

APANO



ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN NETWORK OF OREGON

SPRING
2014

CALANDAR

- April 7-9** Phone Bank
- April 10** Membership Meeting
- April 12** Leadership Institute Graduation
- April 23** Workers Rights Hearing
- April 25-27** ADPIA Freedom School

- May 1** Voices of Change Celebration
- May 8** Membership Meeting
- May 10** Jade Visioning
- May 17** Cultural Competency Forum
- May 20** Primary Election Day!
- May 21** Oregon Equity Project

- June 10** Membership Meeting
- June 26** Community Leaders Circle

Registration & Time/Location at www.apano.org
or contact Diem@apano.org 971-340-4861

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING & ADVOCACY FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (CORAL)

The APANO Community Organizing & Advocacy for Leadership Development (CORAL) Program advances diversity and civic leadership in order to fully engage communities in the decisions that affect them. This year-round training & leadership development series is open to all members of Oregon's racial and social justice community. New schedules are released quarterly in December (January – March), March (April – June), June (July – September), and September (October – December). Workshops use proven popular education and participatory methodologies customized from social justice movement curriculum worldwide, and may focus on any combination of critical systems analysis, skills building, training, and practice, to build power with Asian & Pacific Islander communities. And, we have fun!



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Participants of the CORAL Program have the opportunity to put their new skills and analysis into practice through participation in APANO Committees and Working Groups; Leadership Development Institutes; Advocacy and Lobby Days with many partners; Bilingual Organizing Team, and many other activities!

For more information, check out our website!
www.apano.org/coral/

BASIC HEALTH FOR OREGON

Having health insurance is important because coverage helps people get timely medical care and improves their lives and health. Oregon has an estimated 30,000 Asian and Pacific Islanders who are uninsured. In 2014 Oregon will close this disparity by expanding Medicaid for low-income persons and providing Cover Oregon tax credits for the middle-class. Yet problems persist for immigrants and the working class in our communities. There are roughly 100,000 Oregonians who make too much to qualify for Medicaid, and too little to afford Cover Oregon insurance. Nearly 10,000 Legal Permanent Residents (ie green card holders) who are predominately Asian and Latino, face a 5 year waiting period for Medicaid, and Pacific Islanders residing under the Compact of Free Association (COFA) from Palua, Marshall Islands and Micronesia are completely excluded.

Basic Health is a federal option that the Oregon Legislature can adopt that can provide a lower cost health option and extend coverage to Legal Permanent Residents and COFA Pacific Islanders. Basic Health could be a state-run plan that can offer a qualified health plan for less cost. The Urban Institute estimates the national average premium and out-of-pocket expenses for insurance with Cover Oregon tax credits is \$1,652, and through Basic Health the cost would be \$196.

APANO is working with key partners including the Oregon Latino Health Coalition, Oregon Law Center, and the Oregon Center for Public Policy, to develop a campaign for Basic Health for Oregon in 2015. Our coalition was successful in passing HB 4109, directing the Oregon Health Authority to study the Basic Health option and report back in the Fall of 2014. The study will begin this spring, and APANO will be engaging with stakeholders in our communities and hosting a program on May 17th at OHSU. **Do you know someone who faces a barrier to healthcare?** Please contact Joseph@apano.org for more information.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

"...the distinct Micronesian voice needs to be heard and needs to come to the table so that it too can take its place in contributing to the common good of all."

- Rev. Joe Enlet, Chuukese Logos Community Church

The first ever COFA Alliance National Network Pacific Islander Legislative Day was held at the Oregon Capitol, joined by Kathy Ko Lim of the APIA Health Forum and Ambassador Asterio Takesy of Micronesia. Paolo Esteban and Jessica Lee led a Lobbying 101 training, and participants met with legislators to voice concerns around access to health care (see **Basic Health for Oregon** pg 2).

"Issues of racial equity affect all Oregonians' well-being...A failure to alleviate those disparities and others will mean a future of social dysfunction, educational failure and economic stagnation for Oregon."

- Eugene Register Guard 1/20/14

In celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday, a broad multiracial coalition released Facing Race: the 2013 Oregon Legislative Report Card on Racial Equity. APANO is a leading member and proud to have contributed to this multi-issue assessment, evaluating legislation and lawmaker's commitment to advancing opportunity and addressing disparities affecting Oregonians of color. APANO members and staff met with legislators at the Capitol to deliver the report card, discuss recommendations, and strengthen relationships.

"We are here today because we're hopeful that we can work together to create policy solutions for the issues impacting our communities."

- Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC) Talking Points

APANO and fellows from the API Community Leadership Institute joined with the CCC for a Day of Action on February 24th to build on the Legislative Report Card and raise the visibility of our multiracial alliances.

VOTER RESOURCE CENTERS

What is a Voter Resource Center?

A Voter Resource Center is a place where community members have access to register themselves and their networks to vote. Ideally, Voter Resource Centers are located in trusted and highly accessed community spaces, such as API-serving health and human services agencies, clinics, schools and libraries, and community centers. We aim to have one in place for the May elections in Beaverton and 5 in place for the November elections.

Why is voting, and voter registration, important?

Currently Asian and Pacific Islander (API) communities are the fastest growing racial group in Oregon, yet our voter turnout and participation in politics is lower than that of many other groups (percent, source). With voter registration, education and get out the vote activities, APANO has seen our communities become more active over time, and we want to support everyone who can vote to vote, and everyone else, to work to influence policymaking to represent the full diversity of our communities and experiences.

What materials come with the Voter Resource Center Toolkit?

The Voter Resource Center Toolkit comes with everything you need to set up a Voter Resource Center at your community-serving institution, including:

- Clear signs in English and one or more Asian and Pacific Islander languages, customized for your community.
- Voter registration cards
- A giant voter registration card with fields in the relevant Asian or Pacific Islander language, to make it easier to register to vote.
- Voter guides, in-language where applicable. In 2013, APANO produced voter guides in 5 Asian and Pacific Islander languages.
- Box for collecting cards

Contact Paolo@apano.org to help organize a Voter Resource Center in your community, and for more information about civic engagement training and opportunities

APANO STATE OF CULTURAL COMPETENCY COMMUNITY FORUM

STRONGER COMMUNITIES, STRONGER FAMILIES



When: Saturday May 17th, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Where: Center for Health and Healing
Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU)
3rd Floor Conference Center
3303 SW Bond Ave, Portland, OR 97239

Cost: \$10 to \$100 (Earlybird deadline April 15)

Register at www.apano.org/scc14

APANO's State of Cultural Competency Community Forum is a day-long gathering of Asian and Pacific Islander (API) community members, leaders, health professionals, students and decision-makers centered on health equity policy and community organizing. At the core of APANO's work is the value that everyone have access to the opportunities and resources they need to be healthy. For our diverse Asian and Pacific Islander communities, culturally and linguistically appropriate care is critical to our well-being. Our work spans making impacts in the health care system to upstream social determinant of health issues including education, jobs and racial equity.

Our theme is **Stronger Communities, Stronger Families**, highlighting the social and environmental determinants on our families health. We are dedicated to strengthening Asian and Pacific Islander communities in Oregon by building effective leadership, addressing the root of problems faced by our communities, and improving health and opportunity for our children and families. Strong communities are communities with real opportunities, equal access and a higher level of civic engagement. From affordable health care and good schools, to family wage jobs and a toxic-free environment with places to play, our communities are shaped by the way we make policy and allocate resources. APANO works for strong communities in order to support strong families, which are at the center of our Asian and Pacific Islander cultures.

MEET MARILOU AND KARA! JOIN APANO'S STRONG FAMILIES WORKING GROUP!

APANO's newly formed Strong Families Working Group is being headed up by Marilou Carrera and Kara Carmosino.

Marilou says, "It is important that we celebrate and honor the differences in our families, because it is this diversity that creates strong communities. How do we do that? We begin by understanding how our families are comprised and what experiences shape the structure of our families. When we have this understanding, we are able to call out the policies that exclude our diverse communities and develop and advocate for those that align with our values, as well as provide the resources and support for our communities to make the healthiest and most appropriate decisions."

Kara adds, "As an adoptee, I learned early on how systems and policies intimately shape our families, lives and relationships. I'm excited for the opportunities the Strong Families Working Group represents, to link our diverse personal narratives and community histories to larger frameworks of gender, sexuality and reproductive justice and enrich APANO's work to support all the ways we are family."

Our APANO Strong Families is inspired by the work of Forward Together, who says:

"Strong Families is a home for the four out of five people in the United States who do not live behind the proverbial picket fence – whose lives fall outside the outdated notion that a family consists of a mom at home and a dad at work. While that life has never been the reality for most of our families, too many of the policies that affect us are based on this fantasy. From a lack of affordable childcare and afterschool programs, to immigration policy and marriage equality, the way we make policy and allocate resources needs to catch up to the way we live."

Marilou is also a member of the HEART Team, and Kara is a current APICLI Fellow. Strong Families is the vision that every family will have the rights, recognition, and resources it needs to thrive. If you are interested in joining us at the first APANO General Meeting, contact Diana@apano.org and she'll connect you with us!

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2014 LEADERSHIP FELLOWS

On April 12, the 2013-2014 cohort of the Asian and Pacific Islander Leadership Development Institute will graduate! This year's class has been a dynamic addition to Asian and Pacific Islander leadership throughout Oregon, and they have worked with many organizations to increase their understanding of the work involved in combating racial disparities. APANO is proud to be co-leading the institute, and would like to congratulate this year's Fellows, thank the Community Action Project host sites and their supervisors, as well as the APICLI Mentors and Steering Committee for their active support of developing new Asian and Pacific Islander leaders in Oregon.

Fellows: Kara Carmosino, Durga Dhungel, Kathleen Jonathan, Surya R. Joshi, Maki Karakida, Patricia Lim-Pardo, Peter Liu, Bennie Moses, Mariko Newton, Crispin Ogo, Dessa Salavedra, Elizabeth Takahashi, Jillian Toda, Emily Wang

Community Action Projects: 211 Info (Kathy Wai), APANO Jade Steering Committee (Duncan Hwang), Coalition of Communities of Color (Inger McDowell), OPAL Environmental Justice (Vivian Satterfield), Oregon Health and Science University (Maileen Hamto), and several self-designed projects.



Mentors: Alma Trinidad, Gauri Rajbaidya, Suliasi Laulaueaalu, Mary Li, Jiro Isetani, Jenny Lee-Berry, Rosella De Leon, Helen Ying, Gordy Toyama, Connie Nguyen, Bobby Lee, Helena Huang, Phillip Kennedy-Wong, Jason Trombley, and June Schumann.

APICLI Steering Committee: June Schumann, Maileen Hamto, Kyle Weismann-Yee, Linda Than, Connie Nguyen-Truong, Thach Nguyen, Sourixay Villalay

The Asian and Pacific Islander Community Leadership Institute (APICLI) is a project of IRCO Asian Family Center (AFC) and the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) and funded by the Meyer Memorial Trust through the Coalition of Communities of Color.

For more information on our 2015 Leadership Institute, please contact Diana@apano.org

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING APRIL 10TH

Beginning Thursday, April 10th, APANO will be hosting a shared evening of committee meetings on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 5:30-8:30pm. We envision a gathering of ideas from all participants and all are welcome!

Committees include: PACE (Policy Advocacy & Civic Engagement), Strong Families, Education Equity, HEART (Health Equity & Reform Team), Major Events Committee and Community Leaders Circle.

We look forward to seeing you engaged with APANO on April 10th. Location: TBD

STATEWIDE CONVENTION SEP 20TH

APANO is excited to announce the date of our Annual Convention, September 20th, 2014. This year's convention will be held at Warner Pacific College (2219 SE 68th Ave, Portland, OR 97215).

Be on the lookout for details regarding this year's convention on the **APANO Facebook page** and at **apano.org!**

3RD ANNUAL VOICES OF CHANGE CELEBRATION

To kick-off Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month, we invite you to attend APANO's Voices of Change! A gathering of over 200 community leaders and supporters for a social evening of unique music, amazing food and cultural performances.

Keynote Speaker: Mee Moua, President and Executive Director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice.

Date: Thursday, May 1st, 2014

Location: Mekong Bistro
8200 NE Siskiyou St.
Portland OR 97220

Time: 5:30PM

Tickets are \$30.00 and are available at **apano.org** or the **APANOEvents Facebook Page**.

Hosted by: Simon Tam and Dr. Thuy Tran

