



2018 ANNUAL REPORT





We are dedicated to advancing the social, political and economic well-being of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs).

Founded in 1973, OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, membership driven organization headquartered in Washington, DC with over 50 chapters and affiliates around the country.

POLICY PLATFORM

Immigration: In order to maintain America's legacy as a place of refuge and equality, we must adopt measures to empty the backlog of visa applications, protect family immigration, and create clean direct pathways to citizenship.

Education: Our public and private education systems must see equitable access and resources as well as AAPI representation in curriculum. In addition, there is a critical need for resources and recognition for Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs).

Racial Equity and Inclusion: As AAPIs face hate crimes and racial profiling, we must continue to push against hate speech, violence, and discrimination. Further, racial equity calls for workforce diversity and the disaggregation of data.

Civic Engagement and Census: Civic engagement is critically important to our democracy, which is why it is crucial to increase AAPI community engagement and ensure a fair and proper count of AAPIs in the 2020 Census.

Workforce Development and Technology: AAPIs of all ages and places deserve equitable access to technology as well as inclusive workforce development and career pipeline opportunities.

OCA provides programming for over 50 chapters and affiliates across the country as well, including youth advocacy trainings and professional development workshops. This annual report will give an overview of our policy priorities as well as the impact of our programming.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Dear AdvOCAtes,

On behalf of OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates, it is my pleasure to present to you the 2018 OCA National Annual Report.

As one of the fastest growing ethnic groups in the United States, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) are becoming ever more crucial through their increased purchasing power, civic power, and, more recently, media presence and digital influence. We are proud to be part of the growth and development of the AAPI community through our programs and advocacy work. This report will highlight the accomplishments of our members, the executive council, and staff over the past year.

Part of our advocacy work is done through the programs we host. APA Y-Advocate helps high school students navigate their identity; APIA U gives college students leadership and advocacy training; Mentoring Asian American Professionals (MAAP) develops young professionals; and, our internship program provides advocacy experience on the Hill.

With our team of eight based in Washington, D.C., we are able to coordinate these programs for our chapters nationwide and be a voice for the AAPI community at the table regarding policies for education, immigration, and technology and telecommunications.

I'd like to thank our sponsors, individual donors, and past supporters who believe in our mission and vision. Without their support, we would not be able to continue to touch the hundreds of thousands of AAPIs that we do today through our programs and policy advocacy teams. I'd also like to thank our National President Sharon M. Wong and the Executive Council for their support, along with each and every one of our chapters and members for their enthusiasm and dedication, to make 2018 as successful as it was.

We are excited to have you with us on our journey as we continue to build and uplift the AAPI community.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ken Lee
Chief Executive Officer

POLICY



IMMIGRATION

OCA remains dedicated to passing a comprehensive immigration reform bill that supports all Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. AAPI immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers should have the ability to equitably sponsor their families to the United States; live without fear of detention and deportation; and be provided due process rights if they are ensnared within our country's detention and deportation system. As such, OCA believes that the family immigration system must address the massive backlog of visa applications, of which 1.8 million are from Asian countries. Any form of comprehensive immigration reform must also include provisions to provide a pathway to citizenship for the over 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States, along with a repeal of the sections of the 1996 immigration laws that limit judicial discretion in detention and deportation cases.

- OCA is in support of Family Reunification
- OCA encourages the removal of barriers to naturalization and supports the full immigrant integration
- OCA calls for the assurance on Civil Liberties and Due Process Rights for all immigrants
- Prohibit any profiling based on race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity in all immigration enforcement efforts
- Prevent any legislation that strips the humanity and dignity of undocumented immigrants through the creation of additional hurdles to a pathway to citizenship or criminalization of undocumented individuals.

EDUCATION

Education is often referred to as the great equalizer and a key component for social and economic mobility for all Americans. OCA believes that K-12 and higher education must be fully accessible to all Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders students. To this end, OCA's education priorities include ensuring that student data is disaggregated so that necessary resources can be provided to our most needing communities.

OCA's K-12 platform also includes efforts to ensure that parents, especially limited English proficient (LEP) parents, are able to understand and access resources necessary for their children's success. Additionally, OCA advocates to expand anti-bullying measures to include LEP and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) students. OCA also remains committed to ensuring that higher education is accessible and affordable for all AAPI students, including undocumented students. OCA's higher education platform includes a congressional mandate for all public universities to allow the enrollment of undocumented students, along with translations for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and its availability for undocumented students.

Higher Education

- Push for a progressive reauthorization of the Higher Education Act
- Support holistic admissions practices, inclusive of race, ethnicity, and sex, and prevent the dismantling of affirmative action in higher education admissions

K-12

- Ensure ESSA implementation is inclusive of AAPI data disaggregation, safe school priorities, and acceptable standards and measurements for ELL students.
- Create a Title IX infrastructure to support coordinators committed to implementing gender equity laws in the education system
- School climate and discipline

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & CENSUS

OCA National has been a community organizer for Get Out the Count census efforts and a national partner with the Census Bureau for every decennial census since 1990. OCA National serves as a resource center for its chapters and members through the dissemination of information, organizing strategies, and coordination efforts. OCA National is a Census Information Center (CIC) which is a partnership program with the Census Bureau. OCA believes in a fair and accurate census that counts every person in the U.S., especially the AAPI community, a community that has historically been hard-to-count.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders remain the fastest growing populations in the United States, at rates of 46% and 40%, respectively, from 2000 to 2010. This stands in comparison to a 10% population growth rate nationally. In the last three presidential cycles, approximately 620,000 new AAPI voters have entered the electorate. Yet, AAPI voters still face discrimination and other barriers at polls, including a shortage of Asian-language interpreters, missing names on voter rolls, poll worker interference, and improper demands for identification.

- OCA National is in opposition of the inclusion of a citizenship question on the 2020 Census
- OCA National is in support of robust funding for the 2020 Decennial Census
- Inclusion of Pacific Island language translations for the census
- Support for large-scale Get Out the Vote efforts and Asian-language translation to eliminate barriers to exercising voting rights.

RACIAL EQUITY & INCLUSION

The 2017 FBI Hate Crimes Report shows a continued increase in hate crimes against AAPIs. Anti-Asian incidents have increased over the last few years and anti-NHPI incident have increased fifty-six percent in 2017. However, due to systemic underreporting, the reality for AAPIs is not accurately represented by this data. Since OCA's founding, we have fought tirelessly against anti-AAPI hate crimes. OCA continues to work on the ground to foster a stronger society in which our community feels safer. OCA demands an end to racial profiling which has caused fear in our community and prevents individuals from leading their daily lives.

Priorities:

- Better tracking and reporting of hate crimes towards AAPIs
- Content moderation on hate speech and language discrimination
- Prohibit any profiling based on race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity
- Implementation of programs that support workforce diversity

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

OCA National is dedicated to ensuring that AAPIs civil rights are protected with the advancement of new technologies and the development of new policies. OCA strongly believes that as our country continues to digitize and create modern communications networks, it is pivotal that AAPIs shape the policies and regulations that create the framework for innovation. We believe that all Americans should have equitable access to modern communications networks, including mobile phones and broadband. Despite the data that says AAPIs are some of the earliest adopters of technology and have one of the highest rates of internet usage, we know that many within our community lack access to the internet. This lack of access can seriously impact educational attainment, income, and other socioeconomic opportunities.

Additionally, as we continue to talk about AAPI representation in media, OCA believes that we must have regulations that promote diverse media ownership and minority programmers. In order to have our representation, we must ensure that our policies reduce barriers for AAPIs to create content and promote diverse narratives.

Workforce Development:

- Ensure technology is accessible to AAPI communities including the continental US and territories (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands).
- Increase opportunities for low-income AAPIs through programs and initiatives that will provide broadband access and digital literacy training
- Mandate oversampling and reporting of disaggregated AAPI broadband adoption and usage data through the National Telecommunications and Information Agency (NTIA).
- Ensure there is no discrimination based on any data collected for AAPIs

Technology Policy:

- Reject efforts to weaken the ConnectEd or Lifeline programs.
- Transparency on the collection of consumer and student data and their privacy protections
- Language access and translations in the AAPI languages that individuals routinely use to interact with online companies
- Require expanded data collection and studies on media ownership diversity.
- Adopt rules that expand the ownership diversity of traditional and new media, including long-overdue rules to improve data collection on broadcast ownership by women and people of color

PROGRAMS



OCA NATIONAL INTERNSHIP



“Coming into this internship, I thought of myself not into politics as much as others. I believe that throughout my time at this internship, I was able to learn a lot about myself but also about the political world. I’ve always been passionate of being a voice for those who don’t have one but I think that after this internship, I am even more motivated to be voice for others. Along with this, I also think I grew professionally. I was able to narrow down what I want to do in the future but also how I can do it successfully while also helping my community.”

- 2018 OCA Summer Intern

The **OCA Internship Program** creates a pipeline of future leaders for the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community by providing students from all over the country with the opportunity to be involved in policy and advocacy through national organizations in Washington, D.C. After 27 years, the program continues to successfully lead our internship alumni to be more politically active on their college campuses and represent AAPIs in the community in local, state and federal governments.

OCA Interns are placed in Congressional offices, federal agencies, the OCA National Center, and other prominent non-profit organizations for ten weeks in and around Washington, D.C.

The Internship program, which runs three times a year during the spring, summer and fall, was developed to achieve the following goals:

- Provide a substantive complement of professional and personal development opportunities
- Introduce key concepts of individual and collective empowerment that are derived through engagement in social justice movements and American public policy issues that affect AAPIs
- Offer opportunities to meet and interact with national policy makers and thought leaders in Washington, D.C. and throughout the OCA National network
- Encourages careers in sector and professions where AAPIs are underrepresented through professional development, training, and mentoring
- Connect emerging AAPI leader with broad based coalitions and OCA partner across the country

Interns are also given the opportunity to schedule meetings with their member of Congress for an advocacy visit. Visits entail discussions concerning public policy and an inside look at the legislative work of Congress. We encourage our interns to take this opportunity and train them on how to bring important issues to the attention of their members of Congress.

APA YOUTH ADVOCATE



**600+ HIGH
SCHOOL
STUDENTS IN
2018**

Asian Pacific American Youth Advocate (APA Y-Advocate) is a half-day interactive training focused on equipping our youth with skills to enhance their personal development as well as providing them a stronger platform before going to college. OCA chapters host these trainings, facilitated by OCA Internship alumni, for their local AAPI high school youth.

Through hands-on activities, students learn about financial responsibility, career planning, and leadership-driven community engagement. With their peers and the facilitators, the students also engage in discussions about the implications of individual behavior on the community and what it means to be a leader.

**620+
COLLEGE
STUDENTS
IN 2018**



APIAU: LEADERSHIP TRAINING

APIA U: Leadership Training is a college leadership training program that involves interactive activities, small group discussions, and presentations led by qualified Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) facilitators. The training packed with a full day's worth of gaining self-awareness and team-building skills, and learning about direct action organizing. Participants will be asked to challenge themselves and share their experiences with the end goal that they learn to develop themselves to serve as catalysts for change.

Our mission is to provide AAPI student leaders and activists with a unique training opportunity that keeps in mind the viewpoints and experiences of AAPIS and other students of color.

**76
MENTORS
76
MENTEES
6 CITIES**



**MAAP: MENTORING
ASIAN AMERICAN
PROFESSIONALS**

The goal of the **MAAP Program** is to cultivate the next generation of confident, empowered, equipped, and collaborative Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) professional leaders through a mutually-beneficial platform of networking and skills building. Our methodology combines career planning, professional and personal skills building and networking with both one-on-one and group mentoring sessions. The mentoring cohort participates in a series of three network convenings conducted as group seminars, peer-mentoring, learning activities and facilitated discussions. Over the course of these three months, our goal is for both the mentor and mentee to learn and grow from their different and shared experiences.

**B3: BUILD,
BREAKTHROUGH,
BELIEVE**



**450+
PARTICIPANTS
IN 6 CITIES**

Our **B3 Program** was launched in 2009 as a convening for aspiring Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) professionals interested in taking their personal and professional goals to the next level through leadership development and networking.

The conference aims to be a space for relevant professional development, peer networking and mentoring to aspiring AAPI professionals. In a one-day program consisting of workshops, panels and/or seminars, participants learn about a range of topics from personal branding to corporate success strategies. Alongside this goal, B3 hopes to increase the level of civic engagement of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders throughout the U.S.

30 COMMUNITY LEADERS



JACL/OCA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

The **JACL/OCA Leadership Summit** is an annual three-day convening of OCA and JACL members from across the country to build their capacity for advocacy work. Participants hear from a variety of speakers and facilitators; develop their community leadership skills; learn about current civil rights issues; engage with government officials; and deepen their commitment towards achieving equity and equality for AAPI communities through peer-to-peer learning. The Summit helps expand the social, economic and political power of AAPIs by uplifting local leaders, giving them the necessary tools to advocate for their communities. Sessions have included workshops on legislative visits, education policy, and general civil rights. We also host a Congressional Speaker series to provide direct engagement with policymakers.

CIVIC & CENSUS ENGAGEMENT



**450+
PARTICIPANTS
IN 6 CITIES**

OCA operates through a multi-tiered system, in order to engage all our Chapters in Civic Engagement efforts depending on the capacity and networks of the chapters. Each chapter receives a sub-grant based on local plans and through consultation with APIA-Vote. Activities range from hosting a public event to promote civic engagement, to hosting phonebanks to encourage AAPIs to get to the polls. OCA National helps coordinate chapter efforts by providing education and trainings around Civic Engagement. By doing so, our Chapters are able to fully mobilize their members and community to get to the polls and voice their vote. Using the same methods for civic engagement, OCA is gearing up to push for full participation from the AAPI community in completing the 2020 Census in order to ensure that our community is accurately counted. This data impacts political districting but, most importantly, also the allocation of resources that our community depends on.

WOMEN'S INITIATIVE



250+
PARTICIPANTS
IN 3 STATES

OCA's inaugural **AAPI Womxn's Initiative** was started in 2016 as part of its effort to be more aware and inclusive of issues and challenges that AAPI womxn face. As a result, OCA passed a resolution and developed a program, AAPI Womxn's LeadHERship Summit, to bring together AAPI womxn from various backgrounds and sectors to discuss how they can uplift and support each other, as well as their collective civic power. We hope to train and develop AAPI womxn leaders throughout the country and develop a strong social network for mentors and mentees.

200+
COLLEGE
STUDENTS
IN 2018



COMPASS

AAPIs continue to be underrepresented in many career fields, and even within those that have diverse representation, AAPIs struggle to break through the bamboo ceiling into leadership and executive positions. These obstacles facing AAPIs only become more pervasive as our presence and participation grows in professional arenas. The **COMPASS program** aims to help AAPI students address these issues so that they feel confident and prepared as they transition into professional life. COMPASS convenings act as opportunities for students to engage with experienced AAPI professionals in order to foster stronger networks and create mentorship opportunities. Student engage in discussions and activities that help to address common obstacles facing AAPIs in the workplace such as microaggressions, communication differences, and latent biases. By helping students access their personal and professional potential, we empower the AAPI voice and create a more equitable society.

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