미네소타 한인회보 KAAM Newsletter



2025 | vol. 1

Overseas Elections for the 21st Presidential Election

From Thursday, May 22 to Saturday, May 24, Overseas Election for the 21st presidential election was held over three days at the KAAM Center. According to the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Chicago, which oversees four overseas polling stations in its jurisdiction, a total of 3,905 ballots were cast, recording the highest-ever voter turnout of 73.7% (out of 5,301 registered voters).

Given that this overseas election was organized and conducted within a short period of time, the results are being viewed even more positively. Consul Changho Woo of the Overseas Election Commission of the Chicago Consulate General expressed his appreciation, stating, "We sincerely thank the overseas Koreans living in our jurisdiction for their great interest and active participation in the 21st presidential overseas election. We ask for your continued interest and participation in future overseas elections."







Consular Services in Collaboration with KAAM

On Friday, June 6, from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM, the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Chicago provided consular services at the KAAM Center for the convenience of Korean residents in Minnesota and nearby regions. While priority was given to those who registered online in advance, the consular team also did their utmost to accommodate walk-in visitors who were unable to register beforehand, handling their requests as promptly and sincerely as possible to minimize inconvenience.

In addition to Vice Consul Hyunmin Kim and two staff members, Consul Raeduck Park visited Minnesota and joined key community leaders for a luncheon meeting. Together, they discussed ways to further strengthen business and corporate partnerships between Korea and Minnesota, as





well as shared visions for broader global cooperation. The KAAM remains committed to offering ongoing opportunities to serve and support not only the Korean community in Minnesota, but also contributing to the continued development of partnerships between Korea and Minnesota.

Korean American Association of Minnesota (KAAM) Newsletter

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March 1st Independence Movement Day KAAM Korean Culture & Language Program

On Sunday, March 2, in honor of the March 1st Independence Movement Day (called Samiljeol), KAAM Korean Culture and Language Program organized a special event where teachers and students gathered to shout Three Cheers for Independence (called Manse Samchang) together. This event served as a meaningful time to honor the spirit of independence of the patriotic martyrs who, on March 1, 1919, bravely declared Korea's independence and led the Manse Movement against Japanese colonial rule. It was also an opportunity to reflect on the unity and patriotism of the Korean people.



Youth Mental Wellness Workshop Lee's Champion Taekwondo Academy

On Friday, June 13, from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM, a Youth Mental Wellness Workshop was held at Lee's Champion Taekwondo Academy. Inspired by the idea that "a strong body houses a strong mind," the workshop offered a valuable opportunity for participants to strengthen both their physical and mental well-being through Taekwondo training. The event was free to youth ages 8 to 18, featured a dynamic Taekwondo demonstration as well as a special instruction session led by Grandmaster Yong Hyeok Lee, adding a unique and memorable element to the program.

Focusing on key areas such as self-esteem, emotional regulation, concentration, community building, and overall mind-body wellness, the workshop went far beyond teaching Taekwondo techniques. The workshop also demonstrated how Taekwondo can play a meaningful role in supporting youth mental health in today's world.







KAAM Membership Fee and Donation /Contact Information

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Donation Link

<Seollal> Lunar New Year Celebration 2025 Hosted by JangmiArts

On Saturday, February 1 from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM, the community gathered at White Bear Lake Mariner Middle School for a vibrant celebration of Korean culture and community. The event offered a rich blend of sights, sounds, and flavors that delighted attendees of all ages. Visitors enjoyed browsing the Korean Market Place featuring a variety of Korean vendors and unique goods. A highlight of the afternoon was the traditional 'Ttukguk' rice cake soup lunch, offering guests a taste of Korean New Year customs.

The cultural performances captivated the audience, with JangmiArts Korean dance, drum, and music, along with Lee's Champion Taekwondo, Myonghee Folk Singing, and more. The free performances filling the space with vibrant energy and artistry. For those interested in Korean visual arts, the day concluded with a Minhwa (Korean traditional painting) workshop led by artist Youngmi, offering a hands-on opportunity to explore this beautiful and historic art form. The event was a wonderful celebration of Korean heritage for a cultural connection and discovery.











MAKA's 30th Anniversary Scholarship Banquet Eunah Oh | MAKA President

On Sunday, April 13, from 5 PM to 8 PM, the Minnesota Association for Korean Americans (MAKA) hosted its annual Scholarship Banquet at the Hilton Hotel in Minneapolis. Each year, MAKA selects and awards scholarships to outstanding high school seniors of Korean heritage, while also providing opportunities for networking and mentorship with professionals across various fields. This year marked a special milestone—the 30th anniversary of the MAKA Scholarship Banquet. The celebration was made even more meaningful by congratulatory letter and messages from Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, Consul General Junghan Kim of the Korean Consulate in Chicago, and the President of the KAAM Yong Hyeok Lee.

A highlight of the evening was a keynote address by Catherine Kim, who grew up in Minnesota and currently serves as Executive Vice President of Editorial



at NBC News. Her inspiring message, drawn from personal experience and career insight, resonated deeply with the next generation of Korean American students and families in attendance.

Meanwhile, Korean American students who will be entering 12th grade in September 2025 are eligible to apply for the 2025 MAKA scholarships. The application deadline is September 30, and more information is available on the website: www.makaweb.org.

Minnesota Project 70th Anniversary Celebration Woojin Byun | Attorney & SNUAA USA

From Friday, June 20 to Sunday, June 22, the 34th Council Meeting of the Seoul National University Alumni Association in the USA (SNUAA) was held at the historic St. Paul Hotel in Minnesota. This year's event was especially significant as it coincided with the 70th anniversary of the sisterhood between the University of Minnesota and Seoul National University, marking a momentous occasion with celebratory programs throughout the weekend.

This was also the inaugural event presided over by the Association's 18th President, Hyosook Hwang, a distinguished SNU alumna and former President of KAAM.

A highlight of the event was the unprecedented delegation from Korea, including SNU President Honglim Yoo, SNU Global Alumni Association President Jongsub Kim, and over a dozen prominent representatives from the university. In addition, major figures from the University of Minnesota attended, including Vice President Priya, symbolizing the enduring partnership between the two institutions.

The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Hak Cheol Shin, CEO of LG Chem and Executive Vice Chair of 3M, a highly respected figure in both the Korean-American community and the global business world. His inspiring speech received an enthusiastic response from the audience.

The weekend began with a Friday evening cultural prelude featuring a gayageum performance by Dr. Sujin Lee, followed by a powerful pansori performance by alumna Hyejin Lee, who traveled from Korea to attend. Saturday's program captivated attendees with a special father-daughter duo performance by the world-renowned



Professor Young-Nam Kim and Professor Ariana Kim, titled "Just Dad and Me," which highlighted the cultural celebration of the Minnesota Project's legacy.

At Friday's Minnesota Project Workshop, SNU alumni from across the United States gathered for an in-depth session exploring the impact of the Minnesota Project on Korea's post-war development—often credited as a cornerstone of the "Miracle on the Han River." Conducted from 1955 to 1962 with USAID support, the Minnesota Project saw the University of Minnesota assist Seoul National University in modernizing its education and research infrastructure, particularly in engineering, agriculture, medicine, and nursing. Later, the program expanded to include veterinary medicine and public administration, helping lay the foundation for Korea's rapid modernization.

Participants also toured the University of Minnesota campus, reflecting on its historical contributions to Korean higher education. Despite the summer heat, many attendees wrapped up the weekend with a friendly round of golf at Rush Creek Golf Club in Maple Grove—the same course where Se Ri Pak famously claimed victory.

KAAM Contribution Information

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

		January 1-June 30, 2025	
Membership Fee \$30		Jae Hyun Park, Yong Hyeok Lee, Young-Hoon Ham, Julian Gim, Anthony Chung, Hyunsoo Son, Eunah Oh, Steve Oh, Jungeun Kim, Sungchul Park, Yoonju Kim, Sunuha Hong	
B.O.D. Fee \$500		Jae Hyun Park, Yong Hyeok Lee, Young-Hoon Ham, Julian Gim, Hyunsoo Son	
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^{*}KAAM is a member-supported nonprofit organization,501(c)(3). All membership fees and donations are Tax-Deductible.

KAAM Korean Culture & Language Program

Korean History & Culture Camp | Friday-Saturday, 6/13-14

The KAAM hosted a successful Korean History & Culture Camp. The camp welcomed children ages 5 to 12, who were on summer break, for two fun-filled days of hands-on activities that brought Korean history and culture to life. Through traditional Korean cooking, music-based games, and craft activities, the children had a unique opportunity to learn about Korea in an engaging and memorable way. More than just language education, the camp was designed to give participants an immersive cultural experience, helping them feel and understand the spirit of Korea firsthand. It was a meaningful opportunity to naturally pass on Korean heritage to the next generation.



Fall Classes | Every Sunday, 8/7-11/16 @1-3:40pm

In addition to classes for young children and elementary students, adult classes will also be offered—making it possible for parents to learn alongside their children. The KAAM believes that the interest and participation of the Korean American community is the most powerful way to plant the roots of Korean culture in future generations. With that spirit, the organization remains committed to offering programs where children and families can continue to learn, celebrate, and enjoy the richness of Korean language and culture together. (https://school.mnkorea.org/)

2025 Youth History Conference | Saturday, 4/19

A special intergenerational event celebrating Korean American history and culture was held at the Bisco Hall of the Korean Cultural Center of Chicago. Now in its second year, the program brought together 67 students from 11 Korean educational institutions across the Midwest, ranging from Chicago to Champaign, St. Louis, and Minnesota. This meaningful gathering transcended generations and social groups within the Korean American community, offering a chance to reflect on shared roots and envision a collective future. 16 student teams, including the Minnesota team, were selected through a preliminary round and presented original history projects based on Korean American History for Youth, a textbook published last year. Using their own words, visuals, and creativity, the students passionately shared the stories of Korean immigrants with the audience.













KAPS Pickleball Tournament Eunah Oh / KAPS Manager

On Saturday, May 10, from 5 to 9pm, the KAPS Pickleball Tournament was held at *Mega Pickle and Pong* in Chanhassen. Players ranging from intermediate beginners to advanced levels gathered for an exciting evening of competitive matches. The tournament was a great success, thanks to the enthusiastic participation of club members and strong collaboration across local

pickleball communities. The atmosphere was filled with energy, camaraderie, and a shared love for the game as players gave it their all on the courts. By the end of the evening, everyone left with smiles—and a well-earned dose of muscle soreness as a badge of honor!

Congratulations to the tournament winners, and KAPS looks forward to continuing to build community through a wide variety of sports events and activities in the future.

Korean Community Leadership Summit Hosted by Korean Adoptee Ministry (KAM) Center

On Saturday, May 31, from 9 AM to 3:30 PM, a meaningful gathering took place at the Minnesota Humanities Center in St. Paul, bringing together members of the Korean community for a day dedicated to enhancing community well-being, expanding networks, and deepening mutual understanding. A highlight of the event was a keynote speech by Dr. Richard Lee, Distinguished Professor of Psychology at the University of Minnesota, who addressed the topic: "Anti-Asian Racism and Its Impact on Youth and Families." In addition to this powerful presentation, participants were introduced to ongoing mental health initiatives and had the opportunity to enjoy Korean cultural performances, all contributing to the vision of building a stronger, healthier community. Yong Hyeok Lee, KAAM President also spoke during the summit, sharing the organization's vision and current initiatives. He emphasized the importance of collective effort and promised to continue fostering collaboration for a better future for the Korean community.





1st Minnesota Sports Council President's Cup Jokgu Tournament

Jae Hyun Park | MN Jokku Association President

On Saturday, April 25, from 9 AM to 5 PM at the Bass Lake Tennis Courts, the 1st Minnesota Sports Council President's Cup Jokgu Tournament was held with great success as the first nationwide jokgu tournament in the U.S. for 2025. A total of 13 teams and over 80 players from 8 cities competed in a day of spirited matches. After the preliminary rounds, the top six teams advanced to the Elite Division including Minnesota Team A, while the remaining seven teams competed in the Open Division including Minnesota Team B. Dallas Team A claimed the championship title in the Elite Division. Minnesota Team A (Jae Hyun Park, Won Joon Choi, Yeon Lee, and Hong Chul Shin) fell just short in a close 2:1 match against New York Team. However, Minnesota Team

B (Tae Joon Park, Sung Jin Yoon, Kwang II Seo, and Jin Wook Kim) earned second place in the Open Division. In his congratulatory remarks, Mr. Dae Jae Lee, President of the Korea Jokgu Association, reaffirmed the association's commitment to globalizing Korea's traditional sport of jokgu through strong international partnerships. Mr. Tae Joon Park, the newly inaugurated 2nd President of the Minnesota Sports Council, expressed his deep honor in hosting the tournament—not only as the president but as a jokgu player himself. He also pledged the Minnesota Sports Council's continued support for the growth of jokgu in the state. With the tournament season off to an exciting start, expectations are high for upcoming jokgu competitions across the nation.











The 3rd Sports Council President's Cup Golf Championship

Jaewon Kim | MN Golf Association President

On Saturday, May 17 at 2 PM, the 3rd Sports Council President's Cup Golf Championship was held at White Eagle Golf Club. A total of 92 golfers (69 men and 23 women) participated in the tournament. Despite the slightly chilly weather, the event concluded successfully with strong community spirit and enthusiasm. This year's tournament served as both a player selection event for the upcoming 24th Korean American National Sports Festival in Dallas and a fundraiser to support athlete participation. With the generous support of the local community and a raffle drawing featuring over \$6,000 worth of prizes, the event raised a total of \$3,900. These funds will be thoughtfully used to support the ongoing activities of both the Sports Council and the Golf Association. As they did last year, Dong Yang Market kindly provided refreshing beverages and kimbap, helping players stay energized throughout the round. The Korean Service Center also contributed to the festive atmosphere by distributing goody bags to all participants. Next year's tournament is already scheduled to take place at the same venue—White Eagle Golf Club—on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 2 PM. We look forward to your continued support and participation.

Group	Winners (score)	
Men	Steve Johnson (79)	
Men Senior	Ron Park (82)	
Women	Taksina (87)	
Women Senior	Soojung Park (86)	

	Group	Winners	
Longest	Men	Chunhee Park	
	Women	Dooyeon Sohn	
Closest	Men	Aaron Kim	
	Women	Soojung Park	







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