AAIFPA-Dallas is Born

The Dallas chapter of the Asian American Insurance & Financial Professional Association (AAIFPA-Dallas) was officially established on August 25th, 2012, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Richardson, Texas. Approximately 150 participants assembled and celebrated the ribbon cutting ceremony. James Huang, AAIFPA-Dallas VP corporate affairs, was the master of ceremonies. Richardson Mayor Bob Townsel delivered welcoming remarks.

The out-of-town special guests included AAIFPA national president Heddi Huang, national VP life Ming Jiang, national secretary Lily Fang, national board director Benjamin Li from California, and Houston chapter president Yangxia Zeng. All of the attendees gave them a buoyant, Texas-state welcome.

President Huang said, “The AAIFPA is a national non-profit organization. It is also the first insurance professional membership organization in the country. The Dallas chapter is our sixth chapter. It is our job to educate Asian Americans on how to deal with their work and financial matters. We act as a bridge to connect Asian Americans to the major players of the insurance and financial industries.”

The board members for AAIFPA Dallas are Suzanne Chen, president; Michael Bi, chairman; Peggy Tang, VP investment; David Yu, VP life; Jamie Huang, VP corporate affairs; Chinh Nguyen, VP P & Q; Judith Lee, treasurer; Matthew Tan, secretary; Pu Li, tax & accounting advisor; Maria Tu and Jerry Ong, general counsel.

AAIFPA-Dallas president Suzanne Chen thanked the generosity of the sponsors and the commitment of the core members of this newly formed organization. She remarked, “I have learned so much from the role models in the community. I have learned that a leader is a servant.”

I had the privilege of interviewing both President Chen and Chairman Bi. President Chen, an associate manager at AGLA, told me, “As a new organization, we would like to conduct educational workshops and continuing education classes to provide information concerning the insurance and financial industries and market trends. We will invite speakers for seminars so that our members may gain knowledge, enhance professionalism, and promote their businesses. Other than licensed insurance and financial professionals, we would also like to have people from related industries, like real estate and banking to join our organization to exchange ideas.”

Chairman Bi, a financial service professional at New York Life, noted, “The most important issue concerning the insurance industry is new tax regulations. Due to the current tax code, the government tries to make tax-free products greater. We need to fight and lobby for our policy holders.”

The ribbon cutting ceremony for the AAIFPA-Dallas signaled the beginning of a wonderful organization. This positive environment will help cultivate stimulating conversations and growth among participants. The atmosphere at the event was cheery and festive. As AAIFPA-Dallas Chairman Michael Bi enthusiastically proclaimed, “It is so nice that you all can get together and join us. Let the journey begin.”