



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission

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WingKay Leung

Lydia Schroter

Evelyn Tang

Karen Tseng

Larry Wong

Bora Chiemruom

Executive Director

Special Guest:

Geoff Why, former

Commissioner

One Ashburton Place

12th Floor

Boston, MA 02108

[www.aacommission.org](http://www.aacommission.org)

## Meeting Minutes

**Saturday, August 8, 2015 at 9:00am**

Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center

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

Vice Chairperson, Elisa Choi facilitated the meeting/retreat. Commissioners went around the room to give their reason for joining and possible visions for the Commission to achieve. They also shared fun facts about themselves.

Special guest speaker: Geoff Why, former Commissioner and Vice Chairperson of the AAC. He spoke about the history of AAC and shared his experiences and offered his recommendation for the growth of AAC. Commissioners ask Geoff many questions, including advisory group, State Hearings, and how can we better connect with other organization? He stated that the ultimate goal for the Commission should be that every Asian American organizations know AAC and should be working with AAC

Highlights from Geoff:

- Identify Community Organizations to be partners
- Connecting, Collaboration and Celebrate (3 C's)
- Review our PR/ Marketing strategies
- What are the expectations of Commissioners?

Kajal gives a recap of 2014: Kajal stated that we are no longer in the start-up stage and we have funding for an ED position. Geographically, we are no longer just in Chinatown; we are in Lowell, Lawrence, Lynn, Worcester and Springfield. Kajal was proud that we have a diverse group of Commissioners, who really care for the Asian American Community. He also reported that we have met with many appointing authorities and successfully secured level funding for 50k in state funding. Recent millstones include the hiring of new Executive Director, Bora Chiemruom, and successful Unity Dinner, Young Leaders Symposium, and Healthcare Forum, Financial Literacy in Quincy.

Commissioners also discussed the following items:

- Confusion of Asian American Commission with Governor's Commission
- Need to have better communications internal and external
- Better PR/Marketing of AAC and PR/Marketing subcommittee needs to start meeting regularly again

Elisa facilitated a SWOT Analysis of AAC. We evaluated our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

Unity Dinner is less than 3 months and we need new chairperson (s) immediately. Tony has stepped down from his position as Chair of Unity Dinner. Kajal calls for all hands on deck. We need the support of all commissioners to help with the Unity Dinner. Dr. Howard Koh and Daniel Koh are confirmed keynote speakers. This year's theme is "Honoring Our Heritage, Celebrating Our Diversity." Several awards are for consideration: Lifetime Achievement Award, Community Hero Award, and Leadership for Inclusion & Diversity Award.

Accept 7/8/2015 meeting minutes

- Gilbert motioned to accept minutes, seconded by Kay. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.