

APAPA ON NATIONAL LEADERSHIP RETREAT

By JOEL WONG

APAPA is a dynamic and growing organization. In the past several years, APAPA has expanded from California to new chapters in New York, Florida, Texas and on June 2, 2015, to Washington, DC. As modern technologies - phones, texts, emails, chat groups, cyber meetings - are inadequate for effective communication between APAPA leaders, the First Annual National Retreat was initiated last year to facilitate face to face discussions, view point exchanges and building of synergy. The Second Retreat took place on Friday through Sunday, October 8 to October 10, 2015.

Our gracious hosts CC and Regina Yin boarded and fed 50+ national leaders/family members at their "five stars" ranch facilities. The Retreat started with routine reporting from 15 national chapters on their present activities and projected goals for 2016. APAPA Treasurer, Mary Liu and the accounting staff briefed the leaders on the new accounting and budget tracking system. CC talked about APAPA values and the needs for Funding and Financial developments. Anthony Ng, a VNA consultant and fund raising expert, gave a heartening talk on how to leverage APAPA's solid reputation into fund raising successes. Other



Bocce Ball session at the Yin Ranch



Leaders spent two solid days on APAPA pressing issues

important subjects covered at the retreat included the new APAPA website which is designed to give the individual chapters maximum autonomy for featuring chapter activities/contents and attract local advertisers.

The National Governing Board Members gave inspiration talks on the Essential Quality of Leadership (Ken Fong); Youth Leadership Development (Sandy Chau); and the building of Voters, Leadership, Appointment and Community Service pipelines. After a brief Sunday morning session, the Leaders boarded a bus to attend the 14th Annual Voters Education & Candidates Forum at California State University, Sacramento.

The Retreat was not all work and no play. The mornings started with exercises led by personal trainers

including a Yoga session by Carol Yin, followed by nutritious breakfasts and delicious lunches. Friday's dinner featured fresh seafood with Dungeness crabs from the bay, prawns, mussels, clams and all the fixings. Saturday's dinner featured a freshly roasted pig. The dinners were hosted by Mary Liu, the Yins and the National Governing Board members.

The Leaders spent Friday evening dancing away to the music of the Dream Achievers from FCSN and Nelson Huang led a rousing Karaoke session on Saturday evening.

In all, the retreat was fun, fruitful and the APAPA leaders had a chance to learn, exchange ideas and get to know each other. A good time was had by ALL!



Roast Pig Banquet and Karaoke Session