



北美風沙 The North American Lasallians

OCTOBER 2020



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HKOBA Annual General Meeting

The HKOBA formally [announced](#) that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) is to be held on Friday October 16, 2020. The agenda includes the election the office-bearers and members of the committee of the Association for 2020-2021, which we are sure a lot of you have been following lately.

As of end of September, two groups of candidates have expressed interest to stand for election, led by Wilfred Ng (81) and Kent Lau (99). This issue reproduces official announcement from the HKOBA, as well as promotional material from the two groups.

Voting

As outlined in the [AGM Announcement](#), current registered HKOBA members can vote at the AGM. Members must either cast their vote in person or vote by proxy. Please refer to the AGM Announcement and your proxy form for details and deadlines.

Proxy

The official [Notice of re-issuance of AGM 2020 Proxy Form](#) is reproduced below:

Dear Members,

We have received enquiries in relation to the Notice of 2020 Annual General Meeting of the LSCOBA to be held on 16 October 2020 (the “AGM Notice”). Please note that the AGM Notice, together with the 2020 Directors’ Report and financial statements and the proxy form, has already been dispatched to all our members at your registered postal address.

If for any reasons you did not receive the above documents, you may email me at agm2020@lscoba.com indicating your full name, HKID (first 4 digit), membership number and phone number, to request for the reissuance of documents. We will try our best to re-issue the documents to you within 48hrs after verification of your information submitted.

In order to better prepare for the AGM during the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, members who intend to attend the AGM in person are strongly encouraged to [RSVP](#) (but not mandatory) at the Association’s website at www.lscoba.com by Friday, 9 October 2020.

You may also refer to the online version of the AGM Notice [here](#).

Regards,

Willie Wong (84)

Returning Office, AGM 2020

LSOB Forum 2020

The following is reproduced/edited from various posts on their facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/lsobforum>.

LSOB Forum 2020 is formed by five old boys from different generations. We hope that the forum can facilitate potential cabinets or candidates to share their campaign pledges with fellow Lasallians in the coming LSCOA annual election held on 16 Oct 2020.

Our Declaration

- We declare that we do not have nor have expressed directly, indirectly, explicitly or implicitly in any way or form any preference, support, endorsement or voting inclination or otherwise for any of the potential cabinets or candidates participating in the coming forum, as now known or as may come forward before the election. We are here under our own capacity and not connected to LSCOA.
- We also pledge to be fair, neutral and unbiased in setting up this forum. Members of this group are free to support any candidates after the forum is over.
- We shall maintain a brotherly spirit irrespective of the outcomes of the election.

The Forum will be held on Friday October 2, 10:00-11:30am HK time. It will include introductory speech by two presidential candidates, followed by Q&A session based on questions submitted and voted by September 28. The questions will be read by the forum moderator(s), with possible follow-up questions. To ensure the flow of the forum, live questions from the forum audience will not be entertained. The forum will end by closing remarks from both presidential candidates.

During the Forum, both teams have agreed that there will not be direct confrontation or questioning among themselves. All communication will be conducted via the Forum moderator(s).

The Forum will be broadcasted live on YouTube. Registered old boys will receive the link via personal communication. After the Forum, the video will be available for review. The Forum organizers have the final copyright and ownership of all contents displayed during and related to the Forum, which should not be used by anyone or any party for promotional purpose or any purpose that has not been approved by the Forum organizers.

If there is any dispute during and after the Forum, the organisers of the Forum shall make the final judgement on the matters.

Participants and candidates participate in the Forum at their own free will. They will be solely responsible for their own statements and will not hold the organisers responsible should any liability arise as a result of the Forum.

Geoffrey Lieu (67)
Bernard Kong (76)
Robert Wong (78)
Anthony Lam (85)
Calvin Mak (01)

**Cabinet Candidate 1:
Wilfred Ng (81)'s team**

La Salle moves forward because of you. It moves forward because you reaffirmed the Lasallian spirit that has triumphed over war and turmoil, the spirit that has lifted our boys from time after time.

Yet, we are all different. Different in our up-bringsings, our values, our walks of life. The belief that while each of us will pursue our own individual ideal shall always be cherished. We agree to disagree – but we all agree Lasallians can do more. We agree to always put our Alma Mater's interest first.

What makes La Salle College exceptional are the bonds that hold our diverse Old Boys together. The belief that our destiny is shared; that this school only works when we accept certain obligations to one another and to future Lasallians. And among these are selflessness, inheritance and giving back. That's the power of our Unity.

Today, we take one step forward in running for the LSCOPA Committee Election as a team. We believe in

- Legacy: Passing the torch with Class Coordinators Group and brand-new Young Old Boys Network, embarking onto the School's Granite 90th Anniversary
- Innovation: Creating new digital platform that empowers Lasallians in multiple facets, reforming sports competitions and initiating LSCOPA 2.0
- Connectivity: Fostering stronger affinity among local and global Lasallians, empowering Lasallians across different walks of life
- Envisionary: Embracing diversity - establishing open, transparent communication channels to ensure your voice is heard

Our cabinet blends experienced members with fresh millennials minds. Given our track record in running LSCOPA events and activities, such as Annual Ball, music concerts and sports competition, in addition to our network across Medical, Legal, Finance and abroad array of new economies like entrepreneurship, fintech and digital space - we believe we have what it takes.

We have always believed that brotherhood is that stubborn thing inside us that insists, despite all the evidence to the contrary, that "La Salle is Something More" so long as we have the empathy to keep reaching, the unity to embrace diversity, and the altruism to keep giving-back.

Unity in Diversity

Wilfred Ng & his Cabinet

Proposed LSCOPA Committee (2020-21)

President: Wilfred Ng (81')

Vice President: Eric Chow (00')

Hon. Secretary: Dickson Ma (00')

Hon. Treasurer: Terence Mak (97')



**Wilfred
NG**



**Eric
CHOW**



**Dickson
MA**



**Terence
MAK**

Committee Members:



**David
LEUNG**



**Stanley
SHUM**

David Leung (81')

Stanley Shum (84')

Charles Ellis (90')

Thomas Fung (96')

Michael Mui (96')

Derek Wong (99')

Anthony Lam (00')

Martin So (04')

Fergus Wong (04')

John Chan (10')

Samson Kwok (10')

Martin Wong (16')



**Charles
ELLIS**



**Thomas
FUNG**



**Michael
MUI**



**Derek
WONG**



**Anthony
LAM**



**Fergus
WONG**



**Martin
SO**



**John
CHAN**



**Samson
KWOK**



**Martin
WONG**

傳承立新
跨代前行

Cabinet Candidate 2: Kent Lau (99)'s team

For the first time in 17 years, LSCOBA in Hong Kong is about to have its first committee election with competition.



“To me, ‘heritage’ means the traditions and legacies that we are proud of, what defines Lasallians as a group. Our heritage stays aloft when younger generations of Lasallians respond to a call of duty from our Alma Mater. It is much more than a senior passing on his seat to a protégé.” said Kent Lau (class of 1999), proposed president of the OBA4ALL (合眾·維新) cabinet.

Kent was brought up in a family of educators. Fully aware of the power of education, Kent’s parents sent him to La Salle Primary School in 1988, marking the start of Kent’s Lasallian life. Kent was a 17th Scout until F.4 which gave him good training on discipline and then the Manager of the School Orchestra until graduation. After graduating from La Salle College, Kent continued his study at The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Today, Kent is a co-founder of an award-winning technology PR agency in Hong Kong and the proud father of a two-year old daughter. Apart from his work and family life, Kent has also accumulated years of experience in operating alumni bodies, through his work in the alumni associations of Automation and Computer-aided Engineering and the Faculty of Engineering of his university.

“I am touched by the passion of this group of young Lasallians – to open up LSCOBA, re-connect the Lasallian community, and bring in new concepts for the benefits of our Alma Mater.” remarked Stanley Shum (class of 1979).



Stanley is a veteran LSCOBA Committee Member for 14 years since 2006, and a devoted helper and participant of all OBA activities. Stanley got to know Kent and his cabinet’s vision, and decided to accept Kent’s invitation to join his cabinet as a proposed committee member.

Kent’s cabinet comprises Lasallians from different vintages and walks of life. Proposed vice president Arnold Chan (class of 2006) is founder of an educational NGO, and a recipient of Hong Kong’s Ten Outstanding Young Persons Award (2019). Proposed honorary treasurer John Lam (class of 2004) is a senior executive of a multinational telecommunications company, with ample experience in optimizing the financial performance of large companies across APAC. Other proposed committee members include

creative designer, doctor, entrepreneurs, IT expert, lawyer, surveyor and university lecturer. The youngest member of the OBA4ALL cabinet is a current university student. The cabinet covered a time span of nearly 40 years of generation difference. Kent's team also recommends independent candidate Chan Yik Kan (Kennex) (class of 2002), current honorary secretary who is running for a second term.



The OBA4ALL cabinet formulated a detailed policy proposal which may be summarised by “L” (to Link), “S” (to Serve), and “C” (to Contribute). To join hands with all Lasallians, and bring the Lasallian community back together again. To make good use of technologies, and modernize OBA's operations and services. To bring OBA to a new start, and make it something more.

The overseas Lasallian community has been growing continuously, and their support to our Alma Mater has always been generous. To strengthen the bond between chapters, Kent's cabinet proposes that OBA should:

- participate in publications of overseas chapters, and vice versa
- prepare for homecoming for overseas old boys to celebrate our Alma Mater's 90th anniversary
- facilitate connections between overseas chapters and old boys emigrating or studying abroad for local support
- streamline the process which overseas members could vote and participate in general meetings



Stanley's memory of the election 17 years ago is still vivid. "That election gave LSCOBAs a new cabinet, bringing in many new ideas which benefitted OBA and the Lasallian community through today. "Sometimes you just have to open up the window and let some fresh air in. I'm looking forward to working together with these young Lasallians."

Website

<https://www.lscoba4all.info/>

Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/lscoba4all>

Instagram

<http://www.instagram.com/lscoba4all>

Whatsapp

<https://wa.me/message/R5BAQCCS72WJD1>

Our Lady of Fatima: The ultimate frequent flyer

William Lai (61)



The legend

For Catholics, one of the most sacred places on earth is Fatima, Portugal. Legend has it that Mary, the mother of Jesus, appeared to three children a number of times in the early 1900s.

The tale is a long and rather twisty one, but a brief synoptic chronology is as follows.

The story revolves around three shepherd children, Lucia Santos and her cousins Jacinta and Francisco Marto, aged 10, 7, and 9 respectively at the time of the so-called apparitions. They were from the village of Aljustrel in the parish of Fatima, Portugal.

Initially, in 1916, an "Angel of Peace" presented himself to the children three times between the spring and the fall. This entity was identified as a male who also sometimes referred to himself as an "Angel Guardian, the Angel of Portugal". His mission in showing himself to the children was apparently to teach them how to pray and to forewarn them about Mary who had "designs" on the children.

Then it happened. On 13 May 1917, the Lady appeared to the children over an oak tree and told them that she was from heaven. She advised the children that they would suffer much but that they would be strengthened by God's grace. She asked them to say the Rosary everyday to bring peace to the world and the end of the war (WWI was raging at the time). When Lucia asked the Lady what she wanted from them, she told them to come back on the 13th of every month for six months hence.

In her second appearance to the children on 13 June 1917, the Lady asked the children to add an appendix prayer to the end of the Rosary. She also indicated that she would soon take Jacinta and Francisco to heaven but would leave Lucia on earth a while longer, during which time Lucia was to learn how to read and write.

On the third occasion on 13 July 1917, the Lady allegedly showed the children a preview of hell complete with a sea of fire engulfing “devils and souls with human form”. She explained that many souls would be saved, and peace would prevail if people stopped offending God; otherwise another war would break out during the forthcoming reign of Pope Pius XI. Then she made a rather bizarre request – that Russia be consecrated “to my Immaculate Heart”. She apparently believed that if and when Russia was converted, there would be peace.

The vision of hell and the demand for the consecration of Russia were two of the famous “Three Secrets of Fatima”. The third secret supposedly hinted at the demise of a future Pope. These “Three Secrets”, the unravelling of which is beyond the scope of this little travelogue, have remained controversial to this day.

The children and their story came to the attention of the authorities and they were apprehended for questioning, causing them to miss the 13 August date with the Lady. The children were released subsequently and they met with the Lady at an off-site location on 19 August. During this meeting, the Lady reiterated her request for more Rosaries to be said and hinted at a “miracle” in October.

In the fifth gathering on 13 September 1917, the Lady again urged the children to say their Rosary and predicted that “Our Lord” would come in October, and that she would perform a miracle at that time.

Then came 13 October 1917. By this time, word had spread far and wide about the children’s encounters with “Mary”. A multitude gathered on this day, hoping to experience the apparition about which they had heard so much. It was reported that some 70,000 people showed up for the event. What they witnessed was later dubbed “The Miracle of the Sun”. Despite that day being drizzly, the people allegedly saw the sun spinning, surrounded by flame, dancing around and changing colours as it did so. Then just as soon as it appeared, the phenomenon ended. To believers, this rapid fire showing of the sun on a rainy day was the fulfillment of a “miracle” predicted by Mary, proving her authenticity. For others, there’s a more down-to-earth meteorological explanation, if the reported sighting was genuine at all. Nobody in that multitude actually saw Mary that day.

Later events

As it turned out, of the three children, only Lucia survived to adulthood. Both Jacinta and Francisco died a couple of years later, victims of the influenza epidemic. One could surmise if their deaths were indeed foretold by Mary, or simply a result of a furious pandemic outbreak that made children particularly vulnerable. They were eventually canonised by Pope Francis in 2017. Lucia became a nun, taking the religious name of Sister Maria Lucia of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart. She wrote several books about her Fatima experiences and occasionally surfaced as somewhat of a controversial figure relating to her Fatima claims, especially the so-called “secrets”. She passed away in 2005. Her canonization process is ongoing.

Visit to Fatima

On a recent tour of Portugal, my wife and I had the opportunity of visiting the very sites of the Fatima apparitions. The fields where the children were shepherding no longer exist, of course, having been transformed into a large compound with shrines and markers of the events that allegedly took place. The exact spot where Mary supposedly appeared is now the Chapel of Apparitions with a statue of a crowned Mary standing right at the exact spot where she supposedly appeared to the children. The houses where the children lived are still standing and well preserved.

The whole compound containing the various holy sites is quite large. Prepare to do quite a bit of walking and allow at least two hours to see everything if you do plan to visit. Here are a few pictures showing some of the sights at this holy place.



Left - The three shepherd children - Lucia, Francisco and Jucinta (1917) .

Right - At the same spot where the photo of the children was taken in 1917.



Left - Lucia's house in the village of Aljustrel



Right - One room inside Lucia's house. The writing on the wall says - In this house lived Sister Maria Lucia of Jesus and of the Immaculate Heart, O.C.D. (1907-

2005).



Top Left - House of Francisco and Jacinta



Top Right - Room in which Francisco and Jacinta were born and where Jacinta rested when ill before being moved to Lisbon where she died



Room where Francisco died.



Site of the first and third angel apparitions.



Site of the second angel apparition.



The exact spot where Mary appeared to the three children on all occasions except one.



Top Left – Apparition site now housed in the Chapel of the Apparitions

Top Right- Panoramic view of the compound showing the colonnade, the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary in the background, and the Apparition Chapel on the left.



Left - Site of apparition on 19 August 1917 (the children were unable to make the 13 August 1917 appointment with Mary as they were detained by the authorities).

Our Emerald Lady

Knock, Ireland

On a recent tour of the Emerald Island, the itinerary took us to the western Irish village of Knock where the Virgin Mary was also said to have appeared on 21 August 1879. This time, Our Lady of Knock was accompanied by Saint Joseph and Saint John the Evangelist. They showed up on the south gable of the Knock Parish Church. They remained silent and still throughout the event and did not deliver any messages, thus leaving ample room for imagining the significance of the alleged occurrence. It was reported that some 15 people witnessed the event.

Because of the location of the apparition, by the gable wall of the church, and its relation to the positions of sun and other reflective buildings at the time, some doubters have explained the showing as nothing more than a peculiar lighting play. Others noticed a couple of local cops waving a lantern that cast shadows on the church wall. Nevertheless, masses of people are still believers and, in every August, the place, now called the Knock Shrine, is swarmed by pilgrims attending the annual Novena commemorating the anniversary of the apparition.

Mary was supposed to make an encore performance at Knock on 12 June 2017. A big crowd gathered and saw nothing, though later some people posted photos of clouds shaped like a person.



Knock shrine interior view



Knock - exact apparition spot



Knock shrine exterior view.



Knock Basilica



Altar and wall mural of the apparition inside Knock Basilica

Our Lady of Everywhere

Fatima and Knock are only two of the numerous places where the Virgin Mary is said to have presented herself to people. The very first time she showed herself was to the Apostle Saint James in the first century while he was preaching in Spain. The more recent famous apparition locations include: Guadalupe, Mexico (1531); Lourdes, France (1858); Gietrzwałd, Poland (1877); Beauraing, Belgium (1932-33); Medjugorje, Bosnia and Herzegovina (1981) etc, etc. Sightings of the Virgin Mary has been reported throughout history in all continents and all centuries. She didn't miss Canada either, having visited Niagara, Ontario; Cape Breton, Nova Scotia; Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Quebec. There have been so many Marian Apparitions that the National Geographic actually has a world map of Marian Apparitions, in this [link](#). Her frequent flyer account would be the envy of any modern jetsetter; and the number of posthumous Elvis Presley sightings pales vastly in comparison with sightings of the Virgin Mary.

Apparition or Appearance

The spectacle of Marian Apparitions has certainly captured the imagination and belief of millions all over the world through the centuries. But are these showings of Our Lady apparitions or appearances? Believers actually prefer the word "appearance" because it indicates a real presence, whereas "apparition" has a ghostly, unreal connotation to it.

There have been efforts to debunk the apparition phenomenon. For example, doubts have been expressed about the genuineness of Lucia's reports of her conversation with Mary. Her own mother called Lucia's reports childish nonsense and labeled her daughter as "a fake....leading half the world astray". Others have also characterized Lucia as a fantasy-driven gifted story-teller who was able to manipulate her younger cousins to concoct the fairy tale of meeting with angels and the Virgin Mary. It is also worth noting that her so-called secrets or predictions, about the end of WWI and the deaths of her cousins, were revealed after the fact. Skeptics have theorized various origins of these Marian Apparitions, including simple misperceptions, hallucinations, mass hysteria, illusions, delusions, wishful thinking, lighting aberrations, or just plain hoaxes.

In reading some of the literature on the subject, one obtains the impression that the Catholic Church is kind of ambivalent about these apparitions. While there are so-called "approved" apparitions, the Church authorities do not require anybody to believe in them. By the way, the "approval" process could be a long-drawn out process which essentially is based on witness testimony, which seems rather circular. The Church, of course, could not explicitly cast doubt on these reported sightings as that would cause them to lose the support of millions of its followers.

But for believers, the phenomenon is real. Faith does not require logic or objectivity. I guess that's OK if the belief provides the believer with some organization and meaningfulness in life, which is a rewarding experience. That, for me, however, brings up the behaviourist, BF Skinner's experiment on the superstitious behaviour of pigeons. He was able to make pigeons do rather unpigeon-like things like pivoting in a cage by rewarding that behaviour with food, so now the pigeon would turn around and around in the cage to obtain food, seemingly believing "superstitiously" that turning around would produce food when that activity actually had nothing to do with the production of the food.

The other thing I noticed when visiting these apparition sites was that the immediate environs of these sites were surrounded by many hotels, restaurants, shops and souvenir stores, plus many fee-based museums. Then there were the many tour buses that brought in tons and tons of tourists and pilgrims, and their guides. These alleged appearances of the Virgin Mary obviously serve as an economic engine for these areas. If I was a local business person, I certainly would not discourage people from believing that Mary actually visited. In a way, Mary, whether real or not, is providing a livelihood for many, and that is a blessing, not to mention the pleasure of the great multitudes of visitors swarming the place every year.

Hail Mary

About this newsletter

This newsletter is aimed at providing an electronic platform for communication & sharing among La Salle old boys in North America. It is not meant to be used as an instrument for promoting any personal agenda.

The editorial board reserves the rights to oversee and edit all submissions, to ensure all contents shall meet our publication standards, as well as appropriate for the newsletter's intended audience & global circulation. Our editorial board has the exclusive right to reject submissions deemed to be not in line, or incompatible with the purpose or spirit of this newsletter at our sole discretion.

Previous issues of the newsletter are available from the archive located at <http://www.lscob-global.net/NALS.html>

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The Chief editors appreciate William Lai (61) for his contribution to this issue.

Chief Editors	John Jean (76) Victor Leung (77) Kevin Kwok (88) Chris Fong (94) Ambrose Lee (98)

祝中秋節快樂

明月經常有
何須問青天
雖皆獨天圓
唯別是中秋
光輝耀四海
月映暖萬心
把酒敬明月
暢飲掃千愁

by an anonymous Old Boy

