

PA-AAA Welcomes the Year of the Dragon

The Port Authority Asian American Association (PA-AAA) recently hosted employees from across the agency for its annual Lunar New Year Dinner in Manhattan's Chinatown!

On March 14, at House of Joy on Pell Street, 136 attendees, including PA-AAA members, employees, and family members, enjoyed a 10-course traditional Cantonese dinner, lion dancing, and interactive games. PA-AAA welcomed its new Executive Sponsor, Chief Health & Safety Officer **Brian Lapp**, and new incoming Executive Board members **Courtney Fong, Rajaram Vasan, Betty Eng, Deepthi Mathew, Ben Lau, Ritika Reikhy**, and **Lisa Kudo**. Attendees also thanked outgoing Executive Board **Jia Dee Li, Annesa Lau, Azra Syed, Sawmya Abraham**, and **Tiffany Chan**.

In many cultures, the Lunar calendar is intertwined with rituals and ceremonies that

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From left: (Back row) Monica Chavez, John Santiago's wife, Nadine Aziz, Selene Ortega, Fatima Contreras, Nancy Cruz, Shanta Nelson, Neyive Alfonso; (front row) John Santiago

PATH Superintendent Receives Prestigious Industry Honor

Raishea Haines, Superintendent of Transportation at PATH, was recently honored with the 2024 YMCA of Greater New York's Black Achievers in Industry (BAI) Award.

She was joined and supported by her PA family and loved ones at the YMCA Black Achievers Program Gala on March 14, where she was recognized for her career accomplishments, leadership in the agency and community, work attitude, ethical behavior, and integrity. Also at the event, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer **Jose B. Febrillet** accepted the 2024 Deloitte Corporate Community Award on behalf of the PA, which was presented to the agency for its longstanding programmatic and financial support of the BAI initiative.

The Port Authority has long supported the YMCA of Greater New York's [Black](#)

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Jose Febrillet (fourth from left) and Raishea Haines (sixth from left).

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PAPD Rescues Pooch at Harrison PATH

A dog on the loose at the Harrison PATH station was safely rescued thanks to the quick efforts of the PAPD.

On the morning of March 13, after the PAPD received reports of a stray dog at Harrison, Officers **Thomas Leather** and **Avtar Singh** were on the case, safely capturing the pooch without incident. The dog, which was nicknamed 'Harrison,' was later handed over to Bergen County Animal Shelter, where he's awaiting shots and neuter treatment.



Twilight Golf League Tees Off April 10

For more than three decades, PA employees have gathered from spring through the summer for the annual Twilight Golf League. Play begins this year on April 10. The league plays 9 holes of match play every Wednesday starting at 4 p.m., April through August. The league is handicap-based, so **players of all skill levels** can compete equally. Venues alternate between South Shore Country Club on Staten Island and Skyway Country Club in Jersey City. Participation in the league is not a weekly commitment. The league comprises six teams with up to 11 golfers per team; everyone may play each week, but only 4 players from each team are necessary. **Active employees and retirees are welcome.** The \$145 annual dues cover a BBQ after the last week of play and a golf outing at Farmstead Golf Course in September. To register or learn more, contact **Erik Lombardo** (elombar@panynj.gov or 212 502-2470).



PATH Superintendent

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[Achievers in the Industry \(BAI\) Awards Program](#), which celebrated its 52nd anniversary this year. Founded in 1973, the PA has since been a sponsor of this important community-based endeavor, which supports initiatives that provide educational and experiential opportunities for local community members. The funds raised will provide an essential foundation for internship and mentor programs, corporate scholarships, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) tours.

GOCOR Supports Staten Island's First-Ever 'Civics Bee'

Developing the Civic Leaders of Tomorrow

The PA has long been a supporter of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce, partnering with the local organization on a host of community engagement initiatives and programs.

Recently, **Christopher Lee**, Senior External Relations Manager, GOCOR-NY, was on hand at the Susan E. Wagner High School's Performing Arts Center on March 12 for New York City's first-ever



Christopher Lee (second from left) with winners and participants

'Civics Bee,' in which local students flexed their civics knowledge for a chance to win recognition and cash prizes.

"I was honored to judge the first ever Civics Bee on Staten Island," Christopher told PA News. "It was inspiring to see these students' knowledge of government and their ideas to address quality of life issues in their neighborhood."

Christopher, on behalf of GOCOR-NY, served as a judge for the Civics Bee. To qualify for the competition, middle school students from across the borough submitted essays on important civics issues and proposed solutions.

GOCOR serves on the board of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce. Read more about the recent Civics Bee on the [Chamber of Commerce website](#).

Congrats to the Agency's New 'Run, Hide, Fight' Instructors

The Office of the Chief Security Officer recently welcomed a dozen new instructors certified to provide the critical *Run, Hide, Fight* training.

"With the increased return of employees in the workplace, it is essential that we have a cadre of trainers



to teach the critical skills of the *Run, Hide, Fight* program to help ensure personal safety and preparedness," said **Greg Ehrle**, Chief Security Officer.

A graduation ceremony was held on March 27, for the 12 PA employees, who completed 18 hours of instruction on the Department of Homeland Security's training model and passed a final exam. This is the second training cadre to graduate this program. Interested employees can sign up for this voluntary training class through their Business Managers.

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honor ancestors and celebrate the changing of the seasons, inspiring a myriad of joyous celebrations that bring people together while connecting us to our roots, reminding us of the importance of tradition, resilience, and adaptation in an ever-changing world.

The Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, holds deep cultural roots in Asian traditions, dating back more than 3,000 years. The 15-day celebration is a time for families to come together to honor their heritage, reflect on the past year, and set intentions for the year ahead.



A lion dance performance

Important Solar Eclipse Safety Tips from the Chief Health & Safety Office

Whether you plan to view [Monday's solar eclipse](#) with your colleagues or on your own, the Office of the Chief Health & Safety Officer urges you to use safe viewing practices and keep these tips in mind.

Proper eye protection is a must, regardless of whether you're viewing the partial eclipse from the Port District or in the path of totality. Looking directly at the sun during the eclipse can damage your retina — the part of the eye that sends images to the brain — resulting in temporary or permanent damage to your vision.

If you view the solar eclipse, use International Standards Organization-certified eclipse glasses (ISO 12312-2) from a reputable source. If you normally wear prescription eyeglasses, place the eclipse glasses over them. Carefully inspect your eclipse glasses before using and discard them if they are scratched, torn, damaged, or are past the printed expiration dates.

Ordinary sunglasses, even dark sunglasses, are not safe to view the eclipse through. Similarly, viewing the solar eclipse through a camera lens, binoculars, or telescope is not safe unless there is a special-purpose filter over the front of the device.

If you don't have eclipse glasses or specialized filters for your equipment, you can still safely view the solar eclipse using indirect viewing method recommended by experts, such as a pinhole projector, which involves punching a tiny hole on a thick piece of paper or cardstock and placing in the sunlight with the sun to your back. NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory has [instructions for making one](#).

In addition to protecting your eyes, be sure to use sunscreen, a hat and other protective clothing to protect your skin. This is especially important if you are watching the eclipse for an extended amount of time.

If you experience any eye discomfort or vision problems after viewing the eclipse, please contact your healthcare provider.



CALENDAR

[PA-AAA: Spring Travel](#)

Wednesday, April 10 from noon to 1:30 p.m., 4 WTC, 23rd floor, Conference Room 2. The Port Authority Asian American Association (PA-AAA) will discuss how different cultures celebrate spring and its impact on aviation travel with Cantonese style food and live music! Members will receive an invitation. Non-members can [RSVP here](#).

[PAAN & PAPWT: Autism Acceptance Panel Discussion](#)

Friday, April 19 from noon to 1 p.m. The Port Authority Abilities Network (PAAN) and Port Authority Parents Working Together (PAPWT) will host a virtual Autism Acceptance Panel Discussion. Employees are welcomed and encouraged to hear and share stories around experiences with the autism spectrum. Members will receive an invitation. Non-members can [register here](#).

[APNG: Administrative Professionals Day](#)

Wednesday, April 24, from 9 to 11 a.m. The Bankers Club, 120 Broadway, New York. The Administrative Professionals Networking Group will celebrate Administrative Professionals Day, a time to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our agency's administrative staff. [Please RSVP by April 5](#). The event will also be livestreamed. [See the flyer](#) for more information. Please email pa_apng@panynj.gov with any questions.

WORKING ADVANTAGE DISCOUNT PROGRAM

Port Authority employees and retirees can take advantage of hundreds of discounts at stores, theaters, theme parks, and more through Working Advantage, the PA's Employee Discount Program partner. Visit www.workingadvantage.com and use the PA Member ID number, 405042634.

