



Message from Education Chair – Aneesa Rashid:

The goal of CAPA's Education committee is to conduct outreach activities to educate and unite Asian Pacific Americans and the community at large. To achieve this goal we have partnered with the 4-H Youth Program, Michigan State University, and their experienced presenters, to conduct lively, interactive workshops (in spring under the Simply the Best Series and at the annual Statewide Leadership Summit) on issues that are topical and highly relevant in the changing social and economic environment. These workshops cater to all age groups: youth, parents and adults in an attempt to promote greater understanding. This year we decided to take the workshop to the schools and are working with the International Academy to conduct our spring workshop there.

The Education Committee has increased the profile of CAPA at High Schools in the Metro Detroit area by contacting their respective counselor's regarding the CAPA Scholar's Award. In order to get more youth involved with CAPA, the eligibility criteria of the award has been changed to include students who will attend a Michigan school and will continue to volunteer at CAPA as part of the Youth Committee after receiving their award.

The success of any outreach activity depends on the support and cooperation it receives from its members. We look forward to your participation and invite your suggestions and ideas for topics for future seminars and workshops. Contact info: Committee Chair: Aneesa I. Rashid (aneesa@capa_mi.org); Amy Koehler (amykoehler@capa-mi.org); Youth Leader: Adeeb Haq (adeeb@capa-mi.org)

Calendar of Events

www.capa-mi.org/main.php?p=calendar1102

Articles Inside: (Updates)

- ★ NONDISCRIMINATION RULES FOR INSURED GROUP HEALTH PLANS
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- ★ RESOURCES FOR IMMIGRATION/CITIZENSHIP ADVOCACY
- ★ 2011 GRANT FUNDING
- ★ APACC MARCH EVENT
- ★ LANSING DAY AND YOUTH LEADERSHIP CORPS
- ★ LANTERN FESTIVAL – FREE ADMISSION (2/19/11)

Networking: Open to Public
Comerica Bank, Charter Township of Canton, and Miller Canfield in partnership with APACC
Thursday, March 10, 2011
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Summit on the Park
46000 Summit Parkway, Canton, MI
Please call 248-844-4100 sarah@apacc.net

Splendor of the East – May 6, 2011
“The Festival – A Carnival of World Traditions”

TICKET SALES ARE ONGOING!

<https://www.choicsecure03.net/mainapp/EventSchedule.aspx?ClientID=Dearborn>

For more information on the event and if you would like to participate, please visit the website: www.capa-mi.org Public Relations/Media Contact, Angela Wang at angela@capa-mi.org.

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phil@capa-mi.org

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**I.R.S. ISSUES NOTICE 2011
DELAYING THE
EFFECTIVE DATE OF
NONDISCRIMINATION
RULES FOR INSURED GROUP
HEALTH PLANS**

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Departments of Labor and Health and Human Services (collectively, the Departments) have determined that compliance with Health Care Reform's nondiscrimination provisions, which are applicable to insured health plans, should not be required until after regulations (or other administrative guidance of general applicability) are issued under PHS Act § 2716.

This means that there is no more sanction for failure to comply with the nondiscrimination provisions.

IRS Notice No. 2011-1 states, "In order to provide insured group health plan sponsors time to implement any changes required as a result of the regulations or other guidance, the Departments anticipate that the guidance will not apply until plan years beginning a specified period after issuance.

"Before the beginning of those plan years, an insured group health plan sponsor will not be required to file IRS Form 8928 with respect to excise taxes resulting from the incorporation of PHS Act § 2716 into § 9815 of the Code."

Notice 2011-1 also states that this decision was made to delay the effective date "because regulatory guidance is essential to the operation of the statutory provisions."

**OCA NOW ACCEPTING
APPLICATIONS FOR 2011
COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS**

WASHINGTON, DC – OCA, a national organization dedicated to advancing the social, economic and political well-being of Asian Pacific Americans, announced it is now accepting 2011 applications for the OCA-AXA Achievement, OCA-UPS Gold Mountain and OCA-Verizon college scholarships.

Each scholarship is valued at \$2,000 and is non-renewable. Applications for all scholarships are due by April 4, 2011.

"For over 10 years, OCA has been providing scholarship assistance to those with financial need, who otherwise may not have the opportunity to attend college," said Ken Lee, OCA national president. "OCA is proud to be able to recognize students who have demonstrated strong commitment to academic achievement and civil engagement."

To be eligible for the OCA-UPS Gold Mountain and OCA-AXA scholarships, the applicant-students must be a current Asian Pacific American (APA) high school senior entering first year of college, must demonstrate financial need, must be a permanent resident or US citizen and have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 or above (on a 4.0 scale).

OCA-UPS Gold Mountain scholarship is intended for APA students who are the first person in their family to attend an institution of higher education. The OCA-AXA scholarship is geared for students who have dedicated time to community service and demonstrated leadership ability.

Current undergraduates who are studying technical majors and are entering their third or fourth year in college may apply for the OCA-Verizon College scholarship. Applications for the OCA-Verizon college scholarships should be submitted online.

For more information or to download application, interested parties are asked to visit www.oanational.org

**IRS ISSUES GUIDANCE FOR
EMPLOYERS ON NEW 2011
PAYROLL TAX RATES**

Employees' Social Security tax withholding rates have decreased from 6.2 percent to 4.2 percent this year as a result of the tax bill enacted by Congress and signed by the President last year.

IRS (Internal Revenue Service) Notice 1036 provides guidance to employers on implementing the tax withholding changes. IRS issued on December 17, 2011 IRS Notice 1036 which provides guidance to help employers implement the 2011 cut in payroll taxes (two percentage points). It also provides new income-tax withholding tables that employers use in 2011.

The decreased employment tax rate is one result of the tax bill the House enacted and signed by President Obama last year.

The law is captioned "Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act of 2010." It provides, among other things, a reduction in the Social Security tax withholding rate from 6.2 percent to 4.2 percent of wages paid, and also continues the current income tax rates and brackets. (The one-year reduction in the Social Security tax rate will not



affect employees' future Social Security benefits.)

The IRS recognizes that the late enactment of these changes makes it difficult for many employers to quickly update their withholding systems.

For this reason, the agency asks employers to adjust their payroll systems as soon as possible, but not later than Jan. 31, 2011.

For any Social Security tax over withheld in January 2011, the employers should make an offsetting adjustment in employees' pay as soon as possible but not later than March 31, 2011.

IRS Notice 1036 contains the percentage method income tax withholding tables, the lower Social Security withholding rate, and related information that most employers need to implement these changes. Publication 15, (Circular E), Employer's Tax Guide, containing the extensive wage bracket tables that some employers use, is available on IRS.gov.

APACC in its mission to facilitate business relationships among Asian and U.S. based companies and to promote the economic advancement of Asian Pacific Americans

www.apacc.net

APACC East West Business Connection: "Driving Business Growth with Procurement Opportunities".

This event will take place on Thursday, March 24, 2011 from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Auburn Hills Marriott Pontiac at Centerpoint

Sarah Lalone, Office Manager
APACC - Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce
(248) 844-4100
sarah@apacc.net

USCIS bares grant opportunities for programs benefitting immigrants

WASHINGTON, D.C. — US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced recently the availability of three congressionally appropriated competitive grant opportunities designed to help prepare lawful permanent residents (LPRs) for citizenship and promote immigrant integration in the United States.

This year's program will offer approximately \$8.5 million for citizenship preparation programs in communities across the country.

"For more than two centuries, our nation has been a beacon of hope and opportunity for people from around the world," said USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas. "These grants will assist immigrants from coast to coast on their path to US citizenship."

Two of the grant opportunities will strengthen citizenship preparation programs that provide direct services in communities across the country.

The third will increase the capacity of members or affiliates of national, regional or statewide organizations to offer citizenship services in underserved communities.

USCIS expects to announce an estimated 35 award recipients in September 2011.

To apply for these funding opportunities, interested parties may visit www.grants.gov. The deadline for the submission of applications is April 1, 2011. USCIS encourages applicants to visit the website well in advance of the deadline in order to obtain registration information needed to complete the application process.

Fiscal year (FY) 2011 marks the third consecutive year of this competitive grant program. In 2010, USCIS awarded a total of \$8.1 million in grants to 56 immigrant-serving organizations in 78 sites across the country.

For additional information on the FY 2011 Citizenship and Integration Grant Program, visit www.uscis.gov/grants or contact the USCIS Office of Citizenship by phone at 202-272-1280 or by e-mail at citizenshipgrantprogram@dhs.gov.

Come Celebrate the Lunar New Year with the Association of Chinese Americans 2011 Year of the Rabbit

Lantern Festival Community Fair - FREE ADMISSION

Saturday, February 19, 2011, 11 am to 3 pm

Chinese Community Center

32585 Concord Drive Madison Heights, MI 48071

Angelita Espino, Director Racial Justice & Cultural Collaboration

aespino@newdetroit.org / www.newdetroit.org

Please send us articles and/or events you would like to share.

Send email to: troy@capa-mi.org