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Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Tampa Bay

天帕灣中華總商會

Executive Board for 2026-2027



Tracy Lesh, Sunny Duann, Andrew Lien, Justin Andrews

The Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Tampa Bay (CCCTB) recently convened its Board of Directors meeting, where Executive Officers for the 2026-2027 term were nominated and elected as follows: President: Sunny Duann (Re-elected), Vice President: Andrew Lien (Newly Elected), Secretary: Tracy Lesh (Re-elected), Treasurer: Justin Andrews (Re-elected). Mr. James Oldham has completed his term as Vice President. We extend our sincere gratitude to James for his dedicated service, leadership, and invaluable contributions to CCCTB. Throughout his tenure, he played a pivotal role in advancing the Chamber's mission and supporting its growth. We are delighted that James will continue serving as a Board Director and remain actively involved in supporting the Chamber's future initiatives. Since joining the Board, Mr. Andrew Lien has been a highly engaged and valued contributor to the Chamber, playing a key role in developing and maintaining the CCCTB website, designing event banners and promotional materials, and managing audio and technical equipment for Chamber events. Please join us in congratulating the newly elected Executive Officers. Under their leadership, CCCTB will continue to uphold its guiding principles of "Connect • Collaborate • Contribute" while fostering business growth, community engagement, and meaningful partnerships throughout Tampa Bay.

Hurricane / Disaster Preparedness - IT Edition



Andrew Lien



With hurricane season officially here, the goal for a 10-person office relying on VoIP and cloud apps isn't just protecting a physical server closet—it's ensuring continuous connectivity so your team can work from anywhere if the office loses power or becomes inaccessible. Because the office's primary tools live in the cloud, the risk is heavily shifted from "data loss" to "loss of access." Here is a streamlined redundancy checklist tailored for a small team:

Power Redundancy (the Immediate Defense)

Even a brief power flicker can drop your internet and drop active client calls. Ensure your core network rack (modem, router/firewall, and switches) is backed up by a high-capacity **UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply)**. Target a runtime of at least 1–2 hours to ride out minor outages or allow for a graceful shutdown. Equip any critical on-site desktop computers with small, dedicated UPS units. (Laptops are natively redundant here thanks to internal batteries).

CCCTB SUMMER 2026 NEWSLETTER



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Internet Redundancy (Dual-WAN)

If your primary ISP goes down, your cloud apps and VoIP lines go down with it. A 10-person footprint makes automated failover highly affordable. Utilize a dual-WAN router or security gateway that supports automatic failover. If WAN1 (e.g., Fiber/Cable) drops, it instantly routes traffic to WAN2. Pair your terrestrial internet with a low-cost secondary option. A **5G/LTE cellular gateway** is ideal for a 10-person team, as it operates on a different infrastructure than buried or telephone-pole cables.

VoIP & Communication Routing

The beauty of modern cloud VoIP is that the PBX (the phone system) doesn't live in your office. If the building vanishes, the phone system is still running. Ensure all 10 employees have the desktop/mobile app version of your VoIP service (e.g., RingCentral, Ooma) installed and tested on their smartphones and laptops before a storm hits.

End-User & Remote Work Readiness

If a hurricane forces the office to close, business continuity depends entirely on your team's ability to work from home or a safe secondary location. Establish a strict policy during monitoring phases that employees must take their laptops, chargers, and essential peripherals home with them every night. For critical files that aren't purely browser-based, ensure employees sync vital active project folders locally to their machines via OneDrive/Google Drive desktop clients so they can work if their home internet drops temporarily.

Final advice: a **cold spare** router/firewall appliance isn't just a "nice-to-have"—it is **one of the cheapest, highest-return insurance policies you can buy**.

-Andrew Lien

CCCTB Wellness Tour - Vicky's Living Foods Organic Farm



On May 2, more than 20 members of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Tampa Bay (CCCTB) visited Vicky's Living Foods Organic Farm for an enriching and memorable tour. Our visit was personally guided by farm owner and certified herbalist Vicky Lin, who led us through the land she and her husband, Bernard Lin, have carefully cultivated over the past decade. The lush rows of herbs, flowers, and trees reflected their deep dedication and harmony with nature.

The 17-acre farm grows more than 200 varieties of medicinal herbs. Highlights included moringa, loquat, red amaranth, lamb's quarters, Chinese chives, nutgrass, chrysanthemum greens, turmeric, mugwort, purple yam, cilantro, lotus, buckwheat, mulberries, sunflowers, and many more. We were especially fascinated to learn that nearly every part of the moringa and loquat trees, including the leaves, stems, flowers, seeds, roots, and bark, can be used for teas and herbal remedies.



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Vicky shared her extensive knowledge in a clear and organized way, providing detailed charts on each plant's properties, benefits, usage, dosage, and precautions. As we walked through the gardens, we listened, learned, and tasted fresh herbs straight from the earth, chewing on leaves like curious little rabbits. Vicky occasionally picked ripe cucumbers and squash and tossed them to us, bringing plenty of laughter. I was lucky enough to catch a small, mature ginseng root, what a delightful surprise!



After the tour, we enjoyed a thoughtful farm-prepared lunch of organic beef noodle soup with moringa noodles, cucumber salad, farm-fresh tea eggs, and aromatic moringa tea. As we ate, we continued asking Vicky questions about herbal cultivation and uses.

This immersive visit beautifully combined nature, knowledge, and community. Everyone agreed it was a rewarding and unforgettable experience.

-Sunny Duann



CCCTB Seminar - Planning Ahead with Confidence: Aging in Place and Legacy Planning



On April 18, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Tampa Bay hosted an informative Aging in Place and Legacy Planning event at the Florida Chinese Cultural Center. The event was well attended, with community members gathering to learn more about how to plan thoughtfully for the future while maintaining independence, dignity, and peace of mind.

The program addressed topics that many families, including those in the local Chinese American community, may not always discuss openly until a need or crisis arises. By creating a welcoming space for education and conversation, the event encouraged attendees to think ahead, ask questions, and better understand the choices available to them and their loved ones.

The program featured local attorney and Florida Rising Star **Kit Van Pelt, Esq.**, who shared valuable insights on legacy planning, estate planning, and important legal documents families should understand. Attendees learned about wills, trusts, powers of attorney, healthcare directives, and how proper planning can help protect both individuals and their families.

Leann Moore, Senior Move Manager, also provided practical guidance on aging in place, downsizing, home organization, and preparing for life transitions with less stress. Her presentation helped attendees consider both the emotional and logistical sides of planning for the next stage of life.

Throughout the event, attendees asked many thoughtful questions, creating an engaging and meaningful discussion. Many shared that they found the talk informative, practical, and relevant to their families.

The Chamber is grateful to our speakers, volunteers, translators, and attendees for making this event a success. Programs like this reflect our mission to provide education, connection, and resources that support our community across every stage of life.





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Heartfelt Thank You to Our Outstanding Translators

The Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Tampa Bay extends its sincere appreciation to **Sue Xu** and **Jill Xiong** for their exceptional translation support during our April 18 Longevity Planning Seminar.



Sue Xu



Jill Xiong

Translating a presentation on estate planning is no simple task. Legal terminology and estate planning concepts often have no direct one-to-one equivalent in another language, requiring careful research, thoughtful preparation, and a deep understanding of both the subject matter and the audience. Sue and Jill invested significant time before the event studying specialized legal vocabulary and refining translations so that complex concepts could be communicated clearly and accurately to our attendees.

During the seminar, they demonstrated remarkable professionalism, working seamlessly to bridge the language gap between our presenters and audience. Their ability to translate not just words, but meaning and intent, helped ensure participants could confidently understand important topics related to wills, trusts, powers of attorney, healthcare directives, and long-term planning.

Because of their dedication, our attendees were able to engage more fully in the presentation, ask informed questions, and leave with a better understanding of information that can have a lasting impact on their families and future.

The Chamber is grateful to our speakers, volunteers, translators, and attendees for making this event a success. Programs like this reflect our mission to provide education, connection, and resources that support our community across every stage of life.

On behalf of the Chamber and everyone who attended, thank you, Sue Xu and Jill Xiong, for your hard work, professionalism, and generous commitment to serving our community. Your preparation behind the scenes and your calm, capable presence during the event played an important role in making the seminar a success.

Your Business, Your Voice: 3 Minutes in the Spotlight

At our upcoming Annual Board Meeting, CCCTB members will have the opportunity to share a brief 3-minute spotlight on their business or industry updates and trends. The date is Saturday July 25, 2026. The time is 12 noon to 3 PM at Tampa China Buffet. RSVP to tracy.lesh@chinesechamber.org if you would like to speak and connect with our community members.

To learn more about CCCTB Annual Board Meeting, please look for the event flyer on the last page.

Spotlight on Jay Weisbrod, our newest Board member



Jay Weisbrod

I moved to Tampa in May 2025, but my connection to the Chinese community began years earlier. Born in Richmond, Virginia, and raised in several U.S. cities, my worldview changed

when my family relocated to Taipei, Taiwan, for three formative years. That experience sparked a lifelong interest in bridging the cultures and business communities of the United States and Greater China.

After earning a degree in International Business from Virginia Tech, I moved to Guilin, Guangxi, where I lived and worked for five years, immersed myself in the language and culture, and gained firsthand insight into China's business environment. I later returned to the U.S. as Director of China Export Sales at Smithfield Foods, managing a \$900 million sales portfolio and helping export more than 300 million pounds of U.S. pork annually to China.

Today, I work with GPS Food Group, partnering with buyers and suppliers across the Americas, Europe, and Asia. I am proud to call Florida home and honored to serve on the board of the Tampa Bay Chinese Chamber of Commerce. I look forward to building relationships, fostering collaboration, and helping the chamber broaden its impact.

-Jay Weisbrod

The Citrus Wizard of Florida: Remembering Lue Gim Gong



Dr. Pete Simmons

I recently discovered the remarkable story of Lue Gim Gong, a Chinese immigrant whose work left a lasting mark on Florida's citrus industry. His words especially stayed with me: "No one should live in this world

for himself alone, but to do good for those who come after him."

Lue Gim Gong was born in Guangdong Province, China, in the late 1850s or around 1860, and came to the United States as a teenager. After first living in San Francisco, he moved to North Adams, Massachusetts, where he worked in a shoe factory. There, he met Frances "Fannie" Burlingame, a Sunday school teacher who became one of the most important people in his life. She helped him learn English, encouraged his Christian faith, and eventually became such a close mentor that he called her "Mother Fannie."

Because of health problems, possibly tuberculosis, Lue was advised to move to a warmer climate. Fannie encouraged him to settle in DeLand, Florida, where she and her sister owned an orange grove. This caught my attention because I spent my first five years growing up in DeLand.

After the devastating freezes of 1894 and 1895, which severely damaged Florida's citrus industry, Lue focused his knowledge of pollination and grafting on developing stronger fruit varieties. His

The Citrus Wizard of Florida: Remembering Lue Gim Gong Continues

most famous achievement was the Lue Gim Gong orange, connected to the Valencia orange, which was known for its cold resistance and ability to remain on the tree longer. This was a major advantage for growers and helped extend the citrus season.

He also developed improved grapefruit varieties, including fruit that was more cold-tolerant, slower to drop from the branch, and even unusually fragrant. His work extended beyond citrus as well. He developed an apple that ripened earlier than most varieties and a tomato plant that grew in clusters.

Lue's connection to our Tampa Bay area is also meaningful. When Ransom E. Olds was developing what became Oldsmar, he hired Lue to help plan the area's agricultural future. A road in Oldsmar was later named Gim Gong Road in his honor.

In 1911, Lue received the Silver Wilder Medal from the American Pomological Society, the first time the award was given for a citrus fruit. In 2000, he was also recognized as a Great Floridian for his contributions to the state.



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Many thanks to this extraordinary Chinese immigrant, Lue Gim Gong. His quiet dedication, creativity, and desire to help future generations continue to inspire us today.

Note: His story continues to inspire new generations. Local artist Kirk Ke Wang recently honored Lue Gim Gong through a multimedia art project connected to "The Citrus Wizard's Journey, Lue Gim Gong and the Immigrant Spirit" at Heritage Village Museum and Park in Pinellas County. It is a meaningful reminder that Lue's legacy lives on not only in Florida agriculture, but also in art, history, and community memory.

-Dr. Pete Simmons





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Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Tampa Bay

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CCCTB ANNUAL MEETING

IDEAS THAT MATTER



SAT. JULY 25, 2026
12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

TAMPA CHINA BUFFET
1245 E Fowler Ave, Tampa, FL 33612



KIRK KE WANG
Professor Emeritus
Eckerd College

"Mystery &
Inspiration on
GimGong Road-
Two Creative
Journeys from the
East to the West"

[從東方到西方 - 錦
濃路上的創作之旅]



JUSTIN ANDREWS
Nexa Mortgage

"Property Tax Bill—
Needed Relief or a
Vote Too Risky?"

[佛州房產稅法案——
是必要的減稅紓困，
還是一項風險過高的
投票決定?]

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Seafood / Sushi Buffet
- Networking Opportunities
- Live Entertainment
- Keynote Presentations
- Board Installations
- Raffles



He Honglu, PhD
Associate Professor
Erhu Master



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