



MIADC Newsletter

Summer 2007

P. O. Box 476, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303

Dear Members:

I am glad to inform you that this year, instead of one, MIADC has selected two candidates for the political internship program. After completion of the program, each candidate will be awarded a stipend of \$750. Please read more about the program in this newsletter.

MIADC is continuing to be a resource to our community on issue of immigration. We have taken up the recent issues of immigration not only for our community but for Michigan Asian Pacific communities also. We are continuing to help our community members on visa issues as well.

The Presidential election campaign for 2008 is already in full swing. MIADC members have already started working on fund raising for the candidates they support. 2007-08 will be challenging years and we are determined to have victory for Democrats at all levels.

Best wishes for a wonderful summer season.

Sincerely,



Ramesh Verma, Chair

New Member Welcome

**Vijay Rajappa Akkaraju
Kumar Bhatt
K. Cheeramvelil
Manohar Rao
Shreeja Vasanthakumari**

Election of New Board

Election committee comprising of members Mukesh Bhargava and Gopi Nair conducted elections at the general body meeting of January 7. Following members were elected to the new board for the 07-08 two-year term.

Executive Board

Chair: Ramesh Verma
Vice Chair: Jayashree Kommareddi
Treasurer: Swarn Rajpal
Secretary: Mahendra Kenkre

Board Members at Large

Ratna Rao
Tej Jhamb
Sheetal Patel
Rasesh Desai
Yash Malhotra
Kudur Murali
Bobby Mukkamala
Chathapuram Ramanathan

Bring your family and friends to the MIADC booth at India Day

Sunday, August 12, 2007, Time : 12:00 – 2:00 PM

Location : Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River, Novi, MI 48374

Admission to the event is FREE

Several elected officials will be attending the morning parade and will be visiting the booth from 12:00-2:00PM

Summer '07 Internship

The second year of summer internship program elicited a strong response from applicants. The internship program for undergraduate and graduate students is designed to encourage Indo-American youth to participate in the political process. Among other things, the internship provides the student an opportunity to learn first hand how government works and to identify issues of concern to the Asian American community. Following members served on the internship committee: Mukesh Bhargava, Jayashree Kommareddi and Ratna Rao.

The following two candidates are recipients of the Summer '07 internship.

- Haritha Reddy, a Sophomore in Physiology at MSU is working in the office of state Rep. Kathy Angerer, chair of Michigan House Health Policy Committee.
- Samira Ahmed, a Junior in Political Science at UM, is working in the office of state senator, Deb Cherry, vice-chair of Michigan House Appropriations Committee.

Please stop by the MIADC booth at India Day and meet with our interns.



Jeff-Jack Dinner Presidential candidate and former U.S. Senator John Edwards delivered the keynote address at the Michigan Democratic Party's annual Jefferson-Jackson dinner on April 21, 2007 at the Cobo Center in Detroit.

MIADC members in attendance were Rasesh Desai, Tej Jhamb, Jayashree Kommareddi, Mahendra Kenkre, Shama Kenkre, Swarn Rajpal, Anita Rajpal, Ratna Rao, Ramesh Verma and Usha Verma.

Asian Pacific Heritage Month Celebration

The fifth annual Asian Pacific Heritage Month was celebrated in Lansing on May 15. The event celebrates achievements, culture and contributions of Asian Pacific Americans to US and Michigan. MIADC co-sponsored the event with several other Indo-American organizations. H. Sook Wilkinson, chair of the Governor's Council for Asian Pacific American Affairs, delivered the keynote address. Several Indo-Americans attended the event, and took the opportunity to meet the legislators. MAIDC members in attendance were Ramesh Verma, Jayashree Kommareddi, Ram Ramanathan, Pravina Ramanathan and Tej Jhamb.



The event took a special significance for MIADC when Governor Granholm announced that Jayashree Kommareddi has been nominated Vice-Chair of Governor's Council for Asian Pacific American Affairs.

Several MIADC members, Ramesh Verma, Dr. Anand Prasad, Samir Singh and newly appointed Dr. Bhimsen Rao, serve on the council.

Seminar on Ageing and Long Term Care

MIADC co-sponsored a seminar on health care for seniors on Sunday, May 20. The seminar was conducted at Chinmaya Tapovan in Flint.



The issue of ageing and long term care is very relevant to many Indo-Americans who are facing the prospect of the need to plan for it in the near future. There are also many others with ageing parents in need of immediate care.



- Neera Trivedi, a trustee of Chinmaya Seva Samiti welcomed the gathering.
- Jayashree Kommareddi made opening comments about the relevance of health care issues and needs of Indian community.
- Lea Mix, Eligibility Services Director from Valley Area Agency on Ageing discussed services available to the elderly.
- Asha Kulkarni, vice president of operational effectiveness at BCBS informed the audience about health care insurance options available to the elderly.
- Jane Church, specialist in the office of long-term care at Michigan Department of Community Health emphasized the need for planning and provided information on resources available for help in planning.
- Sumita Nagpal, an attorney at Shedd, Frasier and Grossman, PLLC explained how to make a durable power of attorney for health care.
- Aruna Ruwala provided information on Zen Home Health Care services.

The seminar was attended by a large number of Indo-Americans. Bobby Mukkamala facilitated the question answer session and Neelam Puri conducted a survey of attendees. Bobby and Neelam are respectively chair and vice-chair of the Genesee County Chapter of MIADC.

Need Volunteers at MIADC Booth on India Day

Need volunteers at MIADC booth from 2:00 – 6:00 PM on Sunday, August 12. India Day every year attracts large crowd and many people visit MIADC booth, including State Reps, US Congressmen and Democratic Party officials. Contact vermaramesh@hotmail.com or jkommareddi@yahoo.com with preferred time to volunteer. No prior experience needed.

Place: Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River, Novi, MI 48374

Getting Involved Jayashree Kommareddi and Bobby Mukkamala attended the Barak Obama fundraiser in Detroit on May 7. Jayashree was event co-chair and member of the host committee.

People in the News

- Dr. Swarn Rajpal elected first vice-chair of the 9th Congressional District.
- Sunny Dhrooh elected vice-chair of the 3rd Congressional District.
- Dr. Bhimsen Rao appointed to Governor's Council for Asian Pacific American Affairs.
- Ramesh Verma appointed by Novi City Mayor as Trustee of Novi Public Library



Asian Pacific American Heritage Award

On June 15, at a ceremony in Grand Rapids, Michigan House Speaker Pro Tempore Michael Sak (D) presented Mr. Sunny Dhrooh with Asian Pacific American Heritage Award for his hard work and commitment to bring the Asian Pacific and American communities together.

Farmington Hills Club invites Indo-Americans

Gerald Goldberg, the chair of Farmington Hills Democratic Club, has extended invitation to Indo-Americans from the area to join the club at the monthly meetings.

If interested, contact mkenkre@gmail.com

State Democratic Party Convention, Cobo Hall, Feb 24

MIADC held a meeting during the state convention in February. Following Committees were formed.

- By-Laws: Swarn Rajpal, Yash Malhotra, Tej Jhamb
- Membership: Jayashree Kommareddi, Kumar Bhatt, Victor Naidu, Pravina Ramanathan, Ratna Rao
- Website: Mahendra Kenkre

Several guests visited the caucus. Frank Houston from Blue Tiger Democrats talked about the tangible community projects the group sponsors and the need to continue to work the year around and not just around election time. John Austin, VP of State Board of Education, talked about importance of diversity in economic prosperity, global engagement and understanding cultures.

Following visitors also addressed the meeting - Hoon-Yung Hopgood (Michigan Rep. District 22), Nancy Skinner (candidate from the 9th congressional district in '06) and Mr. Tom Athans, representing Senator Debbie Stabenow. Mr. Athans is spouse of Senator Stabenow.

Editor's Note : Your comments are welcome. Please email your comments to mahendra_kenkre@hotmail.com