

ACA SPOTLIGHT



展望 密州美華協會通訊



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www.ACADETROI.org

Service Centers News

By Shenlin Chen

I hope this newsletter is finding you well in the New Year season. According to *The Detroit News*, Michigan's nearly 43,000 non-profits are reducing staff, scaling back operations and exploring new partnerships to deal with the increasing needs caused by the sagging economy. More than seven in ten nonprofits have been experiencing a surge in demand for service, while more than six in ten noted a drop in financial support. It is unclear when the financial turmoil will end, yet our commitment to continue the vital work remains in no doubt. Our Board and the staff will strive to keep our core teams strong and take steps that can create lasting organizational strength to ensure the sustainability and consistency of our services to the community.

In the past quarter, we achieved our service target and provided many programs to the community. Here are the highlights:

Chase Art Contest

One hundred and five contestants, ranging in age from 8 to 80, participated in the *Celebrating the Asian Heritage Art Contest*. Sponsored by **Chase** and co-hosted by the **Detroit Institute of Arts** and the **Helen Culture & Art Educational Center**, this program aimed to promote the Asian culture through art, education, contest and exhibit. The award presentations and the exhibit were held on December 14, 2008. Thirty-five awardees received plaques and cash awards. Local Chinese painting artists **Shulin Sun**, **Tsailing Chou**, and **Teresa Yang** also displayed their art works at the exhibit.

Christmas Basket Charity Program

With generous donations from some local retail stores and restaurants, we were able to put together 50 Christmas gift baskets and delivered the baskets to 50 needy families in the local area. Gift recipients were families or individuals who were currently experiencing hardship due to the loss of a job or a family member, sickness or injury. Some home bound and seniors currently living in a nursing facility were also on the recipient list. Special thanks to volunteers who came and supported this program to package and deliver the gifts.

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Celebrating the Asian Heritage art contest award recipients



ACA Staff and volunteers assemble and distribute gift bags to needy families during the 2008 Holidays

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President's Message

Dear ACA Members and Friends,

I am happy to have the opportunity to talk to you again in our first newsletter for 2009 and report on some of our past and future events from my perspective. My first year as your President has been both a challenging and a personally rewarding experience. It was great to see the energy of hard working members of the Association as they implemented the many activities that are highlighted in our Executive Director's Service Center News report in this newsletter and on our web-site.



In my last message, I reported that the ACA Board was focused on developing new programs to bring together and encourage participation of a wider range of people and organizational communities. **Chase** provided such an opportunity by sponsoring the *Celebrating the Asian Heritage* art program. ACA, in cooperation with the **Detroit Institute of Arts**, designed a program to promote Asian culture through art education, contest, and exhibition. It successfully strengthened the connection between all ages of artists of Asian heritage and their root culture through the expression of art. It showcased our Chinese Community Center with a weekend of art exhibits with participants from throughout the community.

The ACA 36th Annual Celebration & Fund Raising Event, *Global Voices for the Future*, was a huge success with our Keynote Speaker **Mr. Ray G. Young**. His position as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of **General Motors** provided timely insights into the financial crisis facing the country and its global impact. It provided a preview into the government hearings that the country followed on national and international news media coverage. What an opportunity for our membership and friends to attend such an event. I again thank all our sponsors and appreciate the hard work of our members and staff for making the event possible.

Your ACA Board and staff continue to work with our national OCA organization to provide a broader and more diversified approach in our programs. As a membership based organization, programming and membership outreach will continue to be our goals in this Year of the Ox. Have an exciting new year and I'll look forward to seeing you at one of our many events.

With my deep appreciation for your support,
Ronald T. Wong, 2009 ACA President

OCA National Center Updates

By Ron Wong

Our national organization was very busy in 2008. **APIA U: Leadership 101** is now in its tenth year of providing the building blocks of leadership and activism across the country. OCA and its chapters look forward to working with our sponsor **State Farm** and all of the host schools in the coming school year as they travel across the country and train future leaders of tomorrow.

The **OCA Internship Program** is coming off a successful summer that placed 18 interns at different organizations ranging from government agencies, non-profit organizations, and congressional offices.

The **OCA Scholarship Program** was also proud to award scholarships to 34 exceptional APA high school students to help them achieve their dreams in higher education.

OCA's **Hate Crime Education Program** continues to strive to prepare communities for hate crimes and bias incidents to enable them to respond quickly and effectively. Again, **Allstate Foundation** sponsored these programs with OCA.

The annual **JACL/OCA Leadership Conference** is a conference designed to introduce emerging OCA and JACL (Japanese American Citizens League) leaders to the political process. The next conference will be held in Washington, D.C., March 6-10, 2009.

The **OCA Vote Program** was extremely busy in 2008 because of the national election. OCA vote is a collaborative, non-partisan, voter registration and mobilization project run by OCA chapters and members.

You can find out more about OCA National and its programs at www.ocanational.org. OCA-Detroit looks forward to continuing our participation in these important programs in 2009.

Service Centers News

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Thanksgiving Volunteer Recognition Event

Forty-two volunteers who have been providing vital service and help to our programs were honored at the Thanksgiving Event at the Chinese Community Center. These volunteers, recommended by the staff, demonstrated volunteer spirit and helped our programs grow in many different ways in the past year. From providing transportation, to coordinating activities, to maintenance of the facility, these volunteers provided a significant amount of in-kind contribution to our services. We are truly blessed with these individuals who value the importance of our services and freely give their time, experience, and expertise to help others to maximize their lives.



Children dancing at Thanksgiving Event November 2008

Senior Choir Officially Formed

We are proud to announce the formation of the ACA Senior Choir. Led by director Yuping Yan, an amateur artist in music originally from Taiwan, this group meets once a week to rehearse. The common thread binding them together is the enjoyment of friendship as well as the desire to sing.



Senior Choir

Low Income Subsidy Outreach Campaign

We were selected to be a partner organization for the Low Income Subsidy Outreach Campaign. Through this program we will be helping potentially eligible populations in Detroit and its neighboring communities to increase their awareness of the Medicare Rx Extra Help program.

25th Annual High School Achievement Award Banquet A Success

By Roland Hwang

ACA has been operating a scholarship program for outstanding high school seniors for 25 years. Again this year, the High School Achievement Award Banquet was a success. It was held on Sunday, December 7, 2008, at the Golden Harvest Restaurant in Warren. A ten-course banquet was served to 70 people.

For the seventh year, the Detroit Chinese Engineers Association (DCEA) joined as a co-sponsor. And for the third time, the Council of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA) joins as a co-sponsor. ACA awarded seven scholarships, the DCEA awarded two scholarships, and CAPA awarded three.

Keynote speaker Northern Michigan University President Les Wong, speaking through Dr. Sook Wilkinson, implored the students to live and learn to seek the truth as a guiding principle, and not just for remuneration or simply to "win." The second Keynote speech delivered by Frances Kai-Hwa Wang, Executive Director of American Citizens for Justice and editor of Asian American Village at IMDiversity.com, emphasized remembering where you came from, and your roots. She gave advice that the parents typically want to give, and then gave advice that some parents may not want to give, such as "to have fun."

The Class of 2009 honorees are as follows:

<u>Honoree</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Honoree</u>	<u>School</u>
Daisy Xinyue Cao	Troy	Jennifer Liang	Troy
Debra Chen	North Farmington	Allison C.Y. Liao	Troy
Gina Chen	Troy	Kelsey Meier	Regina
Adam Woomin Chung	Troy	Sandy Ng	Eisenhower
Cherry Jun Hao Dai	Troy	Kevin Shih	International Academy
David Ke Ding	Canton	Aries Tao	Troy
Elizabeth Guan	Plymouth	Michelle Verghese	Athens
Melissa Kin	Andover	Yushu Joy Xie	Troy
David Kong	Canton	Jennifer Xu	Troy
Mei Li	Mt. Clemens	Thomas Yeh	Athens
Anna Tsu Hui Liang	Grosse Pointe South	Amy Yunzhou Yu	Troy

Ray Young, Executive Vice President and CFO at General Motors, presented the Ray and Debra Young Scholarships.

There was an introduction of the ACA Scholarship Recipients:

ACA Best All Around Scholarship - Jennifer Xu
ACA 2nd Scholarship - Jennifer Liang
Mabel Peng Scholarships - Jennifer Liang
Ray & Debra Young Scholarships - Gina Chen and David Ding
PL Siak Scholarship - Melissa Kin

The Margaret Wong Scholarship recipients were Cherry Jun Hao Dai and Daisy Xinyue Cao

The CAPA scholarship recipients were Aries Tao, Michelle Verghese, and Kelsey Meier received .

The DCEA scholarship recipients were Amy Yu and Kevin Shih.

Many thanks to the committee including Roland Hwang, Iris Shen Van Buren, Steve Peng, Margaret Wong, Yucong Wang and Sam Guo (DCEA), and Tai Chan and Lisa Chin (CAPA). ACA Executive Director, Shenlin Chen, also assisted the committee.

All in all, it was a very gratifying event. Congratulations to the honorees of the Class of 2009!

Recognition of New Members

We welcome these new members to ACA:

Kenneth and Mai-Luen Chan
Larry and Lihua Dishman
Will Jian

Henry Lau
Rong Li
Anthony and Agnes Tai

Sabrina and James Tang
Yue Fai Yip

The Asian American Vote in 2008!

Stephanie L. Chang

The Association of Chinese Americans (ACA) is being awarded a "Community Star Award" by **Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote –Michigan (APIAVote-Michigan)**, for its participation in a historic effort to register, educate, and mobilize Asian American voters in Michigan! Thank you to everyone who contributed to the organization's success!

What did we accomplish in 2008?

In the first full year of activity, APIAVote-Michigan, with help from all partner organizations and more than a hundred volunteers, registered 980 voters, collected 838 community surveys, sent 10,487 GOTV direct mail pieces, and contacted 1,465 Asian American voters by phone during the election season. We held three voter education town hall meetings and one Get Out The Vote rally. In addition, we mobilized 101 Election Day volunteers who collected 1,619 questionnaires and 24 voter problem reports. What a year!

How did the Asian American community vote?

APIAVote-Michigan is waiting for turnout records from Michigan. At that time, we will be able to evaluate how our 2008 efforts may have increased the turnout or registration numbers of Asian Americans that are eligible to vote in Michigan!

On January 5, 2009, the **Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)** released its initial results from the Election Day multilingual exit poll, which took place on November 4, 2008, in eleven states around the country. ACA and APIAVote-Michigan both served as local partners to the Michigan effort.

According to the poll, Asian American voters across the country voted for President-Elect Barack Obama over Senator John McCain by a 3-1 margin. Over one-third (35%) consider themselves limited English proficient, and 21% had no formal education in the United States. Nearly one-third (31%) were first-time voters.

AALDEF Executive Director **Margaret Fung** said: "Asian Americans, especially first-time voters, demonstrated strong support for the historic 2008 election of our nation's first African American president. The AALDEF exit poll reflects the ongoing importance of the Voting Rights Act to promote Asian American voter participation and to increase minority representation at the highest levels of government."

Economy/Jobs was the top priority issue chosen among all Asian American ethnic groups, similar to the findings from APIAVote-Michigan's year-long community survey.

To see the fact sheet on the AALDEF's 2008 exit poll results, go to the Links page at www.acadetroit.org. Additional exit poll results can be found at www.aaldef.org. For more information on APIAVote-Michigan, email michigan@apiavote.org or call 734-751-9814.



Kevin Xu participating in Chase art contest



Adults painting during Chase art contest



Computer Class at Chinese Community Center

ACA Officers and Board of Directors

Officers

President	Ronald T. Wong
Exec. Vice President	Kenneth Chan
Treasurer	Glen Leong C. Dong
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Jane Pan-Luo
Bob Rothman
Marilyn Russell
Justin Warns
Margaret Wong

Nomination Chair

Marisa Ming

Legal Counsel

John Yun

Executive Director

Shenlin Chen

Upcoming Events

Saturday, February 7, 2009

Lantern Festival Community Fair
1:00 PM at Chinese Community Center
Madison Heights, MI

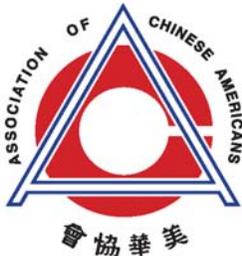
Saturday, February 7, 2009

Celebrating the Year of the Ox
Lunar New Year Dinner
6:00 PM at Golden Harvest Restaurant
Warren, MI

Saturday, April 4, 2009

Vincent Chin Who? Documentary Screening
7:00 PM at Chinese Community Center
Madison Heights, MI

Please check our calendar for other events at
www.acadetroit.org



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EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

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