

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO
Institute for APA Leadership & Advancement

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



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APALA At a Glance

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CHAPTERS AND
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VOTER OUTREACH
EVENTS

13
FELLOWS & INTERNS TRAINED
ON ORGANIZING AND
LEADERSHIP

74
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8
YOUNG LEADERS ON OUR
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

\$21,000
FUNDRAISED FOR
WORKERS IN
MYANMAR, CAMBODIA,
PHILIPPINES, TONGA

49,500
SOCIAL MEDIA IMPRESSIONS
ACROSS FACEBOOK,
INSTAGRAM, AND TWITTER

644
PEOPLE TRAINED TO ORGANIZE FOR
ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, AND RACIAL
JUSTICE

850,000+
VOTER CONTACTS THROUGH
CANVASSING, PHONEBANKING,
AND TEXTBANKING

7
LANGUAGES
TRANSLATED IN OUR
VOTER OUTREACH
MATERIALS

THE TOPLINES

- Mobilized AAPI workers to activate their communities and win elections in battleground states, securing pro-worker victories
- Organized solidarity for strikes nationwide and activated AAPI community members to support labor issues
- Strengthened the pipeline of AAPI leadership by recruiting and cultivating new activists and connecting members with high-profile opportunities
- Invested in the next generation to strengthen APALA's Young Leaders Council and leadership pipeline
- Trained AAPI workers and activists on racial justice organizing alongside unionists leading the struggle in their communities
- Advocated for humane immigration policies and convened activists at the U.S.-Mexico border to learn firsthand about the struggles of asylum seekers
- Built global networks of workers to fight greedy corporate bosses and lift up the working class

About APALA & IAPALA

Founded in 1992, the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), AFL-CIO is the first and only national organization of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) union members and allies advancing worker, immigrant, and civil rights.

Backed with strong support of the AFL-CIO, APALA has 23 chapters and pre-chapters in 16 states and a national office in Washington, DC In 2011 to ensure broader education, civic engagement, and capacity building for our communities, APALA established the Institute for Asian Pacific American Leadership & Advancement (IAPALA) as a 501(c)3.

To achieve our mission, we build power by:

- Organizing members into unions, develop a pipeline of labor leaders, and build political power for our community;
- Educating AAPI workers and allies about the labor movement, principles of trade unionism, and collective bargaining, as well as provide a vehicle for AAPI issues and concerns;
- Activating our chapters across the country to advance social, racial, and economic justice through state-based campaigns; and
- Representing the voice of AAPI workers on coalitions within the labor community and more broadly in the civil rights, AAPI, and racial justice communities.

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Letter from the Executive Director

Dear APALA Supporter,

This year, we celebrated our 30th Anniversary amidst a dramatic increase in public support for unions and organizing victories. With workers fighting corporate bosses like Starbucks and gig companies to get union recognition, our movement is growing powerfully. APALA's own staff union ratified their first contract this year, representing a significant step forward for APALA and our dedicated staff!

As the number of petitions for union representation has increased, so has the number of unfair labor practices (ULP) filings, making this the most significant single-year increase in cases at the National Labor Relations Board since 1976. We continue to live in historic times and we have raised the bar for worker organizing.

This year, APALA secured record funds to power our work globally and locally. We're diving into strategic planning for the next 30 years, advancing innovations like our new member database, which allows us to supercharge our ability to organize on a broader scale in the coming years. We trained members virtually on a series of topics ranging from political power to abortion rights to racial justice. Taking the solidarity to the next level, we convened sixty activists at the U.S.-Mexico border, cultivating firsthand knowledge of the challenges facing migrants and asylum seekers.

APALA members built political power with our communities by registering people to vote, educating folks on the issues, and pounding the pavement to Get Out The Vote. We supported pro-worker candidates to victory and maintained control of the U.S. Senate by making over 860,000 contacts, including texts, phone calls, and doorknocks to voters in battleground states.

For thirty years, APALA has created space for AAPI leaders to develop organizing skills and connect with each other to demand justice for workers worldwide. We continued to strengthen our labor and community alliances and supported oppressed workers in Cambodia, Burma, and the Philippines.

As a national organization of AAPI workers, APALA is committed to building AAPI worker power that opposes corporate greed and anti-worker policies. We are proud of the work our members and chapters have accomplished, and we're excited to present APALA's 2022 Annual Report.

In Solidarity,

Alvina Yeh
Executive Director
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO



AAPI Trailblazers: Building Political Power and Winning Elections

Facing attacks on workers and communities, we mobilized more than 300 volunteers to reach more than half a million people for the midterm elections. We crafted progressive, pro-worker messaging and partnered with labor and community groups to reach diverse voters: AAPI, Latinx, Black, and pro-LGBTQ voters brought us to victory.

By working year-round to build grassroots partnerships and identify potential voters and activists, APALA's civic engagement program significantly impacted electoral power for AAPI workers. We made sure that our communities knew how and when to vote, were educated about their rights, and had access to in-language

voter materials. Our program was supported by the AFL-CIO, AFT, and SEIU, and we partnered with NEA, OPEIU, and the labor constituency group coalition Progressive Workers Coalition to make positive change.

During the 2022 midterm elections, we knocked on 8,170 doors, sent 815,000 texts, and made 41,000 phone calls to voters in battleground states. Because of our work, pro-worker Democrats maintained the majority in the U.S. Senate and won critical seats or legislative trifectas in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Minnesota, Arizona, and .

Our members fought to protect workers' rights by supporting campaigns to end the sub-minimum wage in Washington, DC; enshrine



Pittsburgh Chapter activated the local AAPI and Latinx communities in the midterm elections to fight for working people in Pennsylvania. Alongside LCLAA Pittsburgh, Casa San Jose, and FilAm Association of Pittsburgh, the chapter organized multiple textbanks and phonebanks to help communities of color register to vote, access mail ballots, and exercise their right to vote.

abortion rights in Michigan; and pass a constitutional amendment against “right-to-work” laws in Illinois.

This year, APALA members hosted 38 voter outreach events, including text banking, phone banking, in-person canvassing, voter registration, and community-based outreach.

Our multi-racial and multi-lingual voter engagement program expanded the civic engagement repertoires of labor and community partners, planting seeds for a stronger movement and greater solidarity for worker and immigrant campaigns to come.

APALA is proud to celebrate 10 years as a premier partner of National Voter Registration Day. Our chapters registered voters at a Taiwanese community picnic and a Filipino American festival, tabled in Boston Chinatown to reach Cantonese-speaking folks, engaged students on



Minnesota Chapter created a first-of-its-kind GOTV program for AAPIs in the Twin Cities in collaboration with Asian American Organizing Project, MN8, Coalition of Asian American Leaders, SEAD, and SEIU HCMNIA. Across two weekends, volunteers completed 144 doorknock shifts, 1848 door knocks, phone banked 1400 people, and held 446 voter conversations.

college campuses and partnered with central labor councils to register voters.

We officially launched the Asian American Power Network (AAPN) as a founding partner. Our guidance and oversight has helped this network develop and lead as the national Asian American c(4) table, supporting AAPI political outreach programs.

With our partners at Rising Voices, APALA Michigan members canvassed AAPI community members in the southeastern region of the state to ensure they were engaged in the election process. As a result of unprecedented youth turnout, Michigan Democrats won control of both houses of the legislature and re-elected Governor Gretchen Whitmer.



A Leadership Pipeline to Uplift AAPI Worker Voices

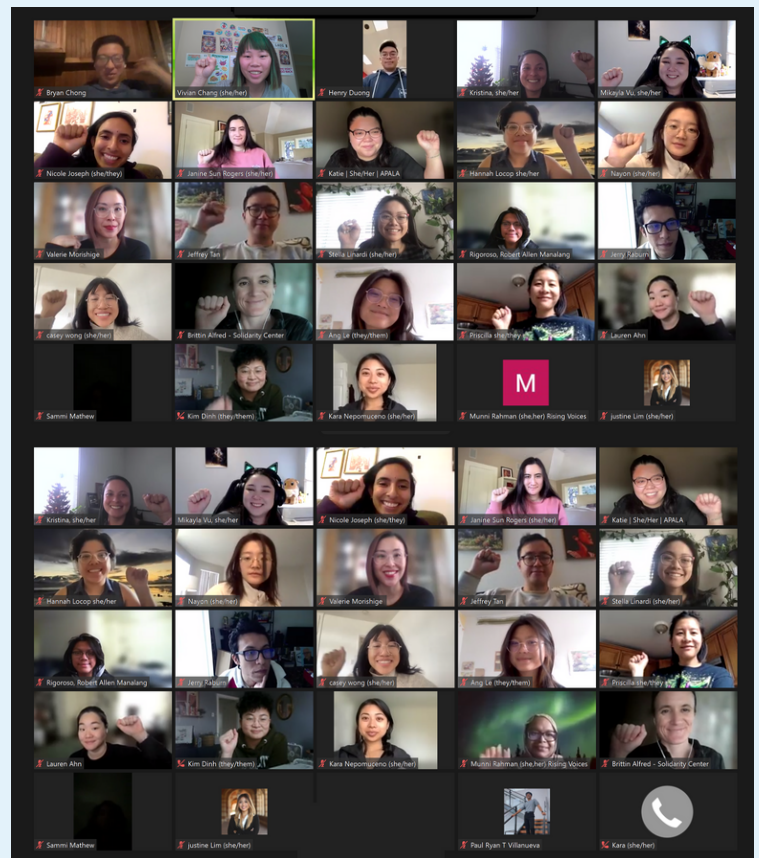
As the labor movement experienced unprecedented growth, APALA members were ready to step up and lead the fight. We built up our pipeline of AAPI leaders in labor and social justice movements by creating local, state, and national opportunities for young AAPI workers to lead.

This year, APALA hosted four all-member calls attended by over one hundred APALA members from across the country. All-Member calls provided space for members to share campaign updates and connect with other organizers working on similar issues.

During the March and June meetings, members identified what they were fighting for and ways we could support each other, from immigration, addressing anti-Asian hate, reproductive justice, and mobilizing for the elections.

At the September meeting, we launched our Principles of Liberation Facilitation Guide to strengthen our members' ability to provide political education about APALA's values. And, in December, we drank virtual bubble tea together at our holiday party.

With the Young Leaders Council, APALA hosted our flagship training, the Organizing Institute, with a curriculum catered to AAPI workers and identifying opportunities to expand mentorship opportunities for participants. The training focused on the fundamental skills of union organizing and how to win union organizing campaigns. Thirty-one trainees practiced talking to their co-workers about unionizing and learned the process of filing a petition for a union election.



We recruited and cultivated new activists and connected AAPI workers to high-profile opportunities to be heard.

During Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, APALA presented a panel called “AAPI’s in Labor: It’s Our Time to Lead,” featuring Bernie Burnham, President of the Minnesota AFL-CIO; Diana Noinala, Vice President of IAM Local Lodge 751-F; and Tevita Uhatafe, Vice President of the Texas AFL-CIO and 1st Vice President of Tarrant County Labor Council. We were proud to recognize union activists leading the fight for economic justice and amplify the contributions of AAPI workers across the country.

APALA continues to advocate for workers with policymakers and the Biden Administration. For example, this year, APALA staff and members participated in the Department of Labor’s Workers’ Voice summit. The summit focused on creating a space for workers to engage with the Department of Labor about their concerns and share ideas to expand access in the department.

Diana Noinala asked representatives from the DOL to hold corporations accountable for worker safety and collective bargaining agreements.

Pabitra Dash and Menuka Simkhada from the worker center Adhikaar spoke about the issues that nail salon workers face, including the reproductive health impacts of chemicals used in nail salons.

The struggle for economic justice will require all of us to fight side-by-side, and we are proud of our members who build the movement every day.



Diane Noinala from IAM Lodge 751-F said, "As a woman of color and young worker, I'm so grateful that APALA gave me this platform to represent my union. Speaking to representatives at the Department of Labor in Washington, DC, about what IMAAW members face and connecting with other workers from across the country was an incredible opportunity. I am excited to continue to grow my leadership in the labor movement."

Elevating Union Partnerships to Strengthen the Labor Movement

From our founding, APALA has always maintained deep ties with labor unions, who are critical to our membership and leaders. We continue to broaden these partnerships as a critical part of our strategy to build AAPI worker power. While we grow AAPI leadership to scale up density and influence in the labor movement, we continuously partner with unions to shed light on specific issues that impact members. These are core tenets of our organizing philosophy.

#TeachTruth and the Fight for Racial Justice in Education:

We continue our partnership with the education unions AFT and NEA to advocate for racial justice principles in education including fighting back against constant efforts to ban our full histories in curriculum and books.

We continue to develop our own teaching materials in partnership with our AAPI educator members and leaders so that we can tell our own AAPI labor stories and history.

Supporting AAPI Power Within Unions:

APALA offers our expertise to support AAPI members and caucuses within unions, including presenting to the SEIU Public Service Division staff about

AAPI labor history. We also supported the creation of AFGE's APOWER caucus to lift up their AAPI members, and wrote talking points for our AFA-CWA board appointee Stan Kiino who presented a talk on anti-Asian hate and AAPI labor power at the CWA Human Rights Conference in Arizona. APALA staff supported the creation of a BIPOC caucus within OPEIU, given their roles as rank-and-file members of OPEIU Local 2.

Advancing AAPI Union Leadership:

This was a banner year for civic engagement. Our program included: sponsorship of the SEIU HCMNIA AAPI GOTV days in Minnesota, mobilization of members to participate in labor blockwalks at central labor councils across the country including in Texas and Virginia, a joint phonebank with the NEA AAPI Caucus, and joint textbanks with labor constituencies in LCLAA and Pride at Work.

We fight every day to ensure that AAPI workers, especially current and future union leaders, always have a seat at the table. To read about the work of our chapters in partnering with unions this year, please read the Chapter Highlights section starting on page 24.

Advancing Criminal Legal Reform

Since Executive Director, Alvina Yeh, was appointed to the AFL-CIO Taskforce on Racial Justice, she has spearheaded the work of the Criminal Legal Reform subcommittee whose mission is to lead in the commitment to real change by leveraging opportunities that arise from labor's unique position at the intersection system stakeholders such as those who are incarcerated, and those who are employed in the carceral system.

The overarching goals are to reduce the prison population and change the path of those who return from prison through rehabilitation that incorporates support, inspiration, fairness and respect for human dignity. The committee has convened conversations with impacted members, workers, and subject matter experts from AFGE, AFSCME, BAC, IBEW, IUPAT, SEIU, UAW. Committee members held deep trust-based conversations to build consensus around a core set of policy recommendations, ideas for implementation, member, and stakeholder engagement around criminal legal reform that are groundbreaking for the labor movement to embrace. This long overdue work is a much needed first step in how the labor movement leads in the fight for racial justice.

Evelyn DeJesus, Executive Vice President of the American Federation of Teachers, said, "I was deeply moved by the immigration symposium and humanitarian border tour. Bearing witness and hearing stories of the migrants seeking safety for themselves and their children shook me to my core and will stay with me. There is a silent and devastating tragedy occurring at the southern border in Tijuana, Mexico and we must take action now to ensure asylum seekers and migrants are treated with dignity and respect.

Many of these children and families may eventually end up in the classrooms and communities where our members teach and live, and the Border Tour provided valuable insight on what these youth are experiencing. As educators and unionists, we care, we fight, and we show-up for justice. AFT plans to continue raising awareness about the struggles at the border and call on Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform."



Young Workers Leading the Way

Invested in and empowered young leaders to strengthen the infrastructure of APALA's Young Leaders Council and leadership pipeline

APALA's Young Leaders Council (YLC) has grown and expanded our infrastructure over the past year to strengthen our leadership pipeline and encourage young workers to join the labor movement. With a record number of eight new young leaders on the National Executive Board, YLC continues to build and grow.

In July, YLC held a meeting to strategize on reproductive justice after the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision. To continue supporting our reproductive justice work, APALA staff worked with the National Partnership for Women and Families to disaggregate data on the impacts of abortion bans on the AAPI community.

Throughout summer, YLC held virtual social events to get to know fellow young leaders in APALA and share and learn about recent labor victories like SBWU. Through online platforms, YLC has built community and solidarity between young activists nationwide.

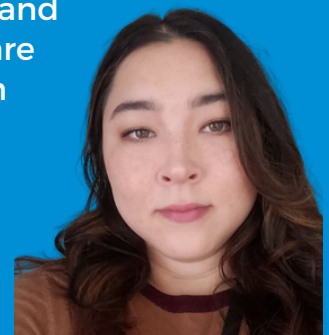
YLC culminated its work over the past year by recruiting for and running an APALA Organizing

Institute (OI) in December. YLC leaders helped recruit young leaders and presented to attendees during the training. From this training, attendees were connected with mentors within YLC to support their organizing and development.

"We started a YLC discord server as a space where young workers can come together and build community. Folks share updates, strategize, and develop relationships. We even started a YLC book club over our discord server.

It's been really exciting to see young workers coming together over the last year. We have young workers who are organizing their workplaces, such as at Starbucks and REI.

We have college students who want to get into the labor movement and through YLC we are connecting them with AAPI labor leader mentors."



Mikayla Robinson.
NOLSW-UAW Local 2320

Leading the Fight to Advance Racial Justice in the Labor Movement

The past two years have marked a rise in violence against Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. The surge in anti-Asian violence is part of a long history of anti-Asian sentiment in America.

We must re-commit ourselves to racial and social justice to strengthen the multiracial working-class movement. For our signature 30th anniversary event, we hosted a racial justice forum in Washington, DC, the location of our founding convention, where APALA members marched on the Department of Justice to demand justice for Rodney King.

We continued advancing racial justice and the intersections with workers' issues through a summer workshop series. In partnership with the UCLA Labor Center, we engaged members and community leaders in critical conversations titled "Racial Justice," "Organizing," "Reproductive Rights," "Political Power," and "Immigrant Rights."

Out of these workshops and the racial justice border tour (see next section), undocumented youth leaders created a new organization, EmpoweringAPI. The members are uplifting hidden stories and creating a zine by and for undocumented Asian students.



AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler announced at APALA's 30th Anniversary celebration that the Samuel Gompers Room in the AFL-CIO headquarters would be renamed to the Solidarity room. Samuel Gompers was a prominent supporter of the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, and the name change showed that his racist legacy no longer has a home in the house of labor.

Training AAPI workers and activists on racial justice organizing alongside people leading the struggle in their communities

To mark Women's History Month, we presented "AAPI Women in Labor, Forging New Paths in Safety and Power" with the constituency group CLUW. Our communities constantly face overlapping oppressions; hence we raised up issues of anti-Asian violence, racialized gendered violence, and the gender pay gap.

We worked to turn labor into a stronger ally for AAPI communities fighting anti-Asian racism with our support for APALA members organizing and creating AAPI caucuses in their unions: this year, caucuses were launched at AFGE and OPEIU. Simultaneously we lifted up member voices: our CWA board appointee Stan Kiino presented a talk on anti-Asian hate and AAPI labor power at the CWA Human Rights Conference.

In addition to domestic policy, the rhetoric "war with China" has contributed to anti-Asian racism. We spoke out at the launch of Dove and Crane Collective, a new organization focused on dispelling disinformation and harmful stereotypes that trap Asian American workers.

We continued expanding discourse by condemning forced labor in the



Uyghur region in China alongside the UAW. We also called out exploitation and murders of workers in the Qatar World Cup, and calling for the immediate release of all students, workers, and protestors detained after November protests from Urumqi to Shanghai.

To combat rightwing attacks, we supported the public launch for the Asian American Disinformation Table (AADT). The table produced a significant report to shine a light on right-wing disinformation that targets Asian Americans and attempts to destabilize our communities.

Our involvement in AADT opened pathways for addressing Hindu nationalism and caste discrimination. We successfully won a provision protecting caste-oppressed workers in the University of California faculty CBA and continue to support model legislation.

Immigrant Justice Beyond Borders

APALA continues to fight for a fair and humane immigration system for all. Through training, education, and mobilization during critical times in the federal legislative process, we are a strong voice fighting for a progressive immigration agenda.

This year, we hosted a border tour that convened labor and immigration activists to reflect on and commit to the fight for immigrant justice. We recruited 70 participants including labor leaders from AFT, NEA, OPEIU, SEIU, UDW/AFSCME, and CLUW, as well as AAPI grassroots groups JACL, Malaya, and Anakbayan.

Participants were trained on AAPI labor history, state and local fights for immigration policy, and undocumented youth movements and saw firsthand the structural crisis at the border.

In Tijuana, we partnered with grassroots organizations that educated our members about Title 42, the Remain in Mexico policy, federal policies in Mexico affecting shelters and LGBTQ migrants, worker centers at the border, and cross-racial solidarity with other immigrant communities.

In conjunction with the border tour, young undocumented AAPI activists gathered at our UndocuAPI Leadership Summit, first-of-its-kind in over a decade. They were trained in entrepreneurship, base building, power mapping, and storytelling for power.



Bridget Keaveney, JACL staff and border tour participant, shared about her experience: “The Border Tour provided by APALA and the border tour gave me the tools I need to be a better ally in the fight against this country’s anti-immigrant, white nationalist agenda. I was extremely moved to see how committed the advocates we met with were in their fight to denounce negative perceptions of migrants.

The politicization of human movement is disheartening, especially for those seeking asylum. The fact that migrants are frequently subjected to human rights violations and xenophobia is inexcusable.

I hope that as a community, we do more to stay engaged on this issue, as this affects so many of our neighbors, friends, colleagues, and families.”

Advocated for a humane immigration system and convened activists at the U.S.-Mexico border to learn firsthand about the struggles of migrants and asylum seekers



Justine Lim (first on the right) organized the UndocuAPI Leadership Summit. She shared: "Growing up in rural Pennsylvania as an undocumented Asian woman, I struggled with finding a sense of belonging, and even within undocumented spaces in college, I didn't see people who looked like me. I remember feeling lonely, like I was the only undocumented Asian immigrant."

The Summit was the first time I met with a group of undocumented APIs all in one space. It was truly a special and memorable day for me. Being able to gather in a room full of undocumented API immigrants at the Summit opened my eyes to the possibility of creating a space dedicated to undocumented API immigrants.

After reflecting and discussing with other undocuAPI at the leadership summit, I discovered a common thread in our experiences: seeing another undocumented APIs share their story empowered us to speak up. This piece of knowledge ignited the creation of Empowering API, an organization led by undocumented API and dedicated to uplifting undocumented Asian and Pacific Islander voices."

To advance legislative priorities for immigrant justice, we joined the Value Our Families Week of Action to end the family visa backlog. We lobbied congressional offices and shared stories of AAPI workers who have been separated from their families.

We also supported demands to Governor Newsom to pardon the #APSC4, who are undocumented community members that have faced orders of deportation, despite building strength among AAPIs such as the AAPIs Beyond Bars coalition.

We shared a petition from 18MR and called on Governor Newsom to stop ICE from deporting APSC4 by granting pardons for Peejay, Ke, Bun, and Maria.



AAPI Workers on the Frontlines of Worker and Economic Justice

APALA fought for worker and economic justice by supporting pro-worker legislation, directly supporting workers on strike or taking action to improve their workplace, and building solidarity among workers in the same sector across different unions.

At the AFL-CIO Convention, APALA leaders Jessica Tang and Tevita Uhatafe spoke from the floor in support of resolutions to protect abortion access and young leadership. We spotlighted challenges for workers seeking TPS and we hosted a global solidarity convening with workers from India, Philippines, Cambodia, and Thailand.

APALA organized an Airport Worker Solidarity Meet Up in November to unite airport workers, travelers, and supporters in solidarity with AFA-CWA's Delta campaign. Featured speakers included Cindy Sjoquist from AFA-CWA and airport workers, who mobilized members to support flight attendants.

In November, graduate workers in the University of California system

led the largest strike since 2019, and the largest higher education strike ever. APALA members joined the workers (represented by UAW) on strike for a fair contract, and several chapter leaders were heavily involved as strike captains and local stewards.

The workers ratified new contracts for all three locals on strike, securing wage increases and improved working conditions, but laying the foundation for stronger bargaining next time.



Organized solidarity for strikes across the country and activated AAPI community members to support labor issues

Our members have consistently supported new sector organizing to expand the labor movement. In December, Starbucks workers rallied against bullying and anti-union behavior by the corporation. APALA, along with our fellow constituency groups CLUW and LCLAA, spoke at a rally in Virginia.

At the LaborNotes conference in Chicago, we hosted an APALA caucus that convened 100 workers and connected folks to the AAPI labor movement in the U.S. and globally.

APALA continued our partnership with APIAHF and the CDC on Project Firstline, an initiative to facilitate an infection prevention and control education series for healthcare workers. APALA members and healthcare workers Susan Tran and Amy Hoang from UDW AFSCME Local 3930 and Angelita Sherburne and Darlene Johanson from SEIU 1199NW were trained to be Infection Prevention and Control Champions. They shaped and facilitated culturally appropriate education sessions in a variety of different healthcare settings.

We also continued to fight at the federal level for stronger protections for workers. Our legislative advocacy on legislation like the Build Back Better Act, Schedules That Work Act and Part-Time Worker Bill of Rights, Expansion of Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, and more found success in raising the floor for all workers.

In December, APALA submitted a public comment to the Department of Labor on their proposed Independent Contractor Rule that would provide greater employment protections to vulnerable gig workers.



Campaign Feature: New York Healthy Nail Salon Campaign

As a member of the New York Healthy Nail Salon Campaign, APALA worked to support the introduction of a sectoral bargaining bill to raise standards in the nail salon industry in New York.

This legislation is the first of its kind in the U.S. It would create a nail salon industry council of workers, employers, and government officials, which would have broad powers to establish new workplace standards on issues such as wages, scheduling, paid time off, and training for all nail salons in the state. We sent letters of support to legislators in Albany and demonstrated at rallies to raise awareness about and encourage support for the bill.

The coalition also released the first-ever statewide research report on the nail salon industry, “Unvarnished: Precarity & Poor Working Conditions for Nail Salon Workers in New York State,” through Cornell’s Worker Institute. The report highlighted that nail techs struggle to earn a living wage, speak up without fear of retaliation, and work in a safe and healthy environment.



Growing the Movement for International Solidarity

Over the past year, APALA's International Solidarity Committee has worked together to grow our capacity and create more opportunities to build worker-to-worker solidarity between AAPI workers in the U.S. and workers in Asia.

This year, the committee advocated for the Biden Administration to encourage fair policies for workers globally. We sent a letter to President Biden in advance of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit to inform him of APALA's priorities in the region.

We also worked with the Seafarers International Union to urge the Director of the Office of Labor Affairs at the U.S. Department of State to advocate for Aung Kyaw Lin, who was fleeing for his life as the leader of the Seafarers Union in Burma after the coup.

Aung Kyaw Lin and his family are now safely in Texas with his brother Shwe, who serves on APALA's National Executive Board.

To continue building awareness and facilitate dialogue between APALA members and labor leaders from across the world, we hosted a panel called "Connecting Our Struggles Against



Sineng Neang, IREX Fellow said, "I came to Washington DC from Cambodia to work with APALA and help strengthen my skills to empower and educate workers. I learned so much from supporting APALA's International Solidarity Committee, connecting with undocumented youth leaders, and door knocking voters in Virginia, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. APALA does incredibly important work connecting workers from across the world to fight for their rights and I'm excited to bring what I learned back to Cambodia."

Racism: API Workers in the U.S. and Asia." This was a virtual dialogue between our members and migrant workers throughout Asia to connect our struggles across languages and countries.

APALA is a key supporter of LRSU, the union for workers at NagaWorld Casino in Cambodia, who have been on strike for more than a year. In

Building global networks of workers to fight greedy corporate bosses and lift the working class

addition to fundraising more than \$23,000 to support their strike fund, APALA has educated our members about the fight through a webinar featuring LRSU members on strike and mobilizing at local embassies to pressure action from the Cambodian government.

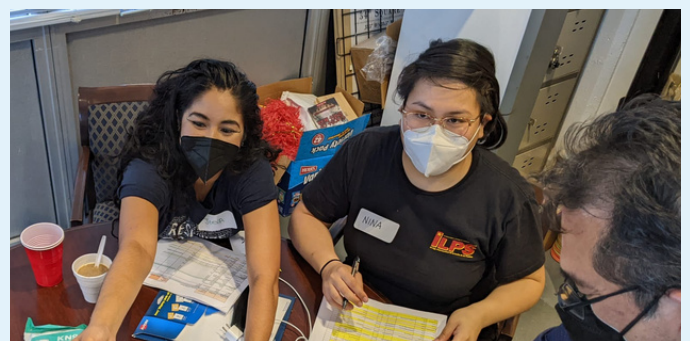
In solidarity with actions across the globe, four APALA chapters coordinated simultaneous protests outside different Cambodian embassies/consulates in the U.S. LRSU members face continuous attacks from the police and threats to their union as the strike has continued.

Recently, LRSU President Chhim Sithar was detained returning to Cambodia and APALA has joined calls and protests urging the Cambodian Government to release her.

APALA rallied with the UAW and USW outside of the Korean Embassy to call on them to release Youn Taeg-Gun, First Vice President of the Korean Federation of Trade Unions, who was arrested last year for his leading role in a general strike. On August 5, 2022, the Seoul Central Municipal Court ruled that there was no legal justification to continue to hold Youn and he was released after 94 days in detention.

At our last convention, APALA members passed a resolution on the Philippines, bringing attention to the continued attacks and increasing violence faced by workers in the Philippines and their unions. The Philippines working group held a webinar featuring trade unionists from the Philippines.

We also supported the call for justice and accountability in commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Martial Law in the Philippines and protested President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos, Jr.’s invitation to address the United Nations by promoting actions across the country.



APALA has a long relationship with Okinawa trade unionists, with delegations attending the past three APALA conventions and a delegation of APALA leaders visiting Okinawa in 2019. This year, APALA supported the prefectural government of Okinawa by submitting their requests to Congress for the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act related to issues with U.S. military bases in Okinawa.

We support the movement for peace and environmental stability by educating union leaders, community leaders, and elected officials about the situation in Okinawa and the social and environmental consequences for the local community.

APALA members are active in global garment industry campaigns. Garment workers make some of the lowest wages in the world, and millions lost their jobs without compensation when the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

Most of these workers are women, in jobs without respect for their labor rights, leading to a massive imbalance of power in the industry. In eight Adidas supplier factories in Cambodia alone, Adidas owes their workers USD \$11.7 million in wages. The Adidas #PayYourWorkers Campaign Global Week of Action they held events in Phnom Penh, Lahore, Jakarta, and

worldwide. APALA members shared the petition and mobilized supporters across the U.S.

We also celebrated the \$8.3 million severance paid to Thai workers from Victoria's Secret after months of worker protests and campaigning by activists internationally.

APALA has worked diligently to raise funds to support relief from climate disasters impacting workers in Asia and the Pacific Islands. This includes fundraising for the Philippine federation SENTRO to secure the purchase of a generator for a district in Cebu, Philippines, as well as clean water and rice for one hundred families.

Similarly, when a massive volcano eruption started a tsunami that wiped out homes and infrastructure in the Kingdom of Tonga, APALA members raised money for the Tonga Tsunami Relief Fund to support the response, recovery, and reconstruction of the most devastated areas of Tonga.



Coalition Partnerships

Lifting the voices of AAPI union members and workers in national coalitions to ensure that economic justice and the AAPI community are at the forefront

Racial and Immigrant Justice

- AAPIs Beyond Bars
- AFL-CIO Task Force on Racial Justice *Executive Director Alvina Yeh leads as Co-Chair of the Subcommittee on Criminal Legal Reform
- AFL-CIO Immigration Task Force
- The Leadership Conference on Civil & Human Rights
- The National Council for Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)* APALA plays key leadership roles in NCAPA including Co-Chair of the Executive Committee, and several Policy Committee Co-Chairs.
- One Nation AAPI
- Protecting Immigrant Families
- People's Collective for Justice and Liberation
- United Against Hate
- Value our Families* APALA's Civic Engagement Manager, Vivian Chang, serves as the Grassroots Field Director for the coalition.
- We Are Home campaign

Worker and Economic Justice

- Green New Deal Network
- Essential Workers Bill of Rights Coalition
- Progressive Workers Coalition
- Congressional Progressive Caucus Center* Executive Director Alvina Yeh is on their advisory committee.
- NCAPA Housing and Economic Justice Committee *APALA is the chair
- ProsperUs

Civic and Political Engagement

- AAPI Civic Engagement Network *APALA helped found this coalition
- Asian American Power Network *APALA is a founding partner of this coalition
- Census Taskforce
- EMILY's List Partners
- Somos Más
- Asian American Disinformation Table *APALA helped found this coalition
- NCAPA Civic Engagement Committee *APALA is the co-chair

Shaping the Narrative: Press Highlights

National Outlets

- *Yahoo News*, “Cal State Board of Trustees Votes Unanimously to Ratify California Faculty Association Collective Bargaining Agreement that Adds Caste as Protected Category to Anti-Discrimination Clauses,” January 26th, 2022
- *NBC 7*, “San Diego City Council Overwhelmingly Passes Street-Vendor Ordinance,” March 1st, 2022
- *Washington Post*, “Google’s plan to talk about caste bias led to ‘division and rancor,’” June 6th, 2022
- *Jacobin*, “A Walk Through the Rich History of Struggle in Manhattan’s Chinatown,” August 5th, 2022
- *NBC Asian America*, “Racist and sexist disinformation is sowing divisions among Asian Americans,” August 12th, 2022

Ethnic Outlets

- *India Currents*, “Indian Americans Have Always Been The Targets Of Hate Crimes – Enough Is Enough,” July 27th, 2022
- *Asian Fortune*, “Embracing Cultural Identity: AALEAD’s first ever Asian American Youth Summit,” September 12th, 2022
- *Asian Journal*, “US Groups Call On Marcos, Biden To Uphold Filipino Human Rights,” September 14th, 2022
- *Univision*, “Movilizar el voto a través del cambio climático: una iniciativa que une a Michelle Obama con grupos ambientalistas,” September 15th, 2022

Local Outlets

- *The Stand*, “APALA: Support relief fund for devastating Philippines typhoon,” February 2nd, 2022
- *Davis Vanguard*, “Civil Rights Attorney Pamela Price Picks Up Endorsements from Big Labor for Alameda District Attorney Election,” April 2nd, 2022
- *San Diego Union-Tribune*, “Column: Rancho Bernardo nail salon labor case underscores the dangers facing some immigrant workers,” April 26th, 2022
- *Character Media*, “8 L.A.-Based AAPI Social Justice Organizations Bringing Us Together,” May 27th, 2022
- *UCLA Newsroom*, “UCLA Labor Center brings together 60 labor and immigration leaders for San Diego-Tijuana border tour,” September 20th, 2022

Chapter Highlights

The crux of our organizing happens at the grassroots level in chapters nationwide--Learn more about each chapter's 2022 achievements.

Alameda Chapter co-presented a tribute to the untimely passing of Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan. Wilma was a trailblazer with grace and quiet strength; a fierce social justice warrior who uplifted the voices of working people. Wilma Chan was a pioneer in Asian American politics, she was the first Asian American elected as Alameda County Supervisor, and then she became the first woman and Asian American state assembly majority leader in California and later returned to serve as Alameda County Supervisor in 2011.

The chapter held an event with KCCEB, SEIU-UHW, and SEIU 1021 to uplift AAPI women as leaders, workers, mothers, sisters and daughters in May, and hosted a successful coalition event with vaccines and other partners to support formerly incarcerated individuals.

APALA Alameda is also supporting legislation that would separate the coroner's office from the sheriff's office after the murder of Angelo Quinto. The chapter also supported

the re-election of Nikki Fortunato Bas, Oakland's first Filipina City Councilmember, and the election of Sheng Thao for Oakland mayor. Thao is the first Hmong American to hold this position.

Illinois Chapter gathered members and ran a chapter endorsement process to support pro-union, rank-and-file workers as candidates for local office in the 2023 primary elections.

Inland Empire Chapter submitted a letter in support of AB 1400, the California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act, to establish a single-payer health care system in the state. The chapter also participated in a national day of action in anticipation of the SCOTUS decision overturning Roe v. Wade.

Los Angeles Chapter elected a new leadership team and immediately went to work. The chapter organized volunteers to canvas and phonebank during the 2022 midterm elections to support pro-worker candidates at the local, state, and federal level.

In addition, APALA LA stood in solidarity with their allies in other community

organizations by formally condemning the racist comments made by some LA City Councilmembers and the now-former LA Federation of Labor president.

To celebrate APALA's 30th anniversary in May, the LA chapter hosted its first in-person event featuring a panel of speakers featured in APALA's Asian American Workers Rising book.

Finally, the LA chapter also hosted a fun social event for chapter members and APALA National Leaders during the APALA National Executive Board meeting held in Los Angeles in November.

Maryland Chapter tabled at the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO convention and earned a voting delegate seat at the MD-DC AFL-CIO. The chapter also tabled at a county API Heritage Festival and has re-established regular chapter meetings.

Massachusetts Chapter held a discussion about how COVID-19 impacted workers in the United States, China, and India. The discussion was put together by APALA Massachusetts chapter members, UE graduate students at MIT, and Justice is Global.

In May, the chapter participated in an Asian Pacific American Heritage

Month event in Chinatown with Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley. The chapter has been focused on education around taxing the rich and building out the narrative on how the role of the corporate elite impacts working people on housing, jobs, and the environment.

The chapter was part of the Massachusetts is Not-For Sale Coalitions campaign to stop a ballot question affecting gig workers. They also won decades-long, hard-fought referendums on progressive taxation and to protect immigrants' access to driver's licenses! They mobilized voters to vote yes on the two ballot questions and participated in a rally led by the Greater Boston Labor Council for labor and community support. The state also won a Democratic trifecta and elected one of the first two openly lesbian governors in U.S. history.

The chapter has been active in marches and rallies for Labor Day and to support hotel workers. Workers were excited to support UNITE HERE Local 26's most significant contract win in history at Northeastern University, where one-fourth of the members are Chinese American.

Michigan Chapter organized for the 40th anniversary of Vincent Chin's death, including working on a public

statement from the UAW. The chapter awarded the Michigan APALA Vanguard award to UAW President Curry for his support of AAPI members.

For the midterm elections, the chapter activated strongly--it has a multi-year partnership with local organization Rising Voices, where members participated in and led canvassing efforts to elect pro-union candidates and codify abortion rights in the state constitution. APALA Michigan has recruited several young leaders and looks forward to resurging membership in 2023.

Minnesota Chapter completed a first-of-its-kind GOTV program for AAPIs in the Twin Cities! Members doorknocked across two AAPI GOTV weekends, completing: 144 door knocker shifts, 1848 door knocks, phone banked 1400 people, and held 446 voter conversations. The chapter partnered with a broad coalition of local partners, including AAOP, MN8, CAAL, SEIU HCMNIA, AAPN, the Southeast Asian Diaspora Project (SEAD), SEWA-AIFW, JACL - Twin Cities Chapter, Siengkane Lao of Minnesota, Filipinx for Immigrant Rights and Racial Justice Minnesota (FIRM).

The state also won a Democratic trifecta and re-elected pro-union

statewide officials. APALA MN tabled at the AFL-CIO Minnesota's annual convention and educated attendees about APALA's work and mission.

Nevada Chapter worked closely with AAPI communities to increase voter registration, voter mobilization, and voter engagement. The chapter conducted much-needed exit polling in Clark County that showed the community's viability.

APALA NV spearheaded programs that elected first-time AAPIs to the State Assembly and an AAPI judge, as well as being very instrumental in the reelection of U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto.

New York Chapter members Alex Hing and Seung Lee participated in a solidarity action with Nail Salon Workers for the Nail Salon Minimum Standards Act with Workers United, NYCOSH, and Adhikaar. Steven Moy, President of APALA New York Chapter, was nominated for the New York City & State NY's Power of Diversity: Asian 100 list for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

APALA NY members launched a half-day tour in Manhattan's Chinatown to share the history and culture of Chinatown.

Ohio Pre-Chapter members hosted an interest meeting in Cleveland with union locals and worker centers to create a new chapter. Leaders from Starbucks Workers United and AAPI grassroots organizers are anchoring the pre-chapter.

Pittsburgh Chapter joined a panel to discuss AAPI union and political and community organizing with students at the University of Pittsburgh.

The chapter held a civic engagement workshop, celebrated National Voter Registration Day by tabling and registering voters, and held events jointly with the Filipino American Association of Pittsburgh (FAAP) and the Taiwanese Association of America (TAA) Pittsburgh Chapter. The chapter partnered with LCLAA Pittsburgh and Casa San Jose to hold a volunteer door-to-door canvassing day. They also hosted text banks and phonebanks to Get Out The Vote for AAPI and Latinx voters in multiple battleground states.

APALA Pittsburgh turned out members to AAPI Power Caucus canvasses, and hosted its own canvass event, where 25+ volunteers knocked on 973 doors. Special guest volunteers included OPEIU, NEA, and members of the APALA DC Chapter! Volunteers

from the Filipino American Association of Pittsburgh also knocked on doors for the first time!

The chapter was recognized at the USW constitutional convention for their work to expand census response and to assist immigrant workers during the pandemic through cash assistance and scheduling vaccine appointments while sharing information about workers' rights and collective power. Chapter President, Sabrina Liu, won the Jefferson Award and spoke at the convention about the importance of expanding language access within the union in order to grow our movement.

Philadelphia Chapter participated in a GOTV Labor Walk run by the Philadelphia AFL-CIO to talk to union members about the election and hosted volunteers from APALA-DC. The chapter also participated in an API PA canvass event to reach out to AAPI voters. In August, the chapter joined the picket line for workers with AFSCME DC 47 at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Workers were fighting to secure a first contract after getting the union recognized in 2019.

APALA Philly celebrated May Day / International Workers Day with workers at AFSCME, Emergency Workplace Organizing Committee,

TAP-PASNAP, and Amazon worker organizing.

Sacramento Chapter participated in the inaugural Golden Harvest Parade and Festival to promote APALA and labor-endorsed candidates.

Sacramento Chapter President Oranit Limmaneeprasert spoke at a rally and vigil to remember the Asian victims of the 2021 Atlanta shooting at the CA Capitol.

Oranit also testified at the CA state legislature on behalf of Assembly Bill 2596, which will institute the Lunar New Year as a state holiday.

The chapter and the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency hosted an event following the California Labor Federation Legislative Conference to celebrate APALA's 30th Anniversary.

The chapter participated in the Sacramento Central Labor Council Labor Day Picnic and was able to connect with several API candidates for local offices and sign up several new members.

San Diego Chapter continues to help with humanitarian efforts, led by chapter member Ian Seruelo. APALA San Diego is part of the Chaparral

Humanitarian Alliance that has helped provide legal screenings and clothing to asylum seekers who are stuck in an encampment waiting to approach the US border.

The chapter showed up to support the UC graduate students, postdocs, and academic researchers on strike at UCSD. The chapter also joined our partners at the San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium (SDIRC) in calling for the San Diego County Sheriff to immediately stop transferring people to ICE and cease aiding in the deportation of community members.

The chapter hosted a book launch event with former APALA President Johanna Hester and Kent Wong to help recruit new members. The chapter is planning a series of member education events to engage new members.

The chapter also joined the call for justice for Dr. Yan Li, a Chinese woman murdered by police.

San Francisco Chapter co-created a tribute in 2021 to commemorate the untimely passing of Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan and shared it with all of APALA in the new year.

The chapter is already planning for 2023 after mobilizing and organizing during the election season. The chapter endorsed Proposition 1, which

puts the right to have an abortion in the California Constitution, and it passed. SF chapter was also excited that Shamann Walton, one of their endorsed candidates for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, was re-elected!

Seattle Chapter continues to be the vehicle for our AANHPI members to lead the change of our labor movement in Washington state to become anti-racist. This includes continuing to partner with local APRI, CBTU, and LCLAA chapters to build solidarity across constituency groups of color and create programs and workshops such as “Labor Solidarity Across Communities of Color” at the local Martin Luther King Jr Day celebration, lead on the Racial Justice Task Force at MLK Labor and the Washington State Labor Council.

The chapter hosted its annual banquet with more than 200 people and raised significant chapter funds. Many members were happy to reconnect and be back in person together. The chapter is currently working on a grant to help the city of Seattle develop its 20-year transportation plan, with a focus on advocating for workers who have been pushed out of the city due to rising housing costs and who now depend on public transit.

APALA Seattle was excited to host two fellows. The fellows work included surveying the BIPOC community on housing and transportation, organizing an APALA book event, and attending the WA State Labor Convention and passed resolutions on Philippines workers' solidarity and Naga workers.

The chapter continues to grow its presence within the labor movement and AANHPI community by planning workshops at the Washington Central Labor Council Immigration Summit, celebrated National Voter Registration Day by registering community and union members to vote this fall, and joining solidarity pickets, strikes and community actions like the Poor People's campaign in Washington D.C. with other APALA chapter leaders.

South Bay Chapter continues to work with the unhoused in Santa Clara County.

Texas Chapter helped support a citizenship clinic in December. Chapter leader Tevita Uhatafe was featured in a Dallas Morning News article about young leaders building the labor movement across the state! The chapter supported Linda Hidalgo's successful campaign and the labor-endorsed candidates in Harris County, and did GOTV for county judges.

APALA Texas partnered with the Tarrant County CLC to register voters and celebrate National Voter Registration Day. Members and organizers helped register new voters and meet community members.

Washington D.C. Chapter reinvigorated their chapter in 2022 through regular events and activations, including hosting a Picnic in the Park to celebrate summer and a food tour in DC Chinatown to support local Asian American businesses. Later in the year, they celebrated Filipino American History Month by hosting a fireside chat with local activist Jon Melegrito. Tito Jon shared his decades-long experience with organizing and shared his perspective on the long history of Filipino Americans in the labor movement.

The chapter phone banked for Initiative 82 to end the tipped minimum wage in DC, which passed overwhelmingly! Chapter members were also deeply involved in the midterm elections and canvassing for pro-worker candidates by providing in-person GOTV support to the Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and Minnesota chapters, and our labor siblings in our backyard in Northern Virginia.



Lifetime Warriors

Rosie Abriam
Mary Anne Ahtye
Sheldon Arakaki
Laurie Ann Atienza
Mary Au
Willard Beck
Linda Bennett
Daniel Blinkoff
Luisa Blue
Rob Bonta
Tim Bressler
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Edgard Cajina
Brady Calma
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Josie Camacho
Kathia Canlas
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Andrew Chang
Roy Chavadiyil
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Carlton Chew
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John Delloro
Ligaya Domingo
Henry Eng
Virginia Eng

Sandra Engle
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*Served on the board in 2021-2022

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National Staff, Fellows, and Interns

Thank you to all the staff, fellows and interns who contributed in 2022!

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