



Taiwanese Association of America-Minnesota Chapter

since 1966

明州台灣同鄉會

August 31, 2019

Dear members (and prospective members),

August is the month for our leadership transition. As the departing president, I am writing to thank you for being a member of our association. We are a member-based, self-governing organization. We elect our officials within our membership every year. We also provide members special benefits in our events. More importantly, every one of you represents an additional individual or a household that supports the Taiwanese and Taiwanese-American community in Minnesota that we all belong to and strive to serve.

Given the democratic and self-governing nature of our organization, I like to provide a summary report to our members covering the 2018-2019 term. This report documents our major events and provides an overview of the finances. All of you have contributed to our association, through membership dues, participation in our events, or even volunteering with your time and expertise. I am grateful to have the opportunity to work with all of you and serve this wonderful family over the last year.

I am hoping that this report can provide an overview of what we together have achieved in the previous year, and what we are still working towards. I also hope this report will encourage you to continue your involvement with our association. With the strong support that our organization enjoys, I look forward to continue being a part of the vibrant Taiwanese and Taiwanese American community in Minnesota for years to come.

Sincerely,

Aspen Chen
President, 2018-2019



Note: This version of the report has removed the financial summary.

A review of events during the 2018-2019 term

Voices from Taiwan – A Formosa Singers Concert

Dates: September, 6, 2018 – September, 8, 2018

[Photo album/Videos](#)

Thanks to the year-long planning under the leadership of our former presidents Kuang-Sheng and Jerry, the Formosa Singers, the renown Taiwanese choir group, made the Twin Cities the first stop of their 2018 North American Tour.

During the group's three-day visit, more than a dozen of families in our community volunteered to host choir members in their homes. Even more donated and volunteered to facilitate the visit. From the airport pickup on September 6 to the city tour on September 7, the volunteers showed the hospitality of our community.

The group performed on September 8 at the Roseville Lutheran Church. With more than a hundred guests in attendance, the two-hour performance featured a wide array of songs showcasing the rich and diverse heritage of Taiwanese culture. After the performance, the choir group departed for their next stop of their North American tour.



The 2018 Mid-Autumn Festival and Welcome Celebration

Date: October 6, 2018

[Photo album](#)

The 2018 Mid-Autumn Festival and Welcome Celebration was hosted in the afternoon of October 6 at the Saint Paul Student Center of the University of Minnesota. Approximately 70 members of our community attended this event.

The first half of the event took place in the student theater. We welcomed both old and new members of our community. Four short films produced by Taiwanese or Taiwanese-American were screened. Thanks to our vice-president Yang Fang, one of the directors, Mr. Hai-Yao Liang even appeared on stage to answer questions. Local groups in our community also introduces themselves during the session.

After the session in the student theater, attendees gathered in the adjacent lounge to enjoy tea, moon cakes and other snacks in the company of one another.

One worth noting addition this time was the child care area. We set aside a room and recruited young people in our community to help care for children so that adults could enjoy the session in the theater.



The 2019 Lunar New Year Celebration

Date: January 26, 2019

[Photo Album](#)

The 2019 Taiwanese Lunar New Year Celebration was held in the afternoon and evening of January 26. Approximately 270 individuals participated the event at the Saint Paul Student Center of the University of Minnesota.

As usual, the TECO Chicago office offered mobile consular service in the early afternoon. Kicking off with a lion dance from the Taiwanese Student Association, the main program featured a series of performance and activities on stage. In the meanwhile, craft and game stations were open to adults and kids alike. Particularly worth noting is the popular dough craft station hosted by the Twin Cities Chinese Language School.

We continued to use this annual gathering to honor accomplished youth in our community. This year, the academic award of the Elaine Liu Memorial Scholarship went to Yueh-Hsun (Walter) Wu, a graduate student in psychology at the University of Minnesota; an honorable mention was exceptionally directed to Jessica Chao, a second-year undergraduate student at the University of Minnesota. Recipients of the Youth Awards included Mya Mai-Hwa Hillerud of Eagan High School (Community Service Award) and Benjamin Liou of Wayzata High School (Academic Award).



The 2019 International Folk Festival at Eau Claire

Date: April 6, 2019

Thanks to the recommendation of our Wisconsin member Shu Cheng, we participated this one-day multicultural celebration at Eau Claire for the first time. The nature of our participation this time was mostly exploratory and experimental, meant to better understand the event.

Eight volunteers traveled from the Twin Cities to Eau Claire on this Saturday morning and set up the Taiwanese area in the Davies Student Center of University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire.

Our area featured artwork depicting Taiwanese scenery drawn by our long-term member Hsiu-Fang (Susan) Liu. We also offered games and calligraphy activities. In addition, our volunteers made and sold potstickers and boba tea throughout the afternoon.

Although the weather was far from ideal, the event had many visitors. Our volunteers generally viewed this event positively for the organization. In addition to the revenue brought about during the event, this was also a good opportunity for us to extend our reach of promoting Taiwan beyond the Twin Cities area. We look forward to having the opportunity to join the festival again next year.



The 2019 Festival of Nations

Dates: May 2, 2019 – May 5, 2019

The Festival of Nations has long been our most important event of the year. This four-day multicultural events provides a valuable occasion to reach tens of thousands of visitors and showcase Taiwanese culture and identity. This undertaking requires a tremendous amount of planning, resources, and volunteers from all across our community. This year, approximately 100 of volunteers filled the 200 or so shifts for our Bazaar, Cafe, and Cultural Exhibit booths.

As usual, all of our planning teams had spent months preparing for this major event. The Bazaar team procured an assorted list of “Made in Taiwan” cultural artifacts that represent the many faces of Taiwanese culture; the Cafe team worked diligently to improve on its already popular menu, particularly with an exclusive recipe for the Taiwanese Burger. As for the Culture Exhibit, the double-booth featured an exhibition for the Heaven Emperor’s Birthday as well as the Lantern Festival, both major community events during the Lunar New Year Celebration; the team leader, Tracy Lin, took the initiative to transport the very popular “Neon-techno Third Lotus Prince” costume from Chicago to elevate the exhibit further.

In the end, the entire festival brought in over 50,000 visitors. Our Bazaar and Cafe booths both reached revenue levels similar or even higher than last year.

The creativity and quality of our culture exhibit has long been recognized at the festival. Although the news was delayed for months, the festival eventually announced in August that our culture exhibit won both the student and public vote contests.



The 2019 Taiwanese Heritage Week

Dates: April 30, 2019 - May 4, 2019

Every year, the Taiwanese government sends two Taiwanese performance groups to North America to promote and celebrate the Taiwanese Heritage Week. Our organization has long hosted the first stop of one of the groups and helped make arrangements for their performance. This year, we did not arrange the performance at the Festival of Nations due to their particular technical requirements. The visiting group that we hosted in Minnesota was the Shinergy Puppet Show, a leader in integrating traditional Taiwanese glove puppetry with modern lighting and sound effects.

After arriving early in the week for adjustment and a one-day city tour, the puppetry group moved to the SteppingStone Theatre in Saint Paul on May 3 for their performance day. The preparation began in the morning; the performance group installed the stage and tested the equipment. At six o'clock in the evening, members of the Taiwanese or Taiwanese-American community as well as guests from nearby areas started to arrive at the theater. In the end, close to two hundred people attended the performance. In addition to their main show, the puppetry group also held an interactive session with the audience to introduce some Taiwanese puppetry traditions.



The 2019 Summer BBQ Picnic

Date: Jun 23, 2019

The 2019 summer BBQ picnic of the association was hosted on June 23, 2019 at the Highland Park Pavilion in Saint Paul. This regular annual event is meant both for a summer community gathering as well as to show appreciation to volunteers at the Festival of Nations. As usual, we prepared BBQ fare and various cold items such as pickled cabbage, fruit, shaved ice, mung bean soup and more. We also prepared games and other recreational items so adults and kids alike could all enjoy the outing.

About a hundred community members attended the gathering. Surprisingly, several of our participants traveled hours to join us. Although rain had been in the forecast, the weather was mostly nice and comfortable. We were really happy to see old and new friends at the event and enjoy the time together.



A Dinner and Forum with Chen Chu

Dates: 7/17-7/20

[Photo Album](#)/[video](#)

The current Secretary-General to the President of Taiwan, Chen Chu, led a governmental delegation to visit Minnesota in mid-July. In response to their request for exchanging with members of the local Taiwanese and Taiwanese-American community, our organization assisted with hosting and organizing programs for the visit.

The visit included a sit-down lunch with Taiwanese affiliated with the University of Minnesota. It also included two informal gatherings. In addition, the delegation visited a few attractions in the Twin Cities area, most notably the State Capitol.

In the evening of July 19th, a forum with catered dinner was hosted at the Macalester College. More than a hundred community members attended. Close to two dozen generous members also donated to help secure discounted fares for students. The delegation offered their take on political and economic issues of Taiwan, and publicly addressed questions from members of the community.

