

OneMN.Org - A Brief History of Accomplishments

Over the years this multiethnic coalition has created a space within Minnesota for a nonpartisan engagement around policy issues. This space has been effectively utilized to achieve significant benefits to Minnesota, as can be seen below, both to aggregate ALANA communities' voices over issues that impact one or more communities (example, Hmong hunters, racial profiling or undocumented workers) as well as collective issues such as business contracts. It also provided a nonpartisan space for policy dialogue and engagement with different political institutions in Minnesota. OneMN.org has evolved over the years to its present identity.

Key Contributions to Minnesota

- Its most significant contribution has been to continually present the vision of “ethnic capital” to Minnesota leaders and institutions.
- Statewide report on the importance of the “emerging markets” in 2000 brought great visibility to the “asset” approach to ALANA communities. The report also documents status of minority contracting and issues recommendations for reforms. Engages with cabinet members for implementation.
- Testimony to the Minnesota Supreme Court cited as a factor in the Court’s ruling for the decision to keep the two congressional districts in Minnesota.
- Worked successfully with Democrat, Republican and Independence party policy leadership on various issues over the years.
- Worked successfully with Federal agencies (Small Business Administration) and various institutions at the city, state and national level.
- Provided a space where the collective voice of the ALANA communities could be aggregated for a greater impact to help individual communities.

Brief History *

- Late 1990s The Policy Roundtable is launched – a Pan Asian Alliance around policy issues. The Roundtable hosted numerous policy roundtables with top policy makers from the Governor of Minnesota, Congressional members, Supreme Court Justices and Commissioners of state agencies. MOU established with the US Small Business Administration. Meet the Policy Makers series launched with the first session at the Met Council.
- 1999 – Governor Ventura attends the First Pan Asian Business Summit organized by the Roundtable and heralds the “entrepreneurial spirit of the Asian community.” Governor

Ventura becomes a spokesperson of the “asset” vision of the community integrating key themes in various major speeches.

- Governor Ventura appoints Lee Pao Xiong to the Met Council with strong advocacy from the Roundtable.
- 2000 – Governor Ventura acting on a request from the Roundtable appoints a high level Governor’s Working Group on Minority Business Development with a task of producing a statewide report. Dr. Bruce Corrie (Chair), Ezell Jones, Yvonne Cheung Ho, Richard Antell, Maria Silva and Mihalo Temali produce first comprehensive in Minnesota on the collective potential of the minority communities in the economy. Report documents the power of “ethnic capital” and launched a strong visibility to this concept in Minnesota.
- Multiethnic media coalition – Al McFarlane/Lucille’s Kitchen, Nghi Huynh Asian American Press, Mario Duarte of La Prensa work with the Roundtable on many policy issues. National video conference, candidate forums and other policy work.
- Launch of the “Emerging Market Alliance” and the Emerging Market Declaration. Governor Ventura signs it and takes to the US Senate and shares with Senators as a model from Minnesota. Ezell Jones, leads the Emerging Market Alliance.
- Group provides testimony to the Supreme Court on Redistricting. Supreme Court ruling on redistricting cites the testimony of minority groups as a reason to maintain two congressional districts and not the proposed merger.
- Group works with Governor Ventura on various trade missions to China and Japan.
- AHANA a multiethnic policy roundtable launched. Hosts gubernatorial Minority Political Summit and other policy forums. Hector Garcia serves as Executive Director with a board of Al McFarlane, Nghi Hyunh, David Glass, Mario Duarte and Bruce Corrie.
- 2006 – Minority Political Summit for Gubernatorial candidates develops a set of policy priorities that eventually becomes the OneMN Investment agenda for the community. Candidates analyzed on their integration of community issues on health, education, business development, jobs and youth in their policy platform.
- AHANA engages policy makers on racial profiling and anti immigrant policies.
- Worked to launch the Pan African Business Alliance.
- AHANA engages Governor Pawlenty to adopt an “asset” approach to the communities. Invited to host Governor Pawlenty on a tour of various ethnic commercial corridors on his first inauguration day. Governor Pawlenty invites Dr. Corrie to submit a concept paper for a trade mission to India.
- Some members work to launch the World Cultural Heritage District in Saint Paul. Integration of WCHD into the light rail plan accomplished.
- 2008 – ALANA launched and takes the identity of OneMN.org – a non partisan multi-ethnic coalition around policy issues working to create One-Minnesota free of racial barriers by 2030. Open to anyone who shares the vision.

- OneMN.org engages policy makers to integrate the ALANA business communities in the Republican National Convention by promoting a daily bus tour for delegates to these communities. Prepares and distributes a map of the World Cultural Heritage District.
- OneMN.org offers investment agenda to various policy makers. Testimony to the Minnesota legislature on educational access.
- OneMN.org broadcasts in Minnesota and Denver a production during the RNC Convention – Dialogue with Rev Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., President Lincoln and Senator Douglas on “Who is an American.”
- Dr. Corrie, an economist provides the first public response on the report of the Department of Administration on the “cost of illegal immigration” as “one-sided.” OneMN.org engages in advocacy work around immigration issues.
- Testimony provided to the Met Council on light rail and its impact on ALANA communities in Saint Paul.
- 2008 – ALANAGreen is launched –a conference is organized to integrate the ALANA communities into the new green economy. Policy recommendations are submitted to policy leaders. OneMN.org invited to be part of the subcommittee of the state task force on the green economy. Integration of ALANA issues into the task force recommendations.
- 2009 Ezell Jones and Dr. Corrie approaches Governor Pawlenty to implement the findings of the state disparity studies. Governor integrates a progressive vision of minority business development into the official order of the Commissioner to all state agencies.
- 2010 -OneMN.org partners with the Minnesota BaseNetwork to launch a non partisan “Color the Vote” campaign to mobilize voters. Brett Buckner of Minnesota BaseNetwork leads this effort. Three major candidates respond to policy questionnaire. Facebook pages are launched “ALANA Minnesota” and “Color the Vote”
- Preliminary analysis of 2010 election results shows ALANA communities a key voting group in future elections in Minnesota. This information is shared with the public.
- OneMN.org invited to meet with key GOP leaders of the new legislature. Presentation of the vision of ethnic capital and “wealth creation” which was well received by leaders and both parties agree to continue the policy dialogue. Presents a policy framework on business development, jobs and education.
- OneMN.org presents vision of ethnic capital to Representative Thissen, House Minority leader. Vision and presentation is well received. Presents a policy framework on business development, jobs and education.
- OneMN.org submits list of potential candidates for public office to Dayton transition team and requests meeting with Governor-elect Dayton and transition team.

***Dates may be incorrect but the events reported here occurred and can be independently verified. The above are only major highlights.**