

Asian American Television (AAT TV) 20th Anniversary
Chinese Arts and Music Association 30th Anniversary
Meydenbauer Center
Aug. 30, 2014

I am more than happy to add my voice to the many here tonight as we honor the remarkable Asian American Television, or AAT TV, on the occasion of its 20th anniversary of broadcasting, and to the 30th anniversary of the Chinese Arts and Music Association and its director Warren Chang.

We have had a long-standing relationship with AAT TV through our office. Every year Jenny, Steve or David has invited me to record a special Chinese New Year message for broadcast to their viewers. And each year they are more than happy – and patient - to help me with my pronunciations of Happy New Year in Mandarin and Cantonese. (Mandarin: gong she fa chai. Cantonese: gong hey fat choy). My pronunciations may not be perfect, but as long as David and Jenny are smiling and nodding then I know I have come close.

They have sent crews to the state capital in Olympia many times. In fact earlier this month they were at the Department of Licensing headquarters to cover the signing of an historic reciprocal driver license agreement between Taiwan and Washington, the only media outlet to cover this signing.

AAT TV, as with a lot of businesses, was started by two entrepreneurs who simply saw a need and went about fulfilling it. Jenny and Steve did not have a background in broadcasting, but knew that the Asian community in the Puget Sound area was underserved so they went about the business of filling that gap in broadcasting. In 2007, Jenny and Steve turned the operational duties of the station over to their son, David Cho, who expanded AAT TV into the region's first 24-hour Asian television station. AAT TV now serves 1.3 million households across Washington state with mixed news and programming in Mandarin, Cantonese and Vietnamese.

AAT TV can be counted on to cover events of interest to the Asian community both large and small. With a solid local advertising base and through its many community partnerships, it is likely that AAT TV will be around for a long time and I wish the station continued success.

We also wish our very best to the Chinese Arts and Music Association. Founded way back in 1984 by Warren Chang, the CAMA is a showcase for new local talent and is a mainstay for providing musical performances, lectures and dance to our thriving arts community.

CAMA, with every performance, keeps the fabric of the Asian culture in Washington alive and refreshed, and treats all of us with new perspectives on this world of ours.

To both of these fine organizations I say, on behalf of the state of Washington, thank you very much for all that you do to keep our Asian community alive, growing and well.