

AAPIC Fall Western Mass Quarterly Meeting
Saturday, October 26th, 10:00 AM
UMass Center at Springfield

Attendance

- 16 people
 - 3 Commissioners, 1 Intern, remainder are community members and organizations
- 5 different organizations represented
 - AAPIC (Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission)
 - CAWM (Chinese Association of Western Massachusetts)
 - Bayanihan Association of America Inc.
 - Springfield Vietnamese Cultural Association, Inc.
 - APALSA (Asian Pacific American Law Student Association)
 - Western New England University

Organization Updates

- Past Events
 - CAWM
 - July 20th, Dragon Boat Festival in Springfield
 - Featured a variety of cultures, not just Chinese
 - Was able to host/sponsor teams for age groups/communities
 - August 23rd, Springfield 250th Anniversary
 - Marched in the parade
 - September 14th, Volunteer and Sponsor Appreciation Event
 - Important to recognize and show appreciation for volunteers
 - Helps to maintain support and encourage new support
 - October 5th, "A Vibrant Tapestry of Art and Heritage: AAPI Cultures in Western Mass"
 - Collaborated with Indian, Filipino, and Vietnamese communities
 - Featured variety of traditional art, music, performances
 - Cultural fashion show
 - Lion dance, Hawaiian dance group
 - Sponsored by AAPIC
 - October 25th, Greenfield Courthouse "Cultural Appreciation" training
 - Members from CAWM went to Greenfield to share Chinese culture
 - Taught traditional calligraphy
 - Went past timeline due to much interest
 - Bayanihan Association of America, Inc.
 - September 28th, Queen of Bayanihan pageant/fundraiser
 - Springfield Vietnamese Cultural Association, Inc.

- Vietnamese New Year Fundraiser
- Future Events
 - CAWM
 - No events for the rest of the year (break for the holidays)
 - Next event will Lunar New Year in January
 - Springfield Vietnamese Cultural Association
 - Next event will be in January
 - Bhutanese Oral History Project (Dr. Chu)
 - Documentary/Compilation of recordings to be published in November
 - Springfield, Chinese Woman Conductor performing at Symphony Hall
- Insight on Events
 - Trying to find ways to balance increasing costs (some events have lost money)
 - Wanting to improve fundraising efforts
 - Obtaining more youth involvement
 - Outreaching to other races and cultures for events
 - Working with refugees to help and support them
 - Language support
 - Housing, healthcare
 - Education, work
 - Need help receiving more funding and applying for grants
 - How can the Commission help with grant-writing?
 - Grant-writing workshops?
 - Providing feedback on grants
 - Helping organizations find other grant opportunities

Key Issue Areas

- Many attendees did not fill out the form
 - Attendees also did not disperse the survey to the rest of their communities
- Top response on the survey: mental health
 - One adult attendee who responded with that explained the importance to him
 - Increasingly bad mental health among younger generations
 - Particularly impacts AAPI youth when it comes to school
 - College/career anxiety, competition, and burnout
 - Two high school aged attendees shared their perspectives as current students
 - Pressure comes from both within and outside of the AAPI community
 - Stereotypes and assumptions about being AAPI
 - Students' aspirations to be in fields such as medicine or law are reduced to just them "following the crowd"

- Look at different perspectives (?)
- Show that volunteer work is appreciated/recognized
- Potentially implement a new internship for student coordinating

Nominations for Unity Dinner

- Nomination form due Monday morning
- Organizations that have already been awarded cannot win the same award
- Looking for sponsors for Unity Dinner

Next Western Massachusetts Regional Coordinator Intern

- Expectations/Goals of the position
 - Familiarity with the communities and the area
 - More meetings
 - Community *organizer*, rather than *coordinator*
 - Emphasis on bringing/rallying communities together
 - Reaching out to other Asian communities
 - Gathering people, helping to promote events
 - Community member highly preferred
 - Maybe increase pay, extending hours and contract length
 - Change label of ‘internship’, discourages non-student applicants
 - Forming a separate internship for students to organize AAPI students
 - Goal for next coordinator: improve/increase Islamic AAPI representation
- How to cultivate/train the next leader
 - Managing the transition and developing leadership (?)
 - Ensuring next intern fully understands the purpose of the role
 - Key Initiatives Coordinator (?)