



Asian American Women's Coalition

Continuing Our Legacy

2026 Annual Meeting

**MOVING FORWARD
WITH
RESILIENCE**

**In Partnership with PECO |
Methodist Hospital Foundation | Comcast |
The Honorable Ida Chen**

*Saturday, March 14, 2026 | 09:00 am - 01:30 pm
American Red Cross, 700 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Presenting Sponsors

**Comcast
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PECO

The Honorable Ida Chen

Photography

Emily Du

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**Temple University Alpha Sigma
Rho, Epsilon Chapter**

Annual Meeting Planning Committee

Ida Chen	Grace Kong	Cecilia Moy Yep	Stefne Wang
Lisa Chen	Jacqui Lam	Rona Navera	Carol Wong
Margaret Chin	Virginia Lam	Kathy Ngee	Sophie Xu
Marife Domingo	Pearl Lee	Anna Nguyen	Gloria Yu
Emily Du	L. Lew	Kim Nguyen	
Lily Higgins	Anita Li	Wendy Smith	
Belinda Huang	Amy Liang	Hinal Vaghela	

Annual Meeting Program

9:30 AM ZUMBA EXERCISE

- **Margarita Wilson**

10:00 AM WELCOME & GREETINGS

- **Grace Kong**, 2026 AAWC President
- **William Gallagher**, Exelon Corporation Vice President of Supply Operations
- **Hinal Vaghela**, PECO AARG President, AAWC Board Member

10:03 AM 2026 AAWC RECOGNITION

10:10 AM 2026 HEALTH UPDATE

- **Rhona Cooper**, Public Health Preparedness Clinical Coordinator, Philadelphia Health Department

Q & A Session

10:30 AM MOVING FORWARD WITH RESILIENCE

Moderator:

- **Nydia Han**, Consumer Investigative Reporter & Co-Anchor, 6ABC

Panelists:

- **Aimee Kim, PhD**, Professor of Psychology, University of Pennsylvania and Drexel University
- **Paige Murray**, 2025 AAWC Scholar
- **Jiyeon Yoo**, Creative Arts Therapist and Internship Coordinator, Behavioral Wellness Center at Girard
- **Cat Nguyen**, Co-Founder, VietLead

Q & A Session

11:20 AM PANEL DISCUSSION WRAP –UP

- **Nydia Han**

11:30 AM AAWC SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

- Presided by **Cecilia Moy Yep** and **Judge Ida Chen**,
AAWC Co-Founders

11:45 AM COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT (*to benefit **Furness High School***)

- **Dierdre Hasara**, *Community Service Committee Chair*, Temple University Alpha Sigma Rho, Epsilon Chapter
- **Daniel Peou**, *Principal*, Furness High School

12:00 PM LUNCH & NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY

1:10 PM AAWC ANNUAL MEETING (*presentation of 2025 Annual Reports*)

- **Grace Wu Kong**, *AAWC President*
- **Margaret Chin**, *AAWC Treasurer*

CLOSING

- **Marife Domingo**, *AAWC Vice President*

1:20 PM DRAWING OF DOOR PRIZES

- Hosted by **Katherine Ngee & Wendy Smith**, *members*,
AAWC Advisory Board

SPEAKERS & PRESENTERS

MARGARITA WILSON – Margarita is a retired Philadelphia public school teacher and former adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education, with over 30 years of experience in education. She continues to teach through an educational staffing company.



She has taught Zumba dance fitness for 12 years in local gyms, schools, and adult centers throughout Philadelphia, combining music, dance, and fitness to

inspire healthier lifestyles.

Margarita supports the Filipino community in the Philippines through charitable donations and scholarships, believing that collective giving empowers individuals and creates lasting change.

GRACE WU KONG – Grace is the Director of the Chinese unit at Echelon Care and Rehabilitation Center in New Jersey, where programs and activities are offered in multiple Asian dialect to reflect the cultural diversity of the residents.



She advocates for the senior population and volunteers in many community organizations to assist in educating immigrant communities.

Grace has worked in the medical field for the past 35 years in various capacities, including as Dietetic Technician/Dietary Supervisor at Thomas Jefferson Hospital, Community Liaison and Interpreter at the Chinese Health Information Center. She was a Personal Care Plus Specialist for Ameri-Choice, where she helped open Philadelphia's first Chinatown Community Service Center, and provided information on Medicare, Medicaid, and Kids Choice benefits. She also served as Partnership Specialist for the US Census Bureau for the 2010 and 2020.

She currently serves as President of AAWC, Commissioner for the Mayor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs in Philadelphia, and Secretary for the Asian American Lions Club. She sits on the boards of Penn Asian Senior Services Inc., the Asian Advisory Committee for Philadelphia Corporation for Aging, and the Northeast Philadelphia Chinese Association. She co-founded and was previously led the Chinese American Women's Sisterhood Society of Philadelphia.

Born in Hong Kong and raised in Philadelphia Chinatown, Graced earned an associate's degree in Dietetics and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Gwynedd-Mercy University. She enjoys hiking, traveling, dining out, and spending time with her three children and two grandchildren.

WILLIAM "BILL" GALLAGHER – As Vice President of Supply Operations for



Exelon Corporation, Bill leads a team responsible for the warehousing, logistics and inventory management across all Exelon utilities.

Prior to his current role, he served as Director of Supply Operations. Bill also was the Director of Strategic Sourcing for Utility Materials, where he managed a team of Category Managers responsible for approximately \$3B annual purchases of material and non-construction services used by all Exelon Utilities.

Bill's earlier roles include Manager of Smart Grid Sourcing, Senior Manager of PECO Supply Operations, and Manager of Materials and Logistics. He began his career as a Field Engineer and currently serves as the Exelon Executive Sponsor of the PECO Chapter of the Asian American Resource Group.

He holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the Pennsylvania State University and an MBA from Villanova University.

HINAL VAGHELA – Hinal joined PECO in 2021 and brings over seven years of experience in the financial sector. She holds a



Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and currently serves as a Senior Financial Analyst supporting PECO's Electric Operations group. Previously, she contributed to the Financial Planning & Analysis team with a focus on PECO revenues.

In 2026, Hinal was elected President of the PECO Asian American Resource Group (AARG), after previously serving as Board Treasurer. Since 2022, she has played an active role in advancing AARG's mission to foster belonging, elevate Asian American voices, and build cultural awareness across PECO. She also contributes to EmpowHer, Exelon's network supporting women in finance and controllership.

As a 1.5-generation immigrant, Hinal is deeply committed to advocating

for Asian American communities. Through her involvement with AARG, she collaborates with fellow leaders and community partners to highlight Asian cultures, champion DE&I initiatives, and create meaningful opportunities for engagement and education. Her work often intersects with other employee resource groups, including NEXIS (Network of Exelon Immigrants and Second Generation), further strengthening cross-cultural collaboration within the company.

RHONA COOPER, MSN, MA, RN – Rhona is the Clinical Coordinator on the Bioterrorism/Public Health Preparedness Team at the Philadelphia Department of Public Health’s Division of Disease Control. She is an emergency planner involved in the development and implementation of the City of Philadelphia’s response to public health emergencies.



She has been a leader in the planning and operation of the City’s response to COVID-19, MPOX, and other biological emergencies. Rhona is particularly proud of her involvement in the City’s management of the healthcare of 25,000 evacuees from Afghanistan at Philadelphia International Airport during Operation Allies Welcome, as well as the current sheltering of asylum seekers who have arrived in Philadelphia by buses sent from Texas.

Before joining the Department of Public Health, Ms. Cooper worked for over 28 years as a certified school nurse and a nurse administrator for the School District of Philadelphia.

NYDIA HAN – Nydia is 6abc’s Consumer Investigative Reporter, Troubleshooter, and co-anchor of Action News Sunday mornings and Action News at 10 A.M. She is also the creator of the documentary series, #ThisIsAmerica, a provocative, fresh look at who we are as Americans.



Nydia is an Emmy award-winning journalist, committed to getting real results for our Action News viewers. She is dedicated to exposing scams, protecting consumers, and encouraging businesses and agencies to do the right thing.

In her work related to #ThisIsAmerica, Nydia hopes to inspire all of us to get to know each other’s unique American stories, check our own biases, and act as positive agents of change and unity in our communities. Nydia also covers general news as an Action News anchor and has traveled

frequently to cover national stories.

Prior to joining Action News in October of 2002, Nydia worked for KTRK-TV, the ABC station in Houston, Texas, and KOCO-TV in Oklahoma City. Nydia started her career as a reporter at KIFI-TV in Pocatello, Idaho.

Nydia is dedicated to helping our community in a myriad of ways. She is on the community advisory board for AAWC and volunteers her time for a number of other organizations. She is especially passionate about raising awareness and desperately needed funds for lung cancer research after the passing of her mother in 2009. Nydia also enjoys mentoring aspiring journalists.

Nydia received a Bachelor of Science in Journalism with a focus on International Studies, from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. Fluent in Korean, Nydia also graduated from a program at Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea.

Nydia is a mom to two young children, a wife and a friend. She enjoys good food, good wine, and most of all, a good laugh.

AIMEE KIM, PHD – Professor Aimee Kim is a developmental psychologist



committed to making the science of human growth accessible and practical for all. She serves on the faculty of the Human Development program at the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education and in the Psychology Department at Drexel University. In both roles, she teaches a range of courses, specializing in translating complex

research into actionable insights for her students and the wider community.

Her work lies at the intersection of psychological theory, cultural influence, and real-world application. As a mentor to undergraduate and graduate students, she trains the next generation of scholars to view the lifespan through a cultural lens, guiding them to approach both research and practice with a deep understanding of how culture shapes human development.

Noted for a style that is both thorough and accessible, she specializes in connecting psychological research to everyday life. She helps audiences understand the "why" behind human behavior and the processes that shape how we grow and interact. By offering clear, evidence-based insights and tools, she empowers others to foster healthy development in homes, schools, and communities.

PAIGE OUANO MURRAY – Paige, daughter of David and Vivian Murray, is a first-year student at Boston University studying Education and Human Development.



Her grandparents, Florentino and Josefina deGuzman Ouano, came to the United States in 1969 with their children, Lauren, Jun, and Vivian. They settled in Havertown, PA, where they still live. Born in Philadelphia, Paige attended The Philadelphia School before continuing her education at Springside Chestnut

Hill. She is now a member of the TPS alumni board.

Paige's passion for the arts began with piano lessons from her *Lola* and later expanded to violin, ukulele, and guitar. She studies Hawaiian dance with her *Ninang* Lauren, joins her mother's *Rondalla* ensemble, and performed with her high school's honors choir and drama company. She also captained her robotics team, leading it to multiple awards and four world championships, and works as a senior sailing instructor during the summers.

Her honors include the Gail Baldwin Simmonds Scholarship, the DELPHI Award, and scholarships from the Asian American Women's Coalition and the Pan Asian Association, as well as recognition from her school's Honor Council and the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science.

At BU, Paige studies education while exploring French and Disability Inclusion and stays active as a member of the all-female a cappella group Chordially Yours and the BU Filipino Students Association.

JINYEON YOO, MA, MPE, BC-DMT – Jinyeon is a clinician and educator



specializing in the intersection of movement and behavioral health. Currently serving as a Creative Arts Therapist and Internship Coordinator at the Behavioral Wellness Center at Girard (BWC) in Philadelphia, she oversees clinical training and wellness programming within the Department of Creative Arts Therapy.

A Board-Certified Dance/Movement Therapist (ADTA) and Certified Recovery-Oriented Cognitive Therapist, Jiyeon has also contributed academically as a guest lecturer for the Laban Movement Analysis Lab at Drexel University's College of Nursing and Health Professions. Her clinical research and practice focus on the implementation of specialized therapeutic programming for geriatric populations and individuals living

with dementia.

Originally from South Korea, she integrates traditional rehabilitation practices—such as Tai Chi for Rehabilitation—with modern creative arts therapies to provide a culturally responsive and holistic approach to mental health.

CATHERINE “CAT” NGUYEN – Cat is a proud Vietnamese-American, born in



Houston to Vietnamese refugees. She is an attorney, author, and community leader. A Penn State and Temple Law alumna, she serves on the PA Governor's Commission on Asian American Pacific Islander Affairs, is a fellow of the University of Pennsylvania Inn of Courts, and is the Immediate Past President of the Asian Pacific

American Bar Association of Pennsylvania (APABA-PA).

One of her proudest accomplishments is helping lead the founding of VietLead in 2015, where she now serves on the Board. Her children's book, *A Very Asian Guide to Vietnamese Food*, illustrated by Kim Thai Nguyen, won the 2024 Eureka! Excellence in Children's Nonfiction Silver Award from the California Reading Association.

Cat enjoys making art with her two playful children and cooking for family and friends with her husband. She draws energy from curiosity, community, and an endless supply of grapefruit sparkling water.

IDA CHEN – The Honorable Ida Chen was born in Hong Kong and migrated



to the United States from Indonesia. She currently serves on the Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia County as a judge in the Family Court Division. She is the first female Asian American judge in Pennsylvania. Judge Chen co-founded the Asian American Women's Coalition. She has served as an Adjunct Professor at Temple University School of Law since 1984 and at Cornell University's School of Industrial & Labor Relations since 1985.

CECILIA MOY YEP – For most of her life, Cecilia has been an active advocate for the Chinatown community and still resides there. In 1966, the State planned to destroy the Holy Redeemer Church and School. Realizing the irrevocable damage this would bring to the community, she organized the community’s first Town Meeting. She also founded the Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation (PCDC), which became the leading force to save the church and school. Cecilia led the development of various affordable housing projects in Chinatown, including Hing Wah Yuen, Dynasty Court, On Lok House, Gim San Plaza, Mei Wah Yuen, and Sing Wah Yuen. She is also proud of the realization of her China Friendship Gate project. Cecilia has served on many Civic Boards and City Commissions. She received the prestigious Philadelphia Award in 1999 and was honored as a “Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania” by Governor Ed Rendell in 2006. Cecilia is the co-founder of AAWC.



DANIEL PEOU – Mr. Peou is the first principal of Cambodian descent in Pennsylvania. He is the proud principal of Horace H. Furness High School in South Philadelphia, a neighborhood school of over 700 students. A child refugee and ESOL student in the early 1980s, he attended Furness Junior High and graduated from South Philadelphia High School.



Mr. Peou began his career with the School District of Philadelphia over 27 years ago as a Bilingual Counseling Assistant while completing his post-secondary education. He earned his undergraduate degree from Eastern University and a Master of Education in School Administration from Cheyney University. He has held leadership positions including School Climate Manager, Elementary School Principal, High School Assistant Principal, and Principal.



A tireless advocate for Philadelphia’s diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, Mr. Peou works to expand language, educational, and cultural access while serving all students with equity and dedication.

MARGARET CHIN – Margaret retired from the School District of

Philadelphia after 38 years of dedicated service to the children of Philadelphia. Prior to her retirement, she served as principal of Southwark School in South Philadelphia and as a cabinet member of the central administration. She was among the first Asian Americans who held a senior leadership position in the District, overseeing ESOL/Bilingual, World Language, Art and Music, Cultural Exchange, Translation and Interpretation services. A highly respected and dynamic leader in the Asian community, Margaret has served multiple terms as President of Asian American Educators and the Asian American Women's Coalition (AAWC). She is currently Chair of the Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation, a member of the Schoolmen's Club of Philadelphia, and a Trustee of the Christopher Ludwick Foundation.

MARIFE DOMINGO – Marife Domingo is Senior Manager of Business Architecture at Comcast. She previously worked at Temple University Beasley School of Law managing databases and supporting the judicial clerkship application process.



Marife serves as Vice President of Asian American Women's Coalition supporting its scholarship, membership, and outreach programs. She also

manages a Filipino rondalla ensemble that performs annual benefit concerts for disaster relief in the Philippines. In 2022, she participated in the inaugural Public Orchestra concert through the Rehearsing Philadelphia initiative hosted by Drexel University and Curtis Institute of Music.

Marife holds degrees from Temple University, University of the Philippines, and Villanova University.

KATHERINE NGEE – Kathy is a native Philadelphian who attended Holy Redeemer and West Catholic High School for Girls. She holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Education from Drexel University. Kathy serves on the Advisory Board of AAWC, is a current member of the AAWC Scholarship Selection Committee, and has previously served as AAWC President and Vice President.



She has held roles in administration, human resources, and marketing at IBM Corporation, Technology Service Solutions, and Worlco Computer

Resources, Inc. A strong advocate for giving back, Kathy supports Philadelphia's Chinatown through her board service with the Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation and actively participates in her schools and church community.

Her personal interests include travel, fine dining, reading, health and wellness issues, old Westerns, and yoga.

WENDY SMITH, ESQ. – Wendy is a managing partner at Morgan, Akins &



Jackson, PLLC, and has been serving the Philadelphia legal community for over 18 years. In 2012, she was named one of Pennsylvania's "*Lawyers on the Fast Track.*" She is one of the originators of the Board Observer Program, a program that seeks to provide young attorneys with valuable leadership experience by pairing them with non-profit boards in the community. Wendy is an active member of the Asian

Pacific Bar Association, and an advisory board member of the Asian American Women's Coalition. She enjoys spending time running after her 1-year-old son, tending her gardens, and keeping up with her book club reading.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

JENNIFER M. GRAHAM – Jennifer is the Chief Executive Officer of the American Red Cross Southeastern Pennsylvania Region, where she leads more than 40 staff and supports over 3,000 volunteers serving Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery counties – a population of 4.2 million.



With more than 25 years at the American Red Cross, Graham brings deep operational expertise and a passion for service. She began her career in Biomedical Services in 1998, holding progressive leadership roles including Donor Recruitment District Manager, overseeing the collection of over 50,000 blood donations annually. She also led volunteer engagement and advanced diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives across the Penn-Jersey Biomedical Region.

In 2019, Jennifer transitioned to Humanitarian Services, where she oversees disaster response, volunteer management, services to the Armed Forces, fundraising, and external relations. Previously, she served as Executive Director of the Delaware Valley Chapter, strengthening community partnerships and expanding service delivery.

Her leadership philosophy is rooted in empathy, presence, and purpose. She believes in leading with heart and hope, fostering a culture of compassion, resilience, and collaboration, and ensuring that every team member and volunteer feels empowered to make a meaningful impact.

She holds dual bachelors' degrees from Muhlenberg College and resides in Chester County with her husband, two children, and their dog.



**American
Red Cross**

Asian American Women's Coalition

The **ASIAN AMERICAN WOMEN'S COALITION** (AAWC) is a multicultural organization with a mission to advance the interests of Asian American women through leadership and mutual support. Founded in 1987 by the Honorable Ida Chen and Cecilia Moy Yep, AAWC has initiated numerous activities for the Asian community and collaborated with various organizations to raise awareness and provide support on issues of interest to the Asian American community. AAWC also provides scholarship assistance to graduating Asian American female high school seniors interested in pursuing a college degree.

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Save the Date: Join us at the AAWC Annual Scholarship Banquet on
June 11, 2026.

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