

PSW JACL Elects New Officers



Kenneth Inouye

The Pacific Southwest District (PSWD) of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) announced the election of its new Board of Directors: Governor Kenneth Inouye, Vice-Governor Carol Kawamoto, Recording Secretary Gary Mayeda, Treasurer Nancy Takayama, Immediate Past Governor Kerry Kaneichi, and Board Members at Large Alayne Yonemoto (past governor), Michelle Komatsu, and Craig Tomiyoshi.

The new board was elected on Nov. 6 at the district quarterly meeting at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Los Angeles. Spanning more than three decades, Inouye's involvement with the JACL will continue as he strives to build a society where Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders and other community members are empowered and free of prejudice and discrimination through advocacy, outreach, leadership, and increased communication.

Says Inouye, "Our district will not cease advocating for a safe and inclusive community, where communications between generations is enhanced so that we can work and grow together. As we outreach to the JA community to increase our membership, we will also further our leadership programs that support the future leaders in the JACL."

Inouye returns to leadership at the district level after decades of continued service. At the chapter level, he is a three-time past president of the Southeast Los Angeles North Orange County (SELANOCO) Chapter, programs chair, nominations chair, and civil rights chair. At the district level, he has been the PSWD governor, treasurer, and board member at large; and at the national level, has served as national president, vice president of public affairs, chair of the Pacific Citizen Board, and a member of numerous committees.

"We are very proud to have Mr. Inouye back at the helm of the district," said Kaneichi. "The face of JACL has changed significantly since Mr. Inouye was governor almost 20 years ago, but the mission and core values are still the same. Mr. Inouye has great presence not only in our own organization, but throughout the community

through his work with the Orange County Human Relations Commission, the California Association of Human Relations Organizations, and the Orange County Asian American Pacific Islander Community Alliance.”