## 미네소타 한인회보 KAAM Newsletter



2022 | vol. 2

### **Cooperative Work with Korean Community**



Many Korean organizations actively spread Korean culture by hosting various K-culture events in 2022. Especially in the second half of the year with events such as <Kimchi Festival> on September 17, <Midwest K-Pop Festival> on September 18, < K-Culture Festival> on November 6 and so on. In every K-culture event, the Korean American Association of Minnesota (KAAM) was proud to be a part of these successful events by either sponsoring or hosting the events.

At the <Autumn Picnic> that was hosted by Korean schools in Minnesota, various programs were provided to introduce and experience Korean traditional games, delicious Korean foods, and outstanding performances as well.

In addition, various mental health wellness programs were provided by the Korean Service Center (KSC) throughout the year. Emotional stability and mentoring programs were continuously provided, and KAAM actively promoted and encouraged those programs to the Korean residents in Minnesota. KAAM also had a cooperative relationship with the Consulate General in Chicago for onsite support to process online reservations for consular services on October 14, 2022.

For the future, the KAAM hopes to continue to cooperate with other Korean organizations to actively promote and take pride in our Korean culture.

## Korean American Association of Minnesota (KAAM) Newsletter

Publisher Yong Hyeok Lee

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### 2022 Midwest K-Pop Festival | MKDC at the Mall of America



On Sunday, September 18, 2022 from 1PM to 5PM, this event was jointly hosted by MKDC and the Mall of America. Various audiences who live in the Midwestern region and love K-pop music were invited to the Korean popular culture showcase. It was a high-level competition with outstanding performances. At the site of this festival, which was held at the Huntington Bank Rotunda located in Mall of America, a K-pop cover dance was performed by the Minnesota dance

team called MKDC, and the large number of spectators were in heat with the interest, encouragement, and emotional support. MKDC was founded and leaded by Volcano K. Kim in 2013. In 2018 and 2019, MKDC took first place in dance competitions in Los Angeles, New York City, and Seoul, South Korea, and put on a successful K-pop festival on the campus of the University of Minnesota. The K-music, videos and dances provide big fun and connection to community.

## 2022 K-Culture Festival | KAAM



On Sunday, November 6, 2022 from 1PM to 5PM, one of the biggest K-culture events < K-Culture Festival> was held at the Huntington Bank Rotunda located in the Mall of America. Nationally recognized performances by MKDC (Minnesota's best K-pop cover dance group), a Taekwondo demonstration by Lee's Champion Taekwondo Academy, traditional Korean Dance and Music Teams from Chicago & Minnesota, and so on. A Korean student group at the University of Minnesota presented a fashion show in transformation of Korean costume and fashion from the Joseon Dynasty to today's couture and cutting-edge street fashion.

In addition, there were 4 tables on the back to provide and

promote various Korean cultures, language, and other Korean organization & business information. We received the highest praise from the Mall of America program staff, who provided the venue. They personally reached out to the KAAM president for the continuous relationship for future Korean cultural events at the Mall of America.

In preparing the next <2023 Korean Culture Festival>, KAAM will continue to work hard with other Korean organizations that are not limited to Minnesota but throughout the nation. The power and influence of Korean culture will become a <global culture>, and KAAM will be a part of the team members.

## World Korean Presidents Conference and the 16th World Korean Day Ceremony | KAAM President, Yong Hyeok Lee











Greetings! As a representative of Korean residents in Minnesota, I attended the <2022 World Korean Presidents Conference and the 16th World Korean Day Ceremony> from October 4th to October 7th, which was held at 'Songdo Convensia' in Korea. It was my first time attending the event as the president of the KAAM. My shoulders were heavy, and it was a bit unfamiliar, but I took the attitude of a learning student. Under the slogan <World Korean Homecoming>, the event, jointly organized by the Overseas Koreans Foundation and Incheon Metropolitan City. It was attended by about 400 Korean presidents from all over the world, executives of Korean associations, the Korean government, the National Assembly, related organizations, and leaders of Korean fraternal organizations.

At the plenary meeting, seven articles of resolution were adopted, which was "playing the role of a civilian diplomat who actively implements public diplomacy", "developing the Korean community", "expanding exchanges with the mother country", "cooperating in the education of next-generation Koreans", and "Improving overseas election system" and so on. It was a good opportunity for me to learn their know-how, while watching the presentation of excellent management cases and awards. The Christchurch Korean Society in New Zealand won the Excellence Award for building a beautiful Korean octagonal pavilion in a New Zealand Park. Personally, it was a meaningful time because I had the same dream to share the beauty of Korea with Minnesotan compatriots and local residents.

Now that I have returned to Minnesota, I have a bigger dream and passion for our Korean community in Minnesota. I hope that 2023 will be a year where we work together and make our dream come true step by step.

## <Kimchi> Festival | Adoptee Hub

It was held on September 17th (Sat) from 10:30 am to 4:00 pm at Silver View Park located in Mounds View. There were kimchi contests and various cultural activities for families to enjoy together. It was a good opportunity for families and friends to gather in the park and enjoy a good time. This event was sponsored by various Korean organizations, and it was a meaningful event in which not only Korean residents attended, but also local visitors tasted kimchi and experienced Korean culture. It was also a successful event that increased interest in the 'Adoptee Hub' group. It is planned to be reopened in 2023, so we look forward to the interest and participation of Korean residents.



### From the KAAM Korean School to <K-Culture Program>

Young Ran Yu | Korean Culture Program Director

The fall semester was held for 13 weeks from August 28th to December 4th. Program director, Young Ran Yu stated that she is doing her best to promote Korean language education and Korean culture through various programs for all age groups from infant classes to adult classes.

Our goal is to help our students, who grow up in both Korean and American cultures and actively to accept the value of dual cultures as well as bilinguals. We are always trying to find appropriate learning methods for next generations with dual cultures. We promise to do our best for advanced and professional Korean language education.

In 2023, the KAAM Korean Language Program will be celebrating its 9th anniversary, and promoting their new name, < Korean Culture Program> instead of KAAM Korean School. Like the new name, the program will provide more opportunities to experience Korean culture through various programs. The spring semester 2023 started on January 29th. More information can be delivered through their website. <a href="https://www.school.mnkorea.org">www.school.mnkorea.org</a>













# Chief Prosecutor John Choi succeeded in winning the 4th term

| Ramsey County, Minnesota

John Choi was sworn in as the first Korean American chief prosecutor in the US in 2011. Since taking office, John has become a state and national leader in progressive justice reform, working with public officials and impacted communities to reimagine justice and the role of prosecutors.



John received the 2015 Minnesota County Attorneys Association Award of Excellence for his innovative leadership in better prosecuting sex traffickers and helping trafficked children. Previously, John served as Saint Paul City Attorney (2006-2010) and spent a decade in private practice. John holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Marquette University, a J.D. from Hamline University School of Law, and was a Humphrey Fellow at the University of Minnesota.

After the election, Prosecutor Choi said that he would do his best for the safety and welfare of the residents of the county, saying, "Thank you to everyone who supported me."

Ramsey County, Minnesota governs 19 cities, including the city of St. Paul, the capital of Minnesota, and has a population of approximately 650,000.

### **Asian Veterans Memorial**

On Saturday, July 23, 2022, Hmong community leader Mr. Fong Lor and his wife presented a project of establishing the Asian Memorial in Minnesota with the KAAM board members and project officers. As a part of the project, Mr. Lor would like to donate a part of the land he already purchased for the Korean Veterans Memorial. He is also planning to meet with other Asian community leaders in Minnesota to present this project and donate lands to them as well.

Discussions including Q&A regarding the project, attendees shared the importance of cooperation between Asian communities. KAAM appreciated The Lors' visitation and their will to donate a part of the lands. KAAM will review and evaluate the project at the board meeting.



Photo: The Lors (front) and KAAM BOD & Support team (back)

### **KAAM Contribution Information**

"Thank you for your generous donation and support to the KAAM."

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Membership Fee \$30		전린다, 이창재, 유명숙, 문성인, 윤철호, 이병훈, 우영란, 이순자, 이용혁, 김정은, 오은아, 강태문,					
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Donation	Up to \$99	전린다, 문성인, 유영란, Ji Woo Lee, 서영란					
	\$100	이창재, 유명숙, 홍의환, 김욱현, Seung Choi, 권화자 Hoa J. Kwon					
	\$200	박명순, 김줄리언, Hana Market, Cha Family Chiropractic, 김성숙, Gina Lee					
	\$300	이순자, 박혜원 부동산, 동해/동양마켓					
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*VAAAA is a see also see a							

<sup>\*</sup>KAAM is a member-supported nonprofit organization,501(c)(3). All membership fees and donations are Tax-Deductible.

## **Cooperative Project #1 < K-Culture Festival>**

On Sunday, November 6, 2022, the Consulate General of Chicago visited Minnesota to support the <K-Culture Festival> event at the Mall of America. They also brought a lot of activity materials for the visitors for them to understand and experience Korean culture. During the four-hour event, from 1:00 to 5:00 that day, non-stop thunderous applause, and shouts were not only from the Korean visitors but also local residents. Broadcasting News reporters interviewed the KAAM president, Yong Heok Lee and a few performers and they also praised our amazing event. It was a great success to promote Korean culture and Korean pride.

After the event, the staff from the Consulate General in Chicago and event coordinators in Minnesota gathered and had dinner together. KAAM thanked the Consulate General of Chicago for their generous support and cooperation, and KAAM looked forward to their continuous support, participation, and encouragement in the future K-culture events.



Photos from left: Brandon Lee (former US Taekwondo Poomsae Championship winner), Yong-hyeok Lee (KAAM president) and his wife, Jong-un Kim, Eunah Oh (KAAM Executive Director), Kyung-ju Oh (Deputy Consul in Chicago), Hyungin Ji (Deputy Consul General in Chicago), Hee-joo Han (Chicago Consulate General) and Jaehyun Park (KAAM BOD Chair)

### **Cooperative Project #2 < Consular Affairs Service>**

On Friday, October 14, 2022 Consul Nam-jin Kim and two officers from the Consulate General in Chicago conducted consular affairs for Korean residents in Minnesota. The online reservations were implemented through the website of the Consulate General in Chicago to provide service efficiently without crowding the limited center time and space. However, online reservations fully booked quickly and people who wanted service but were unable to make reservations contacted KAAM for possible assistance. KAAM appreciated the staff in charge of the consulate general for giving up their break time to assist more people who visited the center without reservation.

To assist visitors, KAAM provided free printing services and helped elders to fill out the forms. The KAAM president welcomed and greeted visitors and shared some information about Korean communities and businesses.







## 42nd KAAM President, Mr. Yang's Obituary

Former Korean President Yang Young-woong, who served as the 42nd Korean President from 2005 to 2006, died on Monday, January 9, 2023. The late Chairman Yang not only published useful information on Korean residents by publishing a collection of Korean residents at the time of the Korean Association but was also a model in many ways by leading the welfare of Korean residents and helping Korean organizations. The funeral was held on Saturday, January 14, 2023, at Jesus Love Church, where he served.

Below is a part of the greeting from Chairman Yang's from the Korean Community Directory that was published 2006. I hope that 2023 will be the year of working together to achieve the Korean society that former KAAM president Yang hopes for.

".....This year is the first year for me as the KAAM president, I hope to achieve two goals. First one is to listen and fulfill your needs. To achieve this goal, ownership is your most important role. In addition to your ownership, KAAM will be able to unleash its function well as one body. Second one is to communicate and cooperate with the Korean community in all aspects including culture, politics, economy, etc. to become a strong ethnic group. I hope this Korean Community Directory becomes the first step to accomplish these goals. I hope that Korean residents listed in this directory find a new vision to rewrite the history of the Korean community in Minnesota by providing social and political opportunities to unite with one voice. We must become competent citizens who can actively participate in all community activities with pride to promote the status of Koreans to the mainstream society and enhance their social and economic status....."



## Free Covid-19 Vaccination Service with \$50 Gift Card

On Friday, October 14, 2022, the Consulate General in Chicago went on a business trip to Minnesota to help with consular affairs for the convenience of Korean residents in Minnesota. Along with this event, the Korean Service Center (KSC) and the KAAM cooperated to provide free vaccination service at the same time at the KAAM center location. For Korean residents' convenience, they could receive two services at once. During this event, KSC not only provided free Covid-19 vaccinations service but also home test kits for free. Online reservation was requested but KSC staff diligently provide the same service for walk-in customers. Other Korean welfare and educational information was shared to the Korean residents who visited.





## Sponsorship of sports organizations 1 < Pickleball Tournament>



On Saturday, October 1, the <KAPS Pickleball Tournament> was held from 10am to 2pm at the TCTC in Brooklyn Center. KAAM supported the event with \$500 in donations and encouraged healthy Korean community gatherings. It was divided into two groups, Beginner/Intermediate and Advanced, and 32 players participated. Medals, prizes, and Korean food and snacks ended in a rich and enjoyable event. Korean American Pickleball Society (Called KAPS) always opens to Korean Americans in Minnesota. If you are interested in or have questions, please contact us at 763-218-6949.

## Sponsorship of sports organizations 2 < Jokku Tournament>

On Saturday, December 17, <The Best Jokkgu Tournament> was help from 11am to 6pm. This was the second tournament this year. A total of 10 teams participated from Chicago, Georgia, Atlanta, Dallas, Sacramento and New Jersey. The tournament began with congratulatory remarks by Yong Hyeok Lee, president of the Korean American Association of Minnesota (KAAM), and Ja-hyeon Koo, president of the Korean American Jokku Association. In the strongest division, Atlanta won the championship and Georgia won second. In the general division, Chicago won the championship and Minnesota won the second. I sincerely thank the Minnesota Jokgu Association and the KAAAM for their generous help and support.



### **Other Korean American Community News**



#### 2023 Lunar New Year Celebration, 1/21/2023

Hosted by Jang-mi Dance & Drum on Saturday, January 21, from 11:00 to 3:30, a New Year's Eve celebration was held at the South Campus of White Bear Lake High School. Various games and rice cake soup were shared for lunch, and free performances were also held from 1:00 p.m.

#### 2023 Lunar New Year Celebration, 1/28/2023

Hosted by the Korean Adoptee Center, on Saturday, January 28, from 4:30 to 6:30, a New Year's celebration was held at the Minnesota Korean Presbyterian Church. Many Koreans had a good time together as an event where they could experience traditional games including "Sebae" and experience Korean food.

#### 2023 KAAM Korean Culture Program < Spring Session>, 1/29-4/30/2023

The Korean language school hosted by the Korean Association of Minnesota opened on January 29th. Every Sunday from 2:00 pm to 4:40 pm (except Easter), the 13-week spring semester is held, and various Korean cultural programs (danso, taekwondo, etc.) are provided as well as Korean language study. <a href="https://www.school.mnkorea.org">www.school.mnkorea.org</a>

#### Free COVID-19 Vaccination Service, 2/4 & 2/17/2023

Korean Service Center (KSC) offers FREE COVID-19 Vaccination Service in February 2023 at KSC (630 Cedar Avenue S. Minneapolis, MN 55454). Saturday, 2/4/2023 @9:30am-12:30pm | Friday, 2/17/2023 @2pm-5pm KSC Hotline: 952-378-6783 | Registration: https://forms.gle/jZnHFsuKrsovP1y87



#### 2023 MAKA Scholarship Award Dinner, 3/19/2023

For 12th grade Korean students residing in Minnesota, a scholarship of \$1,500 per student is awarded to students who serve as models for the next generation as leaders of the next generation. There are a total of 9 students who will receive scholarships for the scholarship event on March 19, 2023, and ticket inquiries to participate in the event are 763-218-6949. www.makaweb.org

#### Leadership Forum for the Next Generation, 4/1-2/2023

Hosted by the 16th Midwest Korean Association, a leadership forum for the next generation is held. Invited lectures by second-generation Korean experts from various fields can be heard, and accommodation for one night is provided free of charge. The place is <Chicago Hilton Hotel> located in Northbrook, and inquiries are 248-930-5687 or fmwkaa16@gmail.com.

#### Donor Registry for 13-year-old Maxine

A 'bone marrow transplant' is urgently needed to save the life of a 13-year-old Korean girl <Maxine>. There are currently no matching bone marrow donors anywhere in the world, and the suffering of "aplastic anemia" is life-threatening. As for the donation method, it is said that it is not difficult or dangerous because 90% is done through blood collection and only the remaining 10% is done through bone marrow collection. As a confirmation procedure for donating, it is a simple method of taking saliva from the inside of the mouth, and anyone between the ages of 18 and 40 with a healthy body can do so. You can register using the QR code.



Application is now available

#### **KAAM Membership Fee and Donation** /Contact Information

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KAAM Website

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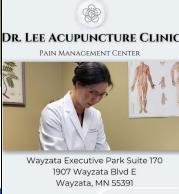


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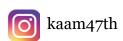
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"KAAM will do our best to support the Korean community in 2023 as well!"

