

Meeting Summary for APAA Commission Meeting (03/18/2025)

Commission Attendance: Yes

Yang Yu, Chair
Siu Cheung Rossmark, Vice Chair
Isabelle Balakit, Member
Tim Chng, Member
Amy Chung Fry, Member
Brian Gerardo, Member
Larry La, Member
Alanna Lee, Member
Ping Lu, Member
Thai Nguyen, Member
Sirikarn (Sarah) Prammawat, Member
Young Smith, Member
Jarrett Stoltzfus, Member
Jessie Su, Member
Tho Tran, Member
Cecilia Vergara, Member
Roxanne Yamashita, Member
Lili Zhang, Member

GOCI Staff:

Administrative Director Christina Poy, Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs
Operation Coordinator Lisa Woodfolk
Project Coordinator Cheryl Madigan

Guest Speakers:

Executive Director Larry Walker, Governor's Office of Community Initiatives
Caryn Hines, Maryland Address Confidentiality Program
Dr. Adrienne Poon, AANHPI Health Needs Assessment Survey

Quick recap

Chair Yang Yu called the meeting to order. Commissioner Brian Gerardo motioned, and Commissioner Jarrett Stoltzfus seconded the motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Vice Chair Siu Cheung Rossmark motioned, and Commissioner Tim Chng seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. The meeting involved presentations, and updates on support for federal workers impacted by recent executive orders. The Maryland Address Confidentiality Program was introduced, providing a legal substitute address and mail forwarding service for survivors of domestic violence and other individuals with heightened privacy concerns. The meeting also focused on the progress of various subcommittees, volunteer needs for an upcoming event, and ongoing efforts for the Maryland 250 celebration.

Next steps

- All Commissioners to complete and share Dr. Poon's health survey within their networks
- Vice Chair Siu Cheung Rossmark to secure at least three APAA Commissioner volunteers for the April 10th business conference
- Tim Chng to continue leading APAA Heritage Month planning meetings on Monday evenings
- Roxanne Yamashita to explore setting up video recording for collecting AAPI stories during Heritage Month events
- Christina Poy to send out invitation for the inter-commission social event at Luna Hall to all current and former commissioners
- Chair Yang Yu to identify a volunteer panelist for the Johns Hopkins Heritage Month event on April 9th
- All Commissioners to consider attending the upcoming AAPI Heritage Month events in Prince George's County (May 3rd), Montgomery County (May 4th), Howard County (tentative May 10th), and statewide (tentative May 17th)

Summary

Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific Affairs

The meeting of the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs is called to order. The agenda and minutes from the previous meeting are adopted. Administrative Director Christina Poy gives opening remarks, reminding commissioners to set budgets before planning events and to communicate if feeling stressed. Executive Director Larry Walker from the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives provides updates on support for federal workers impacted by recent executive orders and encourages commissioners to share resources with their communities. He also asks commissioners to consider ideas for Maryland's participation in the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026. Caryn Hines from the Address Confidentiality Program, in the Office of the Secretary of State, is introduced as the next speaker.

Maryland Address Confidentiality Program Overview

The Maryland Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) provides a legal substitute address and mail forwarding service for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, harassment, and human trafficking, as well as individuals with heightened privacy concerns due to their employment. Participants can use the substitute address for various purposes like obtaining a driver's license, registering to vote, and enrolling in school, while keeping their actual address confidential. The program is valid for four years and can be renewed if circumstances persist. Caryn Hines encourages community members to spread awareness about the ACP and consider becoming application assistants to help survivors apply for the program.

AANHPI Health Needs Assessment Survey

The meeting segment discusses a health needs assessment survey for the Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community in the Greater Washington, DC area. Dr. Adrienne Poon

presents preliminary results from the survey, which aims to understand health disparities and needs within specific ethnic groups. The survey covers topics such as demographics, health conditions, healthcare access, and experiences of discrimination. Dr. Poon emphasizes the importance of disaggregated data and encourages commissioners to share the survey within their networks to increase participation.

Commissioner Events Check-In

The meeting involved a discussion about various events and achievements. Dr. Adrienne Poon and Chair Yang Yu led the conversation, with Adrienne sharing her work and Chair Yang Yu congratulating several commissioners on their accomplishments. Commissioner Ping Lu shared news about two grants received by her Capital Youth program for the first time because she got the information shared by Poy (Admin. Director Christina Poy) from the Department of Health. The kids applied and got one grant against gambling. Vice Chair Siu Cheung Rossmark discussed an upcoming Asian American LEAD event featuring AAPI celebrity chefs with the goal to raise \$120,000.

Commissioner Business: Subcommittees Progress and Upcoming Events

The meeting focused on the progress of various subcommittees. Commissioner Lili Zhang reported the Business and Economic Development Subcommittee is preparing for the Asian American Business Conference, with the focus being the upcoming event. Commissioner Tim Chng reported the Community Subcommittee is organizing the APA Heritage Month celebration and is working on securing a venue at Howard Community College. Commissioner Tho Tran reported that the Education Subcommittee is launching the APAA Youth Fellow Program, which has received five applications so far. Chair Yang Yu reported the Health Subcommittee is planning to reduce the number of episodes for the AAPI Health Webinar Series and is considering hosting an AAPI Health Forum in 2026. The Business Conference with the Governor's SAAA Commission is scheduled for April 10th, with several subcommittee co-chairs and volunteers already committed. The conversation ended with a call for more volunteers for the Business Conference.

Volunteer Needs and Maryland 250 Celebration

The Commission discussed volunteer needs for an upcoming AABC event on April 10th, with Siu requesting at least three commissioners to help. Commissioners Isabel Balakit and Larry La will volunteer, and Commissioners Alanna Lee and Roxanne Yamashita express interest, pending availability. The group also discussed ongoing efforts for the Maryland 250 celebration, including collaborating with Towson University's Asian American Cultural Center to collect and showcase AAPI stories and histories. Commissioners Tim Chng and Roxanne Yamashita discussed the possibility of collecting stories during Heritage Month, potentially involving youth volunteers. The Commission continues to work on legislative initiatives, community engagement, and outreach efforts, with a reminder to use the shared folder for organization lists and outreach materials. Administrative Director Christina Poy announced an upcoming social event for commissioners and board members from various AAPI-related organizations (DC Mayor's Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs and the Virginia Governor's Commission) in the area to foster connections and community.

Commission Meeting Recap and Social Event

The conversation ended with no new announcements. Administrative Director Christina Poy shared a flyer in the chat for a social meetup event, not mandatory, to get to know former commissioners from both the APA and South Asian American commissions, as well as commissioners and advisory board members of other jurisdictions (i.e., DC, Virginia, Montgomery County, and Howard County). Vice Chair Siu Cheung Rossmark announced an AAPI Heritage Month event on May 4th at Seneca Valley High School, featuring a book signing by Larry La. Chair Yang Yu thanked Commissioner Jessie Su for organizing a heritage month event at John Hopkins on April 9th, inviting commissioners to serve as panelists. The next commission meeting is scheduled for June 17th.

Vice Chair Siu Cheung Rossmark motioned, and Commissioner Isabelle Balakit seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.