

Hmong American Friendship Association, Inc. *Milwaukee* 

Hmong American Association of Portage County, Inc. *Stevens Point* 

Hmong American Partnership of Fox Valley, Inc. *Appleton* 

Hmong Mutual Assistance Association of Sheboygan, Inc. *Sheboygan* 

United Asian Services of Wisconsin, Inc. *Madison* 

Hmong American Center, Inc. *Wavsav* 

Shee Yee Community of Milwaukee, Inc. *Milwaukee* 

Wisconsin Lao Veterans of America, Inc. *Wisconsin Rapids* 

United States Special Guerilla Unit, Inc. *Manitowoc* 

Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce, Inc. *Statewide* 

Hmoob Cultural and Community Agency, Inc. *La Crosse* 

United Hmong of Wisconsin Outreach, Inc. *Butler* 

Eau Claire Hmong Area Mutual Assistance Association, Inc. *Fau Claire* 

Alternative Family Services Milwaukee

## Wisconsin United Coalition of Mutual Assistance Association, Inc.

## We Stand United in Supporting Our Black Communities and Denouncing Racial and Social Injustices

As an organization founded on advocacy for refugees and minorities, the Wisconsin United Coalition of Mutual Assistance Association (WUCMAA) has experienced firsthand the systemic and structural inequities that disenfranchise people of color and those most vulnerable in our communities. In the last few months, WUCMAA has responded to deportation issues related to Hmong refugees, addressed the pervasiveness of xenophobic acts of discrimination and violence against Asian Americans due to COVID 19, and engaged in conversations regarding the significant racial healthcare disparities in communities color, most notably in Black and Latinx communities. Two weeks ago, the senseless murder of George Floyd by police officers, reiterated and evidenced a long and extensive history of criminalizing, dehumanizing and oppressing Black Americans and communities of color in this country.

These collective events have accentuated the need for deeper dialogue and proactive actions in addressing systemic and structural racism that continues to permeate the fabric of this country. These events have also reinforced WUCMAA's commitment to unity and solidarity with our Black communities in denouncing racial and social injustices that have unjustly taken so many Black lives in this country. In this respect, we call on our elected officials at all levels, community leaders, and business leaders to actively engage in discussions and take actions to dismantle systems and processes that continually perpetuate oppression and inequality.

As Asian Americans, we understand that we are inextricably tied to the legacy of discrimination and inequality, and the movement and demand of Black Americans for change. It is through their struggles and sacrifices spanning 400 years that we have a voice for change today and unrelenting courage in the face of violence and oppression. We stand united with our Black communities in calling for racial and social justice and vow to continue working intentionally in breaking down social and economic barriers to equity, equality, and justice for all.

Long Vue, WUCMAA Executive Director

Yee Leng Xiong, WUCMAA President