



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF VIETNAMESE AMERICANS

Nghị Hội Toàn Quốc Người Việt tại Hoa Kỳ

National Headquarters: 910 Seventeenth Street, NW, Suite 314, Washington, DC 20006

Virginia Office: 6433 Northanna Drive, Springfield, VA 22150-1335

Telephones: (202) 496-1401 – (703) 971-9178 Fax: (703) 719-5764 Website: ncvaonline.org

Springfield, August 1, 2009

Dear Colleague,

Founded in 1986, the National Congress of Vietnamese Americans (NCVA) will hold its 24th Annual National Convention in Westminster, California, from **September 24 to 27, 2009** at the **Westminster Civic Center**.

On this occasion, we will have a chance to review the work of NCVA in the last few years and project our future directions, all in the service of our 1.5 million strong Vietnamese American community in the U.S. Recent NCVA activities include:

1/ Public hearings on the Hill, meetings with the NSC (National Security Council) at the White House and the State Department to push for *Human Rights and Democratic Freedoms in Vietnam*. Likewise, we work with NGOs and the UN for the same democratic goals and project.

2/ To engage our youths and motivate them to join the mainstream, we also organize yearly **VAYLCs** (Vietnamese American Youth Leadership Conferences) of which the last one, held in May 2009 in Washington DC, was the eighth such event.

3/ Full cooperation with the **U.S. Census Bureau**, so that we could have *accurate counts* of our 1.5 million strong population. As a result of this, NCVA has been designated a **CIC** (Census Information Center) to help spread the word about the importance of the U.S. Census 2010 and help Vietnamese Americans to accurately fill next year's Census forms.

4/ NCVA personnel have been at the forefront of such movements as the adoption of the Vietnamese American Heritage Flag (Three Horizontal Red Stripes on a Yellow Ground), the creation of the Victims of Communism Memorial (and its virtual library) and the creation of the "Boat People Archive" at the Library of Congress. We also participate in international conferences (such as the Vietnam Center Conferences in Lubbock, Texas) to safeguard the integrity of modern-day Vietnamese and Vietnamese American history.

5/ Participation in *nationwide activities to affirm our presence in America* such as the creation of the Smithsonian traveling exhibit "Exit Saigon, Enter Little Saigon" (2007-09), which is in its third and final year; the "Journey to Freedom Workshop: A Boat People Retrospective" organized last May 2 at the Library of Congress. Next July, NCVA will also be a part of the American Folk Life Festival, which will highlight cultural traditions of the Southeast Asian American population (including the Vietnamese) in the Washington DC metropolitan area.

6/ *Active promotion of linkages among the free Vietnamese around the world*, not excluding those in Eastern Europe and Russia, such as the yearly Democratic Meet (Hop Mat Dan Chu) conferences, the Warsaw Conference on the Rights of Vietnamese Workers, etc.

7/ Active participation in the development of a free Vietnamese press (24-hour radio and television besides the printed media) and a lively Vietnamese literary and artistic scene in the world at large, which today necessarily includes films (documentaries and other) and video productions of musical performances, the special language of the young. In this connection, NCVA also actively promotes Vietnamese studies in Western nations.

As is customary in the last 24 years, the National Congress of Vietnamese Americans holds its annual conventions one year on the East Coast (mostly in Washington, DC) and one

year on the West Coast (alternatively in a southern or Midwest state). This year NCVA is extremely happy to hold its **24th Annual National Convention** in the heart of Little Saigon, where there is the largest concentration of Vietnamese Americans in the U.S. Meeting four days, from September 24 to 27, the Convention will be *open to the public*, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m, on **Friday, September 25**, and **Saturday, September 26, 2009**, with many presentations and workshops that should prove of great interest to anyone wishing to know what is going on in the large Vietnamese American community around the country.

This letter is to officially invite you to attend **NCVA 2009**, our **24th Annual National Convention**, at the **Westminster Civic Center**, 8200 Westminster Avenue, Westminster, CA 92683. Pre-registration for attending the Convention's two main days is \$60 per person, payable before September 10, 2009, to NCVA*, or \$80 on-site. This includes breakfast and lunch on the two days and a banquet on Friday night, September 25. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call (703) 971-9178.

NGUYEN NGOC BICH
President, NCVA
E-mail: nguyennbich37726@aol.com

* NCVA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax exempt organization.