

80-20 NW Ohio: Asian American Voice

http://www.80-20initiative.net/about/chapters_oh.asp

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1. 80-20 NW Ohio Chapter and its Mission

The 80-20 Northwest Ohio Chapter was founded in the beginning of 2009. The mission of this organization is the same as that of its parent (national) organization, 80-20 Initiative (<http://www.80-20initiative.net/>), which is to win equal justice and opportunity for all Asian Pacific Americans (APAs). In addition, 80-20 NW OHIO engages in political action at the State and local levels, seeking to remove any political and institutional barriers that prevent APAs in Northwest Ohio from receiving and enjoying the full justice and equality to which all Americans are entitled (see the by-laws of the chapter http://www.80-20initiative.net/about/chapters_oh_bylaws.pdf)

2. Chapter Board, Officers, and Community Leaders

According to the by-laws, the chapter has four board directors plus the chapter president (Drs. Gene Chang, Joe Chao, Guang-zhong Chen, Kit Chan, and Yueh-Ting Lee as President).



Above is a picture of most of the chapter officers and board directors and community leaders.

The Chapter's Officers include: Yueh-Ting Lee (President), Canchu Lin (Vice President), Wayne Zhang (General Secretary), Robert Zhang and Dennis Wang (budget officers or treasurers). The Chapter also includes Jiquan Chen (Program and Membership Chair) and Larry Y. Chan and Fan Zhang (as our legal counsel).

3. Forum on Asian American Immigration and Equal Justice

On April 11, our forum had three distinguished speakers: Larry Y. Chan, Associate General Counsel, Bowling Green State University; Dr. Morris Jenkins, Associate Professor, The University of Toledo; Fan Zhang, Esq., The Law Firm of Wagoner & Steinberg, Ltd. (Below is a picture of those speakers from left to right).



In the forum held at the University of Toledo, they discussed Asian American immigration, equal opportunities and civil rights. It was well received and covered (see the media coverage here http://www.80-20initiative.net/about/chapters_oh.asp and <http://www.80-20initiative.net/success/oh20090412blade.pdf>). We thank Dr. Jiquan Chen, Dr. Canchu Lin and other community leaders for their support and organization.

4. Engaging Five Mayoral Candidates in Toledo, OH

Since March 2009, our chapter board directors, officers and community leaders have engaged five mayoral candidates—Keith Wilkowski (D), Ben Konop (D), Jim Moody (R), Mike Bell (I), and D. Mike Collins (I), for discussion on issues of interest to our community. A written copy of the questionnaire was sent to each of them. Here are some of the sample yes/no questions:

“If you are elected to be a Toledo mayor, will you enhance and promote Asian American cultural programs within 18 months? If elected, will you appoint at least ONE Asian American on your strategic or think-tank team? If elected, will you hire Asian Americans who will directly report to you or consider giving fair contract bids to Asian American businesses? If elected, will you promote Asian American employees to the administrative or managerial levels proportionately similar to white women and other minorities? If elected, will you take specific actions to protect Asian American equal justice and rights (including fighting against discrimination or racism against Asian Americans)?”



Above is a picture of our board directors and officers/community leaders meeting with one of the five candidates.

All of the five candidates replied with their answers. Based on their answers,

we will continue to engage them in further discussion.

5. Annual Picnic and Social among Family Members and Friends

We had around 90 people (old and young) who participated in the annual picnic on August 15, 2009 at the Toledo Wildwood park (see the pictures below). Most attendees were our chapter members who attended along with their family members and chapter friends. Overall, the annual picnic was well received, with many guests having potential to become future members.

Chen and Kit Chan for their great efforts and good work. Thanks also go out to Board Directors Gene Chang and Joe Chao for their participation on that day. We also thank our member Dr. Shanhe Jiang and the Chinese Association of Greater Toledo for loaning their tents and tables to us. Finally and most importantly, we thank our national headquarters office for their financial support for this picnic.



Thanks are extended to our event planning committee, Wayne Zhang, Canchu Lin, Guangzhong Chen, Jiquan

6. Other News and Reports

Participation in National House Parties

In the end of May, our NW Ohio Chapter participated in a national house party initiative via tele-conference among other Asian American house parties in North America. Our thanks are extended to Wayne Zhang, Canchu Lin, Joe Chao and Guangzhong

Chen for organizing the local house party as part of the national tele-conference.

Chapter Status, Budget, and Welcome New Members

By the end of August, 2009, we have had approximately 60 members and

friends altogether. Please help to recruit more members and friends to our chapter. All of our membership fees are sent to our chapter. Dr. Lee and Dr. Ruth Miller have helped to register our chapter with the Secretary of the State in Ohio and also opened a bank account.

Our chapter budget in 2009-2010 was approved by the board of directors. It is open to all members for review and comments if you are interested.

The chapter board also approved our local dues (i.e., \$1 for each member on the top of national membership). Any donation is appreciated. Also please encourage your friends to join the chapter. We would like to welcome our most recent and newest members (Mr. C.

Sun and Mrs. Sun, Drs. G. Liu and Mrs. C. Liu, and Ms. Litza Lee) in Toledo who just joined 80-20. Welcome!

Election Committee

According to our by-laws, we will elect a new President, Vice President and other Officers in November. We will also be forming an election committee. Those who will not run for officer positions are encouraged to serve on this committee. Three members will be needed as volunteers. Please send your name to Dr. Lee (liyueting@yahoo.com or 419-297-2255) within a few weeks if you are interested in serving on this committee.

Thank you.

Quote for this Issue

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead American anthropologist (1901 - 1978)

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Thanks are extended to Wayne Zhang, Larry Yee Chan, Victoria Csomos and Chad Paben for their professional help in this newsletter. Dr. Lee, Editor of this newsletter takes full responsibility for any errors or inaccuracies. Please feel free to email your accomplishments, good news and/or suggestions to us (Dr. Lee: Liuyeting@yahoo.com). Thank you!