



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission

## COMMISSIONERS

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Kajal Chattopadhyay

### Vice Chairperson

Elisa Choi

### Treasurer

Sophy Theam

### Secretary

Nick Chau

Kenneth An

Joel Buenaventura

Yan Jennifer Cao

Chun-Fai Chan

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## Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, August 13, 2014 at 4:30pm

JFK Federal Building, Room 475

1. Accept 7/27/2014 retreat meeting minutes (pg. 2)
2. Unity Dinner progress
3. Reaching out to the Senate Committee
4. Subcommittee updates  
Admin / Finance / Gaming  
PR / Legislation  
Program - Young Leaders Symposium  
Program - Healthcare  
Program - Economic Development  
Program - Resource Fair
5. Old business  
New Business
6. Next Commission meeting: September 10, 2014 @ 4:30pm
7. Meeting adjourned & other community updates

## **Upcoming Events**

Healthcare Subcommittee Call  
Thursday, August 14, 2014 @ 6:00pm  
Location: via Conference Call

Resource Fair – Lowell Water Festival  
Saturday, August 16, 2014  
Location: 500 Pawtucket Blvd. Lowell, MA 01854

Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday, September 10, 2014 @ 4:30pm  
Location: TBD

Young Leaders Symposium  
Thursday, October 2, 2014 @ 2-7pm  
Location: University of Massachusetts Boston, Ryan Lounge

Unity Dinner  
Thursday, October 16, 2014 @ 6-9pm  
Location: Boston University

Healthcare Forum  
Saturday, November 1, 2014  
Location: TBD



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission

**Retreat Minutes**  
**Saturday, July 27, 2014 at 10am-2:30pm**  
**Boston Hostelling International**

Commissioners went around the room to give their reason for joining and possible visions for the Commission to achieve.

Kajal gives a recap of 2013: successful Unity Dinner with \$60k revenue, Young Leaders Symposium, Healthcare Forum in Lowell, Financial Literacy in Chinatown. Recent difficulties have been the ED search and lost of Grace Lee and Priti Rao. Recent milestones include connecting with the White House AAPI in May, acquired 501(c)3 status, and \$50k in state funding.

Kenneth Fong's term is until the end of August and he will not seek reelection. A special election is needed to find a Secretary to fill the reminding term. After a written ballot, Nick Chau is elected.

Kajal said the Commission is unsustainable if the majority of Commissioners are not involved. The following items were mentioned:

1. have an orientation for incoming members
2. clarify the minimum level of involvement
3. having a clear, focused annual agenda
4. too much talking/structure that limits progress
5. planning too much with no one to execute them
6. participations by Commissioner is higher than other Boards
7. explore alternative time for monthly meeting to improve attendance

Unity Dinner is less than 3 months and Sophy is leading the subcommittee. Professor Paul Watanabe is the speaker. We are going away from the one theme dinner. This year's theme is "Unity Through Community." Several awards are for consideration: leadership for inclusion & diversity, lifetime achievement award, community hero, AAPI activism award, and Legislative award. The dinner will be kept simple by leaving the scholarship and auction for next time. Sophy would like more focus on identity/culture. Duties were divided amongst Commissioners.

Kajal asked Commissioners on other budget areas to spend on:

1. \$15k allocated for research by the Institute for Asian American Studies
2. Connecticut's Asian Commission did an assessment, we can do something similar
3. an emergency fund (IE assisting the Lowell fire victims)
4. conduct screening as follow-ups for the healthcare events
5. conduct public hearing for assessment research

The Executive Director search has started and would require everyone to spread the word.