

Dear Colleagues:

We are almost 75% through our tenure with a significant list of achievements so far, but more to do ahead. As per the Finance Committee's request, we have launched the Task Force with Michiyo Nakamoto as chair, and some of you also joining her. The intent is to look at mid- and long-term issues that won't be addressed in the Budget, to be presented in March at the GMM. I encourage you to share your ideas with her team, and if working with a Committee, detail the specific needs or challenges the group faces in coming years.

You will see on the agenda the addition of a substantial legal bill accrued by a past BoD that we unfortunately we have to account for, as well as receipt of payment from a past investment initiative that went asunder but has been returned after years and substantial wrangling. Also on the plus side, was a Hacks & Flacks final bill that was below initial estimates and can be quickly recovered on the addition of more new members from the night. For those who attended, what was your impression? Did you connect with your new member counterparts? Please also remind them of our new member night next month.

One issue we will discuss today is the FCCJ's online homepage, and the woeful tech that makes its scroll-down experience like looking at old Post-Its on a white wall. We need a better platform that more nimbly reflects our events and opportunities, catches eyes easily, and has a user interface that allows registration and payment functionality without need of human intervention. Of course, this also will have costs.

On the other hand, we continue to provide great value in ways such as Hokuriku Night and PAC that give Membership an intangible ROI that is worth time as well as money. On that front, I just learned that Ema Ryan Yamazaki, who has shown a number of films – her own and others – at the FCCJ over the years, has been nominated for a short film Oscar. I met her last summer at a screening of her Koshien documentary, and the Film Committee welcomed her showing that nominated elementary school film in the fall. She is one of many people making news whom you can find at the Club, and I'm very proud of that.

All best,

Dan