



Candidate Statements

2025-2026 Election for President, VP of Civic Engagement and VP of Finance

Candidate for President: Nicole Dungca (incumbent), Washington, D.C. Chapter

It has been an honor serving as the AAJA president for the last year and a half – and I'm running again because our work is far from done.

Like so many others, AAJA has been a crucial part of my career, providing community and guidance at every job I've had all over the country. Countless AAJA members have taught me to be a better colleague and leader, and helped me become the investigative reporter that I am today.

For the last few years, my work at this organization has also helped me realize how important we are to Asian American and Pacific American communities. My predecessors and fellow AAJA leaders have worked to make sure that we help shape the narratives that follow our communities. We spring into action when we see inaccuracies and stereotypes in the news about our communities, and help advise newsrooms on the best ways to cover our people. I'm inspired by so many of our members, who have helped grow AAJA and made this group even more relevant during times of uncertainty. I'm proud of our work making AAJA a place of solidarity and support amid industry upheaval and threats to democracy.

If I get the chance to lead AAJA for two more years, I will work to make sure we continue this work and are sustainable into the future – by ensuring we have a healthy budget and that we have the leaders that will help shape the future of this industry. I want to leave AAJA even stronger than it already is – and I hope you'll give me a chance to do that with another term.

Candidate for Vice President of Civic Engagement: Marian C. Liu (incumbent)

It's been absolutely fulfilling serving as the National Vice President of Civic Engagement, so much so that I am running again to continue my work on updating AAJA's Style Guide. Especially after all the anti-Asian attacks during the pandemic, this guide will help our community be more proactive instead of reactive in shaping how we are covered. So often our

experiences have been flattened, but this guide will help bring nuance and accuracy. It'll help direct not only how we write about our communities, but how we talk about them too. My goal was not only to get a pan-Asian group of journalists to drive this long-due update, but bring in new members to AAJA and activate community members. As a result, the guide's list of credit reads like a who's who in AAPI media and activism.

I see my role on the national board as an extension of my calling as a journalist, to give voice to the voiceless, especially since the AAPI community often does not speak up, even when it's good news.

AAJA is incredibly dear to me. I grew up in this organization. AAJA is family. It all started with getting an AAJA college scholarship and admission to VOICES. I wrote my first stories there and met people who connected me to my first internship and subsequent jobs. In my first job, I started giving back as VOICES editor and up to director, dedicating more than a decade. Actually, every step of my career has been pushed forward by AAJA, from my first job as Local City Reporter at the San Jose Mercury News to my current position as Project Editor on the Special Newsroom Initiatives and Partnerships at The Washington Post. Also, in every city I've moved to for work, I've connected with their AAJA chapter, from the SF Bay Area to Hong Kong and now DC and Florida. AAJA is family.

I'd love to continue my work as National VP to empower our community to have more of a voice and make sure AAJA is not only a home for students to grow but also where veteran journalists to give back and evolve.

I owe my career to AAJA and would love to help others carve their paths too.

Candidate for Vice President of Civic Engagement: Xintian Tina Wang

Running for Vice President of Civic Engagement at AAJA National is a chance to deepen my journey in journalism and advocacy. In my four years serving on the AAJA New York board, including two as Director of Events, I've nurtured deep connections across our community through partnerships with cultural icons like the Corky Lee Estate, the MET, and the Korean Cultural Center, etc.

My passion for giving a voice to the unheard as a bilingual journalist has also paved the way for this role. With several years of experience covering cultural stereotypes and innovations across various fields including gender & sexuality, arts, business, and technology, I have developed a keen eye for stories that challenge mainstream narratives and highlight underrepresented voices. My work has been featured in prestigious publications such as TIME, HuffPost, Teen Vogue, VICE, ARTNews, Insider, Observer, and ELLE.

With my background, having navigated the dual identity challenges as an immigrant from China at 18, I deeply understand the nuances of the AAPI+ community's unique challenges. This

perspective is crucial for spearheading initiatives that not only spotlight current issues but also prepare us for future challenges in journalism.

As Vice President of Civic Engagement, I aim to expand AAJA's programming to be even more inclusive and forward-looking, enhancing our community's impact on national and global discussions. Together, let's ensure that API+ journalists are not only heard but celebrated for their essential contributions to media.

Candidate for Vice President of Finance: Chris Nguyen

Walt Disney once said, "All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them."

In the early 90s, my journalism journey began as a proud paperboy for the Seattle Times. I grew up watching Lori Matsukawa on KING 5 News, became a kid disc jockey at Kidstar 1250 AM, and years later, joined AAJA while attending the University of Washington and reporting part-time for several community newspapers.

My personal story, like many of yours, is one of determination and resilience. It has taken me from the Seattle suburbs to Springfield, and then onto Spokane, Sacramento, and San Francisco, where I eventually became the first Vietnamese American man to be named as a major market news anchor. Now, I'm honored to be living out my own dream as one of the few Asian American men anchoring on national television.

Throughout the years, I've been a local chapter officer, program volunteer, and national advisory board member. I'm currently serving as one of your at-large representatives on the national governing board. In these various leadership roles, I've helped raise thousands of dollars for multiple AAJA initiatives and fiercely advocated for more AAPI representation in newsrooms across the country.

As Vice President of Finance, I'll work to diversify AAJA's funding sources, strengthen our existing partnerships, cultivate new relationships, explore innovative ways to boost member engagement, and carry on the spirited legacy of the inspirational leaders who came before us. I'll do what I can to support your professional growth, especially during these challenging times in our industry.

I'm ready to get to work as an AAJA national officer and I'd be honored to have your vote in this year's election.

