

APALA

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LABOR ALLIANCE, AFL-CIO



President's Message

Dear Friend,

On behalf of APALA, I hope everyone has been having a great summer! As mentioned in the last newsletter, we've added two more staff members and three interns, who have been working hard towards a variety of community and labor events in Las Vegas including the recent AAPI Presidential Election Forum and our organizing efforts heading into November's election.



In June, we celebrated Pride and Immigrant Heritage Month – a time to share the stories that uplift the different aspects of our identities and a time to reflect on the narratives of those who continue to struggle within a system that criminalizes our communities. We also reflected on how the recent Supreme Court decisions on DACA+ and DAPA programs, affirmative action in college admissions, and women's reproductive health access affected the AAPI community.

In July, we witnessed another series of Black deaths at the hands of police officers and have doubled down our efforts for #BlackLivesMatter and the Movement for Black Lives – a fight that we continue to engage in as we work towards racial justice and liberation for all communities of color.

In August, we participated in two historic convenings. The first was in Seattle at the AAPIs Beyond Bars and Beyond Borders, where we joined AAPI activists to talk about ways to disrupt the school-to-prison-to-deportation pipeline. We also participated in a historic convening of over 3,000 AAPIs from across the country to hear from the presidential campaigns and their surrogates at the 2016 Presidential Election Forum in Las Vegas, NV.

As we head towards the general election this November, we hope that you stay engaged with APALA and the political process, and encourage you, your friends, and family to [register to vote](#)! Become a [member](#) today!

In Solidarity,

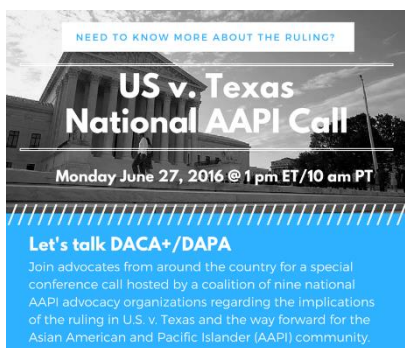
Johanna Puno Hester
APALA National President

National Updates



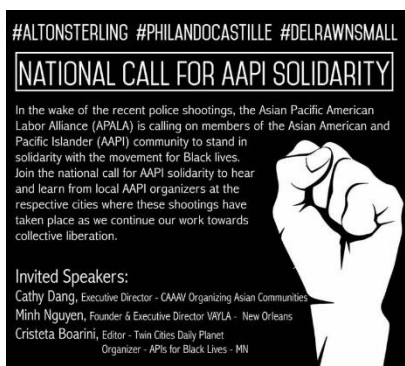
United State of Women (June 14)

APALA National President Johanna Hester, Executive Director Gregory A. Cendana, and Communications and Development Coordinator Marian Manapsal all attended the United State of Women, where inspiring women and girls spoke about the importance of gender equality in all industries and walks of life. Speakers included First Lady Michelle Obama, President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, Attorney General Loretta Lynch, Oprah Winfrey, and Kerry Washington.



National Call on *U.S. v Texas* SCOTUS Decision (June 27)

Following the U.S. Supreme Court's 4-4 on the *U.S. v. Texas* case affecting DAPA/DACA+ programs, APALA joined solidarity efforts and uplifted the Mijente #Not1More campaign, calling for a moratorium on further deportations. In addition, APALA co-hosted a national call along with eight other AAPI organizations on the ramifications of this decision on the larger AAPI community. The call was joined by over 100 participants nationwide and included guest speakers, Rep. Judy Chu, Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus; Jose Antonio Vargas, founder of Define American; and The National Immigration Law Center.



National Call (July 11) & the Joint Statement for AAPI Solidarity with #BlackLivesMatter & the Movement for Black Lives

In the wake of the recent police shootings of Alton Sterling, Philando Castile, and Delrawn Small, we're calling on members of the AAPI community to stand in solidarity with the Movement for Black Lives. On July 11, we convened over 300 participants nationwide on a national call to hear updates from organizers on the ground in New York, Louisiana, and Minnesota and led a twitter conversation using hashtag #AAPICall4Solidarity that trended locally in DC. We also recently launched a Joint Statement for AAPI Solidarity asking AAPI organizations and allied groups to show their support for Black lives. Please see [here](#) view the list of supporting organizations. The statement is also available in [Arabic](#), [Bengali](#), [Chinese](#), [Hindi](#), [Korean](#), [Filipino](#), and [Vietnamese](#).

Please stay tuned on how you can get involved!



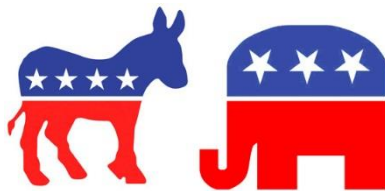
Reception for Luisa Blue (July 11)

In July, we also held a reception with the [Service Employees International Union](#) (SEIU) to celebrate APALA founding member Luisa Blue's historic election as the first ever [#AAPI](#) to serve as an international officer of SEIU. We were joined by SEIU International President Mary Kay Henry, SEIU Secretary Treasurer Gerry Hudson, NEA Political Director Carrie Pugh, and NCAPA National Director Christopher Kang.



APALA National President Johanna Hester Elected to the CA Labor Federation Executive Council (July 12) and Re-Elected as an International Vice President for AFSCME (July 27)

APALA National President and APALA San Diego Chapter leader Johanna Hester was elected to the CA Labor Federation Executive Council. She becomes the only Asian American woman to serve on this governing body. See the full press release [here](#). She was also re-elected as an International Vice President for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). Hester remains the only Asian American and Pacific Islander on the AFSCME executive board and also serves as the highest ranking AAPI in AFSCME. See the full press release [here](#).



Participation in Major Political Party Conventions (July 18-28)

Executive Director Gregory Cendana along with 1st Vice President Monica Thammara and DC chapter leader Alvina Yeh participated in the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia in July. They talked about the importance of the engaging the AAPI community in this election and joined a crowd in formally nominating Hillary Clinton, the first woman to be ever nominated as a major party presidential nominee. The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) also had a historic presence at the DNC. For full remarks, please watch the video [here](#). APALA/IAPALA also had the opportunity to attend the RNC in Cleveland in July to make sure AAPI voices are heard on both sides of the aisle.

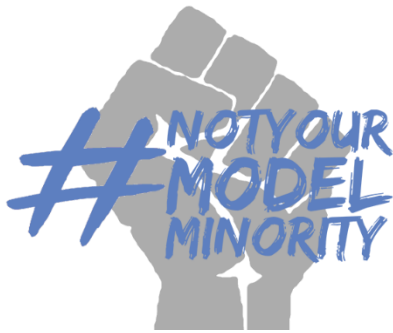
APALA also applauded the progressive stances the DNC platform adopted. Please see the full press release [here](#).



Launch of new National Website (July 22)

Notice a new look on our website? You're right! We've also recently launched the new www.apalanet.org! Here, we'll keep you posted on upcoming events, chapter updates, actions you can take, APALA's stance on recent events, and more. If you haven't already, please take a look around at the new and improved [website](#)!

Launch of #NotYourModelMinority (August 1)



The #NotYourModelMinority Pledge was created to end the ways in which the model minority myth positions Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) as a racial wedge for social justice through civic/political engagement, advocacy, organizing, and action. By taking the #NotYourModelMinority pledge, you are committing yourselves to a future where Black lives, people of color, LGBTQ individuals, differently-abled people, Indigenous communities, people of various spiritual beliefs, working-class and immigrant communities, and women are freed from state sponsored and institutionalized forms of discrimination, racism, and violence.

[Take the #NotYourModelMinority Pledge NOW!](#)



AAPIs Beyond Bars, Beyond Borders Convening in Seattle, WA (August 4-5)

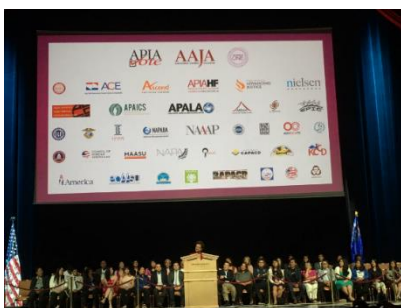
On August 4th and 5th, over 40 AAPI activists from around the country along with prisoners at the Monroe Correctional Complex joined together to address mass incarceration and deportation in the AAPI community. The convening concluded with a community rally entitled "Stand Together 4 Love" at the Tacoma Northwest Detention Center. Eddy Zheng, co-chair of the Asian Prisoner Support Committee and a Soros Justice Fellow, said, "The AAPIs Beyond Bars & Beyond Borders national convening offers a historic opportunity for AAPI individuals and organizations to strengthen our tools and maximize our power to end mass incarceration and deportation." To see the full release, please [click here](#).



AAPI Presidential Election Forum, Community & Labor Reception, and National Spokesperson Training – Las Vegas (August 11-14)

In August, APALA members joined together to participate in a event-packed convening of the AAPI community!

8/11: Community and Labor Reception - For Nevada's Future: Every Vote Counts! Our reception was a huge success and featured Former Attorney General and Senate Candidate Catherine Cortez Masto; Congresswoman Dina Titus; Artie Blanco, the State Director for Nevada, For Our Future; Yvanna Cancela, the political director of Culinary Workers Union 226 (UNITE-HERE); Gloria Caoile, the vice president of civic and political engagement for APALA Nevada; and Luisa Blue, APALA board member and the highest ranking AAPI elected in SEIU. See the full release [here](#).



8/12: AAPI Presidential Election Forum: APALA joined as a partnering organization to the 2016 Presidential Election Forum, hosted by APIAVote and the Asian American Journalists Association. APALA had a strong presence at the event: Nevada member Nathan led the Pledge of Allegiance; Nevada Chapter Vice President for Civic and Political



Engagement Gloria Caoile had the special honor of introducing President Bill Clinton, who spoke on behalf of the Hillary Clinton campaign; and members and staff sat behind the speakers on stage. There were over 3000 in attendance to hear the President Bill Clinton, Trump campaign surrogate and Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes, Green Party candidate Dr. Jill Stein, and Libertarian candidate Governor Gary Johnson.



8/13: **APIAVoteTraining:** Executive Director Gregory A. Cendana spoke on a panel on "Police Priorities and What's at Stake in the AAPI Community" during APIAVote's Saturday training focusing on training organizers for voter engagement and mobilization. Greg highlighted the importance of criminal justice reform and discussed the need to talk about mass criminalization and immigration to disrupt the school-to-prison-to-deportation pipeline.

8/14: **National Spokesperson Training:** APALA also hosted a National Spokesperson Training discussing on how to message and talk about Hillary Clinton heading towards the November election. Special shout-outs to facilitator Margie Gonzales, the chair of the AAPI Caucus in Nevada, and Jason Tengco, the National AAPI Outreach Director of Hillary for America, who joined participants and led the conversation!



SB1015 2016 Domestic Worker Bill of Rights Passed in CA (August 18)

Just last week, the SB1015 2016 Domestic Worker Bill of Rights passed! The passage of SB1015 preserves dignified labor standards for California's domestic workers by preserving current overtime law. SB1015 continues the success of AB241 in 2013, which granted overtime protections to privately employed domestic workers. APALA is thrilled to have supported this bill on behalf of our AAPI members!

Press Releases and Media Highlights

August 13, 2016: [Asian-American Community Applauds Presidential Election Forum](#)

July 28, 2016: [Asian American Advocates Call for Solidarity with Black Lives Matter](#)

July 28, 2016: [Going Beyond "Anti-Trump"](#)

July 22, 2016: [APALA is Disgusted by Trump's Acceptance Speech; Doubling down Anti-Trump Efforts](#)

July 8, 2016: [APALA Stands in Solidarity with the Movement for Black Lives after Series of Police Murders](#)



June 14, 2016: [APALA Responds to Orlando Shooting](#)

June 28, 2016: [Joint Op-Ed by Greg Cendana and Jerame Davis: How our communities are impacted by mass criminalization](#)

To view all media mentions, please click [here](#).

Upcoming Events



August 27, 2016 - Unity Rally and 72 Days of Action on Gun Violence

Join the Unity Rally on Saturday, August 27, 2016 to kick off 72 Days of Action on Gun Violence from August 28 - November 7, 2016!

Assembly starts at 12:00pm EST

Where: Folger Park, 2nd Street SE, Washington, DC

Rally starts at 1:00pm EST

Where: National Rifle Association, 400 Block of First Street, SE, Washington, DC

For more information, please visit www.nationalactionnetwork.net or contact Kirsten Foy, Northeast Regional Director at kfoy@nationalactionnetwork.net or dcbureau@nationalactionnetwork.net.

Chapter Updates

Washington, DC



The DC chapter led two voter registration drives: one in June in Northern Virginia and the second in August at VietFest. DC member Alvina Yeh trained volunteers at both trainings and spearheaded our Every Vote Counts efforts in the DC/VA metro area!



Nevada

In August, members from the Nevada Chapter joined the Community & Labor Reception, For Nevada's Future: Every Vote Counts and the AAPI Presidential Election Forum in Las Vegas. NV member Nathan led the 3,000+ AAPI convening in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Vice President for Civic and Political Engagement, Gloria Caoile, had the special honor to introduce the Hillary Clinton campaign surrogate, President Bill Clinton. Following the forum, APALA Nevada hosted a voter registration drive at Seafood City as part of APALA's Every Vote Counts program!

Seattle



Joined by dozens of AAPI local, national, and community based organizations, APALA Seattle took part in the AAPI Beyond Bars, Beyond Borders Convening in Seattle, WA on August 3-5. Participants drew upon the experiences of incarceration and potential deportation from a panel of currently incarcerated AAPI prisoners at the Monroe Correctional Complex. Community strategy sessions also took place at the Washington State Labor Council and at Highline College. To end the convening, APALA marched in conjunction with leaders of the 1Love Movement & Southeast Asian Freedom Network (SEAFN) to demand #Not1More deportation and the #Right2Return of deported communities. The rally outside of the Northwest Detention Center signified the growing intersection of the criminal immigration system that continues to incarcerate, detain, deport, and separate many immigrant and refugee families. See the full press release [here](#).



New York

The APALA New York Chapter helped register voters from various precincts throughout NYC Chinatown, Flushing, and Queens at the Community Night Out event on August 2nd. Moreover, chapter leaders attended the New York City Asian American State Primary Candidates' Forum to meet with candidates running for State Senate and State Assembly.

Become a member today!

Sign-up or renew your 2016 APALA Membership today! [CLICK HERE](#) or choose a chapter below:

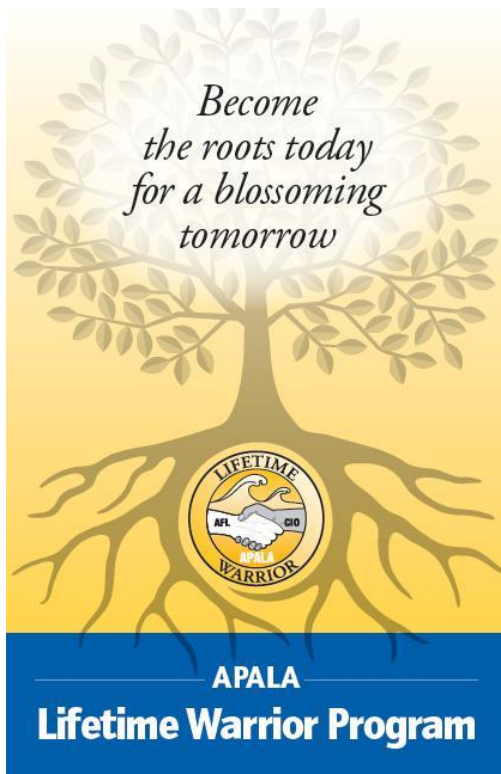
[At-Large](#)
[Alameda](#)
[Hawaii](#)
[Los Angeles](#)
[Maryland](#)
[Massachusetts](#)
[Michigan](#)

[New Jersey](#)
[New York](#)
[Nevada](#)
[Orange County](#)
[Oregon](#)
[Sacramento](#)

[San Diego](#)
[San Francisco](#)
[San Jose/Santa Clara/San Mateo](#)
[Seattle](#)
[Texas](#)
[Washington, D.C.](#)

Sign up to become a Lifetime Warrior today!

We thank our our APALA Lifetime Warriors for their continued leadership and support to APALA's efforts to fight for social and economic justice:



Mary Anne Ahtye
Mary Au
Willard Beck
Rob Bonta
Luisa Blue
Tim Bressler
Josie Camacho
David Carpio
May Chen
Helen T. Chin
Richard Chu
Lila Chui
Troy Davis
John Delloro
Henry Eng
Virginia Eng
Christopher Erikson
Miguel Foster
Calvin Gee
Yee Gee
Kim Geron
James Hardy
Tichakorn Hill
Alex Hing
Jenny Ho
General Holiefield
Ted H. Jacobsen

Norwood
Jewell
Nancy Adams
Johnson
Virdell King
Anne Lee
Brandon Leung
Delrico Loyd
Keith Mickens
Cesar Moreno
Alana Moy
Lonway Moy
Steven Moy
Elsie Myers
Van S. Nguyen
Ahmed Shakir
Darren
Shiroma
Maria Somma
Anna Stuart
Zahid Syed
Mark Taylor
Norman Ten
Monica
Thammarath
Marian Thom
Maf Misbah
Uddin
Carol Wong
Kent Wong
Michael Yee
Wendell Yee

The Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), AFL-CIO was founded in 1992 as the first and only national organization for Asian Pacific American union members to advance worker, immigrant and civil rights.

Learn more at www.apalanet.org

Follow us on social media!



