

NASW Asian Pacific Islander Caucus Newsletter

Volume 1

June 2000

Asian/Pacific Islander Representation

From the desk of Indra Malani and Munira Merchant, A/PI Caucus Coordinators



As of June 1999 there were 2,475 NASW members who had declared A/PI ethnicity on their membership forms. This is a very small proportion of the total NASW membership. Either we

are not declaring our ethnicity on the membership form, or our numbers are small. To be counted as a formidable group, we need to increase our numbers. Please get your A/PI colleagues and students to join NASW. Also, become active in your local chapter of NASW by getting on the elected and appointed committees so your voice can be heard.

We are also not well represented on the NASW Board. Currently we have one person, Sharlene B.C.L. Furuto from Brigham Young University-Hawaii, as a member at large. If you have any concerns please contact Dr. Furuto. Her e-mail address is furutos@byuh.edu. Her work telephone is 808-293-3838 and the fax number is 808-293-3883.

We would like you to apply for elected or appointed NASW national positions on committees and task forces. Application forms are available at the NASW national office. Please contact Luisa Lopez for application forms:

NASW, National Committee on Nomination
and Leadership Identification
750 First Street, NE, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20002-421

We want to acknowledge officially the pioneering efforts of our predecessors Fariyal Ross-Sheriff, the founding coordinator, and Muriel Yu, her successor. We also wish to express our appreciation to Inderjit Jaipual of the Pennsylvania chapter and Sau-Fong Siu of Wheelock College, MA, for their collaboration and support of the A/PI caucus, to NCORED for its leadership on behalf of people of color and its close alliance with all four caucuses, and to Leticia Diaz, NASW staff member for her assistance with caucus activities. ☼

First National Social Work Summit



The First National Social Work Summit was held in Washington, DC, in October 1998. Indra Malani, our caucus coordinator, identified organizations or agencies that were national in scope. In attendance was the The Asian Pacific Islanders Social Work Council. ☼

A/PI Caucus Meeting

The only time we all get together as a total caucus is at the NASW national conference, which is held every two years. During the Social Work 2000 national conference, elections will be held for the A/PI caucus coordinator position. Ms. Malani and Dr. Merchant will complete their term as coordinators. We hope the new leaders will come forward from states with relatively large numbers of A/PI members, such as California, Hawaii, Massachusetts, and New York. We also look forward to the networking at the meeting. This is one of the opportunities to get to know A/PI social work professionals from all over the United States. ☼

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A/PI CAUCUS MEETING

at

Social Work 2000
Baltimore, Maryland
Thursday, November 2, 2000
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

*Look for the venue in the program
under Meetings & Events*

Highlights of the Meeting of A/PI Delegates

Delegate **August 13, 1999** Assembly



Six A/PI delegates, Ivy Mock (CA), Sharon Otagaki, Debbie Shimizu, and Wendy Mow-Tain (Hawaii), Susan Yi-Millete (MA), and Indejit Jaipual (PA); two national NASW A/PI staff, Elise Young and Mikiko Stebbing; as well as NCORED Chair, Saundra Starks, and NCORED staff, Tracy Whitaker and Leticia Diaz made time in their busy schedule to attend an informal caucus meeting. Indra Malani, coordinator of the A/PI caucus, informed the group about major changes in caucus structure that NASW was considering. The caucus is an independent body of A/PI social work professionals. Currently, the caucus meets at the NASW national conferences; provides input for sessions related to A/PI populations, organizes networking sessions, advocates on behalf of its constituency, prepares newsletters, and holds elections. The proposed plan is to bring all the caucuses under NASW jurisdiction. However, unlike NASW committees, very little support was offered to caucuses, which raised concern among all caucuses. The delegates suggested that all NASW members of color and caucuses coalesce to lend power to the issues concerning all ethnic groups. ❁



A Call for Donations

The funds for sending out the A/PI newsletter come from the National Committee on Racial and Ethnic Diversity (NCORED) budget. As you know, NASW and NCORED has budget constraints and mailing this newsletter as well as the ones for other caucuses is very expensive. That is why we are asking you for a donation to help defray the cost of mailing and to facilitate the A/PI caucus meetings at national conferences. It is important that we participate in the national conferences not only as participants, but also as caucus members. Please make your donation payable to NASW-Asian/Pacific Islander Caucus and mail it to the attention of Leticia Diaz. ❁

Mentoring Program

We would like to explore the option of launching a mentoring program with the assistance of A/PI social work professionals. Please let know if you are interested in serving as a mentor for an A/PI social work student or beginning professional. Send your suggestions to Indra Malani, for further discussion at the A/PI Caucus Program meeting during the Social Work 2000 conference.

National Committee on Racial and Ethnic Diversity (NCORED)



NCORED is an equity committee of seven members appointed by the president of NASW. The chair is a member of the NASW Board and serves for two years. The committee members serve for three years. NCORED committee members represent diverse ethnic and racial groups identified under NASW's Affirmative Action Program.

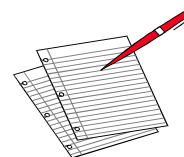
There are two A/PI members of NCORED. Currently, Dr. Inderjit Jaipual, one of the A/PI members of NCORED, acts as a liaison to the A/PI caucus. We appreciate her continual efforts in soliciting A/PI caucus input to NCORED. In May 1999 Ms. Malani and Dr. Merchant, the A/PI caucus coordinators, were invited to meet with NCORED to discuss the authorization, accountability, and the place of caucuses in NASW. The NASW proposal for bringing all caucuses under its umbrella was discussed. We will inform you of the outcome in the near future.

In February 2000 NCORED organized a conference call to solicit input from caucuses for the Social Work 2000 conference, as well as other NCORED projects. Issues related to the development of NASW's Standards for Cultural Competence and a special panel presentation during the April 2000 Annual Leadership Meeting (ALM) were also discussed. The panel presentation at the ALM was titled "Cultural Competency: A Political Agenda." Dr. Sharlene B.C.L. Furuto made a presentation about the importance of culture competency in a changing world. The panel was very well received by NASW leaders.

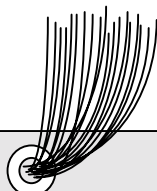
NCORED wants to compile a directory of A/PI members identifying their expertise and areas of interest for the purpose of facilitating NASW's outreach to members of color. Please send relevant information to *Indra Malani* at:

7430 Tower Street
Falls Church, VA 22046-1935

If you are interested in recruiting a social worker or finding a job as a social worker, visit the NASW Web site: <http://www.socialworkers.org>. ❁



Indra Malani, Coordinator
Munira Merchant, Coordinator
Fariyal Ross-Sheriff, Editor



Please Join Us

at

The NASW National Conference

Social Work 2000

Baltimore, Maryland 1-4 November
2000

Special Interest Sessions for A/PI
Members

**Asiancentric Approaches to
Cultural Competence Practice**

Conducted by

S. Furuto and Sharlene Fong

**Asian Indian Muslims: A Study of
Intergenerational Conflicts and
Strengths**

Conducted by

M. Merchant

**Empowerment of First Generation
of Asian American Women**

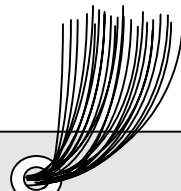
Conducted by

F. Ross-Sheriff and I. Malani

Please check the final program for
more A/PI sessions.

*A/PI Caucus Meeting. Check the program
for day, time and room for the meeting. This
is your opportunity to meet other members of
the A/PI Caucus*

LET'S MEET IN BALTIMORE!



Special Interest Sessions for
People of Color

**The National Committee on Racial
and Ethnic Diversity (NCORED)**

Has organized a Town Hall Meeting
and a Panel session as follows:

Members of Color

Town Hall Meeting

Constructive dialogue between
NCORED, NASW, and attending
members on the critical issues
encountered by social workers of color
and the communities where they work
and represent

Panel

**The Changing Face of America:
Diverse Populations in Transition
To Majority**

Invitational panel focusing on issues
that affect ethnic communities and
exploring solutions for the future.
Perspectives of inclusion, equality, and
other cultural competence will be
promoted within the context of new
political agendas for the 21st century.

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER



Yes, add my name to the Asian/Pacific Islander Caucus mailing list.

(All databases are being updated. Please send your name in to ensure no name is lost)

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Work Phone: () _____ Home Phone: () _____

Fax: () _____ E-mail _____

**The Asian/Pacific Islander Caucus needs your help.
Please check those areas where you can help.**

- I would like to be a mentor to an A/PI social work student/beginning professional.
- I would like to help with the newsletter.
- I would like to write an article for the newsletter.
- I would like to help plan/develop caucus activities.
- I would like to be considered for inclusion in the directory of A/PI leadership. If so, describe your expertise and area of interest.

- I would like to donate \$ _____ to the NASW A/PI Caucus Fund.
- I would like to share information on my recent accomplishments with A/PI colleagues. If yes, please send the information to Indra Milani under separate cover.

If you would like to receive further mailings, **please mail or fax this information to:**

NASW
750 First Street NE, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20002-4241

Attention: A/PI Caucus Chairperson.

Fax: (202) 336-8311 Attention: Leticia Diaz



Did you know that the following organizations address issues/needs of the Asian Pacific Islander population?

- ◆ Asian Pacific Islander Social Work Council
- ◆ National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse, Los Angeles, CA (Business No.: 213-625-5795)
- ◆ Richmond Area Multi-Services, Inc., San Francisco, CA (Business No.: 415-668-5955)
- ◆ Asian American Social Work Educators Association of CSWE (Business No.: 703-683-8099)

Do you know of others? Please let us know. Send us their names, addresses, telephone and fax numbers along with a brief summary of their services.

Leticia Diaz
National Association of Social Workers
750 First Street, N.E., Suite 700
Washington, DC 20002-4241

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED