CALA Midwest Chapter Half a Year Report December 2015

The Midwest Chapter started to work after the beginning of September. A call for volunteers was sent out to all members in the Midwest region. Based on the replies, experiences, and members’ enthusiasm, individual committees, such as membership, nomination, public relations, professional development, and web was formed. Committee chairs and co-chairs were invited to serve the executive committee. Subsequent announcement was sent to everyone who was willing to serve on those committees and appreciations were extended to them for their volunteering services.

In October, the first 2015-16 executive committee meeting was held. The committee welcomed new members on board and thanked the previous committee (2014-15) for their great contributions and services, in particular, to Sharon Hu, former Midwest Chapter presidents for two years, for her outstanding leadership and presented her a Thank-You card. The executive committee also decided to hold regular meetings every other month.

As for the planning for an annual conference for Midwest Chapter, it was decided that it would be held in May 2016. There are two possible dates, May 13 (Friday) or May 20 (Friday). The format will be a hybrid, an onsite conference as well as a virtual platform at the same time. The meeting place and a final date will be decided at December meeting based on availability for conference room, cost, and transportation.

Other business decided and confirmed included the Midwest Chapter Annual Election which would be taking place in April, 2016. The call for nomination will be sent out in March first. The Nomination Committee will work with Membership Committee to manage a call for nominations, to ensure the qualification of candidates, and to monitor election.

Due to a member’s serious illness within our Midwest Chapter and need some help from time to time, guidelines for caring activity such as sending flowers and greeting cards were discussed at the meeting. Other occasions needed care were also mentioned. To name just a few, members giving birth, member’ 5-year, 10-year, 15-year...anniversaries. As CALA Midwest Chapter is a professional organization, perhaps it would be better to consider this kind deed case by case. The Chapter need better report system to learn who is in need of help.

During this period of time, Vickie Doll, a veteran member of the Midwest Chapter, graciously set up a fund raising website for Lisa Zhao. It is called GoFundMe. Its site address is https://www.gofundme.com/9m3funfy. Many CALA members including Midwest members donated personal fund to help Lisa fight her cancer. Midwest PR Committee chair and members paid visit to Lisa’s family and brought flowers and get-well wishes to Lisa on behalf of Midwest Chapter. They went out using their own time in a storm weather.

Action plan from each committee will be submitted before next meeting in December. A template will be distributed to each committee beforehand so that they can fill in action items accordingly.

In December, the second executive committee will be held on the 17th. Agenda items include change of leadership in the nomination committee, selection of venue for chapter annual conference in 2016, chapter action plans, and other business, etc.

The following highlighted points reflected Midwest Chapter Activities during this half-year period.
1. Formulated Chapter Committees
2. Hosted an executive committee meeting and scheduled a second executive committee meeting
3. Discussed action plans and annual conference format, venue,
4. Continuously took care of former CALA President Lisa Zhao
5. Supported CALA national organization’s fund raising activities
6. Communicated with Midwest members and reported to national association on chapter activities

CALA Midwest Chapter Executive Committee

Fu Zhuo, President, 2015-16

Vincci Kwong, Vice President, 2015-16

Jianying Shou, Treasurer, 2014-17

Haiwang Yuan, Chair of Nomination Committee, 2015-16

Wen-Ling Liu, Chair of Membership Committee, 2015-16

Shuyong Jiang, Co-Chair of Public Relations Committee, 2015-16

Jianying Shou, Co-Chair of Public Relations Committee, 2015-16

Liyun Xue, Co-Chair of Professional Development Committee, 2015-16

Yan He, Co-Chair of Professional Development Committee, 2015-16

Vincci Kwong, Chair of Web Committee, 2015-16