

# NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON ASIAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSIONERS' MEETING AGENDA

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Location: Nebraska State Office Building Buffalo Room 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

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Address: 1526 K Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

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Date: February 03, 2026

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Time: 3p-5p

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## AGENDA DETAILS

### I. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Roll Call
- b. Statement of Compliance with Nebraska Open Meeting Act
  - i. Open Meeting Act posted in the room

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Review and approve minutes from previous meeting

### III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

- a. County Map and organizations
  - i. Need help from the Commissioners to add in more of the organizations in the counties
- b. Website URL
  - i. We officially have the URL [CAAAN.nebraska.gov](http://CAAAN.nebraska.gov) for Commission on Asian American Affairs Nebraska for the published website
- c. Logo – need to vote on the logo design
- d. Temp AA – below is the pay breakdown
  - i. Office Technician, R01011 - \$15.000  
Office Specialist, R01012 - \$17.254  
Administrative technician, R01013 - \$18.548  
Administrative Programs Officer I, R09011 - \$21.225
  - ii. For SOS assignments that last over 6 months, the employee is eligible for benefits and the agency will need to cover the cost of the employer (State Cost) portion of the premiums. Attached is a quick reference guide to those benefits.
  - iii. There is also a fee for using the SOS program, which comes out to 23.75% of the gross pay of the employee. i.e. The SOS employee earns \$15.00/ hour and works 85 hours in the pay period (80 regular hours and 5 overtime hours). Their gross pay would be \$1,312.5 (\$1,200 regular pay, \$112.5 overtime), and the agency would be billed \$1,624.22 (\$1,312.5 + 23.75% fee). This doesn't include any State Cost benefits premiums. The SOS employee is paid from DAS, but the amount is billed to the Commission on Asian American Affairs

### IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Upcoming events and deadlines

- i. April 20 – 24<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Asian Cultural week at Creighton – Commissioner Jiang
- ii. May 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Community & Cultural Center AAPI Festival at Antelope Creek Park – Commissioner Reinhardt

## **V. COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

- a. Updates from Commissioner's business and mtgs
- b. Commissioner Schaepler – Mentorship, admin assistant, and networking

## **VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- a. Open floor for public comments
  - i. Limit to three (3) minutes per speaker

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Closing remarks

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**Note:** A copy of the Nebraska Open Meeting Act will be available at the meeting location in compliance with state law

**Nebraska Commission on Asian American Affairs**  
**Commissioners' Meeting Minutes**  
**November 04, 2025**  
**Barb Weitz Community Engagement Center**

Meeting was called to order at 3:03pm by Vice Chairman Dun.

Roll Call with a quorum of Commissioners present: Maureen Brase, Weysan Dun, Dr. Deepak Gangahar, Dr. Maorong Jiang, Dr. Yunwoo Nam, Arunkumar Pondicherry, Vickie Schaepler, Carol Wang  
Absent - Tram Kieu, Dr. Joanne Li, Carolina Mapes, Rebecca Reinhardt, Ryo Suzuki, Hiep Vu  
Public attendees – Lorraine Chang

Open Meeting Act read into the record

Motion to approve minutes from the August meeting made by Commissioner Pondicherry and seconded by Commissioner Jiang

Roll Call with all eight present in favor: Maureen Brase, Weysan Dun, Dr. Deepak Gangahar, Dr. Maorong Jiang, Dr. Yunwoo Nam, Arunkumar Pondicherry, Vickie Schaepler, Carol Wang

Executive Director update regarding the building as it is not a State office building and therefore an unsecured office, please text Ms. Gotsdiner prior to arrival as she keeps the door locked for security reasons. Looking into a camera doorbell and pricing that out for possible use. During interim, more time is spent working in Omaha due to meetings in Omaha and better time management. When the legislature is not in session, one full day is dedicated to Lincoln meetings and in office for those who are needing meetings in Lincoln. The reverse happens during the legislative session but still dedicating a day in Omaha for Omaha based meetings, etc. All commissioners present agreed that this makes sense and understand the time management component regarding drive time during the day if going back and forth for meetings. Commissioner Schaepler broached topic of hiring an AA or temp office administrator during session, someone Lincoln based, to help manage the phones when the ED is out of the office. Discussion regarding the probability of looking into this at the next full commissioner meeting in February.

Updates on the website as well as office items such as nametags and name plates for commissioners. The nametags are \$5 a piece and the name plates were \$16 a piece for a total of \$317 plus taxes. The Commission used the State of Nebraska web development team, so the branding and overall aesthetic is inline with the Nebraska Brand Book and makes it clear that the Asian American Affairs Commission is a State Agency. Discussion regarding the Google Drive for exchanging photos and videos from events that Commissioners attend as there is a limit with state email addresses on how large the attached files can be when emailing. The Google Drive folder is set up for Commissioners to upload photos to files of events and Ms. Gotsdiner can go through and send the photos to the web team for upload to the website. She asked that all Commissioners supply a summary of the events they attend so that they can be added to the photos on the events page of the website.

Planning for the next several months was discussed and determined that using the US Census Bureau definition of Asian American and their data from the 2020 Census an internal map, with the hope to be interactive on the webpage as a resource, will be created. The map will show the State of Nebraska with each of the 93 counties and the percentage of Asian Americans in each county. There will be hyperlinks for each county that list out the Asian American organizations or groups associated with that county. It is understood that the US Census data is individuals self-reporting as Asian American as does not include populations of international students so when the

map is distributed prior to the next full Commissioner meeting, Commissioners are strongly encouraged to go through their county to help provide additional data or insight. Commissioner Dun stated that he would like to go county by county to reach out to the Asian American organizations on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Jiang provided an update about the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Asian Cultural Week at Creighton University in April. Several Commissioners have been invited to present, and Ms. Gotsdiner will also be speaking at the opening of the event. Commissioners are encouraged to attend, and discussion was had regarding logistics as there were concerns about having a quorum present at the Cultural Week and the Public Meetings Act. Commissioner Jiang also brought up the potential for the Commission to be one of the sponsors for that event. Ms. Gotsdiner is going to check in with the State Attorney General office to see about being able to sponsor and provide the update at the next Commissioner meeting. A reminder about the Lincoln Cultural Center's AAPI event happening in May with details to follow as provided by Commissioner Reinhardt as those become available.

Additional announcements included the Diwali Celebration at the Governor's Mansion, request to seek updates on the Governor's trade mission and delegation mission to Vietnam, the Dust Child author Nguyen Phan Que Mai's visit and talk in Lincoln, and the Circle Theater production of MomoTaro in Omaha and Scottsbluff that was also part of partnering with Sister Cities.

Ms. Gotsdiner reminded Commissioners that the legislative session starts January 7<sup>th</sup> and that it is a short session. She is working to set up individual meetings with all 49 state senators. Commissioners Wang and Dun offered to help broker a meeting with Senator Rita Sanders and Commissioner Dun also offered to coordinate a meeting with Governor Pillen's office to update him on the Commission and to introduce Ms. Gotsdiner.

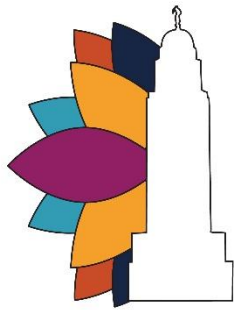
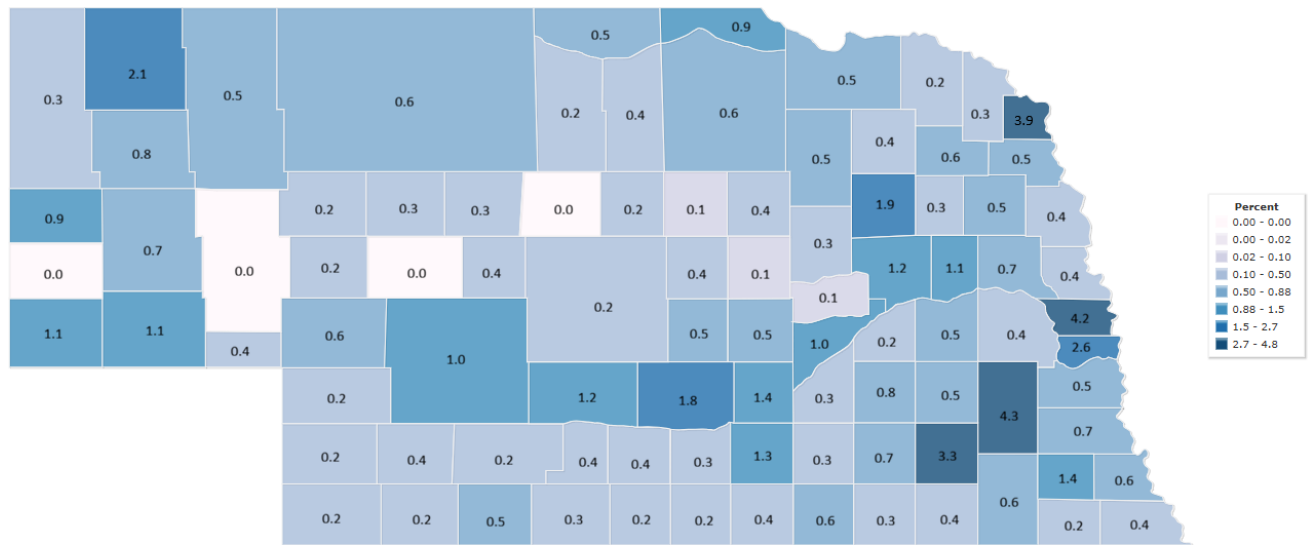
Public comments came from Lorraine Chang who was attending both as an individual and as an executive board member of NAPALA, the Nebraska Asian Pacific American Leadership Alliance, to see how they can work together with the Commission.

Motion to adjourn made at 5:02pm by Commissioner Wang and seconded by Commissioner Jiang. All present approved.

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Secretary Maureen Brase

Commissioner



# CAAAN

Commission on Asian American Affairs Nebraska