

# GUIDELINES FOR STARTING A NEW LOCAL CHAPTER OF US-CHINA PEOPLES FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

The Us-China Peoples Friendship Association (USCPFA) is a volunteer association of Americans who are united around a common goal of promoting friendship between the people of the United States and the people of the People's Republic of China.

The following Statement of Principles was adopted at the 1991 Convention and describes the common viewpoints of the members.

- The USCPFA is a non-profit educational organization. Our goal is to build active and lasting friendship based on mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of China.
- We recognize that friendship between our two peoples must be based on the knowledge of and respect for the sovereignty of each country; therefore, we support the declaration of the United States of America and the People's Republic of China that the resolution of the status of Taiwan is the internal affair of the Chinese on both sides of the Taiwan Straits.
- We also recognize that friendship between our two peoples and good relations between our two governments plays a critical role in maintaining peace in the Pacific Basin and in the world.
- As an educational organization, our activities include sponsoring speakers and programs which inform the American people about China, organizing tours and special study groups to China, publishing newsletters and other literature, promoting friendship with Chinese students and scholars while in the United States, and promoting cultural, commercial, technical, and educational exchanges.
- Everyone is invited to participate in our activities and anyone who agrees with this Statement of Principles is welcome to join.

### *What is the structure of USCPFA ?*

USCPFA was organized as a national organization in 1974. There are about 2400 members in 50 local chapters in four Regions: Eastern, Southern, Midwest, and Western.

### *How do you begin a chapter ?*

We encourage you to begin a chapter with like-interested people if there is no chapter in your geographic area, whatever that is. The first step is to hold at least one public program. The next step is to apply to your regional president for status as an Organizing Committee (OC). You can expect considerable help from your region and often from neighboring chapters.

### *How do you become a chapter ?*

Groups are granted chapter status by the region in which they are located. Each region has its own specific procedures for meeting requirements for becoming a chapter.

### *Chapter status is usually granted after the group*

- Has sent dues for ten or more people to the national treasurer of USCPFA
- Who has met regularly for six months
- Has an internal structure
- Has communicated regularly with their region
- Has adhered to the general policies in the Statement of Principles
- Has agreed to participate regularly in and contribute to regional and national bodies both financially and with delegates to conferences

When your group has achieved chapter status, you may vote at national elections. Voting at the national level is done by chapters. The number of votes a chapter has depends on the number of members in that chapter who have paid the national dues. See the current national Bylaws for proportioning of votes.

### *Are there guidelines for programs ?*

Each chapter has its own character, depending on the interests of the members. Programs may be on the history of China, the culture, current political or economic situation, travel experiences, or whatever your group is interested in. many resources are available through the USCPFA national collections. They include many films and videos, slide shows, regional newsletters, speakers on tour throughout the region, minority costumes, and scrolls. USCPFA also has the Center for Teaching about China, which has a catalogue of books and other resources for sale not available at your local bookstores.