



# 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](http://www.hmongassociationofwa.org) | [www.myspace.com/hawhmong](http://www.myspace.com/hawhmong) | January 2008

## HEADLINES

- 2007 Summary of Activities and Financials
- Hmong National Conference Essay Contest
- Hmong Youth Mobilization
- Hmong Grave Desecration Community Meeting

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **Iu-Mien New Year**—Saturday, February 2nd, 4pm to midnight— at Asian Resource Center, 1025 S. King Street, Seattle, WA 98104. Admission: donation.
- **HAW Annual Community Meeting**—Saturday, February 9th, 4pm-6pm, at Our Lady of Mt. Virgin Church, 1531 Bradner Place South, Seattle, WA 98144.
- **Hmong Grave Desecration Community Meeting**—Saturday, February 16th— 1pm-3pm. Guest speakers Vang Xiong and Vangtou Xiong, at Our Lady of Mt. Virgin Church, 1531 Bradner Place South, Seattle, WA 98144.
- **Valentine's Day Party**—Saturday, February 16th, 6pm. Hosted by Forever Band2, at Mt. Virgin Church. \$8/advance, \$10/at the door.
- **Hmong Youth Mobilization Meeting**—Saturday, February 23rd, 4pm-6pm, at Mt. Virgin Church



Nyob zoo ib tsoom niam txiv kwv tij neej tsa sawv daws. Thov txim kuv cov lus Hmoob tsis txhua thiab tsis zoo heev. Yog nej nyeem tsis tau lus AsKiv, thov nej muab rau cov yau pab txhais lus.

Kuv yog tus thawj coj lub koom haum Hmoob nyob rau Seattle. Kuv muaj lus zoo hais txog peb lub koom haum xyoo no. Peb cov tub ntxhais hluas khiav hauj lwm nrhiav tau los rau lub koom haum. Xyoo no peb muaj txog li \$14,200 nyiaj siv. Nyiaj los kuj yog los rau sawv daws siv. Xyoo no peb yuav khiav lub Tsiab Peb Caug thiab lub 'Hmong Graduation'.

Peb kuj tseg tau \$1,000 los pub rau 2 tug neeg nrog peb mus koom HND Hmong National Conference nyob rau Denver, Colorado, lub Peb Hli, nhub 27-30. Peb lub koom haum pab them nqi dav hlau, nqi tshab, nqi chaw pw, huv si.

Lub Peb Caug Seattle 2007 yog ib lub peb muab sij hawm, tswv yim, thiab zog ntau ntau los siv. Tej qho peb kuj ua zoo tuaj. Tej qho peb kuj tseem ua tsis tau zoo heev. Kuv tau nrog ntau ntau tus neeg tham. Sawv daws kuj muab ntau qhov tswv yim zoo rau kuv. Kuv zoo siab tias nej sawv daws kuj pab txhawb peb lub koom haum kom zoo tuaj.

Yog nej muaj tub thiab ntxhais kawm ntawv tiav, thov nej muab lawv npe thiab xov tooj xa rau peb. Xyoo no peb yuav nrhiav kev lom zem thiab kev zoo siab los rau lawm, kom sawv daws pab txog peb cov tus thiab ntxhais kawm ntawv tiav.

## WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

### By Yee Xiong

This is my first year as President and it has been very rewarding and humbling; by all means, a very important learning experience for me. I cannot say I enjoyed all the work, but I did have fun along the way with the good friends at HAW who helped me make it through the year.

In retrospect, I did not realize that being a volunteer for HAW is more of a full-time than a part-time job. I kept asking myself to not dedicate so much time to the organization – it is taking time away from work, from family, from LIFE. But I also realize that if I did not put in the hours, the goals I had set out to fulfill could not be accomplished. I did not sign up to fail, nor to give up. No pain, no gain. The only solace I had was that it will be over in two years.

Now, one of those years has gone by and I'm still breathing. Why did I worry so much back then, I wonder. I think I worry more for the other board members who also put in countless hours to raise money for this organization and to organize the activities for our community. I have a great support team. I would not want them to burn out either.

It would be great to have more volunteers help out—especially from our youth. Maybe 2008 will be a year of change in our community. Let's keep our fingers crossed. I'd like to be more in touch with the community. Email me at

[yee.xiong@hmongassociationofwa.org](mailto:yee.xiong@hmongassociationofwa.org)

## 2007 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

In 2007, HAW did very well financially, thanks to the hard work of our board members and officers in obtaining, securing, and finishing grant proposals. At the end of 2007, HAW ended with \$14,200 in its account.

## 2007 GRANTS RECEIVED

- \$3,000 - Seattle Center Fund "Ethnic Artist Cultural Enhancement Fund"
- \$3,500 - 4Culture "Oral History Project" (pending completion of translation)
- \$1,200 - Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture
- \$2,000 - WA State Arts Commission
- \$4,000 - 2 Emergency Preparedness grants

## 2007 EXPENSES (ESTIMATE / ACTUAL)

HAW spent under budget for all activities.

- Administrative: (\$3,458 / \$2,687)
- Hmong New Year: (\$11,900 / 10,648)
- Graduation Night: (\$2,257 / \$1,887)

The Graduation Night had a net loss of \$1,573 due to not meeting fundraising targets.

The Hmong New Year had a net surplus of \$1,656 due to strong vendor turnout.

## 2007 HAW ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Rewrote the Bylaws, created a set of official forms for HAW, relocated HAW postal address
- Held 2 board training classes
- Organized the Hmong New Year at the



HAW hosted a public music workshop with DESTINY on 11/4/07, sponsored by the Ethnic Artist Cultural Enhancement Fund, Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, and WA State Arts Commission.

**Seattle Center**

- Organized the Hmong Graduation night
- Actively participated in the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC) and Lao Highland Association.
- Helped several families with legal issues
- Donated \$150 at 3 funerals
- Donated \$200 to the Hmong Grave Desecration fund

HAW wants you, who is the Hmong of Washington's future, to strive and help our community and know where to find the resources. Being at the conference, you can ask questions and actually get answers from other Hmong people.

This is an exciting opportunity for you to network with other Hmong people around the US and discuss issues that affect you, your friends, and most importantly, your family.

8. The conference highlights all generations – from high school students to elders.
9. Hmong National Development will be celebrating 15 years!
10. Your friends and relatives from Minnesota, California, Wisconsin, North Carolina and other states will probably be there AND you can make new friends and unite with old ones!!!!!!

**HMONG NATIONAL CONFERENCE (HNC) is BACK! (Essay Contest)**

By Bao Ly



That's right, HNC is back and this year it will be in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. This will be HND's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Hmong National Conference from March 27<sup>th</sup> –

30<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Through last years fundraising event and donations, HAW will send two (2) Seattleites to Denver, Colorado to accompany HAW members to represent HAW and Western Washington's Hmong Community. We want everyone to know that the Seattle area has many Hmong and "Here We Are!" We want to send people who want to learn and bring back knowledge that will empower the youth and the elders. If you're shy and afraid of big crowds, this is a time for you to get out of your shell and get social!

TOP 10 REASONS TO ATTEND THE 13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL HND CONFERENCE:

1. It's a great opportunity to connect with the Hmong Community
2. You'll learn about innovative projects happening all over the U.S.
3. You can take part in interesting conversations with young people who are defining what it means to be both "Hmong" and "American."
4. There will be dynamic keynote speakers and more than 25 workshop sessions on a wide variety of topics, for all ages and interests.
5. Lots of businesses and organizations will be there, so the networking opportunities are incredible.
6. Friday night features fun games and activities about Hmong culture.
7. You'll hear inspiring stories about today's trailblazers of the Hmong community at the Saturday Night Awards Banquet.

The Hmong National Development (HND) is a non profit organization based in Washington DC. Each year they host a Hmong National Conference that embodies their mission and goals by bringing together professionals, community members, politicians, scholars, businesses, youth, and decision makers to network, share, and learn about the community's challenges, as well as to celebrate the community's accomplishments. Over the course of the three-day conference, various events are held which build capacity, educate attendees on Hmong issues, and recognize those who have worked so hard for their communities

Please visit [www.hndinc.org](http://www.hndinc.org) for more info .

HAW will chose two (2) winners from our essay contest and provide the following:

- Airfare, Conference Registration Fee, Banquet Fee, Lodging, and Transportation to and From the Conference (anything other than listed, will be your financial responsibility)

# 13th Annual Hmong National Conference

MARRIOTT DENVER CITY CENTER • DENVER, COLORADO • MARCH 27 - 30, 2008



COME JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE HND'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY

land on the 2<sup>nd</sup> trip in December. During this trip, 211 bodies were dug and still awaiting. The United Nations Human Rights committee is aware of the issue as well.

For the remaining 211 bodies, there are three solutions to choose from:

1. Give 5 Acres in Thai Krombat to bury the 211 bodies.
2. Buy private land in Thailand where the remains can be buried. This would be 98% possible. Possible sites included burying in Hmong Thai cemeteries or creating a memorial. For this scenario, the Hmong-Thai organizations must buy the land.
3. Bring the bodies to America. This would require the bodies going through DNA testing with death certificates generated. Each body will cost an estimated \$3000.

The first choice is favored. The national chapter would like local leaders to stand together, step to the issue, and educate our communities, as we might have to fundraise or ask for signatures in the future. Bee Cha and Seng Vue were established as points of contact in Seattle. They will act as the liaison between Seattle and MN.

Please see 'Calendar of Events' for the upcoming HGD meeting.

- You will depart with the other winner and HAW members on Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008 and return Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008 (HAW will purchase a roundtrip ticket for the dates above only. If you are going to stay longer than the above, it will be your responsibility to organize other lodging arrangements and purchase your ticket back to Seattle)

Please go to one of the following websites to download the official eligibility requirements and application of the contest:

[www.hmongassociationofwa.org](http://www.hmongassociationofwa.org)

[www.myspace.com/HAWhmong](http://www.myspace.com/HAWhmong)

Hurry, contest ends February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008!

## HMONG GRAVE DESECRATION

By Seng Vue



As many have known, Hmong bodies in Thailand have been dug up. The Thai state they are digging the bodies because the rain soaked bodies will ruin the land and soil their drinking water. They also state more people coming

through and the bodies are dug to create more land. However when digging the graves, the Thai officials didn't give information to families as to why they were digging. Originally the Thai influenced and convinced Hmong to come to Tham Krabok. Thai officials even gave permission to bury bodies in Tham Krabok (official documents were created).

Efforts have been started in Minnesota and California already to address the issue. A teleconference was held in December 2007 with Seattle representatives and the national chapter. The Mayor in St. Paul has passed a resolution in the city and asked Mee Moua and another state senator to address the issue. This was a mayor working group delegation. Local delegations were asked to participate in September 2007. The first trip to Thailand was in 9/22/07. VangTou Xiong represented WA, OR, and MT on this trip. This delegation met with the representatives of Thailand. Ten members went on the trip along with two Hmong-Thai representatives. This first delegation was shown 480 bodies that had been dug and cremated.

After the trip, talks occurred in Appleton, WI. Five members were sent back to Thai-

## HMONG YOUTH MOBILIZATION

By Yee Xiong

HAW would like to one day see all the Hmong youth in Washington working together to accomplish greater things for our community. How do we get there? What Why it is so hard to be successful in life? What decisions do you need to make? Why do we make poor decisions? Who do we blame? How do we fix the problems? How can we, as a community, help our youth make better decisions and achieve their goals? How can we empower our youth to be leaders and become active members in our community? Are you worried about your children's future?

Please join us (parents and youth) to show your support and share your ideas/concerns on this very important subject. We would like to hear from you. (See Calendar of Events for place & time of meeting)

## HMONG NEW YEAR 2007/2008—REVIEW

HAW would like to thank and recognize all the sponsors, vendors, performers, and volunteers who helped make the Hmong New



Nam Ou River, Luang Prabang



Hmong Association Of Washington  
PO BOX 14492  
Seattle, WA 98114

Year possible.

**Sponsors:**

SafeCo Insurance, Seattle Center Fund, Washington State Arts Commission, 4Culture, Mayor's Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, National Endowment for the Arts, Seattle Center, Wells Fargo, Seattle Art Museum, and Windermere

**Non-Profit vendors:** CMA Church, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF), Asian Counseling and Referral Service (Barr Thao), Give Children a Hope (Pavy Thao), Lao Highland Association, American Red Cross (Meghan Storms), Hmong Youth Group (Jerry Cha)

**Business vendors:** USDA (Vong Thao), Rescare In-Home Care (Laura Worth), Century 21 (Jerry Cha), Windermere (Kate Thao), WSU Small Farms (Bee Cha)

**Craft Vendors:** Nyiaj Yias Hawj, Niam Lis Suav, Txooj Zeb Lis

**Music & Video Vendors:** Niam Vam Mab Tsab, Steve Cha Videos, David Xiong Music and Toys, PS Entertainment, Vam Meej Hawj

**Photographer:** Bee Hang Photography

**Food Vendors:** Lo-Pha Society, Tommy's Hot Dog Stand

**Performers:** There were so many of them - I hope you all had fun - practice hard and come back next year!

**Volunteers:** Without volunteers, this event would not have happened. We still need more volunteers to help out at the next Hmong New Year to make it better! Contact HAW to see how you can help out.

HAW would also like to thank **DESTINY** for making it out here to the Northwest and

putting on a great show. They played for over 3 hours, giving a performance well worth their reputation.

For the food vendors, the dry & sunny weather was the difference between selling a few plates and selling out of food! I heard many people had to wait in long lines to get their food. This will be on the list of improvements we need to make for next year.

**HAW DONATION RECOGNITION**

HAW would like to recognize financial donors to the organization for the 2007 year. Thank you for your support.

\$0 -\$25—Tshu Liag Thoj, Txhij Kub Lis, Xauv Tooj Tsab, Tou Her, Pachou Thao, Txoong Chai  
\$25-\$50— Txawj Tsu Vaj (Chou Vang), Xiong Cha

Many thanks to **TRUE LEE** for her \$492 donation—our biggest donor for the year.

\$314 donated at Hmong Graduation Night

\$38.68 donated at Hmong New Year

**COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON NEW YEAR**

What was good:

(1) The layout of main floor, (2) the display in the Harrison Gallery, (3) the “Secret War” video in the Conference Room, (4) Security and Police, (5) Cultural Performances.

Improvements Needed:

(1) Hmong should wear Hmong clothes; (2) stage activity during the early part of the day ( 10am-12pm) is not organized; (3) area for

ball tossing is not large enough; (4) more seating is needed; (5) too much lighting during the dance; (6) HAW booth is hard to find (we lost our banner); (7) need to have 2 MC's; (8) MC's need to recognize dignitaries in attendance, sponsors, vendors, and volunteers; (9) long food line.

**NEW YEAR AT ANOTHER LOCATION ?**

Many Hmong in the community have shared their concerns with me regarding holding the New Year at Seattle Center. Their concern is that the venue at the Seattle Center is too small, too restrictive, and too public for holding the Hmong New Year. The event at the Seattle Center is more of a cultural show for displaying the Hmong culture, and does not celebrate in fullness the true spirit of the Hmong New Year.

This year HAW will propose forming a committee to find a venue that is suitable. The current volunteers are very busy, so we need more volunteers to help make this happen. Please attend the HAW Community Meeting on Feb. 9th to show support for this new venture. HAW can set aside some fund to help start this activity, but we need volunteers to help make it happen.

You can contact the HAW president, Yee Xiong, at (425) 241-2085 or email him at

[yee.xiong@hmongassociationofwa.org](mailto:yee.xiong@hmongassociationofwa.org)

regarding any issues or concerns affecting the Hmong community.