



For Immediate Release
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TWIN CITIES, MINNESOTA CHOSEN FOR NAVASA FIFTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Tucson Intl Alliance of Refugee Community
Tucson, AZ

Vietnamese Volunteers of Arizona
Glendale, AZ

Asian Pacific Residential Treatment Program
Los Angeles, CA

Cambodian Family
Santa Ana, CA

Southeast Asian Community Center
San Francisco, CA

Unified Vietnamese Community Council
Los Angeles, CA

Vietnamese Voluntary Foundation
San Jose, CA

Vietnamese Mutual Assistance
Association of Connecticut
Hartford, CT

Association for the Advancement of
Vietnamese Americans
Tampa, FL

Vietnamese Association of Illinois
Chicago, IL

Vietnamese Mutual Association
Wichita, KS

Wichita Indochinese Center
Wichita, KS

Vietnamese Catholic Office
New Orleans, LA

Springfield Vietnamese American
Civic Association
Springfield, MA

Vietnamese American Civic Association
Boston, MA

Maryland Vietnamese Mutual Association
Silver Spring, MD

Center for Asian Pacific Islanders
Minneapolis, MN

Project Fine
Winona, MN

Intercultural Mutual Assistance Association
Rochester, MN

Vietnamese Social Services of Minnesota
St. Paul, MN

Montagnard Dega Association
Greensboro, NC

Vietnamese American Cultural Organization
New York, NY

Asian American Community
Services Association
Tulsa, OK

Vietnamese American Association
Oklahoma City, OK

Vietnamese Friendship Association
Seattle, WA

Washington, D.C. --- The National Alliance of Vietnamese American Service Agencies (NAVASA) today announces that it will hold this year 2002 National Conference in the Twin Cities, Minnesota on July 25 & 26.

“This will mark the first time that NAVASA holds a national conference outside the east coast and the west coast,” said Mr. Duc Hong Duong, Chairman/CEO of NAVASA. “Minnesota is indeed an ideal location, the state with the largest and most concentrated with Southeast Asians in the Midwest and also the only state which has just elected a Southeast Asian to its State Senate.”

The Vietnamese Social Services Agency (VSS) and the Centre for Asian Pacific Islanders (CAPI), two of NAVASA’s local affiliates headquartered in Minnesota, are committed to offer their generous support in co-hosting, finding sponsorships, inviting state and local officials and organizations, and disseminating information to the local community. Yen Van Pham, Executive Director of VSS, stated, “Cold weather but warm heart, ten-thousand-lake state is more than happy to offer facilities and staff to help in making the first NAVASA conference outside the east coast and the west coast a success.” Vee Phan Nelson, CAPI Executive Director, added, “We at CAPI are deeply honored to co-host our friends and colleagues from across the United States. NAVASA represents one of the great and best hopes for effective advocacy not only for the Vietnamese American community but also for all refugees and immigrants nationwide. We at CAPI have always appreciated and benefited from our association with NAVASA—in terms of representation, access to resources, and networking.”

As in the previous years, our focus for this conference is the training for various programs offered by NAVASA to its affiliates, notably the Resettlement Opportunities for Vietnamese Returnees Project (ROVR) funded by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), which will be expanded to help ROVR clients in Washington State. In addition, in response to the critical needs of surviving and growing of Mutual Assistance Associations (MAA) across the nation, NAVASA has chosen “Organization Capacity Building” as our conference theme. “There is an urgent need to strengthen our organizational network as well as the capacity of our affiliates at both national and local levels,” Mr. Duong continued. “The two-day conference will be devoted to a variety of topics related to capacity building and organization strengthening.” For further information, please contact Huy Bui at 301-962-7135 or huy.bui@navasa.org.

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