

MAASU

Midwest Asian American Students Union

**M-REP
PACKET
2016-2017**

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ABOUT MAASU

The Midwest Asian American Students Union is an organization that began in response to a need for political unity among Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA) students in the Midwest. By 1990, there were more than 20 universities in the Midwest that had formed (APIA) organizations. Some had been around for years, while others were still in their infancy. Students felt a need for an organization that would support the growth of their groups and organize Midwestern APIA activism. MAASU works to recognize the needs of the APIA community by assisting schools with the establishment of APIA student organizations, promoting leadership among students, addressing educational needs and rights of the APIA community, and developing a channel of communication among APIA student organizations in the Midwest.

MISSION

The Midwest Asian American Students Union strives to recognize the needs of the Asian Pacific Islanders American (APIA) Community. The following list contains the objectives of MAASU:

- 1) Assist schools with the establishment of APIA student organizations, APIA cultural center and/or an Asian American Studies Program.
- 2) Promote leadership among APIA students through programs including, but not limited to, the Leadership Retreat, Spring Conference and other various programming.
- 3) Address educational needs and rights of the APIA community and provide scholarship information for all APIA students.
- 4) Develop and maintain a channel of communication for APIA student organizations in the Midwest through e-mails, monthly newsletter and networking.
- 5) Support and encourage all APIA students to work toward social change by providing a forum for social consciousness.
- 6) Unite and strengthen the APIA community's stance against all forms of oppression.



What is an M-Rep?

"M-Rep" is short for **MAASU Representative**. M-Reps are the **official liaison** between member schools and the MAASU Executive Coordinating Committee (ECC). As stated in the MAASU Constitution, each school may only have one M-Rep.



Rep-sponsibilities

The roles, duties, and responsibilities of the M-Rep consists of the following:

- 1) **Respond to emails and messages** from MAASU Communications chairs or other members of the ECC when necessary
- 2) **Update** his/her/their school's **APIA organization** on MAASU information regarding campaigns, conferences, and fundraisers
- 3) Has the power to **submit one vote** for conference bids, ECC elections, and constitutional changes
 - a) During the Spring Conference, the M-Rep votes for schools *bidding to host Leadership Summit and Spring Conference* for the upcoming year
 - b) The M-Reps *elect the ECC* for the upcoming year
 - c) If amendments are made to the constitution, the M-Rep has the power to *accept or decline the changes*
 - d) Voting requires a *two-thirds attendance* in order to reach quorum
 - e) M-Reps will *miss at least one workshop* and possibly one small group meeting during Spring Conference for voting, but you will be *provided lunch!*
- 4) **Connect** with fellow M-Rep peers and Communications Chairs
- 5) M-Reps will **serve a full academic year** in conjunction with the Communications Chairs. Should any M-Rep need to step down for any reasons, please have the institution replace the M-Rep and **connect them immediately to the Communications Chairs** for updates.



Why should you be excited to be an M-Rep?

Every institution has their own way of selecting an M-Rep, and we suggest all M-Reps to contact their organizations should they have any questions about the selection process. Furthermore, all M-Reps will have the opportunity to network and connect with the M-Reps from other campuses and institutions throughout the Midwest.

- 1) M-Reps hold a reputable position within the Midwest by representing their institution.
- 2) M-Reps have the opportunity to build leadership skills through various networking opportunities, including Leadership Summit and Spring Conference.
- 3) M-Reps will have the chance to connect with the ECC board.
- 4) M-Reps can network with other organizations and M-Reps across the Midwest.



Communication

1) Email

Primary form of communication in terms of receiving announcements and updates.

Please check email often. If an M-Rep would like to update their email address, they must notify the Communication Chairs. Emails will be lengthier and heavier in content, so they're probably important!

2) Facebook

Secondary form of communication in terms of receiving short notices and socializing with other M-Reps and ECC members. **Updates & reminders** will be posted here! Feel free to post any questions/comments or share any articles, videos, pictures, etc!

3) GroupMe

M-Reps will be divided into different groups according to their geographic location. This will be used to encourage students from other schools to **attend events** at nearby colleges/universities.



Focuses for the Year

The ECC has some focuses for the year in which M-Reps are encouraged to partake in:

1) Voting

Specifically, voter registration & voter turnout. Being an election year, this is especially important. Encourage the members of your organizations, as well as your friends and families, to register to vote! While the presidential election is important, it is equally important to remember that it is easier to cause change at the local level first. APIAVote (apiavote.org) is a great resource! Their website shows you how to register to vote in your state, helps you find your polling location, and also provides election information for your state!

2) #whereareyoufrom

As Asian Americans, a common question we encounter is "Where are you from?" Hearing this over and over can be bothersome as it's considered a micro-aggression. Continuing this initiative from last year, M-Reps will have the chance to be spotlighted in a video series that the advocacy chairs & public relations chair will be heading. Topics will include, but aren't limited to, language barriers, generational differences, and food.

3) MAASU Mixers

MAASU tries to hold mixers at least twice a semester. Mixers vary, depending on the host school, but they typically involve icebreakers, group discussions, and activities focused around one topic (i.e. Asian American identity, anti-blackness, APIA voting, etc.). M-Reps are encouraged to invite members of their student organizations and attend the mixer nearest to you. Host schools are responsible for inviting nearby schools, so be on the lookout for that!



Conferences

Every year, MAASU hosts two conferences. The fall conference, known as Leadership Summit (LS), is designed to host 150-200 students. The Spring Conference (SC) usually hosts over 750 attendees, and this is where M-Reps will vote in a new ECC, decide on the following conference locations, and vote on any constitutional changes. Each conference brings to light the history, challenges, and initiatives the Asian Pacific Islander American community faces.

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2016

Northwestern University

Evanston, IL

November 11 & 12



SPRING CONFERENCE 2017

University of Michigan

Ann Arbor, MI

April 7 & 8



Other Stuff

Follow us on social media!

Website: <http://maasu.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MAASUForChange/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MAASUOfficial>

Alright, y'all! That's all we have for you at this time. We hope that this packet helps you better understand your role and responsibility as a MAASU Representative. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns always feel free to reach out to us!

Peace, love, & MAASU,

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