



The State of Washington  
**COMMISSION ON ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS**

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*Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans*

**Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs Board Meeting**

Spokane Public Library  
906 West Main Street  
Saturday, March 20, 2010

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

**INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Welcome and introductions were given. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

- Guest: Sean Sarasan, Partnership Department, Spokane Local Census Office - Informed the Commission and the public on the arrival of the Census2010 bus tour in Spokane on Monday, March 22, 2010 and provided informational devices outlining the Census for the Asian Pacific American (APA) community.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Bee Cha, Doug Heyamoto, Jeannie Lee, Jagdish Sharma, Rey Pascua, Sofia Aragon, Tanya Tran, and Albert Shen

Commissioners Absent: Frieda Takamura, Lua Pritchard, and Debadutta Dash

Staff Members Present: Executive Director: Kendee Yamaguchi  
Executive Assistant: Phillip Sit

**APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 12, 2009 MINUTES**

Amendment

- Insert Commissioner Tanya Tran read the Governor's greeting for the Vietnamese "Tet" New Year

Motion was made by Commissioner Sharma, seconded by Commissioner Heyamoto to approve the minutes with one amendment.

**COMMISSIONER REPORT:**

Commissioner Sharma

- Represented the Commission at the 61<sup>st</sup> annual India's Republic Day.
- Represented the Commission at the Asian Pacific Community Cultural Center (APCC) for the Lunar New Year celebration with Commissioner Lee and Director Yamaguchi, noted that the theme for the celebration was the Indian American community.
- Served as a judge for the Governor's Trader of the Year 2010 contest in Seattle, WA.
- Participated in a webinar organized by the U.S. Department of Commerce regarding international trade with India.

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**Agency Overview**

The CAPAA was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by ensuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12-governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State.

#### Commissioner Tran

- Represented CAPAA at Vietnamese “Tet” New Year events in Olympia and Seattle, WA.

#### Commissioner Heyamoto

- Attended a day of remembrance commemorating the internment of Japanese Americans during WWII and an event for Japanese American Nisei in Eastern, WA.
- Current vacancy for the Senior Consul General of Japan, the new Consul General will be arriving from the Netherlands.
- Made aware of an alleged case of racial discrimination where a Washington State University professor was denied tenure.
  - The Director noted that the individual in question has not made direct contact with the agency, but that the individual has been provided with state and federal agencies that the individual could connect to file a complaint.

#### Commissioner Aragon

- People of Color Group, outreach to minorities of color to solicit feedback on the revenue situation and the legislative session.
- Will be attending the Regional Health Education & Training Conference on March 26, 2010 at Seattle Central College.
- The Governor’s Interagency Council on Health Disparities recently completed a report and the council is soliciting feedback from the Commission.

#### Commissioner Shen

- Attended an economic development meeting with members of the U.S. Small Business Administration.
- Attended a breakfast roundtable with CEOs with President Obama’s Senior Policy Advisor, Valerie Jarrett.
- Participated in a meeting with U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell and local banks on the concerns with small businesses getting access to capital.

#### Commissioner Cha

- Presented the Achievement Gap studies to the Hmong community.
- Completed the refugee exhibit that will be on display from May 14 to December 12, 2010 at the Wing Luke Museum.
- Attended a community meeting hosted by the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition on immigration reform.

#### Commissioner Lee

- Executive Director of the Korean American Grocers Association - an organization that serves over 900 members.
- Increase in concerns over the cost of health insurances for small business owners in the Korean American community.
- Working with the liquor control board to highlight the issue of the large penalties incurred by businesses that unknowingly sell alcohols to minors. Many Korean grocers are unfamiliar with the process and cannot afford the expensive scanners to validate the ID of customers. Commissioner Lee has scheduled a meeting with Senator Paull Shin to discuss possible alternatives.

#### Commissioner Pascua

- Currently serving as the president of the Filipino community in Yakima.
- Senate Resolution 8668 that was passed during the 2010 legislative session designated October, 2010 as the inaugural Filipino National History Month.
- Commissioner Pascua secured the endorsement of Sens. Honeyford and Prentice and the Commission provided an endorsement in support of the resolution.
- Over 30 individuals attended the passage of the resolution in Olympia, WA.
- The Filipino Community Center of Yakima will be hosting its 58<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner on March 27, 2010.
- The 13<sup>th</sup> National Conference for the Filipino American National Historical Society will take place in Seattle on July 21 – 24, 2010 at Seattle University.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

### **1. FINANCIAL REPORT:**

The executive director provided a budget update for the 2009-2011 Biennium Year and informed the Commission that the agency has completed an audit by the State Auditor's Office for the period of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009.

### **2. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:**

CAPAA created and adopted a new policy and procedure manual. The agency also successfully launched a new Web site, database, e-newsletter, e-legislative update, and an informational alert. Staff have completed or are currently enrolled in all mandatory trainings

### **3. UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS:**

- API Heritage Month will take place in the month of May. CAPAA will work with other state agencies to inform state employees and the general public of this occasion. Please inform the staff if you are aware of any community celebrations.
- CAPAA has entered into a partnership with the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality at the Seattle University School of Law to develop a report on the *State of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Washington*. A draft will be provided to the board prior to the dissemination to state agencies and to the general public.

### **4. LEGISLATIVE SESSION:**

- API Legislative Day was held on February 4, 2010 in Olympia and more than 1700 people attended from across the state. Commissioners and community leaders met with the Governor and the legislative leadership.
- CAPAA is producing a comprehensive document highlighting bills of interest to the community for this past legislative session. This will circulate state-wide in the near future.
- Filipino American Heritage Month Resolution was passed on March 3, 2010 under the leadership of Commissioner Pascua.

### **5. OUTREACH:**

- The agency is moving into a new phase of outreach with state and federal agencies, and the director has met with the U.S. Small Business Administration, Department of Early Learning, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Department of Commerce.
- With the assistance of Commissioner Lee and Pascua, the Commission will translate pamphlets from the Department of Veterans Affairs into Tagalog and Korean, the two most represented Asian Pacific American groups in the military are Filipino and Korean Americans.

### **6. COMMISSION:**

- Adjustments to the meeting schedule were made at the beginning of the year.
- Launched an intranet site for Commissioners to individually document and report their state-wide outreach efforts.
- The Commission conducted a retreat on February 12, 2010 focusing on evaluating and developing new elements of the strategic plan. The revised strategic plan will be submitted to the Governor's Office and posted to the agency Website. Special acknowledgments to Commissioner Shen and CAPAA/ACLF Fellow Ben Henry on their contributions to the strategic plan.

### **7. UPDATE ON PRIORITY ISSUE AREAS:** Within the strategic plan, a detailed report of the committees is provided with timelines and performance measures.

**Education:**

- The Achievement Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee published an Achievement Gap report for the legislature in January 2010. Commissioner Takamura currently serves as a member of the committee.
- Partnered with South Seattle Community College to link the Asian American Pacific Islander Higher Education Resource Center (AAPIHERC) on the agency Website.
- Conducted meetings with OSPI and the Department of Early Learning.

**Health Care and Human Services:**

- The Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities completed a progress report on eliminating health disparities in Washington State to the Governor and members of the legislature. Commissioner Pritchard currently serves as a member of the council.

**Economic Development:**

- The Economic Development committee held a meeting in Bellevue, WA and the main concerns heard were access to capital and obtaining lines of credit for small businesses.
- The Commission held a forum with small business owners and community leaders in Eastern Washington.
- Partnership with National Council of Asian American Business Association (NCAABA), resulting in a scholarship slot for Washington State business to attend the NCAABA 2010 Supplier Academy in March 2010.

Question: Commissioner Sharma asked if the scholarship was utilized.

Response: Yes, the scholarship was used by an APA small business.

**Immigration:**

- Commissioners and staff attended a community forum hosted by the Asian Pacific islander Coalition on federal comprehensive immigration reform.

**8. LEGISLATIVE SESSION REVIEW:**

- The focus of the legislative session was in closing the \$2.8 billion dollar budget gap.
- Health and Human Services are more likely to be eliminated or cut than educational programs; the bills in the legislative session review were selected based on the Commission's strategic plan by the Commission's legislative liaison.
- Commissioner Rey Pascua noted that the next two legislative sessions will include a discussion on community centers for the Indian and Vietnamese American community.

**9. GUEST SPEAKER:**

Ted Schizel, Branch Manager, U.S. Small Business Administration – Spokane, WA.

- The Spokane branch office supports 20 counties in Eastern Washington, and is one of seventy offices in the United States.
- The only industrial sector growing across all 50 states is health services.
- The U.S. Small Business Administration provides 110,000 loans annually at the national level and the Spokane branch office will provide around 7000 loans per year.
- Commissioner Cha noted there is a need in the community for bilingual services in order to assist communities of color in navigating the process.
- Mr. Schizel informed the Commission that the SBA provides three to four workshops across the state and also has an online portal for electronic consultation.

**10. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- Kyle Ratuiste, Filipino Student Union at Gonzaga University, questions in regards to student involvement with the Commission and the state in general.
  - Commissioners and staff referred to the CAPAA fellowship and internship program during the

- legislative session.
- CAPAA provides a weekly report on the legislative session that includes the coverage of bills that may have an impact on higher education.
- Maria Sarquilla, noticed that Eastern Washington is not as heavily represented as Western Washington in terms of commissioners and programs.
  - Commissioner Heyamoto shares that concern of a general disconnect between the Western and Eastern part of the state.
  - The Commission encourages more applicants to apply from the area to increase representation.
  - Commissioner Aragon commented that the Commission is looking to get involved in the tri-cities region due to an influx of new immigrant population.

Commissioner Sharma makes a motion to adjourn the board meeting at 2:14 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Pascua

**MEETING MINUTES BY PHILLIP SIT**