



## NAPCA Engages in National AAPI Policy Discussions

Since beginning his role as NAPCA president and CEO in April, Dr. Wesley Lum, along with NAPCA Board Chair Mr. David Cohen, Board Secretary the Hon. Ruby Moy and board member Mr. David Kim, have participated in several policy discussions and events in Washington, D.C. and around the country on behalf of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) older adults, including the once-a-decade White House Conference on Aging (WHCOA), which was held on July 13, 2015.

The WHCOA focused on four key issues: long-term services and support, elder justice, retirement security and healthy aging. NAPCA has been supporting the WHCOA to help ensure that the voices and concerns of AAPI elders are raised on a national level and that aging policies and programs reflect the needs of AAPI communities.

The WHCOA regional forum was held in Seattle in April. NAPCA, along with the Diverse Elders Coalition, supported efforts to include AAPI voices in and

around the event, including an event at Seattle's Asian Counseling and Referral Service, where AAPI seniors met with WHCOA Executive Director Ms. Nora Super. NAPCA then participated in a roundtable discussion with other Seattle-based AAPI organizations as well as the April 2 regional forum.

In May, NAPCA observed Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. The White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders hosted the first ever AAPI Summit on May 12. Dr. Lum, Mr. Cohen and the Hon. Moy participated in the historic summit, including a breakout session on AAPI aging. They also met with policymakers, congressional leaders, AAPI organizations and other partners to build relationships and inform and educate these stakeholders about AAPI aging issues, the importance of the Older Americans Act, and advocated for its reauthorization.

Also in May, NAPCA and the Diverse Elders Coalition helped organize a Diverse Elders Listening Session

for the WHCOA in Los Angeles. Nearly 100 elders from different communities came together to share their stories. NAPCA gathered participants from several organizations representing different AAPI communities in the Los Angeles area, and NAPCA SCSEP participant Catalina Deltette shared her own story (see page 4).

In July, NAPCA coordinated WHCOA watch parties in Seattle, Los Angeles, Chicago,

• *continued on page 6*



NAPCA and other partners organized a Diverse Elders Listening Session in Los Angeles on May 7 with White House Conference on Aging Executive Director Ms. Nora Super (back row, third from right).

## EXECUTIVE CORNER

Dear Friends,

I am honored to be serving as your new president and CEO of NAPCA, and I'm grateful to have been welcomed with open arms from the board of directors, staff and colleagues from the aging and Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) networks. Having been on the job for a few months, I can honestly say that my colleagues at NAPCA are top notch and, without a doubt, committed to improving the lives of AAPI older adults.

I have been fortunate to arrive at a time where there is a lot of energy around the White House Conference on Aging (WHCOA). I had the opportunity to represent NAPCA at WHCOA-related events in Seattle, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. These meetings were productive and inspirational and will serve the WHCOA well when designing policies to respond to the concerns of AAPI elders. I also participated in the actual WHCOA event and I am committed to engaging in post-WHCOA activities to reshape aging policy to ensure that they are relevant to our AAPI seniors.

I also had the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C. with NAPCA Board Chair Mr. David Cohen to educate congressional leaders about the importance of the Older Americans Act and to encourage Congress to act quickly on its reauthorization and appropriation.

I look at NAPCA with a fresh pair of eyes and I am excited about the possibilities. The opportunities are great and the resources are abundant. The fun will be in prioritizing and strategizing so that we can make the greatest difference in the lives of the people we serve.

I look forward to our future endeavors together!

Best,



Wesley Lum, PhD, MPH  
President and CEO



From left: NAPCA Board Chair Mr. David Cohen, U.S. Rep. Ms. Tulsi Gabbard (HI), NAPCA Board Secretary the Hon. Ruby Moy, and NAPCA President and CEO Dr. Wesley Lum.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David B. Cohen, *Chair*  
LOS ANGELES, CA

Pablo J. Wong, *Vice Chair*  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

The Hon. Ruby G. Moy, *Secretary*  
WASHINGTON, DC

The Hon. Patricia Saiki,  
*Chair Emeritus*  
HONOLULU, HI

Deborah F. Ching  
LOS ANGELES, CA

Anna Crosslin  
ST. LOUIS, MO

John Q. Duong  
IRVINE, CA

David L. Kim  
WASHINGTON, DC

Yvonne Tatsuno  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Bernarda Wong  
CHICAGO, IL

Dr. Sylvia Yuen  
HONOLULU, HI

"NAPCA Voices" is a  
publication of the National  
Asian Pacific Center on Aging

Debbie Louie  
EDITOR & DESIGNER

1511 Third Avenue, Suite 914  
Seattle, WA 98101-1626

206-624-1221  
206-624-1023 Fax

f NAPCA.AAPI.Aging  
@NAPCA\_aging  
AAPIAging  
www.napca.org

## SCSEP Turns 50

The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) 50th Anniversary Grantee Conference was held in Washington, D.C. from April 30 to May 1, 2015. In collaboration with the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration, state and national grantees, including NAPCA, gathered for training, sharing of SCSEP best practices, and celebrating the milestone of SCSEP's 50th anniversary.

NAPCA representatives Dr. Wesley Lum, president and CEO, Dr. Eun Jeong Lee, SCSEP national director, and Mr. Tom Tran, SCSEP data specialist, attended the conference. The conference included various workshops, and Dr. Lee presented at a workshop with other national grantees, including Asociación Nacional Pro Personas Mayores and Senior Service America, Inc., on the topic of multicultural outreach.



SCSEP began as a pilot project funded under Operation Mainstream in 1965. Today, the program operates under Title V of the Older Americans Act. SCSEP is the only federally-sponsored employment and training program targeted to unemployed, low-income seniors aged 55 years and older. The program has the dual goals of promoting community service and helping low-income, older adults achieve economic self-sufficiency by guiding them towards unsubsidized employment.

There are currently 71 SCSEP grantee organizations: 15 national nonprofit organizations and 56 units of state and territorial governments. As a national grantee as well as a minority grantee, NAPCA began operating the SCSEP program funded by the U.S. Department of Labor in July 1989 and focused on serving Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) older adults with limited English proficiency.

• *continued on page 5*

## SCSEP PARTICIPANT PROFILE



### ***Brenda J. Richardson***

*65 years old  
Boston Education, Skills  
& Training (BEST) Corp.  
Hospitality Training Center*

Brenda J. Richardson joined the SCSEP program about two years ago in Boston. She began her host agency training at two nonprofit organizations: STRIVE and BEST Corp.

Hospitality Training Center. She was eventually hired at both agencies, receiving very good salaries.

STRIVE offered her the chance to work with a disadvantaged minority population and a chance to interact with people in the criminal justice system. The participants in STRIVE's program have their lives changed through training and acquiring jobs that they would not have necessarily been able to get on their own. Unfortunately, after being hired for a period of

time, Ms. Richardson was discharged due to funding issues. She then reenrolled in SCSEP and was placed at BEST Corp., where she was hired for a position in the hospitality industry.

At BEST Corp. Hospitality Training Center, Ms. Richardson had the opportunity to work with hotel service workers from diverse backgrounds. As a result of receiving hospitality training, she gained room attendant and customer service skills. Additionally, she obtained valuable career tips on how to prepare and get hired to work at the finest hotels.

Through being part of the SCSEP program, Ms. Richardson has gone on to receive her CPR certification and Massachusetts allergen training certification, and she is currently working towards getting her culinary certification. She truly appreciates the learning opportunities and opportunity to be hired by SCSEP host agencies.

Upon turning 65 this year, her goal is to learn Spanish within three to five years, move to an island and land a concierge job.

## Your Spouse May Be Covered by Social Security

by KIRK LARSON

Social Security Washington Public Affairs Specialist

If you have a spouse who does not earn an income or who earns less than you do, your spouse (including a same-sex spouse) may be entitled to Social Security spouse's benefits based on your record.

Social Security can be an important financial asset for married couples when the time comes to apply for retirement benefits. In many cases, one spouse may have earned significantly more than the other, or may have worked longer. Or it could be that one spouse stayed home to do the work of raising the children, caring for elderly family members, or managing the household while the other focused on a career. Whatever your situation is, Social Security will look at all possibilities to ensure both spouses receive the maximum Social Security benefits possible, whether

based on each spouse's earnings record or the higher wage-earner's record.

Your spouse can apply for benefits the same way that you apply for benefits on your own record. He or she can apply for reduced benefits as early as age 62, or for 100 percent of the spousal retirement benefit at your spouse's "full retirement age." Not sure what the full retirement age is? To learn your and your spouse's full retirement ages, based on birth year, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/ageincrease.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/ageincrease.htm).

The benefit amount your spouse can receive at full retirement age can be as much as one half of your full benefit. If your spouse chooses to file for benefits early, age 62 for example, the benefit may be as little as a third of your full benefit amount. Note that benefits paid to your spouse do not decrease your benefit amount. If you have already reached full retirement age, you can apply for retirement benefits and request to have the payments suspended until as late as age 70. This would

• *continued on back page*

## SCSEP PARTICIPANT PROFILE

*Catalina Deltette, 73, is a participant in the Los Angeles Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP).*

When we first migrated to the U.S., our plan was to stay permanently with our children in New Jersey or Washington, D.C. While our children were very glad to support us, I wanted to be more independent and self-sufficient. I also felt that more than ever, as seniors, we needed to remain active, productive and mentally alert.

My husband and I settled in California, but then the big challenge for us was to look for jobs that fit our age and skills. Through friends, we learned about NAPCA and their training program for low-income seniors. We are truly grateful that with NAPCA's professional and courteous staff, we were eventually chosen to join their program. At this age, I can truly say that joining NAPCA was a turning point in my life: learning new skills, meeting new friends and being able to work with others as part of a team. Each day gives me a deeper meaning and fulfillment in my life, knowing I have become more independent, no longer a total burden to my children or



Catalina Deltette shares her SCSEP experiences at the Los Angeles Diverse Elders Listening Session for the White House Conference on Aging, May 7, 2015.

to society. I am now able to give back to the community that has not only been caring and generous to all, but most of all to its seniors.

I know that what I am sharing is not only my own personal feelings, but the sentiments of most of NAPCA's participants. I sincerely hope that NAPCA will continue to make a difference in the lives of seniors.

## SEE ENROLLEE PROFILE



### *Diane Barker*

Diane Barker is a lifelong resident of Washington, D.C. and is now an enrollee in the Senior Environmental Employment (SEE) program.

After attaining an associate's degree in marketing and a bachelor's degree in business administration from Strayer University, Diane worked for many years at the Metropolitan Police Department, ultimately as a budget specialist, serving as liaison between senior managers and the agency fiscal officer. Among her many responsibilities, she performed budget formulation, execution and analysis, compensation management, projections, justifications in support of funding requests, and managed asset forfeiture accounts.

In 2009, she learned about the SEE program from a friend who was working for another employment group and asked about jobs through them, but they did not have vacancies. When Diane saw a position in the SEE program advertised in the newspaper, she spoke with NAPCA SEE Project Director Ling Wang about the program and sent in her resume. By the time she went in to interview with Ling, a position opened in the SEE program that seemed like a very good match for Diane's skills and experiences. She interviewed with the staff at the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and was selected for the position.

Diane is now a financial management specialist in OCFO, assigned to the program costing staff, to improve the financial management activities of EPA's programs.

She wrote the requirements to automate the Superfund State Contract (SSC) Available Balance Report and worked with EPA regional offices and finance centers to reconcile data. Previously a manual report, the SSC Available Balance Report is now automated and the superfund community can generate reports independently. She works with the program costing and user fee review teams and is also assigned to annual allocations. Diane is a great asset to her office because of her financial knowledge and work experience with the D.C. government. With all of these experiences, Diane says she "implements management approved practices that will result in accurate financial reporting."

Off-hours, Diane participates in the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Day Writers' Project, a creative venue for veterans and those who have been touched by war. Every Memorial Day and Veterans Day, they provide an open mic venue at the National Mall adjacent to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Diane also reads at other gatherings throughout the year. She sings in the historic Shiloh Baptist Church senior choir and tutors middle school students in math, English and reading.

After six years as a SEE enrollee, Diane says, "The SEE program presents an opportunity for seasoned employees to give service to the government through EPA. With the support of NAPCA and EPA, I have been able to share my experience and learn new practices!"

### *SCSEP Turns 50*

#### • *continued from page 3*

Under the NAPCA SCSEP program, about 1,250 low-income seniors receive meaningful employment training annually. NAPCA partners with more than 300 community-based organizations and public agencies to provide appropriate training to NAPCA participants. NAPCA is currently operating the SCSEP program in seven states: California, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington. NAPCA is looking forward to another 50 years of the SCSEP program to help AAPI older adults gain financial security as they age.

## NAPCA Engages in National AAPI Policy Discussions

• continued from cover

Houston and Honolulu to ensure that AAPI elder voices were heard loud and clear at the WHCOA event itself. Additionally, Dr. Lum was invited as a delegate to the WHCOA to represent AAPI elder interests.

The WHCOA and White House AAPI Summit are just the beginning of NAPCA's efforts to bring attention to AAPI aging on a national level. NAPCA is spearheading a movement to bring together AAPI organizations around aging so we can collectively represent AAPI elders and advocate for policies and programs that enable AAPI elders to age with dignity, well-being and a high quality of life.



NAPCA board members engaging with congressional and community leaders: **1** National Association of Broadcasters COO Mr. Chris Ornelas and NAPCA board member the Hon. Ruby Moy. **2** Former NAPCA board member Mr. Curtis Hom, U.S. Rep. Ms. Judy Chu (CA) and NAPCA board member Mr. David Kim. **3** U.S. Rep. Ms. Grace Meng (NY) and Mr. David Kim. **4** Nueva Vista Group Co-founder and Partner Ms. Irene Bueno and the Hon. Ruby Moy. Ramon Talusan photos, courtesy APAICS.

## Medicare and Medicaid 50th Anniversary

July 30, 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). When signed into law in 1965, this new program changed and expanded the way that the federal government and states would provide health insurance to meet the healthcare needs of Americans 65 years and older, and starting in 1972, Americans under the age of 65 with disabilities or end stage renal disease were also included. In 2003, Medicare Part D prescription drug plans were covered under the program following the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act.

As of 2014, over 49 million Americans are covered by Medicare, including over 27 million Medicare beneficiaries that were enrolled in Part D prescription drug plans. Medicare helps beneficiaries, most of them seniors, access critical healthcare services, including hospital visits, doctor visits, preventive services, and help in paying for prescription drugs.



Medicaid is an important program that helps low-income adults and children have access to healthcare coverage. Medicaid also provides coverage for important long-term supports and services to older adults within their homes, or in some cases, provides coverage for assisted living facilities. Low-income Medicare beneficiaries may also be dually eligible for Medicaid, and an estimated 9 million Medicare beneficiaries are also enrolled in Medicaid.

You can also check your eligibility for Medicare using NAPCA's multilingual Medicare eligibility screener at [www.napcascreener.com](http://www.napcascreener.com). NAPCA's multilingual Helpline can also assist with any questions or assistance with enrolling in Medicare Part D or applying for Part D Low-Income Subsidy.

### NAPCA HELPLINE

1-800-336-2722  
English

1-800-582-4218  
Cantonese &  
Mandarin

1-800-582-4259  
Korean

1-800-582-4336  
Vietnamese

## BOARD & STAFF NEWS

In April, NAPCA board of directors welcomed longtime NAPCA board member **Mr. David B. Cohen**

as chairman of the board.



In 2005, David was appointed by President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to a two-year term as the U.S. representative to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. He also served as deputy

assistant secretary of the Interior for Insular Affairs from 2002 to 2008, where he oversaw the Office of Insular Affairs, which administers the federal government's relationship with the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and administers economic assistance to the sovereign Pacific nations in free association with the U.S.: the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau.

Currently, David is a practicing attorney and consultant in Los Angeles. He holds an MBA from the Wharton Business School and a JD from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. David holds the title of Papali'i in the Samoan culture.

In April, NAPCA board of directors welcomed **Dr. Wesley Lum** as president and CEO. Wes brings with him over 20 years of experience in the fields of aging, health, social services, policy and advocacy.

Most recently, he was the director of the Hawaii Executive Office on Aging. Prior to his appointment by then-Governor Neil Abercrombie, Wes was an assistant professor at the University of Hawaii School of Social Work. He also previously worked at the University



of Hawaii Center on Aging and at the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii as director of Government Affairs. He also was a legislative analyst in the Hawaii House of Representatives Majority Staff Office.

Wes is the recipient of the Hawaii State Legislature Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Leadership in Creating Programs and Restructuring Services and Policies to More Effectively Serve the Kupuna of Hawaii and a Hawaii Senate Commendation for Outstanding Advocate for Hawaii's Elders and Family Caregivers. He also received the Shining Light Award from the Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans/Kokua Council and the Na Lima Kokua Me Waina O Makua Award in the Government Category from the Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society. Wes has a PhD and MA in sociology and an MPH in community health education from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Seattle headquarters welcomes **Tyrell Ma'ae**, who joins NAPCA as the executive assistant to support the president and CEO, and to be NAPCA's operations and human resource manager.

Before joining NAPCA, Tyrell worked at the Hawaii State Legislature for seven legislative sessions. Most recently, he served as the committee manager for the Senate Human Services Committee under senior Senator Suzanne N.J. Chun Oakland, with a focus on public assistance, the Medicaid program, vocational rehabilitation, public housing, homelessness, elder services, and early childhood education and care. Concurrently, Tyrell also served as the project coordinator of the 2011 and 2012 Hawaii Children and Youth Day, the largest event honoring children and youth in the state. Tyrell comes to NAPCA from Hawaii, where he was born and raised. He is looking forward to working with NAPCA staff and constituents.



**Yes, I want to improve the quality of life of AAPI elders!**

**GIFT AMOUNT**

- \$50    \$100    \$250    \$\_\_\_\_\_
- My employer matching gift form is enclosed.
- Please do not acknowledge me on future donor lists.

**PAYMENT INFORMATION**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**METHOD OF PAYMENT**

- My check is enclosed, payable to NAPCA.
- Charge my:  Visa  MC  AmEx  Discover

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Security # \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*NAPCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation. Your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Tax ID #52-1266741.*



NATIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC  
CENTER ON AGING

Melbourne Tower, Suite 914  
1511 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101-1626

**Change service requested**

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
SEATTLE, WA  
PERMIT NO 1283

**Thank You Spring 2015 Donors!**

- Helena Ru Chang
- Jean Chen
- Thomas Cheong
- Yung Ling Liu Choi
- David Cohen
- Anna Crosslin
- Thomas Fong
- Tao Tao Han
- Health & Human Service Charities
- Hijikata Family Foundation
- Nancy Jih
- Catherina Kim
- Ki Chun Kim
- Young Hwa Kim
- King County
- Young Ko
- Lois Kohashi-Sinclair
- Yip Wang Law
- Regina Lin
- Chao Hwei Lu
- Wesley Lum
- Hiep Van Luong
- Louise Maehara
- Microsoft Matching Gift Program
- Shang Lin Ng
- Getrude Ni
- Older Women's League
- Pat Saiki
- Smoke World
- David Takada
- Chu-Hsing Tseng
- Shiu Bun Wan
- Bernada Wong
- Pablo Wong
- Wilbert Woo
- Sylvia Yuen

**Your Spouse May Be Covered by Social Security**

- *continued from page 4*
- let you earn delayed retirement credits that will mean higher payments later, but still would allow your spouse to receive a spouse's benefit on your record.
- People can also apply for spouse's benefits based on the earnings record of an ex-spouse if married for at least 10 years. Spouses can consider a number of options and variables. We make it easier to navigate them. A good place to start is our benefits planner at [www.socialsecurity.gov/planners](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners). Look under the "Benefits as a Spouse" section. Note the rules for survivor benefits are different and you can find out about those benefits by reviewing our webpage.
- If you are ready to apply for benefits, the fastest, easiest and most convenient way is to apply online! You can do so at [www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline) and complete your application in as little as 15 minutes.
- Due to a Supreme Court decision, we now are able to pay benefits to some same-sex couples. We encourage people who think they may be eligible to apply now. Learn more at [www.socialsecurity.gov/same-sex-couples](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/same-sex-couples). Learn more at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).