



## Overseas Chinese LDS Pioneers Association Newsletter April 2018

**Dear Overseas LDS Members, Returned Missionaries and Friends:**

The time is near for our biennial 2018 reunion and event. This will be our 9th Biennial Chinese Overseas LDS Pioneers and Missionary Reunion in the last 18 years.

Come join us and get reacquainted with old friends and meet new friends. As we get older the joy of meeting again increases. This time we have invited old friends from Taiwan. We hopefully and happily look forward to being together with them again.

The dates will be June 28, 29 and 30 (Thursday, Friday and Saturday), 2018. The location is the Yale Ward Building on 23 Lake Road, Irvine, California 92604.

We have reserved rooms at two hotels for the conference. Call ASAP to book your room, as there is a time-limit (May 31st) on the holding of these rooms. Be sure to ask about rules regarding cancellations and other details when booking a room. The price of hotels in this area is expected to go up because of its nearness to popular Southern California tourist attractions such as Disneyland. If anyone wishes to share the cost of a room then please call Yao Lien Hill (1-818-566-1640). She will try to find a roommate for you.

The event registration form and instructions can be found and printed at <http://chinese pioneers.org/news/2017-registration-form/>. Please help us by registering soon, so we can plan our event and know how much food to prepare. Register at least two weeks before the event. Any one registering late should call Yao Lien Hill. The price of meals also pays for decorations, flowers, paper goods and other event costs.

Please visit our beautiful new website at [www.chinese pioneers.org](http://www.chinese pioneers.org) and view the “News” tab, for the registration forms, program information and lodging information. We are grateful for our volunteers who have done a great job building our new website. We will continue posting photos of our events. We invite you to send any pictures you wish to share, to Beverly McCarter at [bymccarter@gmail.com](mailto:bymccarter@gmail.com).

### **2016 Reunion Report**

We had a very successful reunion in Salt Lake. We were instructed and inspired by many good speakers. In the future after we learn how, we hope to add videos of the presentations to our website. We were so excited to see some of our missionaries from long ago, who helped us know the Gospel and join the Church, and who changed our lives. We were happy to see old friends and pioneers from China and some new members too. Elder Garns came and spoke to us. Elder Alei Auna Jr, from Hawaii, surprised us with a visit and spoke to us.

Sister Jean Chen’s (Chen Ku Mama’s) history and testimony was shared with us by her daughter Grace. Sister Jean Chen has served as Vice President of our organization from its beginning. Her strong faith and testimony of the gospel is an inspiration and example to all of us. Even at 90 years, she is full of energy and optimism.

We thank Sister Maurine Smith, President of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, who invited us to visit their museum in Salt Lake, gave us special tours, and allowed us to use their conference room for lunch.

We want to thank Grace Chen who reserved the buildings for the events. She and Brother Chen, Ingrid Lau, Grace Liu and others helped with the setup, decorating, and clean up. Sherry Lin designed and arranged the beautiful flower arrangements, as she has done for many past events. Thank you to Harvey Horner and Chuck Liu for arranging our temple visit. Jean Funk and so many others assisted Erna Wong in the kitchen and with the serving. A great missionary experience came from this event. Two non-member families that Erna brought with her, who came to help, were so impressed by their experience with us and with General Conference that afterwards they joined the Church. Erna Wong, retired pediatric doctor, is a person full of talent and compassion often volunteers to prepare food for weddings and church events. She has taken responsibility for the logistics and preparation of food for our events since 2012. This is a very big task, and we are grateful for her service.

We even had unexpected guests from China who just happened to meet us at the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Museum and decided to attend our event.

Also, many thanks go out to so many others who volunteered. Thanks to all the people who helped with translation and to those who provided photography and the wonderful group pictures taken. If we have not included your name, then please forgive us. We appreciate all the help that so many volunteers gave.

Lien Yao Hill, President  
and Overseas Chinese LDS Pioneers Presidency

### **Message from the President**

I've been praying and working for almost 18 years to keep our organization alive, to grow and to pass it on to those with a strong desire to carry on. I would like everyone to know how joyful and happy our reunions have been over the last 17 years.

Since the year 2000 we have faced many challenges and many misunderstandings of our purpose and goals. But, regardless of the challenges and critical judgements, we have continued to grow and to overcome the challenges.

I am very grateful to the many supporters and friends who have provided help, encouragement and council. Together we are doing our best, to be guided and inspired by the Holy Ghost, to achieve our goals and to open doors. Please let us unite together to make this meaningful organization continue and grow.

We can be proud of our accomplishments and the good work we have done.

I wish to extend a special thanks to our team for all the meetings, discussions, and special assignments over the many months and years to make everything happen. It could not have been done without their dedication and help.

If anyone has questions or concerns, please call me. In a positive and constructive spirit, we will resolve any problems.

We know so many people who have completed their own family history. In the same spirit and purpose as Daughter of Utah Pioneers (DUP) and Sons of Utah Pioneers (SUP), please come help and encourage the many people who have not yet finished their family history.

Check-out the DUP, <http://isdup.org/>, and SUP, <https://www.sup1847.com/>, sites to learn more about them, and to better catch the vision of what we are trying to do. They are much further along than we are, but remember, we've just started. However, we can get there with your positive desires, encouragement, and support.

Thank you for all you do.

With Love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Yao Lien Hill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "Y" and a long, sweeping underline.

Yao Lien Hill  
President