

CONTACT INFORMATION

APIO National Council

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✓ Assisted in establishing a National Asian Pacific Islander Program Manager position.
- ✓ Assisted in drafting the first NRCS Asian Pacific Islander Strategic Plan.
- ✓ Conducted national training conferences.
- ✓ Provided job announcements and career guidance to members.
- ✓ Linked to community-based organizations and informed those groups of NRCS services and programs.
- ✓ Developed and promoted the API exchange between the Pacific Basin and the Mainland.
- ✓ Developed and promoted the API summer intern program.
- ✓ Awarded numerous scholarships for API students studying natural resources and conservation.
- ✓ Assisted the National RC&D Executive Board in placing an API onto the RC&D Council.
- ✓ Assisted the USDA contact person with implementing the White House Initiative for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.
- ✓ Assisted in establishing Asian Pacific Islander Liaison on the West Coast.

President

Angela Biggs
Phone: (217) 345-3901 ext. 5
Angela.Biggs@il.usda.gov

Vice-President

Gina Schworm
Phone: (740) 622-8087 ext. 104
Gina.Schworm@oh.usda.gov

Executive Vice-President

Nick Vira
Phone: (360) 748-0083
Nick.Vira@wa.usda.gov

Secretary

Oliver Miranda
Phone: (301) 934-9588 ext. 3
Oliver.Miranda@md.usda.gov

Treasurer

Jenny Johnston
Phone: (360) 704-7708
Jennifer.Johnston@wa.usda.gov

National Council Advisor

Kurencio B. Ngowakl Phone: (671) 300-8579
Kurencio.Ngowakl@pb.usda.gov

Regional Representatives

East/ NHQ

Jewel McKenzie
Phone: (603) 679-1587 ext. 109
Jewel.Mckenzie@nh.usda.gov

Midwest

Doug Davenport
Phone: (712) 523-3631
Douglas.Davenport@ks.usda.gov

Northern Plains

Thomas Tran
Phone: (605) 698-7639 ext. 3
Thomas.Tran@sd.usda.gov

Pacific Islands Area– East

Laila Jayyousi
Phone: (808) 933-8354
Laila.Jayyousi@hi.usda.gov

West

Peter Bautista
Phone: (509) 323-2941
Peter.Bautista@wa.usda.gov

South

Irene Fang
Phone: (254) 742-9834
Irene.Fang@tx.usda.gov

Pacific Islands Area– West

Joseph (Joe) Tuquero
Phone: (671) 735-2111 ext. 102
Joseph.Tuquero@pb.usda.gov

Asian/Pacific Islander Organization



What is the APIO?



The Asian Pacific Islander Organization was established in May 1998 to provide a forum for employees of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to exchange ideas, network, mentor, train, and add value to the agency by being a linguistic, cultural, and ethnic bridge to our communities and other employee organizations.

The APIO will focus attention on the under-representation of Asian Pacific Islander employees and serve in an advisory role to address methods of recruitment, retention, and promotion.

In assisting the NRCS to achieve workforce diversity goals, the APIO will help to enhance outreach, as well as promote access and delivery of agency programs to historically under-served communities. The APIO membership body includes sister USDA agency employees.

VISION

A committed Asian/Pacific Islander leadership to improve the way the NRCS does business with the Asian Pacific Islander workforce and community.

MISSION

Establish an Asian/Pacific Islander leadership council to enhance program delivery and staffing such that the API community would promote legislation of new programs that would link our rich cultural heritage to our Purpose.

PURPOSE

- Provide professional development, trainings, and networking to membership through annual conferences and initiatives
- Provide financial assistance and mentoring/coaching to aspiring students in the field of resource conservation
- Outreach to other agencies, organizations, and groups
- Engage and represent membership on national leadership on initiatives and strategic goals

