



APALA Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO

Worker, Immigrant, Civil Rights

APALA 2012 END OF THE YEAR REPORT



APALA Leaders Honor Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) Chair Representative Judy Chu at the 20th Anniversary & APALA Education Fund Kick Off



APALA Leaders greet AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Arlene Holt Baker at the 20th Anniversary Celebration

APALA Celebrated Our 20th Anniversary

On April 26, 2012, APALA members and allies recreated history by uniting in the Gompers Room of the AFL-CIO to celebrate APALA's two decades of growth and victories since its founding in 1992. The 200 guests from the National Executive Board, Young Leaders Council, unions and constituency groups, and many other of our partners were welcomed by emcee Gloria Caoile, APALA Nevada Chapter President and National Political Director.

Honorees included Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) Chair Representative Judy Chu (CA-32), Immediate Past AFSCME President Gerald McEntee and APALA's founding Executive Director Matthew Finucane, who now serves as Senior Policy Analyst at the National Education Association (NEA). Speakers included AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Arlene Holt Baker, NEA Secretary-Treasurer Becky Pringle, Ann Mitchell, Advisor to AFT President Randi Weingarten, APALA National President Johanna Hester

and APALA National Treasurer Michael Yee. APALA National Executive Board Members took part in the celebration as supporters from various unions, community organizations and coalitions joined in congratulating APALA's achievements. The 20th Anniversary also came full circle with many of our founding APALA members present.



APALA National Executive Board Members Meeting November 2012 in San Francisco, CA

About APALA

Founded in 1992, APALA is the first and only national organization of Asian Pacific American union members and allies to advance worker, immigrant, and civil rights. As a membership based organization, APALA has chapters in 12 states, serving as a bridge connecting Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) with the broader labor movement. In 2011, to ensure broader education, civic engagement and capacity building for APAs, we established the Institute for Asian Pacific American Leadership & Advancement (IAPALA).



"APALA has fought for immigrant rights and immigration reform since our inception. This year, or the year after, will be no different as we understand the impact it has on the Asian Pacific American community. We will continue to fight until there is a viable pathway to citizenship not tied to increased enforcement, better protection for workers and all families are reunited, including our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender brothers and sisters."

- Johanna Hester
APALA National President

Organizing Institute in Washington, DC

Since 1992, APALA has trained and recruited a new generation of Asian Pacific American union APALA & AFL-CIO presented the Organizing Institute (OI) in Washington, DC from June 29 - July 1, 2012 at the AFL-CIO Headquarters! 15 participants gained leadership and organizing skills, engaged with union Asian Pacific American leaders, and discovered job opportunities with unions. Training fellows came from the AFL-CIO, American

Federation of Teachers (AFT), Association of Flight Attendants-Communication Workers of American (AFA-CWA), Service Employees International Union (SEIU), and the United Food & Commercial Workers (UFCW). The Organizing Institute seeks to help build the union movement primarily through identifying, training and developing organizers from our membership, staff, community and college campuses across the country.

2012 Elections

During the 2012 elections, APALA's civic engagement program, Every Vote Counts, returned in full swing in California, Maryland, Michigan, Nevada, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia & Washington State. The effort was spearheaded by APALA chapters and community partners. The program identified, trained & engaged new Asian Pacific American voters and convening community members.

According to the 2010 U.S. census, Asian Pacific Americans are the fastest growing community in the nation. Every Vote Counts tapped into this potential. The program brought union members, immigrant workers, community advocates and youth together to ensure that our communities were heard.

Speakers Bureau Trainings in California

In collaboration with the Asian Pacific Environmental Network Action (APEN Action), the Alameda Central Labor Council, and the Orange County Central Labor Federation, APALA co-hosted the APA Speakers Bureau training to educate and inform our supporters in the Asian Pacific American communities to be fully prepared to speak about YES on Proposition 30 and NO on Proposition 32 in California. The three trainings in Oakland, Santa Ana, and San Diego trained over 100 APA labor and community leaders. Trainings were simultaneously conducted in various Asian languages including Cantonese, Mandarin, and Vietnamese.



Graduate Jinjie Lin (APEN member) and Heidi Lao (SEIU-ULTCW member) participated in the Yes on 30, No on 32 press conference in Oakland Chinatown organized by the Alameda Labor Council, APALA & APEN. It was covered by the World Journal and the Sing Tao Dailey News.

National Voter Registration Day

APALA was proud to be a part of the working group for the first ever National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) on September 25, 2012, a historic effort that brought together

volunteers, celebrities and organizations all over the country on a single day of coordinated field, technology and media efforts. Thanks to the many partners who participated, 285,418 people were registered and 8,801 volunteers were involved on NVRD.

Chapter Highlights

APALA Alameda:



The APALA Alameda Chapter teamed up with the Alameda Labor Council and APEN Action to train over 40 labor and community leaders in English, Mandarin and Cantonese during the Speakers Bureau Training. In addition, workers at the Asian Community Mental Health Services (ACMHS) were organizing a union with support of APALA, APEN, AIWA, and the Alameda Labor Council. They eventually were recognized through card check and are excited to finally have a voice on the job.



APALA Alameda Chapter member participates in NO on 32, YES on 30 Phone Bank in California.

APALA DC:



APALA DC members not only knocked on hundreds of doors in Virginia to lend a hand in the general elections, but also knocked on doors in Maryland to Get Out The Vote for an important ballot initiative—the Maryland DREAM Act.

APALA LA and APALA OC:



The APALA Los Angeles Chapter and APALA Orange County Chapter collaborated with the Orange County Labor Federation, AFSCME-United Domestic Workers Alliance, and APEN Action to train over 30 leaders from their communities through a No on 32, Yes on 30 Speakers Bureau Training in Santa Ana.

APALA Michigan:



APALA Michigan Chapter partners with APIA Vote-Michigan and Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund to phone bank AAPI voters and urge them to vote in the elections.

Nevada



APAs have had explosive population growth in Nevada, with an 116% increase from the last Census—more than any other state. “The APALA Nevada Chapter recognizes the importance for Asian Pacific Americans in Nevada to exercise their voting power,” said Gloria T. Caoile. “We’re proud to have registered more than 3,000 new voters & reached 45,000 people through our Every Vote Counts campaign. With the election over, our focus will be on immigration, education & the economy.”



“2012 was a pivotal year for the Asian Pacific American community – we ran for office in record numbers, emerged as the fastest growing racial group in the country, and swayed electoral outcomes at the polls. Over the last two decades, APALA has played a major role in bringing our community forward and ensuring that Asian Pacific American workers have a seat at the table. As someone who has fought alongside APALA for many years, I thank the organization and its leadership for its tireless efforts and look forward to working with APALA to tackle the many great challenges that lie ahead.”

– Rep. Judy Chu (CA-27)
Chair of the
Congressional Asian
Pacific American Caucus
(CAPAC)



"I am proud and honored to receive the endorsement of APALA. The members of APALA work hard each and every day to provide for their families. During these difficult economic times, where the needs and concerns of working families and the middle-class have been shoved aside, the men and women of APALA continue to persevere in hope of achieving the American Dream. I very much look forward to serving as an outspoken advocate on their behalf as a member of Congress."

– Rep. Grace Meng (NY-6)



"We are proud of APALA and its steadfast commitment to engage workers, students and community members. Moving forward, APALA will be an essential partner as we continue to build the economy and advocate for worker and immigrant rights."

– Richard Trumka
President, AFL-CIO

On May 12, APALA Nevada Chapter held an event to celebrate the APA electorate. Speakers at the event included Rozita Lee, Member of the White House Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, May Manahanan with the Clark County Registrar of Voters, and other Asian American veterans, business leaders, union members, and community leaders. The event received a full page of coverage in the Asian Journal.

The Nevada Chapter of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance implemented a voter participation program in Clark County, Nevada from April 1 through November 6, 2012. Clark County, more specifically the Las Vegas-Paradise-Henderson metropolitan area, is home to 195,028 Asian Americans, including 15,760 Pacific Islanders. The voting age population is estimated at 146,271 or 75 percent of the APA population. The APALA Nevada voter participation program included the following elements: voter registration, voter contact and education, and voter protection.

Nevada achieved record turnout in the November 2012 general election. The state reported nearly 81 percent of Nevada's active registered voters casted a ballot, inching past the 2008 general election turnout of 80 percent. Election Day brought out 25 percent registered voters, while early voting brought 49 percent and absentee voting brought nearly 7 percent.

APALA New York:



The New York chapter of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) enthusiastically endorsed then Assemblywoman Grace Meng for Congress in the newly drawn 6th Congressional District. They were active in her campaign and helped bring her to victory, becoming New York's first Asian American Congresswoman.

APALA San Diego:



In response to Prop 32 which threatened to silence the voices of working families in California, the APALA San Diego Chapter engaged union and community leaders through the Yes on 30, No on 32 Speakers Bureau Training conducted simultaneously in English and Vietnamese.

APALA Seattle:



APALA Seattle Chapter members continue to ensure that APAs are aware of their voting rights, candidates' positions on issues and ballot initiatives that impact them.

Seattle APALA member, Amy Leong, was presented the 2012 John Caughlan Youth award for her work with hotel workers serving as a translator for Chinese hotel workers and summer organizer for UNITE HERE Local 8. Amy first became involved with Local 8 because of her mother, Bao, a long time member of the union.

APALA Texas:



The APALA Texas Chapter canvasses local neighborhoods to engage in critical discussions that are relevant to voters.

National Asian American Pacific Islander Civic Engagement Table (NAAPICET)

The National Asian American & Pacific Islander Civic Engagement Table (NAAPICET) is a 501(c)(3) coordinated effort of Asian American & Pacific Islander (AAPI) serving institutions that are committed to yearlong civic engagement of the AAPI community. The goal of NAAPICET is to leverage resources and support through coordination to make an impact on the local, state, and national level by uplifting the power and profile of the AAPI community and AAPI issues.

Members of NAAPICET include: Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance Education Fund (APALA Ed Fund), National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (National CAPACD), National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC), South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) and Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC).



"APALA has been at the forefront of engaging Asian Pacific American workers and the larger community in the fight for social & economic justice. The Department of Labor looks forward to strengthening our partnership to ensure all workers have the tools and information necessary to stand up for their rights."

– Hilda Solis
Secretary of Labor



Participants in the first ever National Asian Pacific American Spokespersons Training at Bally's Hotel in Las Vegas, NV

Making an Impact: National Asian Pacific American Spokesperson Training

APALA hosted the first national Asian Pacific American (APA) Spokesperson Training. Held in Las Vegas, training participants convened from all across the country including the battleground states of Pennsylvania, Virginia, Michigan, North Carolina and Nevada.

Facilitated by the VENG Group and the National Education Association, the training focused on multilingual APA spokespeople who will help make a difference in this election and future campaigns around education, immigration, jobs & the economy.



"Once again the APALA Convention has set a benchmark for other organizations to follow. The engagement of youth, college students, and experienced members display the true diversity and progressive vision of the organization."

– Fareed E. Michelen
Director of Constituency Groups, NYS AFL-CIO



"SEIU applauds APALA's dedication to further worker, immigrant and civil rights. Working families have benefited from APALA's strong leadership and growing membership base. As a founding union that helped launch APALA 20 years ago, SEIU has continued to provide organizers as training fellows for APALA's organizing institute. We look forward to continuing our partnership and making progress on key issues that impact the Asian Pacific American community."

– Mary Kay Henry
President, SEIU

Coalition

National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)

APALA is an active member of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, which is a coalition of thirty national Asian Pacific American organizations around the country. APALA co-chairs various committees as our Executive Director Gregory Cendana serves on the Executive Committee.

Housing and Economic Justice

APALA co-chairs the Housing & Economic Justice Committee with the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (CAPACD). As part of NCAPA's Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Summit in May, APALA & National CAPACD hosted a policy roundtable on Housing, Community Development, Small Business, Workforce Discrimination and Worker Protections. Casiano Corpus, a Stations Casino worker and organizing committee member from Culinary Workers Local 226 in Las Vegas, Lelaine Bigelow of Congresswoman Judy Chu's Office and Phil Tom, Director of the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships at the US Department of Labor joined APALA Executive Director, Gregory Cendana, as panelists.

Immigration

APALA was doubly represented on the same day at the NCAPA Immigration Roundtable. APALA Seattle chapter member Yuki Suren, an undocumented student, spoke movingly about the need for immigration reform and the

DREAM Act, recognizing that about 10 percent of undocumented students are APA. Other speakers included Congressman Mike Honda (CA), Angela Arboleda, Senior Policy Advisor to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, and Morna Ha, Executive Director of NAKASEC. Immigration reform remains a central and driving goal of the APA community and APALA is ramping up our efforts by: hosting a series of worker's rights hearings with a focus on immigration, organizing and capacity building trainings for our members and partners and expanding research on Asian Pacific Americans, workers and the economy.

Education

APALA also co-chairs the Education Committee with the Southeast Asian Resource Action Center (SEARAC). We played a major role in mobilizing the APA community to partake in the Request for Information (RFI) by the U.S. Department of Education. The purpose of this RFI is to seek, gather, and organize information about practice, policies, and existing education data systems that disaggregate data on APA student populations. Schools and institutions lack the effort to disaggregate data to support the needs of all APA students from all backgrounds to ensure their ability to achieve academic success. As a result, the RFI issued by the Department of Education is a critical opportunity for the APA community as a whole to voice this concern about this issue of data disaggregation in schools. This organized effort to submit comments for the RFI led to 711 comments being submitted, surpassing the initial goal of 500 comments within a 2 month campaign.

Solidarity

Los Angeles Chapter Opposed Wal-Mart in Chinatown

APALA and other community groups rallied against the planned opening of a Wal-Mart in Los Angeles Chinatown. Rep. Judy Chu, elected officials, and business owners spoke about the negative impact the store will have on the local economy and immigrant entrepreneurs.



APALA Members at the Workers Stand for America Rally in Philadelphia, PA on August 11, 2012

New York Chapter United Against Stop & Frisk

Many New Yorkers gathered to protest Mayor Michael Bloomberg's "Stop and Frisk" policy. While reports state that those who are stopped are generally young African-American and Latino males, almost 300 different groups banded to speak on behalf of everyone who has felt the sting of racial profiling and discrimination. In what is known as one of the largest cooperative efforts between regional organizations, unions, religious and ethnic groups, the crowd moved in silence across the bustling city.

Standing with Workers and Families in Michigan

In December, Michigan lawmakers in the lame duck session passed the so called “Right to Work” bill which takes away fundamental rights and weakens the working and middle class. APALA opposed efforts to deny workers and families their long-held right to organize and bargain collectively. More than 10,000 community members took action in Lansing State Capitol, including APALA Michigan chapter.

Fighting back against T-Mobile USA’s decision to close call centers

APALA commended and stood with CWA’s commitment to prevent the closures of call centers while ensuring union representation and safe work environments for T-Mobile USA workers. Last year, AT&T, the second largest wireless carrier in the U.S. and supporter of union workers, promised that it would not close call centers if the merger between AT&T & T-Mobile was approved. According to the Communications Workers of America (CWA), the merger would have created up to 96,000 jobs and provided economic opportunities for communities across the country. Instead, workers and families suffered as a result of T-Mobile USA’s decision.

Demanding corporate accountability with Verizon Wireless alongside CWA & IBEW Members



APALA was in solidarity with Verizon workers as they fought for fair wages and dignity on the job. It is vital that the working class takes a stand to not be victimized by special interests and corporate Greed. APALA joined efforts with CWA (Communications Workers of America) and IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) to mobilize against Verizon wireless as members participated in mobilizations across the country.

Speaking out for students at the Fischer SCOTUS rally outside the Supreme Court

On the same day as the oral argument in Fischer v. University of Texas in, supporters of affirmative action and diversity gathered in front of the Supreme Court to demand equal opportunities for all students. APALA played a significant role in highlighting the vast disparities in educational disparities that exist for Asian Pacific Americans. The implications of the Fisher case as well as the rally emphasized the need for race-conscious policies for underserved students to achieve educational equity and opportunity.



APALA’s Executive Director spoke at the Fischer SCOTUS rally in support of campus diversity and equal opportunity for ALL Americans!

APALA joined APWU and NALC to deliver the message that closing distribution centers is not the answer

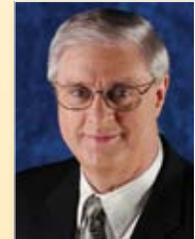


The United States Postal Service (USPS) faced financial struggles and resorted to consideration of drastic measures such as eliminating distribution centers and ending Saturday service to save on cost. Taking away mailing services that serves Americans is not the answer to their budget crisis. Having fewer service centers will not only affect the workers, weakening services does not help the business grow. APALA-San Diego members stood with the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) and the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) to rally for saving distribution centers and jobs at the US Post Office.



“APALA continues to be a key partner in our work to address the housing, community and economic development needs of the low income Asian American & Pacific Islander community. APALA members are the first to stand up for justice & we can count on them to be on our side.”

– Lisa Hasegawa
Executive Director,
National CAPACD



“The National Education Association is proud to have partnered with APALA to host the first ever National Asian American & Pacific Islander Spokesperson Training around the issues of education, immigration, and the economy. APALA continues to be a force to be reckoned with and remains dedicated to ensure great public schools for every student.”

– Dennis Van Roekel
President, NEA

APALA

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NATIONAL OFFICE

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Solidarity *continued*

APALA Supports President Obama's Immigration Directive

APALA supported President Obama's major change in immigration policy that allowed eligible undocumented students to remain here under two year review. Very significantly, the directive allowed DREAM-eligible students to apply for temporary work permits, which allows immigrants who have been toiling in the underground economy to have greater workplace protections.

Young Workers and Students

Young Leaders Council



APALA Young Leaders Council with Josie Camacho, Alameda Labor Council Executive Secretary-Treasurer and APALA National 2nd Vice President

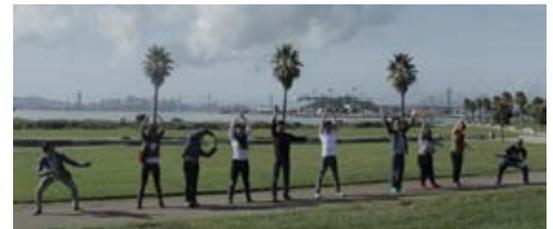
APALA launched APALA's Young Leaders Council; the first of its kind, bringing together Asian Pacific American young people from around the country to discuss issues in their communities. Under the guidance of APALA's National Executive Board, YLC will help develop a dynamic organizing and political strategy. The Young Leaders Council is also a part of the AFL-CIO's Young Workers Advisory Council and works closely with members of the Generational Alliance, where we remain the only Asian Pacific American and labor organization to be a member. YLC appointees from each chapter range from young professionals and workers (both union and nonunion), students, activists and community leaders. In addition, the following organizations that focus on labor are included:

- United States Students Association (USSA),
- Student Labor Action Project (SLAP),
- United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS)
- Alliance of South Asian American Labor (ASAAL)
- United We Dream (UWD)
- Asian American, Native American, Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI)

APALA and ASAAL stand in solidarity with the Sikh Community

APALA and the Alliance of South Asian American Labor (ASAAL) were saddened by the tragedy that occurred Sunday at the Sikh gurdwara, or place of worship, in Oakwood, Wisconsin. We extended our deepest condolences to the victims and their families. APALA and ASAAL condemned the violence that took the lives of six people and wounded three others – including priests, elders, and law enforcement officials.

Working to develop the next generation of organizers has always been a focus of the organization since its inception. With the formation of the APALA's Young Leaders Council and the John Delloro mentorship program, which pairs students and young workers with seasoned labor activists, we are hoping to strengthen and expand inter-generational dialogue.



APALA Joined the Generational Alliance

The Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance/ Institute for Asian Pacific American Leadership and Advancement expanded its intergenerational work by joining the Generational Alliance, a collaboration of 22 national youth organizations building collective power for underrepresented and low-income communities. Generational Alliance aims to bridge the current fractured sectors of youth civic engagement including community-based youth organizing, campus organizing, leadership development, and cultural advocacy.



Members of the Generational Alliance including APALA meet at the White House for a strategy session on the budget and fiscal cliff