



**May 1998:** The APIO was established as a 501 c(3). It began with about 20 members, and Dr. Mon Yee served as APIO's first president. The APIO National Council serves as a liaison between its members and agency leadership.

The APIO motto: "Partners for Progress and Success"

**Bloomington, MN (2004):** Former Chief Bruce Knight, APIO leadership, and partners participated in a signing ceremony establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Asian American/Pacific Islander (AA/PI) Scholarship Program.

Theme: "Striving for Excellence in Developing Leaders of Tomorrow"

Photo below: Former Chief Knight and leadership signing the MOU between participating schools and APIO.



Pictured left: A Korean performer showcases traditional Korean drumming at the 2004 Conference.



**Anchorage, AK (2006):** APIO held its first joint conference with the American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association (AIANEA).

Pictured above: AIANEA Drum Circle

Pictured below: AAPI and AIAN SEPMs



**Miami Dade, FL (2007):** Conservation tour to a guava farm (pictured above)



**Sacramento, CA (2009):** During the "Leadership to Meet the Challenges of a Changing World" conference, the Parangal Dance Company, a Filipino Folk Dance Group, provided a colorful and inspiring cultural performance (pictured above).

Pictured below: APIO leaders and members stop during a field tour showcasing wine grape and row crop production in Napa and Capay Valleys. Highlighted practices included those benefitting pollinators, migratory birds, and a federally-endangered shrimp species.



APIO continues to grow, with 64 members, including 52 Lifetime members from across the nation. Ms. Angela Biggs currently presides as our president.

APIO continues to promote outreach and education, support the advancement of aspiring leaders, and embrace diverse partnerships.

The APIO National Council is working towards hosting a national conference in 2015.



1998	1999-2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
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**Verdi, NV (1998):** APIO held its first national conference. Until 2003, APIO held its conferences at this location. Between 1998-2003, APIO developed its structure and refined how to engage its members. Conferences were designed to provide meaningful professional training through classroom and field tours, foster professional connections, and create a space for cross-cultural exchange.

Pictured below: Conference attendees in Wichita, KS



**Wichita, KS (2005):** APIO and National Leadership held their conferences concurrently, which allowed for leadership to attend and participate in portions of APIO's workshops. A portion of the conference honored AA/PI scholarship recipients, a focus of many of APIO's conferences and efforts. Theme: "Diversity in Conservation" Pictured above: AA/PI USDA-Scholars Program Recipients

**Spokane, WA (2008):** APIO's second conference partnering with AIANEA. Pictured below and right: Kulturalan Chamoru Performers delighted attendees with their vibrant



Pictured below: Participants visiting the Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge during the 2008 Spokane conference



**Kansas City, MO (2010):** APIO was pleased to partner with the National Organization of Professional Black NRCS Employees (NOPBNRCSE) and the National Organization of Professional Hispanic NRCS Employees (NOPHNCSE).

Pictured below-left: Conference participants visiting the Spokane Tribal Hatchery before visiting Fort Spokane.

Pictured below-right: APIO members participating in the Sushi Contest & Throwdown, which proved an enlightening and entertaining activity for cultural exchange.

