

# APANO



Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon

## 2010 | Year in Review



### Campaign for Health Equity, Health Insurance Exchange

*The state government of Oregon is creating a marketplace for individuals, employers and families to purchase private health insurance. The Exchange will make it easier to get insurance, reduce health insurance costs, and set consumer standards for health plans.*

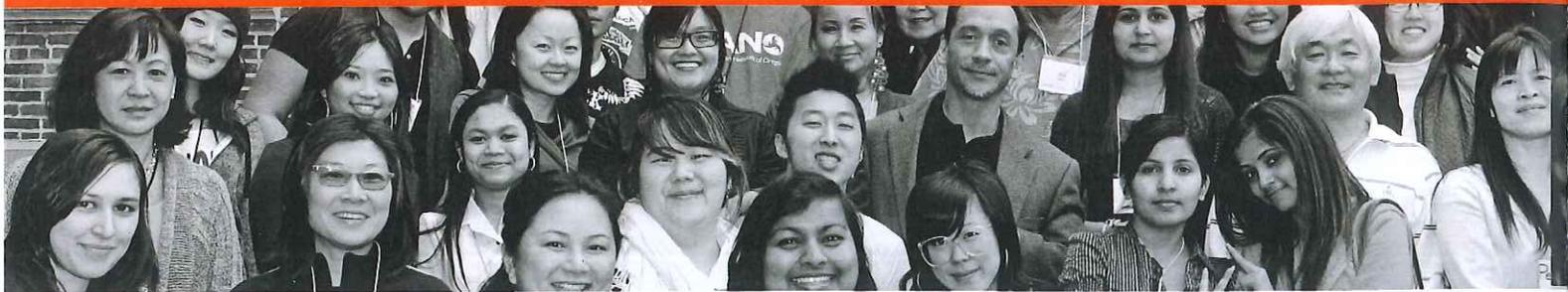
Did you know...

- 18% of Asians and 22% of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are uninsured, compared to 12% of Whites
- Preventable death and disease rates, including breast cancer, heart disease, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and hepatitis B, continue to disproportionately impact API
- Asians are 3 to 13 times more likely to die from hepatitis B (Chinese 6x, Korean 8x, Vietnamese 13x)

It has been a powerful year for APANO's Health Equity and Reform Team (HEART). HEART is made up of API community members who have actively educated and

advocated for our communities to improve API health outcomes in Oregon. We have done this through workshops, community forums, film discussions and public testimonies.

For 2011, HEART identified the Oregon Health Insurance Exchange as a top legislative priority issue. By federal law, everyone in the US is required to buy health insurance by 2014 or they will be penalized. The State of Oregon is moving quickly to create an insurance exchange to provide for the uninsured. APANO's Campaign for Health Equity aims for an insurance exchange that is accessible, affordable and culturally/linguistically appropriate for API families, communities and all Oregonians. How can we eliminate barriers, strengthen our families, and increase accountability? Look for updates and ways to get involved in 2011.



## Advocacy for Bilingual/Bicultural Education

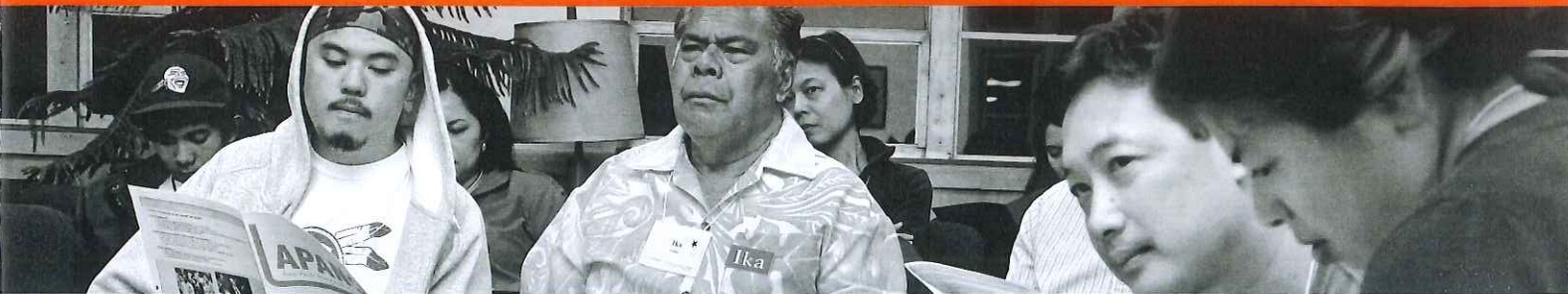
*We face challenges in our schools around quality ESL, language access for parents, transparency and accountability in student performance, and services for refugee students.*

As our communities grow, particularly across the Metro Portland region, with an influx of Asian refugees from Burma, Bhutan and Iraq, APANO has prioritized educational equity and empowerment for students and parents. Members like you have helped us stay on top of the opportunities and challenges facing our young people, and working together to speak with one voice to school and district administrators. Increasing parent leadership and relationships among Asian and Pacific Islanders for educational equity is critical to our success in correcting the inadequate ratio of bilingual/bicultural staff to students, shrinking the achievement gap for immigrant students, and making school districts

more welcoming and accountable for API students and families.

One the major 2010 accomplishments from APANO members uniting to support Portland Public Schools bilingual/bicultural educational assistants, key individuals in supporting our children's academic success. We won a victory through testimony and a community rally to prevent a 33% cut, or over 23 positions.





## Urban Ecology Project

*Environmental Justice is the right to a clean and safe place for all people where we live, work, play, study, and pray.*

The Urban Ecology (UE) project, a collaboration including the Oregon Universal Zulu Nation, Hmong American Community of Oregon, Center for Diversity and the Environmental, and OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon, was formed by APANO out of a concern for the growing environmental justice, sustainability and the green economy issues in Metro Portland. "API communities contribute rich cultural traditions, and experience in both trades and diverse professions," but as the UE annual report highlights, "API voices are often ignored."

This year's project consisted of three phases: organizing focus groups, hosting 16 educational workshops, and delivering an annual report to the City of Portland. The result was nearly 500 community

members from 17 different API communities across all ages. The report highlighted further community organizing and advocacy work in the areas including food access policies and human health and pollution, and the need for long-term leadership development to empower the fast growing API community to engage in the environmental and economic benefits of our region.

In the coming year, the Urban Ecology Project is linking environmental justice with APANO's health equity efforts, and following up on the lead recommendations and further increasing youth and young adult leadership.





## Action / Reflection

*Studies show that every \$1 given to nonprofit advocacy efforts generates over \$90. With your \$50 contribution to APANO, you leverage \$4,500 in community benefits and support our leadership development and civic engagement efforts.*

Over my first year as your APANO Coordinator, I've been deeply impressed by the strength and resilience of our communities. We have incredibly hardworking community leaders, like our new Oregonians from Burma and Bhutan who have organized and continued their cultural traditions, our pan-Asian and pan-Pacific Islander networks like the new Oregon APA Bar Association that supports professional advancement, and our dedicated university groups such as the Vietnamese Student Associations. What I'm most moved by is the deep hope that moves our community, who despite the challenges we face, envision a better future. This hope is not pure optimism, it is an understanding that collectively we recognize a better way. We work tirelessly towards this goal.

One of our goals, our hopes, is to see the full participation of the APA community. The definition of community involvement I like best is this - early,

consistent and meaningful participation with the ability to influence the outcomes. This comes out of my experience in environmental and racial justice organizing. Our ability to make change, to address the issues most important to our communities, starts with an organized and powerful organization of people like you.

APANO is grounded in our ability to engage everyday Asians and Pacific Islanders, from every cultural, language, social, and economic sector of Oregon. As individuals like you have joined APANO, we have learned from your ideas, become smarter and stronger in our collective ability to speak with one voice. Census 2010 will likely show that our pan-Asian, pan-Pacific Islander community exceeds 200,000, and is the 2nd fastest growing community of color in Oregon. With your involvement, you can make a difference in helping lead our community-driven advocacy work. Here are 3 things you can do:

- Renew your membership in APANO starting at \$25/year to support our work and stay connected
- Attend one of our issue forums on Health, Education and Civil Rights
- Study our 2011 Legislative Agenda, and consider becoming a Legislative Captain for March 1st or May 10th

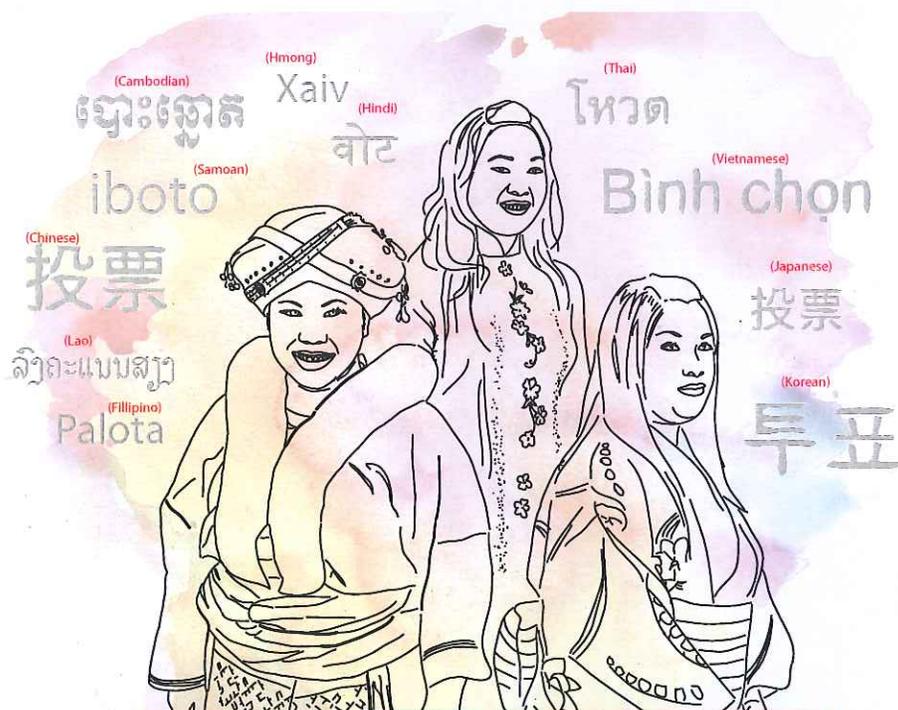
Thank you for your spirit, your energy, your commitment to our shared work.

Sincerely,

Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons  
APANO Coordinator

## New Staff

This year APANO welcomes new staff to meet our mission and goals. Jessica Lee and Rinna Rem joined as part-time research analysts focusing on health equity, civil rights and educational equity. Justin Takaha White joined the team as the Membership Coordinator to ramp up APANO's stellar membership base. Colin Kiley joined as your Lane County field organizer, educating and mobilizing community members towards our advocacy goals.



**voting matters**



## Legislative Agenda 2011

From January to June 2011, Oregon's legislature will be meeting in Salem to pass laws and set new budgets. Through a community-driven process of engagement with you our members and partners, our Board has approved a Legislative Agenda. Thank you to all who participated in APANO's Policy Advocacy/Civic Engagement Work Group which guided the process, and we hope each of you will become a Legislative Captain in 2011. We will monitor, study, analyze and develop position statements related to these priorities.

### Legislative Agenda

- 1. Data Collection** Appropriating funds for disaggregation of racial/ethnic identities, maintaining standards and improved health outcomes.
- 2. Culturally specific chronic disease prevention,** illness prevention and wellness prevention programs and funding. Hep B, Tobacco, HIV/AIDS, Obesity, Cancer screening, budget allocations, accountability for private insurers.
- 3. State Health Insurance Exchange.** Ensure language access, immigrant/refugee inclusion, affordability, comparability and accessibility.
- 4. Funding for Refugee Services.** During this extensive cut year, ensuring refugees are not disproportionately impacted.
- 5. Opposing Xenophobic and Anti-Immigrant Policies.** Respond to potential legislation denying equal rights to immigrants and refugees, racial profiling, unfair business requirements.

### Statewide 2011

In addition, we have endorsed legislative measures advancing equity through the State Earned Income Tax Credit, Paid Family Leave, Racial Impact Statements, Voter Modernization, Immigrant Inclusion in Healthy Kids, and Cultural Competency for Health Professionals.

## GOTV 2010

The 2010 mid-term election cycle was APANO's 3rd consecutive GOTV campaign to increase voter participation in the Asian and Pacific Islander community. We canvas over 250 doors including Trick or Vote, phone banked 10,000 API in 5 languages; distributed 23,500 APA Voter Guides through the Asian Reporter (translated into Cambodian, Chinese, Samoan, Korean, and Vietnamese); and held 4 APA Voter Education Summits in Multnomah, Marion, Lane and Washington counties engaging 100 community members. While we were disappointed the mandatory minimum increase Measure 73 passed statewide, and Portland's Voter Owned Elections 26-108 failed by only 1,500 votes, we made a significant impact by achieving our goals of increasing voter education and turnout in the pan-Asian pan-Pacific Islander communities. We have great momentum going into the 2011 Legislative Session!

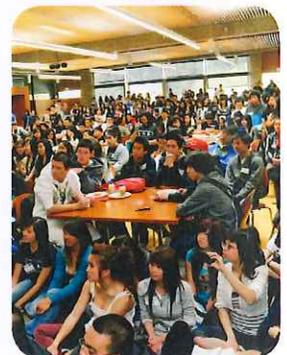
While we lost at the ballot box with Voter-Owned Elections failing 51%-49% and criminal justice Measure 73 passing 57%-43%, we know we made a difference through our bilingual/bicultural direct contact with over 2,000 Asian and Pacific Islander voters. American elections are new to many in our community, and the voting process can be confusing. Many of these voters remarked at how valuable our outreach was, and how meaningful it is to be supported in making sure we are educated on the issues and mobilized by election day.

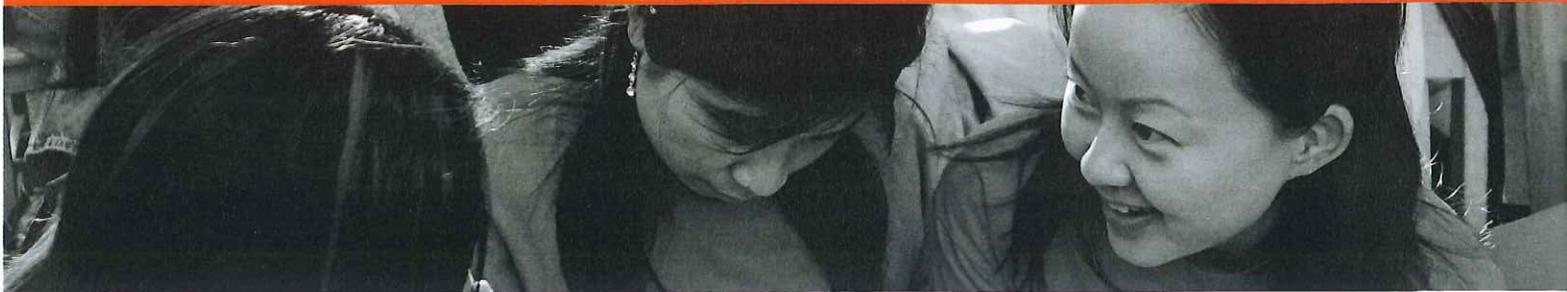
## Youth Advocacy Institute

Asians and Pacific Islanders are breaking out of the passive, invisible stereotype and speaking up and speaking out for equal rights. APANO's new summer institute for emerging leaders is an intensive 2-day community building and leadership training program for Oregon's young Asian and Pacific Islanders. We seek to bridge the gap between the younger and older generations, deepen our understanding of a Pan-Asian/Pacific Islander culture, and learn new skills to help unify and advocate for our community needs.

APANO organized its first Youth Advocacy Institute bringing together 15 youth and 15 young mentors from 12 different ethnic backgrounds in East Portland. The two day institute covered the importance of civic participation, cultural writing workshops, identifying

- API Voter participation - those eligible to cast votes - was as low as 45% in the last decade
- Voter registration of Asians and Pacific Islanders continues to lag behind Whites in Oregon
- APANO's 1st Legislative Day in 2009 mobilized over 80 community members to meet with 30 legislators in Salem
- There are no elected officials of Asian or Pacific Islander descent in Oregon's legislature





community concerns and cross cultural sharing. APANO is excited for future youth engagement and thanks the volunteer leadership who helped organize a successful event! With the leadership of youth and mentors, a series of high school based leadership meetings and a summer retreat are planned for 2011.

## Model Minority Myth

Many people make the mistake of seeing Asians and Pacific Islanders as all the same, when in fact we have a broad diversity of cultures, languages, religions and immigration experiences. While some in our community have done remarkably well in achieving "the American dream" of getting a good education and working at a good family-wage job, the reality is we still experience serious disparities. We know that social achievements are not shared equally in our community, for example with Southeast Asians including Vietnamese, Laotians, Cambodians, Khmer, Mien and Hmong who have a college degree attainment rate of less than 20%, half the rate for other API groups. We also know that much of our community continue to face job discrimination, voter suppression, racial resentment, hate crimes, school achievement gaps, and health disparities.

APANO works to understand the realities faced by all Asian and Pacific Islanders in Oregon, and to develop culturally specific ways to improve civic participation in order for the issues faced by our communities to be appropriately addressed. APANO also works in concert with other communities of color, as we recognize that many of our concerns are shared and we strive to build coalitions.

APANO is linking up with the Boston-based Asian American Resource Workshop ([www.aarw.org](http://www.aarw.org)) to explore their Sticky Rice Anti-Racism Project, and bringing a series of workshops for racial justice from an Asian American perspective.

## New Partnerships

We recognize we are part of the national pan-Asian pan-Pacific Islander American movement and have deepened our relationship with existing partners - APIA Vote, APA Labor Alliance, and the APIA Health Forum, and established new affiliations with the APA Legal Center, Asian American Justice Center, and the National

Coalition for APA Community Development. We've benefited from APANO members who have gone on to Washington DC, California, and who have moved here from New York, Illinois and more, who have supported these connections. We appreciate the technical assistance, research analysis, leadership development, as well as the contributions we can make to national efforts.

Statewide we have re-engaged in the Multnomah County Coalition of Communities of Color which APANO helped co-found a decade ago and celebrated the publication of An Unsettling Profile documenting the systemic inequities and disparities impacting our community. We are also leaders with the People of Color Health Equity Collaborative of Oregon, Oregon Voice 501c3 civic engagement network, and the new Oregon Racial Equity Report Card.

## 2011 Calendar of Events

**Campaign for Equity in Oregon's Health Insurance Exchange**

Spring

**Statewide Convention**

January 21-22  
Mt. Angel, OR

**Legislative Captain Trainings**

Feb 8: 6pm-8pm  
Portland

Feb 12: 10am-12pm  
Portland

Feb 12: 10am-12pm  
Eugene

Feb 16: 6pm-8pm  
Portland

**Unnatural Causes Film Series**

Ashland  
Corvallis  
Eugene  
Gresham  
LaGrande  
Salem

**Legislative Day**

March 1  
Salem, OR  
May 10  
Salem, OR

**Listening Circles**  
Summer and Fall 2011

## 2011 Membership Meetings

Sat	April 9	Salem
Sat	June 11	Portland
Sat	October 10	Eugene
Sat	December 10	Portland



## APANO is a New 501c3

In October 2010, APANO received its 501c3 tax-exempt status as a nonprofit corporation. We extend our appreciations to Co-Chair June Schumann and Treasurer Thomas Ngo for facilitating the process, the Willamette Nonprofit Law Clinic for their legal services, and to the Rural Organizing Project who served as our fiscal sponsor.

## Annual Statement of Financial Position

	June 30, 2010	June 30, 2009
Current Assets	\$25,361	\$376
Receivable	\$115,290	0
Other Assets	\$373	\$7,997
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$141,025</b>	<b>\$8,373</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$2504</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Net Assets	\$138,521	\$8,373
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$141,025</b>	<b>\$8,373</b>

## Annual Statement of Activities ending June 30, 2010

Contributions	\$4,384
Special Events	\$1,040
Grants	\$184,424
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$189,425</b>
Grants, Contracts	\$2,300
Contract Services	\$31,326
Office Services and Supplies	\$7823
Rent	\$3,785
Meeting & Travel	\$10,996
Other	\$115
Fiscal Sponsorship and Bank Fees	\$2,932
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$59,267</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$130,148</b>

### APANO by the Numbers

- 3 New Associates
- 20 Partnerships
- 75 Intro to Social Justice
- 250 Member Contributions
- 500 Friends
- 1800 E-mail List
- 10,000 GOTV Contacts
- 23,500 APA Voter Guides

## APANO

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www.apano.org

## With Support From

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance  
Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Asian Pacific Islander American Vote  
Asian Reporter  
Asian Reporter Foundation  
Community Health Priorities  
Kaiser Permanente Community Fund  
McKenzie River Gathering Foundation  
Northwest Health Foundation  
Office of Multicultural Health and Services  
Oregon Voice  
Rural Organizing Project  
The Lim Family (Jaime, Jody, Jennifer, Jason, Justin)  
United Way of Columbia-Willamette  
Western States Center

*And individual members like you*

## Newsletter Staff

Colin Kiley  
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Phamala Luangphasy, Designer  
Simon Tam

## APANO Board of Directors

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Field Organizer John Joo  
Field Organizer Colin Kiley  
Membership Justin Takaha White  
Research Analyst Rinna Rem  
Research Analyst Jessica Lee

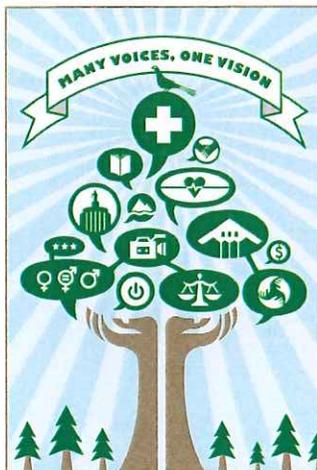
APANO, the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, unites and advances the interests of the pan-Asian, pan-Pacific Islander communities of Oregon through community building, civic engagement and policy advocacy. We are a 501(c)(3) organization.

APANONews TWITTER 

On FACEBOOK 



PO BOX 6552 Portland, OR 97208-6552 | www.apano.org



APANO's 3rd Annual Statewide Convention  
Friday & Saturday, January 21 - 22, 2011