



## MWD Asian American Employees Organization

# Membership Application

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

☐ New

☐ Renewal

☐ Changes

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Cubicle Location: \_\_\_\_\_ MWD Tele No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Home No. (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

### AAEO Committees

I am interested in helping with the following activities:

☐ Professional Development

☐ Election

☐ Bylaws

☐ Internal Activities

☐ Membership

\_\_\_\_\_

### Bargaining Unit Affiliation

☐ M.A.P.A.

☐ A.C.E.

☐ A.F.S.C.M.E. Local 1902

☐ Unrepresented

☐ Field Supervisors & Professional

What languages and/or dialects other than English do you fluently:

Speak: \_\_\_\_\_

Write: \_\_\_\_\_

Read: \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Dues: \$12.00/yr**

Check here for automatic payroll deduction: ☐

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Employee ID#*

Or send your cash or check payable to **MWD AAEO** along with this application to:

**Melani C. Gil de Montes at US 12-302**



Metropolitan's Asian American Employees Organization

Visit: [www.aaeo.us](http://www.aaeo.us)

Sept. 20, 2017

## **HISTORY OF AAEO**

Metropolitan's Asian American Employees Organization was founded in the 1976 by Bernie Tom and Nelson Lee.

Metropolitan's Asian American Employees Organization was formed to advance the employment and social concerns of its members, to promote cultural understanding among different ethnic groups for a better working relationship, and to work with other organizations for the betterment of Metropolitan and our community

## **CURRENT MEMBERSHIP AND STRUCTURE**

- We have approx. 170 members. The membership fee is \$12 a year.
- Officers are President Suresh Radhakrishnan, VP Melani C. Gil de Montes, Treasurer Samir Sachdev, Secretary Madeline Wong, Public Relations Debbie Nakamura, Past President Jean Ha Kushi

## **ACTIVITIES AND CELEBRATIONS**

① Every year AAEO celebrates Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is celebrated in May to commemorate the contributions of people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent in the United States.

- Congress passed a joint Congressional Resolution in 1978 to commemorate Asian American Heritage Week during the first week of May.
- May was selected for the recognition because two significant events in history took place in that month: Japanese immigrants first arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843, and the transcontinental railroad was completed on May 10, 1869 (Golden Spike Day).
- In 1992, the week was expanded to a month-long recognition when President George Bush signed the law permanently designating May of each year as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

We celebrate heritage month with a luncheon held here in the headquarters building.

- Members get a reduced price, sometimes as little as \$2.
- It is well attended by Metropolitan's executive management.
- Food is catered (in the past have had Chinese, Japanese Bento box, Indian cuisine, Wahoo fish tacos).
- We feature a speaker or provide some kind of entertainment.

We try to host a luncheon at the Weymouth Water Quality Lab; however, the one person who helped out has relocated out of La Verne. Active members at field sites are appreciated.

Other heritage month activities have included:

Flower arrangement (ikebana), origami instruction, exhibits of children's art, shown videos such as *Maya Lin and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall* and *Portrait of Zubin Mehta* (of Indian descent, Philharmonic conductor), making candy leis, Henna tattoo, bookmarkers inscribed with Asian calligraphy, screening of documentary *To Climb a Gold Mountain*, also brought in food trucks, animation storyboard creator/director, Bollywood dancers, Chinese classical dance, Chinese acupuncture massage, tai chi instructor, yoga instructor and Feng Shui instructor.

②AAEO also celebrates Asian Lunar New Year each year with free cake and/or dim sum. Members get priority front of line when we serve dim sum because it is first come, first served until it runs out.

③Another past activity was Diversity Month – different employee resource groups host different events in the month of October to celebrate race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, religious, political or other ideological beliefs. AAEO has had a Feng Shui expert, hula dancers, Taiko drummers. Now Employee Resource Groups are encouraged to focus on diversity throughout the year.

④Some keynote speakers for AAEO events have been (listing past to present):

- Honorable Federal Judge Ronald Lew
- President/CEO of Far East National Bank Henry Hwang
- John Chiang, Board of Equalization board member
- MegaToys CEO Charles Woo
- Former CBS 2 News Anchor Tricia Toyota
- Former MWD GM Ron Gastelum
- Group Manager Steve Arakawa
- MWD Assistant General Manager/COO Debra Man
- Chairman/CEO of IW Group Bill Imada
- Opera of the Pacific Conductor Kelly Kuo
- MWD General Manager Jeff Kightlinger
- MWD Board of Director Suja Lowenthal
- Wahoo Fish Tacos CEO Wing Lam
- City of Los Angeles East Area Director Mike Fong
- MWD Assistant General Manager/CFO Gary Breaux
- John Kobara, Executive VP & Chief Operating Officer California Community Foundation
- James Hong, Actor
- General Manager of Moulton Niguel Water District Joone Lopez
- Emile Mack, Korean born, adopted by an African American couple, and achieved the second-in-command rank in the Los Angeles Fire Department.
- State Treasurer John Chiang
- Judge Alka Sagar United States Magistrate

⑤AAEO also supports different organizations with time and donations:

- National Marrow Donor Program
- American Heart Walk
- AVON Walk
- AIDS Walk
- East West Players Theater Support Coalition
- 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami Relief Efforts
- 2009 Sumatra Tsunami Relief Fund
- 2011 Japan Earthquake/Tsunami Relief Fund
- Engineers without Borders
- Ronald McDonald Camp
- Arthritis Foundation
- Philippines Typhoon Haiyan Relief Fund
- Toy Loan (new/ gently used toys and books) Program Los Angeles County

⑥AAEO seeks participation at other Metropolitan work sites:

- Some activities have taken place at the La Verne/Weymouth facility, Jensen and Skinner sites.

**SERVES AS ADVISORY TO MWD MANAGEMENT WHEN IT COMES TO DIVERSITY ISSUES ALONG WITH OTHER EMPLOYEE RESOURCE ORGANIZATIONS.**

**PRIOR ACTIVITIES**

**Past Events:**

- *Wahoo Luncheon - 1995 Fundraising Luncheon for the American Red Cross*
- *Brown Bag Forums -- MWD Job Bid Process; California Civil Rights Initiative; American Heart Association; Asian Pacific Dispute Resolution Center*
- *Asian CultureFest '96 and '97 -- Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration (Live Cultural Show; Special Luncheon; Cultural Exhibit/Bake Sale)*
- *Fall Banquet '96 -- Dinner banquet featuring such guest speakers as Henry Y. Hwang, CEO of the Far East National Bank; Past speakers include Former Secretary of State March Fong Eu; CBS News Anchorwoman Tritia Toyota; UCLA Associate Vice Chancellor John Kobara (annual event); Fall Mixer '97 with keynote speaker Warren Furutani.*
- *MWD Picnic -- Managed the Registration/Information Booth in 1995; provided volunteers for the soda booth managed by the Black Employees Association in 1996 (annual event)*
- *Diversity Month Celebration -- Participation in the Office of Diversity's celebration in the month of October as mandated by the City of L. A. (annual event)*
- *Holiday Mixer -- Held by various employee associations, December 11, 1997 -- featuring keynote speaker -- Greg Taylor*
- *Recognition Ceremonies of 1997 International Seminar Participants -- February 1998 - Sponsored by West Basin Municipal Water District/MWD*

- East West Players' "Pacific Overtures" and Networking Event - May 1998 - Sponsored by MWD AAEO and various non-profit organizations in the local community
- American Heart Association Annual Heart Walk - November 1998
- Headquarters Open House - December 1998
- Diversity Day - February 25, 1999
- Speed Mentoring (bringing employees and managers together for 10 minutes sessions) – March 2014
- Meet and Greet (employee resources groups, credit union, toastmasters, photography club, etc.) with employees with less than 2 years of service – March 2014

