

NEVADA FIL-AMS REPRESENTED AS APAICS LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT OPENS IN WASHINGTON

BY Jo Hann Sayson

WASHINGTON — The 2026 APAICS Legislative Leadership Summit opens today in the nation's capital, bringing together nonprofit executives, corporate partners, policy experts, and elected officials for two days of discussions on issues shaping Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander communities across the country.

Hosted by the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies, the summit focuses on policy trends, demographic shifts, economic mobility, immigration, health equity, and the growing political influence of AANHPI communities.

Panels throughout the day are examining the need for culturally competent services, equitable resource allocation, and stronger representation in government and media.

This year, the Asian Community Development Council (ACDC) and One APIA Nevada are ensuring Nevada has a strong presence in these national conversations. Through their civic-leadership initiative, the EducAsian program, the organizations have brought a cohort of Nevada's AANHPI business and community leaders to Washington, D.C., to participate in the summit. The delegation reflects the state's rapidly expanding Asian American population and the increasing importance of preparing community advocates for public-service pathways.

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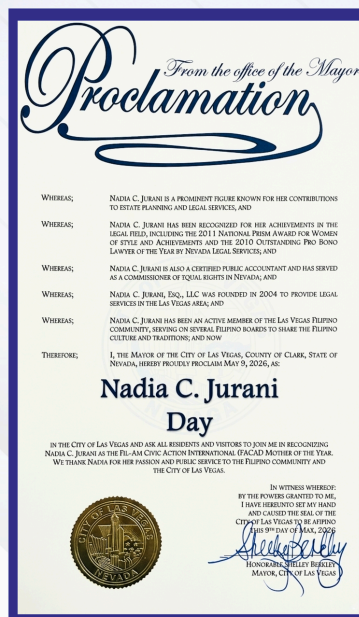
Dr. Michael Sta. Juana (NaFFAA-NV), Eric Lachica (NaFFAA), John Victoria (ACE NextGen DC), Edelweiss Solano (ACDC and NaFFAA), Johann Sayson (PHLV Radio)



CELEBRATING EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

ATTY. NADIA JURANI

Atty. Nadia Catarata Jurani's unwavering commitment to excellence has earned her the prestigious Outstanding Mother of the Year award from Fil-Am Civic Action International (FACAI), highlighting the exceptional leadership and talent thriving within her community. She was also honored with a proclamation by the Honorable City Mayor of Las Vegas, declaring May 9 as Atty. Nadia C Jurani Day. Representing NaFFAA-NV were Olympia Ramones, Board Director; Asela Engel, and Engr. Romeo Jurani, accompanied by Bernie Benito Advisory Board and members Judge Bill Henderson and May Ann Henderson.



Official Mayoral Proclamation



The 'Mother of the Year' Award

NEVADA NURSES SHINED BRIGHT AT ANNUAL PNA GALA



The Philippine Nurses Association of Nevada honored the invaluable contributions of nursing professionals at a gala spearheaded by NaFFAA-NV Board Director Emer Sambo, who also serves as PNA president, highlighting their tireless efforts to drive meaningful impact. Keynote speaker Governor Joe Lombardo underscored the profound difference dedicated healthcare professionals can make. Representing NaFFAA-NV were Dr. Michael StaJuana, Jacqueline Peralta de Joya, Art de Joya, Doris Bauer, Katrina Ojeda, Judge Bill Henderson, and May Ann Henderson, Benedick Gonzales, Wilma Gonzales, and Margarita Van Damme alongside DMR President Sally Balecha, Ruby Scaglione, and skillfully emceed by NaFFAA-NV media Director Jo Hann Sayson.



NAVIGATING THE PRESENT, SHAPING THE FUTURE

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Lourdes MITRA ESCLAMADO

MAY 13, 2026

It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of **Lourdes Mitra Esclamado** on May 13, 2026.

While our hearts mourn this tremendous loss, we also find peace and hope knowing she is now reunited with her beloved husband, Alex Esclamado, and her departed brothers and sisters.

Lourdes Esclamado may not always have been in the spotlight, but her quiet strength, unwavering support, and selfless dedication were instrumental in the formation of NaFFAA.

During the early years and preformation of NaFFAA, she traveled alongside Alex across the country, helping engage community leaders and build the foundation of what would become a national movement for Filipino Americans.

Her contributions, though often behind the scenes, helped shape generations of advocacy, unity, and service within our community. Her legacy lives on through the countless lives touched by the work she helped nurture and sustain.

We extend our heartfelt condolences, prayers, and love to the Esclamado family and all who knew and loved her.

NaFFAA is coordinating with the family, and further details will be shared as they become available.

May she rest in eternal peace and everlasting light.



A Night of Music and Gratitude: Nevada Chorale's Successful Concert Benefit

Bravo to the NaFFAA 'Nevada Chorale for their outstanding performance at the Salamat Inay Concert on May 8 at Uncles Tapa, which not only dazzled the audience but also raised nearly \$2000 to support the group's vital needs, a testament to their dedication and artistry under the visionary leadership of Joseph Cruz, Chair of the Arts & Culture Committee and Chorale Director, alongside Ledda Gonzales - Vinzons.

The concert featured an impressive lineup of talented performers, including Patrick Nadal, Elaine Valdez, Eric Ecleo, Roro Lindo, Nate Gonzalvo, Marlie Haskell, Sadiri Guillermo, Gigi Redondo, Salvie Celeste Van Dyck, Joel Carlos, Christine Buenavista, Joselyn Soble, Sharill Ronquillo, Dr. Michael StaJuana, Shirley Gianan, Wilma Gonzalez, Benedict Gonzalez, Marc Ronquillo, Doris Gomez, Rowena Duran, Evan Ranes, Robert Ramiro, Marie Jane Cutshall, and Margarita Van Damme.

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Within this cohort, Filipino Americans — the largest Asian community in Nevada — are represented by PHLV Radio CEO Johann Sayson and NaFFAA Nevada President Michael Sta. Juana. Both leaders are participating in sessions centered on civic engagement, grassroots organizing, and the role of ethnic media in strengthening community participation.

Their presence highlights the growing visibility and influence of Filipino Americans in Nevada, where the community plays a significant role in healthcare, small business, media, and civic life. The Nevada delegation is expected to elevate the needs and priorities of Filipino and broader AANHPI communities as national policy discussions continue throughout the summit.

SAVE THE DATE



128TH PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY *Gala*

*Many Voices, One Community,
One Celebration*

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2026 - 6 P.M.

 MARDI GRAS BALLROOM -
ORLEANS HOTEL

Attire:
FILIPINIANA OR FORMAL ATTIRE

Prepaid Donation per Person:
\$100.00

Zelle Payments to: **Payments@Naffaanv.org**
On or Before May 15, 2026

For details, please email:

Dr. Michael Sta. Juana
Naffaanvpresident@gmail.com

Gloria T. Caoile
gloriacaoile@gmail.com

For sponsorship opportunity, please email:

Anna Ladao
anna.ladao@naffaanv.org

Jacque de Joya
jacque.dejoya@naffaanv.org



FIESTA *Filipino*

**"IBA'T IBANG TINIG,
ISANG KOMUNIDAD
AT ISANG PAGDIRIWANG"**

Many Voices, One Community, One Celebration

OCTOBER

SATURDAY

03

9 AM TO 9 PM

 THE M RESORT SPA CASINO
SOUTH PARKING LOT

FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

- DR. MICHAEL STAJUANA - 725-321-4648
- GLORIA CAOILE - 202-257-4314
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- CYNTHIA DERIQUITO - BUSINESS VENDORS - 702-338-8570
- EDEN GALIDO - VOLUNTEERS - 424-522-4995

EDITORIAL TEAM

Dr. Michael Stajuana
Gloria Caoile
Marylaine Louise Viernes
Johann Sayson
Liesel Trinidad Jacobsen
Sol Llasos



M E M B E R S

*Extending a Sincere
and Uplifting Welcome to...*

NEW NAFFAA-NV MEMBERS

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Jennifer Schwartz | 6. May Ann Henderson |
| 2. Dr. Ruthsel Rodriguez | 7. Evelyn Henderson |
| 3. Hedeliza Iseda | 8. Ralph Henderson |
| 4. Robert Kurth | 9. Chris Brennan |
| 5. Judge Bill Henderson | 10. Geraldine Brennan |

NEW ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBER



UPLIFT FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL/CAREPRO
Dr. Vi-Anne Cadianza Calipusan and Alexis Calipusan

For membership, kindly scan:



On the spotlight

CYNTHIA LANDEROS

NaFFAA Treasurer



Cynthia's commitment to preserving Filipino culture and traditions remains evident through her active participation in community celebrations and cultural events. One notable example was her involvement in the Fiesta Filipino Reyna Elena celebration held on October 3, 2025, where she continued to promote Filipino heritage and unity among Filipino-Americans.

Known as a woman of indomitable spirit, Cynthia Landeros embodies the true meaning of perseverance and service. Her journey from a small town in Pangasinan to becoming a respected entrepreneur and community leader in America is a powerful testimony that dreams can be achieved through hard work, faith, and determination.

Today, Cynthia continues to inspire many aspiring entrepreneurs, immigrants, and community leaders. She remains optimistic that through God's blessings, perseverance, and dedication, she will continue to grow her business while extending meaningful services and outreach programs to those in need. Her story is not only one of success, but also one of compassion, humility, and a lifelong commitment to helping others rise alongside her.



Cynthia Landeros: Building Success While Uplifting Others

By: Sam Azurel

Born in the humble town of Ballana, Pangaissan in the Philippines, Cynthia Landeros has become a shining example of perseverance, leadership, and compassion. The length of her children, Cynthia grew up understanding the value of hard work, sacrifices, and determination. Today, she is recognized not only as a successful entrepreneur, but also as a respected community leader and philanthropist, whose life story continues to inspire many people both in the Filipino American community and beyond.

Married to Julio Landeros and blessed with two daughters, Christina, Cynthia's journey toward success was bathed in perseverance and resilience. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Concordia College in 1986. Shortly after graduation, she began her professional career at Pasay City Hall in the Philippines. Although she already had a stable career, Cynthia dreamed of creating a better future for herself and her family.

Driven by hope and ambition, Cynthia migrated to the United States and settled in New Jersey. Like many immigrants, her journey was far from easy. Despite having a college degree and professional experience, she received humble pay as a nanny in three American homes and later as a caregiver to a 90-year-old man. Rather than seeing these experiences as setbacks, Cynthia embraced them as stepping stones toward a brighter future.



Cynthia Landeros

After two years in New Jersey, Cynthia moved to Las Vegas in search of greater opportunities that would allow her to utilize her accounting background. Her determination eventually paid off when she was hired as a Junior Accountant at a Mexican restaurant. Eager to learn professionally, Cynthia immersed herself in every aspect of the business. She expanded her expertise for beyond accounting and bookkeeping, learning her preparation, business in contract, legal documentation, and administrative management. Her willingness to learn and adapt became one of the defining qualities of her success.

Through hard work, discipline, and persistence, Cynthia became the builder of success and eventually became the Chief Finance Officer and Administrator of Valas Inc., a company that previously specialized in meal and mobile distribution and later expanded into the buying and selling of used cars and auto repair services. Her remarkable rise within the company demonstrated her ability to lead with integrity, efficiency, and dedication.

Never content with simply achieving personal success, Cynthia honed her entrepreneurial vision by establishing her new business, Trans Pacific Multi Services, in 2018. As President of the company, she has provided invaluable services including bookkeeping, tax preparation, and legal documentation assistance to countless individuals and businesses within the community. Through her company, Cynthia has become a trusted resource for many families and entrepreneurs seeking guidance and support.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Cynthia is widely admired for her unwavering commitment to community service. Despite managing multiple responsibilities, she consistently dedicates time and energy to helping others. Her passion for uplifting the Filipino-American community reflects her deeply compassionate nature and her genuine desire to make a difference.

In 2024, Cynthia launched the Cynthia Landeros Social Ladies Club (CLSLC), where she currently serves as Founder and President. Under her leadership, the organization has become a platform that promotes friendship, empowerment, cultural unity, and charitable outreach among women in the community. Cynthia believes that when women support



Fiesta Filipino Reyna Elena
Oct 3, 2025



one another; they create stronger families and stronger communities.

Her dedication to public service and leadership has also earned her important positions in respected organizations.

Cynthia currently serves as a Board Director of IAAN for the 2025–2026 term, while also holding the role of Treasurer for NaFFAA during the 2026–2027 term.

Prior to this, she served as NaFFAA Auditor for 2025–2025, where she demonstrated transparency, accountability, and professionalism.