



Federal Asian Pacific American Council

Promoting equal opportunity

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Upcoming events:

- **Career Development Mentoring Program application period closes February 10** — see fapac.org/2017mentoring.
- **Award and scholarship applications close February 28** — see fapac.org/awards.
- **National Leadership Training Program on May 15-19, 2017** — register online at fapac.org/NLTP2017.

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President's Message

I hope that FAPAC's achievements in this two-year term leave a significant legacy. If we want to make an exponentially greater impact on the Asian and Pacific American Islander communities and the way FAPAC functions long-term, we must share our proven practices with our members and colleagues and those in the federal workforce. In our knowledge-based economy, what we know can be much more valuable than the work we produce. Knowledge management is also key as we enter this critical period of transition in not only in FAPAC but across government.

While most of us know increased knowledge sharing makes us a more efficient and effective community, it's often a difficult task with many constraints. As a result, for every proven solution, countless professionals are struggling to re-invent the wheel without knowing that a proven practice or alternative solution already exists.

One of the greatest barriers to sharing our proven practices and enhancing government-wide operations is not knowing how to take the first step. Everyone can begin locally by identifying the available channels within their agencies to exchange knowledge and proven practices, including tools, templates or processes that were successful in similar situations in the past.

It's one of my goals to have FAPAC lead and facilitate the knowledge sharing process when possible. Our ability to collaborate and develop solutions to pressing problems will make FAPAC and the communities we serve stronger and more effective in our mission to promote equal opportunity and diversity.

Olivia Adrian
FAPAC President



FAPAC welcomes 115th Congress at APIAVote dinner

FAPAC participated in APIAVote's celebratory dinner welcoming Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) members of the 115th Congress on January 5, 2017, at China Garden restaurant in Arlington, Va. The evening highlighted the increasing number of AAPIs serving in the Legislative Branch of the federal government.

In addition to **Senator Tammy Duckworth** (pictured right), FAPAC members also met **Representative Judy Chu** (D-CA); **Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi** (D-IL) and **Representative Bobby Scott** (R-VA), among others.

APIAVote is a national, nonpartisan organization that aims to engage AAPIs in electoral and civic participation.



FAPAC members meet Illinois senator **Tammy Duckworth**, the first Thai-American senator (bottom row, second from left) in Congress.



FAPAC

PROMOTING EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY OF AAPIS IN GOVERNMENT

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Other news and notes:

- Chinese American **Elaine Chao** was confirmed as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation on January 31. She was previously Labor Secretary under President George H.W. Bush from 1989 to 1991.
- Indian American **Uttam Dhillon** was appointed to special assistant to the President, serving on the White House Counsel legal team as an advisor on compliance and ethic matters.

FAPAC is the only organization representing all AAPIs in the federal government, no matter what your grade is or whether you are in uniform or a civilian.

Visit www.fapac.org for more information.

USDA pledges continued support to FAPAC

On December 21, 2016, FAPAC leadership received a significant sponsorship commitment from the **U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS)**. USDA APHIS has been a longtime partner and sponsor of FAPAC.

FAPAC and USDA reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding signed between USDA and FAPAC, and both parties agreed no changes were necessary. EEOC APHIS Director Kenneth Johnson once again committed to support FAPAC in the amount of \$10,000 as a sponsor for the upcoming **National Leadership Training Program** in May 2017. Overall, USDA pledged over \$50,000 to FAPAC in fiscal year 2016.



From left to right: **Olivia Adrian**, FAPAC President; **Kenneth Johnson**, USDA APHIS EEOC Director; **Marina Milton**, FAPAC Vice President; **Pat Basu**, FAPAC Affirmative Employment Committee Chair

FAPAC meets with OPM to discuss strategy

The **Office of Personnel Management** has provided FAPAC with many resources from guidance on the mentoring program to staffing for the careers fairs to support of FAPAC's mission. OPM and FAPAC continued to strengthen that relationship in a meeting on December 7. OPM also sought FAPAC's input as it develops its Fiscal Year 2018-2022 Strategic Plan.

Olivia Adrian, President; **Marina Milton**, Vice President; **Peter Nguyen**, Vice President for Operations and **Kin Wong**, Awards Committee Chair, attended the meeting on the behalf of FAPAC.

Member celebration honors FAPAC's unique strengths

On January 21, 2017, FAPAC celebrated its annual **Membership Appreciation and Holiday Celebration Dinner** in Falls Church, Va. Over 200 FAPAC members and their guests attended. The featured speaker was **Major General Antonio Taguba** (pictured right), United States Army (retired), who is also the chairman of the Pan Pacific American Leaders and Mentors Organization (PPALM).

Major General Taguba, the first Filipino-American general of the U.S. Army, discussed mentoring and how volunteer organizations like FAPAC provide unique training and education to its members. He said that mentoring was one of the keys to his success. He joined the military as a young officer and sought a mentor to help him follow the path to success.

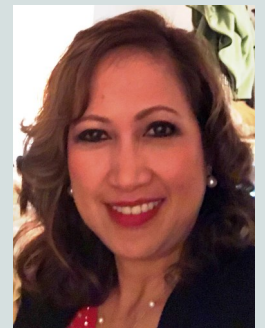


Other notable attendees included Retired Captain **Paul Jacobs** from the USS Kirk and Rear Admiral **Joseph M. Vojvodich**, assistant commandant for Acquisition and Chief Acquisition Officer of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Board member recognized for diversity efforts at FAA

Annabelle Flores, FAPAC's director of Region 5 (Capital Region), was recently profiled in the Federal Aviation Administration's *Enterprise Services Newsflash* newsletter for her exemplary efforts in promoting workplace diversity at the organization.

A 25-year veteran of the FAA, the article said that she has seen workforce culture change in both small and large ways. For instance, "In small ways, she hears a variety of languages and accents spoken in the halls and conference rooms. In large ways, there have been new offices and programs formed, bringing together colleagues with different work and communication styles."



The article also highlighted Annabelle's involvement with FAPAC, pointing out that affinity organizations like FAPAC help employees from diverse backgrounds learn new things from each other. Participation in such organizations also empowers employees, "assuring them that differences are assets."

Congratulations, Annabelle, on the recognition!