



## **News Release**

**For Immediate Release  
February 13, 2004  
Contact: Fred Teng  
(212) 629-6971**

### **Pan Asian American Leadership Caucus Celebrates Lunar New Year at its New Headquarters**

New York - The Pan Asian American Leadership Caucus (PALC) today celebrated the Lunar New Year and relocation of its offices to the Fashion Tower at 135 West 36<sup>th</sup> Street with a reception and dinner.

PALC is a leadership organization founded in the northeastern US. Members hold leadership positions in public, private, non-profit and faith-based sectors. PALC seeks to increase civic participation among Asian Pacific American communities by strategic advocacy, education and inspiration.

PALC West Coast President Peter Yu welcomed more than 200 Asian Pacific American leaders from across the country who gathered at the Fashion Tower. He spoke about the organization's efforts to expand its membership nationwide. PALC East Coast President Fred Teng set forth PALC's vision including its mission, objectives as well as previous and upcoming activities.

The Caucus's past projects include: a commemoration of the signing of the US Constitution; promotion and celebration of Asian heritage and salute to Asian Pacific Americans in the military with the Intrepid Museum Foundation and partnering to organize the Opportunities Conference with the US Department of Labor and US Housing & Urban Development. Several PALC leaders recently attended President Bush's address on immigration reform at the White House and voiced support for the President's vision. The Caucus's activities in 2004 will include planning for a heritage exhibit and awards gala with the National Constitution Center (Philadelphia) in May, cooperating with the USDOL to organize the regional Opportunities Conference (NY) in July and hosting a Leadership Summit on Ellis Island in September.

Susan Bonzon Ralston, Executive Assistant to Karl Rove, Senior Advisor to the President presented greetings and extended New Year's wishes to the gathered. Ambassador Sichan Siv, US Representative to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, was pleased to see the growth of the organization as he was the Keynote Speaker at the Caucus's inaugural celebration in 2002.

Edmund Moy, Special Assistant to the President and Associate Director for Presidential Personnel, said, "President and Mrs. Bush send greetings to all Asian Americans as they celebrate the Lunar New Year. Asian Americans are important to the safety and prosperity of the United States and as a result, President Bush has called a record number of Asian Americans to public service. President Bush is proud to have appointed Asian Americans to a historic 187 appointments in his administration including two cabinet secretaries, Labor Secretary Elaine Chao and Transportation Secretary Norm Mineta. May the Year of the Monkey bring much prosperity!"

Bill Harris, Chief Executive Officer of the 2004 Republican National Convention, said, "I am pleased that I was asked to speak in front of an organization whose mission is as fundamental and essential as civic participation. Your organization has succeeded in raising awareness in communities throughout the country. Through your members' leadership and example, you have shown that it is important to take an active role in our nation's political process."

"The 2004 Convention looks forward to continuing its partnership with PALC and will continue to conduct community outreach in all five boroughs." Harris continued. "As CEO of the Convention, I have made it a priority to reach out now, and during the Convention to all the communities of New York City. This city's enthusiasm, strength, and diversity reflect the best attributes of this nation as well as the Republican Party's philosophy of opportunity and inclusion for all."

Angelica Tang, Regional Representative of the US Department of Labor and founder of the Caucus thanked all those who contributed to the success of the evening and urged fellow Asian Pacific American leaders to engage in our country's civic processes.

###