

CAAM 2009 annual report

We've had a full and busy year again in 2009. We won a couple of awards, sponsored multiple programs (some new, some old) and launched a survey a month ago, which we will be asking you to fill out if you haven't done so yet.

The Dance Theater put together a couple of productions, and for the first time, took the show on the road to Rochester. Wendy Tai will be giving you a full report on all the Dance Theater activities in a little while.

In the spring, CAAM was extremely busy.

On April 19, 2009, CAAM co-sponsored the third annual Wishes for the Sky, a celebration of Earth Day on Harriet Island. CAAM volunteers along with Minnesota Kite Society and Eureka Recycling served several thousands of adult and children. This project is educational, earth-friendly and fun. It will continue in 2010 so mark your calendar, April 25, 2010 will be the next Wishes for the Sky. Rain or shine, it will happen on Harriet Island again.

On April 25, 2009, with the help of the Chinese Consulate in Chicago, CAAM held a passport and visa clinic in Roseville. Over 500 people, some came as far as Iowa, Wisconsin, North and South Dakota, took advantage of this opportunity and expedited their renewal without having to travel to Chicago. CAAM will continue this service in 2010. As soon as we have a date, we will post it on our website. So keep checking.

On April 30, May 1,2,3, CAAM participated in the annual Festival of Nations at River Centre. Over 100 volunteers helped in the Café and staffed the Bazaar. The Chinese Language School took over the calligraphy demonstration along with Teacher Shen Yu Dong and his paintings. We took another award of excellence at the cultural exhibit. We served thousands of starving students at the Café. The Cultural Exhibit once again received Recognition for Excellence in our presentation of Chinese Inventions. CAAM has been a key participant in Festival of Nations for a number of years. It educates the general public about Chinese culture and builds camaraderie amongst the Chinese community. At the Café, Mr. Café, Mr. Yan Bing Wen and Vincent Mar led Restauranteur want-to-bes and played restaurant owner, merchants have an opportunity to trade in a real-life bazaar, dancers showcase their skills, calligraphers and painters showoff their talents and exhibitors have a chance to share our tradition and culture. So, take out your calendar and save the date: May 1,2,3,4 2010 is the next Festival of Nations. A BIG THANK YOU to all of you who participated in the festivities.

Dragon Festival: For the first time, CAAM won an award. I want to introduce you the team who broke tears, sweat and blood to accomplish this achievement. Kudos go especially to Team Captain Kahing Li and Coach Amy. The Trophy is standing prominently on their table, so go and take a look. Lookout FCC, China Center, we're going for another trophy in 2010 !!

China Reunion: On July 25, 2009, CAAM joined in a China reunion celebration organized by Children's Home Society. Chinese adoptees fill Mounds View High School for a good part of the day. The children especially enjoyed all the activities, crafts, dancing tremendously

In August, CAAM held another camping trip. I will let David Wang tell you more about it.

Finally, one of the most important activity we launched this year is CAAM Board Training. The Chinese community in Minnesota is changing rapidly. In order to meet the needs of the community, the board began a series of training to re-examine our purpose and mission, our goals and how we can improve the organization. In tandem with the training, we have also put together a survey that we would like you all to please fill out. With the help of the survey, we will re-tool our services and make CAAM a better and stronger organization that can serve the local Chinese community better. But we need your help to do this. We need to find out what you want from us and how we can serve you better. So please fill out the survey and return it to the registration table at the end of the evening.

Finally, before I end my report, I want to tell you about the heroes behind CAAM. We are all volunteers that come from different backgrounds. We spend untold number of hours, days providing services because we care about our community. Our strengths complement each other. We understand each other well. In the last few years that I have been serving on the CAAM board, the board has been working (in Chinese) (with one heart and coordinated efforts. I think most everyone will have to agree that the current board is one of the most passionate group of people we've had in a while. So please give a hand to our CAAM board.

Thank you.