



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission

## COMMISSIONERS

### Chairperson

Kajal Chattopadhyay

### Vice Chairperson

Elisa Choi\*

### Treasurer

Sophy Theam

### Secretary

Kenneth Fong

Kenneth An

Joel Buenaventura

Yan Jennifer Cao

Chun-Fai Chan

Chris Chanyasulkit

Nick Chau

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Kay Dong

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## Meeting Minutes

Sunday, July 27, 2014 at 10:00am

Boston Hostelling International

Absent Commissioners are highlighted on left.  
Remote Participants are indicated by an asterisk\*.

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 loss of Grace Lee and Priti Rao as Commissioners. 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:

- have an orientation for incoming members
- clarify the minimum level of involvement
- having a clear, focused annual agenda
- too much talking/structure that limits progress
- planning too much with no one to execute them
- participations by Commissioner is higher than other Boards
- 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:

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

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