in addition to her fund raising efforts, Esther contributed \$1,000 of her own to the Sally

Tseng Research and Development Fund. Her generous donation is much appreciated by CALA and we hope to put her contribution in good use in the very near future.

- **Investment Advising: In addition to the Sally Tseng Professional Development Grant, other donors such as Mr. John Fung of the Outstanding Library Leadership Award in Memory of Margaret Cheng Fung, also wants to turn the family's donation to an endowment so to generate annual dividends which could be used as funding for the awards. Esther has ample experiences in investment affair since she has been the chair of Finance Committee several times and is also a member of the Fung Committee. She acts as an advisor to Maria and me in our search for the most suitable and best mutual funds to invest, and explains to us the best ways to manage CALA's finances. Although as of now, due to some restrictive and complicated regulations governing non- profit investments, we have not yet settled on the investment options, Esther's suggestions and advise will certainly be heeded when we are ready to make the final decision.**

Nominee 3 Sharon Chengren Hu

Midwest Chapter President (2013-2015); Co-Chair of the CALSYS Academic Resources Repository System (2013-16); Member of: 2014/15 Nomination Committee; Election Ad-Hoc Committee; Scholarship Committee, Mentorship Committee

Sharon is a dedicated and committed CALA officer who has served on many important committees since she joined CALA as a life member. I am nominating her as another candidate for the President's Recognition Award because of her contributions to CALA during my term as vice president and president. These include:

- **CALSYS Academic Resources Repository System : As the co-chair of the Task Force for CALA Academic Resources and Repository System, Sharon and co-chair Mingyan Li initiated and built up the CALSYS system step by step with careful strategic planning phases of execution: Phase I System built up; Phase II: data collecting and system improvement ;Phase III: system and data analysis with various types of research projects which moves the current pilot study closer to a regular system project encompassing multiple research papers and projects from system's data and system's data management. The task force, under Sharon's leadership, has completed phase I and II of the plan and is now moving to Phase III. When Phase III is completed in 2016, the CALSYS System will be CALA's academic resources repository system to centralize all of the academic papers and research projects of CALA members. To preserve CALA members works in a large virtual library like this one is of immense importance not only to the contributors but also to CALA's central resource archives. The CALSYS System is one of the first library repository systems of such a wide scope and will definitely put CALA's name on the map of electronic library systems.**

- **Midwest Chapter president for 2 terms:** In 2013 the original Midwest Chapter president Yi Han fell ill and the Chapter's affairs became stagnate and chaotic due to the lack of leadership. Sharon, the then vice president/president elect, assumed the position of the chapter's president at the recommendation of CALA Executive Committee. She re-organized the Chapter affairs back to normal efficiently and quickly. After putting the Chapter on its right track, Sharon continued to be the next elected president of the Chapter and had been an able leader since. Her achievements as Chapter President included: Helped in organizing the annual conference with telecommunication and web conferences, encouraged members to participate in research projects, and provided emerging technology related resources to members. She also actively participated in various meetings with contributions of presentations and discussions of CALA related affairs.
- **Visits to Lisa Zhao, 2014/15 CALA Immediate Past President:** CALA as a professional library organization not only encourages the professional development of members, but also stresses the importance of love, support and compassion to fellow colleagues. The critical illness of Lisa is the concern of all members, but most of us cannot contribute to her care because we are not in Chicago. Sharon, as a local member, voluntarily assumes the role of CALA's representative for Lisa's care. She visits Lisa and her family regularly in the hospital and at home, offers to take time out from her busy schedule to be with Lisa so that her husband can get some relief time, and brings the family gifts that she purchased with her own money. After each visit, she would send out a detailed report about Lisa's condition to Midwest Chapter and to CALA member lists so that we would be informed. Her care, consolation and support to Lisa are deeply appreciated not only by Lisa and her family but also by all CALA colleagues as well. *As I am writing this nomination letter, I received word that Lisa is not expected to recover. Deeply saddened and shaken by the sad news, I am particularly grateful for Sharon's efforts because they represent CALA's care and compassion to a fallen colleague from the beginning to the end.*

The three nominees I recommended above for the consideration of 2014/15 CALA President's Recognition Award are all very dedicated and committed colleagues who have served CALA faithfully for decades. Many of their contributions to CALA are well recorded and honored. I hope the Awards

Committee will accept my nominations and grant them the awards they well deserved.

Respectfully Submitted

Kachuen Gee

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CALA 2014/15 President