

Chairman's Message



2020 commission members and Judge Mark Slavens (seated left) who conducted a ceremonial oath of office for the commissioners.

Dear Michigan's APA community members and our friends at large,

As we approach the end of this incredibly challenging year, I feel extremely proud of many initiatives that Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission (MAPAAC), often in collaboration with so many of our partner organizations, were able to execute thanks to Commissioners quickly adjusting to the new environment and mastering the use of new tools. We wanted to highlight our accomplishments to share with all of you.

Of course, none of our accomplishments were possible without indispensable guidance from Governor Whitmer, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, the Office of Global Michigan, and Michigan state legislators, particularly members of APA Legislative Caucus.

Therefore, on behalf of twenty-one commissioners of MAPAAC, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to everyone

who contributed to yet another successful year for MAPAAC.

Please take a few minutes to learn about MAPAAC's 2020 activities. And hopefully, our experience this year can serve as an inspiration for all of us for advancing MAPAAC's missions in coming years, regardless of new challenges we might be confronted.

My very best to all of you,

Toshiki Masaki

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Fred T. Korematsu Recognition Events

MAPAAC hosted two Fred T. Korematsu Recognition events on January 30 with Dr. Karen Korematsu, daughter of Fred Korematsu and founder and executive director of Fred T. Korematsu Institute, Don Tamaki, who represented Fred Korematsu at the supreme court trials, Mary Kamidoi, former internee of the Rohwer Internment Camp, and Ron Aramaki, Adjunct instructor of U-M Dept. of American Culture.

The recognition events educated students of the Korematsu's story as one of triumph over the injustice endured by Japanese Americans following the bombing of Pearl Harbor. After he was convicted of defying the U.S. government's order to report to an assembly center, he appealed his case all the way to the supreme court. Korematsu was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom and continued the fight for civil rights until his death on March 30, 2005.

The first event was held at the Dearborn Public Schools-Michael Berry Career Center where approximately 100 students attended. The second event was held at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, in partnership with the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association. A panel discussion shared their insights on the parallels of Korematsu case with policies of today. Rep. Padma Kuppa also attended and presented a tribute from Governor Whitmer.



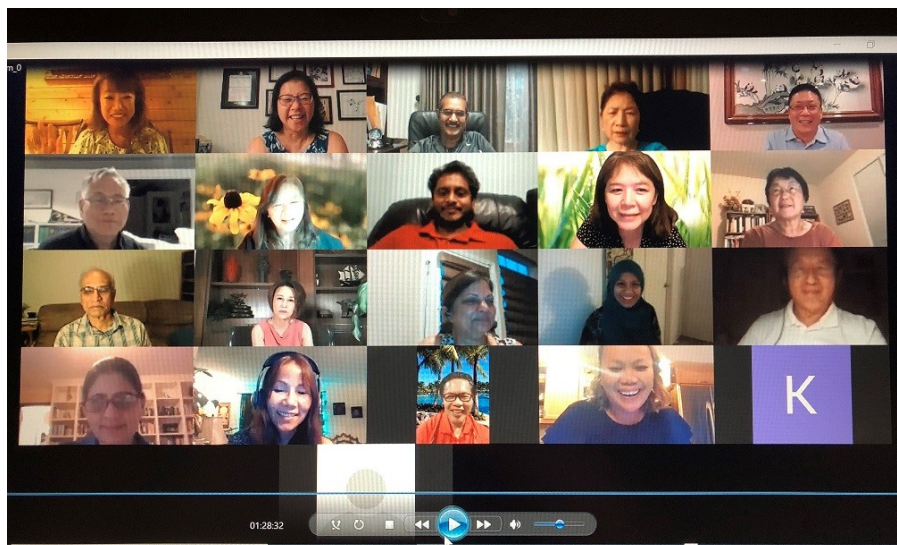
Dearborn public school students with Karen Korematsu and Dr. Glenn Maleyko, Dearborn Schools Superintendent.



Asian Law Students Association members, APA Leaders, Commissioners, U-M faculty with speakers at U-M Law School, Ann Arbor.

Listening to the Concerns of our APA Community

MAPAAC hosted a virtual **APA Leaders' Forum** on August 5. APA community organization leaders attended and shared their activities on getting the count of APAs in Michigan for the 2020 census. We discussed concerns of the effect of COVID -19 on their respective communities and how they addressed their concerns. We encouraged the organizations to collaborate with each other and host joint activities with MAPAAC to support their activities.



MAPAAC Addressing Anti-Asian Sentiment of COVID-19

Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, there has been an alarming uptick in hate crimes and incidents targeting the Asian American community due to misconceptions that Asian Americans are more likely to carry the virus and should be blamed for its spread. MAPAAC joined as one of 260 civil rights and nonprofit organizations as an undersigned organization in the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans' March 11, 2020 letter to Congress to denounce the increase in racist attacks and discrimination against the Asian American community in the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. MAPAAC continued addressing discrimination against of APAs and recognized leading APA organizations as shown below:

Chair Toshiki Masaki issued a statement on March 29 joining Attorney General Nessel, Sen. Chang and Rep. Kuppa addressing biases towards Asian Americans due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [View statement here.](#)

MAPAAC issued a statement on April 7 to recognize the Asian community organizations, coalition and businesses for their support of healthcare professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic. [View statement here.](#)



MAPAAC Applauds Asian Community Organizations and Businesses for their Support of Healthcare Professionals During the COVID-19 Pandemic

April 8, 2020 - During the COVID-19 pandemic, Asian American community organizations and businesses across Michigan united in response to the needs of personal protective equipment (PPE) for hospitals, medical centers and other public services in our communities.

The Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission (MAPAAC) would like to recognize and thank the following Asian community organizations and businesses for their contributions to Michigan healthcare professionals and residents.

Michigan Chinese American Coalition and the **Council of Asian Pacific Americans**: Raised over \$170,000 and recruited 300 volunteers. The first phase for the coalition was the purchase and shipment of PPE to Wuhan, China, to support their healthcare providers in combating the corona virus in January 2020. The second phase was to address the United States COVID-19 outbreak, which they used the remainder of the funds to purchase, ship and donate more than 50,000 medical masks and 1,000+ coveralls to 36 hospitals and medical centers, five food banks, several schools and police departments in Michigan. They are continuing their efforts in providing additional PPE to our healthcare professionals in Michigan.

168 Asian Mart in Madison Heights: Owners Ricky Dong and Cathy Wang raised \$15,000 to purchase 17,000 surgical masks, two gallons of hand sanitizer, 160 sanitary wipes and two gallons of isopropyl alcohol. The donations were distributed to seven hospitals and the Washtenaw County Health Department.

North American Chinese Coalition, Chinese Association of Greater Detroit, Detroit Chinese Business Association, North American Chinese Society of Automotive Engineers, Wayne State University and the Henry Ford Health System's Chinese faculty groups: Donations of surgical masks, N95 masks, hospital gowns, sanitizer and disposable gloves. They coordinated the swabs for City of Detroit and are currently distributing the supplies to Detroit COVID-19 First Response, three hospitals, three medical centers. They are continuing to respond to needs for more supplies.

Association of Chinese Americans, Inc.: Raised \$8,900 and donated 1,700 face masks and 1,000 surgical gowns to two hospitals, VA medical center, Detroit and Canton police departments and soup kitchens.

The Chinese Association of West Michigan: Raised \$3,000 to donate 3,000 face masks to three hospitals in Grand Rapids, Michigan.



MAPAAC Aligns with Attorney General Nessel, Senator Chang and Rep. Kuppa Addressing Biases towards Asian Americans due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

March 29, 2020 - Recently, I joined a media conference call with Attorney General Dana Nessel, State Senator Stephanie Chang, and State Representative Padma Kuppa, on behalf of the 21 commissioners of the Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission (MAPAAC) along with a number of other APA community organizations to discuss the concerns regarding biases against Asian Americans stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

MAPAAC is very proud of the leadership by Attorney General Nessel, Senator Chang, and Representative Kuppa for stressing in the strongest possible terms that "all Michiganders are together in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and there is no place for acts of discrimination and bias against members of the Asian community."

We thank Attorney General Nessel for reminding everyone that her office established the Hate Crime Unit and encouraged everyone to report any incidences of bias-motivated crimes he/she experience or witness by calling 313-456-0300 or by email at hatecrime@michigan.gov. We thank Senator Chang for reminding us that among so many of the health care workers on the front line of the fight against the pandemic are many Asian Americans. We also thank Representative Kuppa for reminding us all of the importance of reporting incidences even when it is very uncomfortable to do so.

Finally, I applaud the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for distributing the message: "WEUSERS DON'T DISCRIMINATE AND NEITHER SHOULD WE - Slogans will NOT fight coronavirus. Sharing accurate information WILL!" posters. It is a simple but very strong message that we should all embrace.

The 21 Commissioners of MAPAAC along with Commission alumni are committed to working together in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. We are working with many Asian Pacific American organizations and other groups throughout Michigan for this purpose including the collection of needed supplies, and distribution of information and resources on how to protect ourselves against the spread of the virus to our respective communities.

On behalf of Michigan Asia Pacific American Affairs Commission,


Toshiki Masaki, Chair

On April 29, MAPAAC co-hosted the **Asian American Community Virtual Townhall of Know Your Rights – Hate Crimes and Discrimination** with Sen. Stephanie Chang and Rep. Padma Kuppa. The program addressed the anti-Asian sentiment of COVID-19 and to educate the Asian community on the types of discrimination and how to report any hate/racism discrimination to the Attorney General office and Michigan Dept. of Civil Rights.

ASIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY VIRTUAL TOWNHALL KNOW YOUR RIGHTS - HATE CRIMES AND DISCRIMINATION

Wednesday, April 29
6 - 7 P.M.

Register: <http://bit.ly/apahatecrimesmi>

Speakers:

Sunita Doddamani
Assistant Attorney General, Hate Crimes Unit



Anthony Lewis
Michigan Department of Civil Rights



CO-HOSTS:

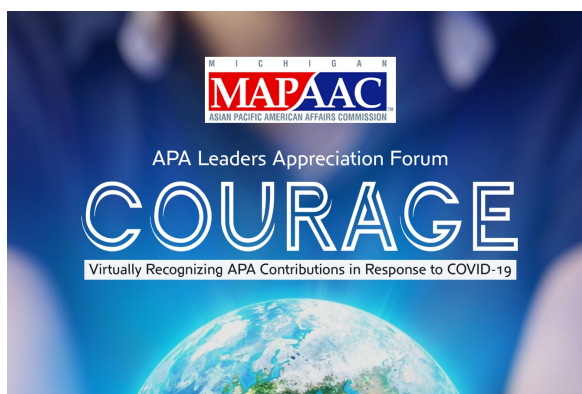
SENATOR STEPHANIE CHANG & REPRESENTATIVE PADMA KUPPA
ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS
MICHIGAN ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION
ASSOCIATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS
APIA VOTE MICHIGAN
CHINESE ASSOCIATION OF GREATER DETROIT
CHINESE AMERICAN COALITION TO FIGHT COVID-19
RISING VOICES OF ASIAN AMERICAN FAMILIES
NORTH AMERICAN CHINESE COALITION
AMERICAN CITIZENS FOR JUSTICE



MAPAAC Fifth Annual Appreciation Forum—Courage! Recognizing APA Contributions in Response to COVID-19



MAPAAC hosted their annual gathering, **Courage! Recognizing APA Contributions in Response to COVID-19**, virtually on September 24 with APA community leaders, state legislators, county and municipalities public officials. Chair Toshiki Masaki welcomed the attendees and introduced Governor Whitmer video thanking the APA community for their support and contributions to our frontline workers and Susan Corbin, Acting Director of LEO were the keynote speakers. We concluded the event with a video presentation of the APA community organizations and businesses contributions during the height of the pandemic. [View the full video.](#)



Mission

To advance the full and equal participation of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) in the building of a greater Michigan.

2020 Commissioners

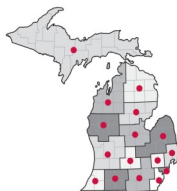
Toshiki Masaki, Chairman - Oakland County
Grace Lee, Vice-chair - Oakland County
Chandragupta Acharya, Secretary - Wayne County
Poowanat Joseph Tasma, Trustee - Wayne County
Mehruba Akhtar - Macomb County
Asim Alavi - Washtenaw County
Anthony Chang, Ph.D. - Kent County
Dinh Thai Hoa - Macomb County
Sharon Dow - Oakland County
Ayesha Ghazi Edwin - Washtenaw County
David Han - Wayne County
Amina Iqbal - Wayne County
Kavy Lenon - Ottawa County
Leena Mangrulkar - Washtenaw County
Suchiraphon McKeithen-Polish, Ph.D. - Macomb County
Reginald Pacis - Oakland County
Ramesh Kumar Palepu - Wayne County
Ryan Rosario - Macomb County
Aditya Sathi - Oakland County
Soma Sekhar Suryadevara - Oakland County
Angela Wang-Beasinger - Oakland County

Workforce Development Session to Assist Individuals Impacted by COVID-19

On September 30, MAPAAC hosted **An Overview of Workforce Development in Michigan and Resources Available to Individuals Impacted by COVID-19**. Representatives of LEO's Talent Development Division and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's Growth and Development division presented on the Michigan Works! services and funding resources available to individuals who are interested in gaining employment, upskilling, or exploring new career options to prepare for the changing workforce. [View the presentation.](#)

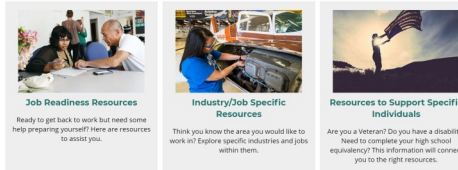
The Michigan Works! System

- The Michigan Works! system is a statewide network of almost 100 Service Centers where employers connect with skilled job seekers.
- While Michigan Works! is not the Unemployment Insurance Agency, they can provide jobseekers the support, training and services they need to get back to work. Find a Michigan Works! near you by calling 800-285-9675 or clicking [here](#).



Resources

[Return to Work Playbook \(Michigan.gov/ReturnToWorkPlaybook\)](#)



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facebook.com/miapaac

Michigan Dept. of Labor and Economic Opportunity—
Office of Global Michigan

Visit LEO's Web site
michigan.gov/leo

LEO is an equal opportunity employer/program.

To learn more about MAPAAC, please visit us at michigan.gov/mapaac.
To contact us, send an email to mapaac@michigan.gov or call 517-648-4942.