



HMONG ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER

— A Non-Profit Organization Serving the Hmong Community of Washington —
Koom Haum Pab Hmoob Nyob Rau Lub Lav Washington

PO BOX 14492, SEATTLE, WA 98114 | www.hmongassociationofwa.org | www.myspace.com/hawhmong | February 2009

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **“HAW Community Meeting”**—Sunday, March 1, 2009, 5pm-7pm— at Our Lady of Mt. Virgin Church, 1531 Bradner Place South, Seattle, WA.
- **Koom Haum Hmoob Lub Rooj Sab Laj**—Lub Peb Hlis, Hnub 1, Xyoo 2009, 5pm-7pm, nyob tom Xib Hwb Ntsuab Pov Yaj lub Catholic Church.

HAW COMMUNITY MEETING

The Annual HAW Community Meeting will be held Sunday, March 1, 2009, 5pm-7pm, at Our Lady of Mt. Virgin Church, 1531 Bradner Place South, Seattle, WA.

Please attend because this is important to our community in electing new Board of Directors for our organization. Come and be a volunteer yourself.

We will also discuss major issues affecting our community.

If you cannot attend, please find someone who can attend on your behalf.

Please share this letter with your family and relatives.

YEE XIONG, PRESIDENT OF HAW:

This year, Hmong Association of Washington (HAW) is recruiting more volunteers to serve on the Board of Directors.

The current and active Board of Directors include Yee Xiong (President), Seng Vue (Vice-President), Pahoua Thao (Treasurer), Mary Thao (Director), Paul Ly (Director), Chou Vue (Director).

Directors who have stepped down are Xee Yang-Schell (previous President), Friendly Vang-Johnson (Secretary), and Susan Hang.

KOOM HAUM HMOOB ROOJ SAB LAJ

Lub Peb Hlis, Hnub 1, Xyoo 2009, 5pm-7pm, nyob tom Xib Hwb Ntsuab Pov Yaj lub Catholic Church, nyob hauv Seattle, WA.

Tseem ceeb heev koj tuaj koom peb lub rooj sab laj vim peb yuav xaiv thiab txais cov neeg koj Koom Haum mus rau ob xyoo tom ntej.

Peb yuav muaj sij hawm tham txog tej teeb meem nyob rau hauv peb Hmoob Seattle.

Yog koj tuaj tsis tau, thov nrhiav ib tug neeg tuaj them koj thiab koj tsev neeg.

Thov koj qhia rau koj cov kwv tij sawv daws txog peb lub rooj sab laj no.

YIS XYOOJ, THAWJ COJ KOOM HAUM HMOOB WASHINGTON:

Xyoo 2009, koom haum Hmoob Washington yuav rov qab xaiv neeg tshiab los khiav lub koom haum.

Cov koj koom haum ob xyoo tag los yog: Yis Xyooj, XeeMxais Vwj, Paj Huab Thoj, Mary Thoj, Paul Lis, Tshaus Vwj.

Cov koj koom haum tau tso tes hauj lwm yog Xis Yaj, Friendly Vaj, Susan Haam.

Kev cai koom haum hais tias yuav tsum muaj xya (7) tus neeg tuam lub koom haum thiab li mus tau. Tam sim no muaj rau (6) leej xwb. Yuav tsum tau ib tug ntxiv.

HAW by-laws require a minimum of three (7) Directors, . Right now, there are only six (6) Directors, and we need at least one more.

Hmong Association of Washington is important to the Hmong community of Washington. HAW has served this community since 1983 and is looking for ways to better serve the needs of our people.

HAW has an annual operating budget of \$10,000 to \$15,000, which focuses on

- (1) Seattle Hmong New Year
- (2) Hmong Graduation
- (3) Educational and Cultural needs

Some of you may think that HAW is not important and has done nothing important for the community. In fact, it is the most recognized Hmong organization in Washington. The organization can only do as much as there are volunteers to help.

I would like to address **two issues that are of great concern** to me, as President of HAW.

The first issue is that our Hmong community in Washington do not know how to organize, making it difficult for anyone or any organization to gather support for important issues related to our people. These are issues which require multi-clan involvement.

I would like to hear from anyone who has ideas on how we can improve the communication within our community so that we can respond better to larger issues affecting our greater community.

One pressing issue that deserves immediate attention is the Hmong Grave Desecration problem.

We have a **National Hmong Grave Desecration Committee** which is leading the efforts to establish a resolution based on mutual understanding between Thailand and the Hmong communities. The people on the committee are all volunteers who have a big heart to help the victims of this criminal act. They have spent their own time and money to help our community.

Now, they are seeking support, both financially and time. How does our community respond? Who will represent our community? How do we fairly select that person to represent our community? Is there a fair process in place whereby the chosen person will be able to garner the respect and support of each and everyone in our community? As far as I know, we do not know how to do this fairly because we do not have a process in place to handle this.

For a community to thrive, it needs this basic ability to organize and communicate and to come together. I plead to those of you who truly care about this community to come to this meeting and share your thoughts and give support to our community.

The second issue is that our Hmong community lacks people who are willing to take leadership roles in the community. I am not talking about the older people. I am talking about the younger people.

In the past, these roles were filled by the same people. They

Koom haum Hmoob Washington yeej yog ib lub koom haum tseem ceeb heev rau peb haiv neeg Hmoob nyob lub xeev Washington. Koom haum Hmoob Washington twb pab Hmoob txij 1983 los lawm thiab tseem muaj peev xwm nrhiav kes pab Hmoob lub neej mus tom ntej ntxiv.

Koom haum Hmoob siv nyiaj txiag khiav hauj lwm tag li \$10,000 mus rau \$15,000 nyiaj ib xyoos. Cov nyiaj txiag peb siv raws li no:

- (1) los pab khiav lub Hmoob Peb Caug nyob rau Seattle
- (2) nrhiav ib qhov chaw lom zem rau cov Hmoob kawm ntawv tiav
- (3) pab txoj kev kawm ntawv thiab kev kawm Hmoob txuj ci

Tej zaum koj kuj xav tias koom haum Hmoob Washington tsis muaj nci rau koj, los tsis tau ua ib yam dab tsi tseem ceeb rau Hmoob. Qhov tiag mas yog koom haum Hmoob Washington yog lub koom haum Hmoob muaj npe tshaj nyob Washington. Koom haum Hmoob yeej ua tau raws li cov neeg nqis tes los pab koom haum xwb.

Tam li kuv pom, peb Hmoob Washington muaj **ob yam teeb meem loj heev** ua rau peb Hmoob poob qab ntev los.

Teeb meem thiv ib hais txog peb Hmoob tsis muaj txoj kev los sab laj, los sib tham txog cov hauj lwm loj uas yuav tsum muaj 18 xeev Hmoob los sib tham.

Koom haum Hmoob xav hnov txog nej sawv daws, tus muaj tswv yim, los tus xav pom peb Hmoob txawj sib hlub mus tom ntej, kom tuaj koom peb lub rooj sab laj.

Ib qho hauj lwm loj ntawm peb haiv Hmoob yog qhov Thaib khawb Hmoob cov Ntxa nyob rau Thaib Teb.

Hmoob muaj ib lub Koom Haum nyob rau MesKas teb chaws los saib xyuas txoj hauj lwm no. Cov Hmoob khiav lub koom haum no mob siab kawg nkaus los pab peb Hmoob. Lawv siv lawm nyiaj thiab sij hawm los khiav txoj hauj lwm no kom tiav.

Txog lub caij lawv thov kom peb pab lawv. Peb haiv Hmoob nyob Washington yuav ua cas? Lub koom haum ntawv xav kom peb tsa ib tug neeg mus mloog txog cov hauj lwm ntawv. Nej twg yuav los txais txoj hauj lwm ntawv? Peb yuav ua cas xaiv tus neeg ntawv? Nej twg yuav tsa tes mus cev nyiaj rau lub koom haum ntawv? Tam li kuv paub, peb Hmoob nyob Washington tsis muaj txoj kev cai los xaiv tus neeg ntawv.

Yog peb xav kom peb haiv Hmoob zoo tuaj tom ntej, txawj nrog lwm haiv neeg sib xeev sib twv, peb yuav tsum muaj kev sib tham thiab sib koom siab. Kuv thov nej sawv daws, tus mob siab heev rau peb Hmoob lub neej, kom nej tuaj nrog peb tham tswv yim.

Teeb meem thiv ob hais txog peb Hmoob nyob Washington uas tsis muaj cov neeg xav los khiav hauj lwm rau Hmoob. Kuv tsis hais txog cov laus. Kuv hais txog cov hluas.

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were leaders in our community who started HAW, who helped establish the churches, who worked with the Mien and Khmu communities.

We are the same age as they were when they came here. Are we not ashamed that we cannot do more than what they could do when they were our age?

Did our parents fail in raising us up with an awareness of community involvement, or did we grow up and become drawn into the American culture? Do we feel helpless, or don't really care anymore?

I would like to hear from you. Tell us how we can learn to stand with other communities shoulder to shoulder.

Come and let your voices and concerns be heard. We want to find a solution to these issues to strengthen our community.

I understand that it is not easy to resolve these issues. We all need to work hand in hand together if we are to succeed. I also know that it will take time to get to where we want to be. When we finally learn to organize our community, we will finally realize the benefits of an organized community.

If you cannot come to the community meeting, then find someone who can come on you and your family's behalf. This is very important. By not coming or having a representative for you, you are in essence declaring that you either do not care about these issues or that you trust in our judgment on these issues.

There will be no excuses or complaining about why or how decisions are made. The community meetings are meant to be an open forum, inviting everyone to participate so that we can come to a solution.

If you did not receive this letter, it is because we do not have your contact information in our care.

Yav tag los, peb cov niam txiv twb txawj khiav tej hauj lwm no rau peb Hmoob. Lawv twb coj peb tuaj txog teb chaws vam meej. Lawv twb yog cov pib lub koom haum Hmoob Washington, pib cov Church, thiab pib koom haum Lao Highland Association.

Nej puas txaj muag tias nej niam thiab txiv thaum lawv tuaj Meskas lawv muaj hnoob nyoog tib yam li nej, es nej twb ua tsis tau npaum lawv ua. Puas tsim nyog lawv coj nej tua teb chaws vam meej?

Puas yog tias peb niam thiab txiv tsis txawj qhuab qhia peb cov hluas kom txawj hlob Hmoob? Los yog peb hlob tag es peb xav ua MesKas lawm?

Koom haum Hmoob xav hnov txog koj lo lus. Qhia peb seb peb Hmoob yuav ua li cas peb thiaj sawv tau nrog lwm haiv neeg sib txig.

Kuv pom tias txoj kev uas yuav kho kom peb Hmoob zoo tuaj tsis yooj yim. Sawv daws yuav tsum koom tes tiag tiag thiaj li tau. Kuv paub tias yuav siv sij hawm ntev thiab.

Yog koj tuaj tsis tau, los thov koj nrhiav ib tug neeg nws tuaj them koj, nws hais tau rau koj thiab koj tsev neeg. Qhov no tseem ceeb heev.

Yog tias koj tsis tua los koj tsis muaj tus neeg them koj, peb yuav xav tias tej hauj lwm no tsis tseem ceeb es koj cia siab rau peb ua lawm.

Yog peb Hmoob tuaj sab laj thiab hais tej hauj lwm no tiav lawm, sawv daws yuav tsum yuav li ntawv es tsis txhob cav tias zoo los tsis zoo.

Peb lub rooj sab laj yog ib lub rooj qhib rau sawv daws tuaj.

Yog peb tsab ntawv no tuaj tsis txog koj tsev neeg, yeej yog vim tias peb tsis muaj koj qhov chaw nyob los koj xov tooj.