



Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Arizona (PACCA)

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026 EDITION

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**ROOTED IN COMMUNITY.
 RISING TOGETHER.**

PACCA's strength comes from deep community roots: culture, service, and shared history. While our collective vision lifts businesses, leaders, and future generations forward.

In 2026, we honor where we come from as we grow together into what's next.

MISSION

WE ARE COMMITTED TO ASSISTING FILIPINO-AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURS AND PROFESSIONALS BY PROVIDING TIMELY AND INFORMATIVE RESOURCES, PROMOTING AND FOSTERING BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS, AND MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT AMONG OUR MEMBERS AND THE BROADER BUSINESS COMMUNITY, BOTH LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

VISION

TO BE THE PREMIER RESOURCE FOR FILIPINO-AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURS, CREATING A THRIVING COMMUNITY THAT DRIVES INNOVATION, GROWTH, AND IMPACT IN THE LOCAL AND GLOBAL BUSINESS LANDSCAPE.

Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Arizona (PACCA)



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Follow PACCA on social media for the latest updates, events, and community highlights — and visit our website for exclusive resources and news.

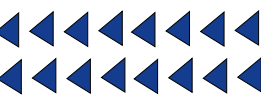
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT EMERITUS & STATE PRESIDENT



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Dear PACCA Family,

As I reflect on the journey of the Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Arizona, I am reminded that our greatest strength has never been found in any one individual. It has always been found in our community.

PACCA continues to grow because of the dedication of our members, the vision of our leaders, the resilience of our entrepreneurs, and the generosity of those who believe in lifting others as they climb. It is inspiring to see new businesses flourish, emerging leaders step forward, and the next generation embrace opportunities to lead with confidence and pride.

This month's newsletter is a reflection of that continued progress. It celebrates leadership, entrepreneurship, community engagement, and the importance of investing in our future. These stories remind us that when we work together, we create opportunities that extend far beyond our own success. They strengthen our families, our businesses, and our Filipino-American community.

As President Emeritus, I am incredibly proud of how far PACCA has come and even more excited about where we are headed. Our mission remains the same: to connect, empower, and advocate for our members while building meaningful partnerships that create lasting impact across Arizona.

Thank you for your continued commitment to PACCA. Your passion, volunteerism, and unwavering support are the foundation of our success. Together, we will continue to build a Chamber that not only serves today's business community but also inspires future generations of Filipino-American leaders.

I encourage each of you to stay engaged, support one another, and continue sharing your talents, ideas, and leadership. The future of PACCA is bright because of each of you. Thank you for being part of our journey.

With gratitude,
Edward Lago



MESSAGE FROM THE 2026 PACCA STATE PRESIDENT

Dear PACCA Members and Friends,

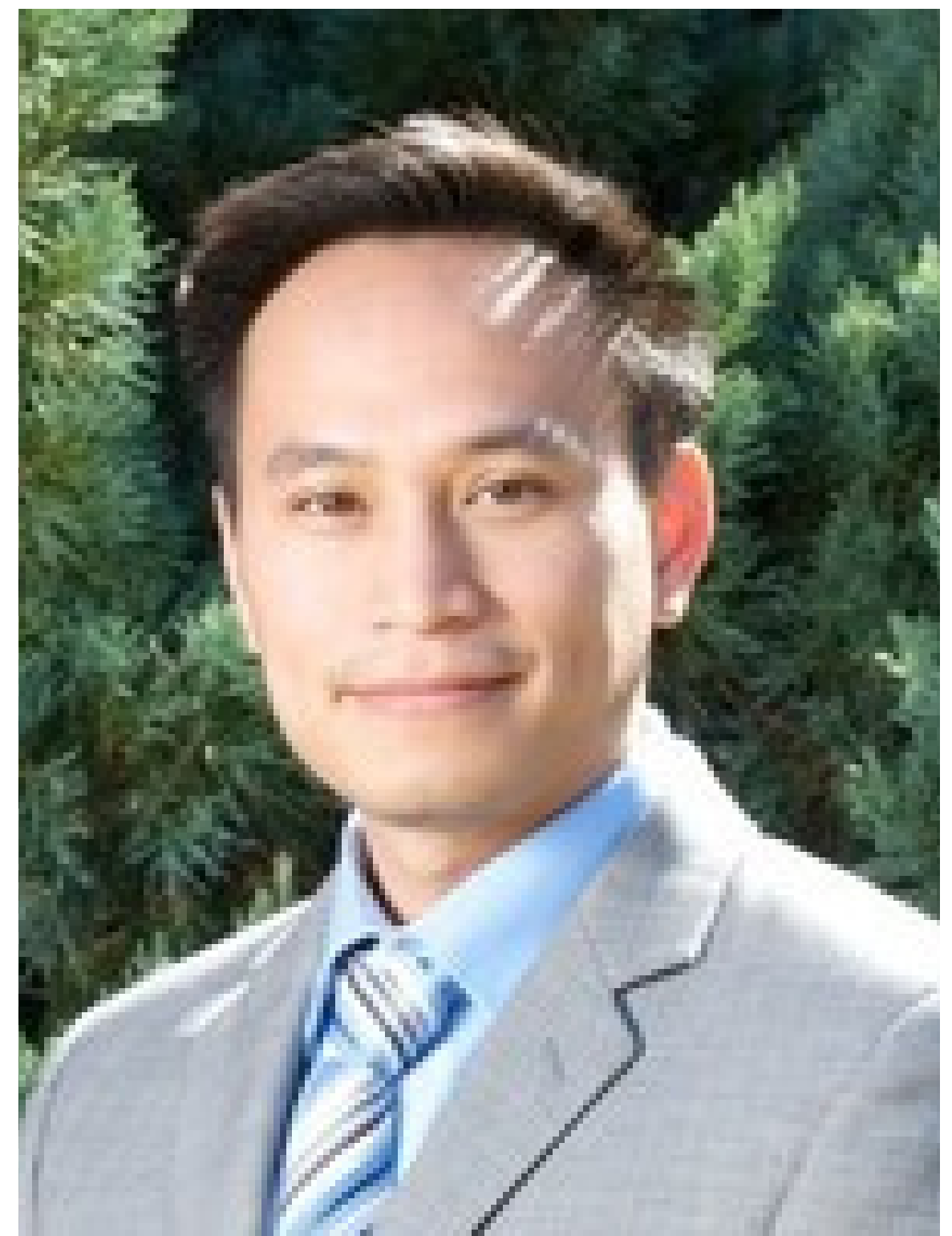
Every chapter has a story, but together, those stories become something much greater.

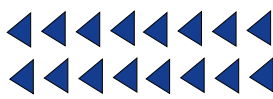
Across Arizona, I continue to see our PACCA chapters growing through collaboration, leadership, and a shared commitment to serving our communities. From supporting local businesses and developing future leaders to creating meaningful partnerships, each step forward reflects the strength and resilience of our Filipino-American community.

This issue celebrates that spirit. It highlights the people, programs, and progress that remind us why PACCA exists. To connect, empower, and advocate for those who are building brighter futures for themselves and for generations to come.

Thank you for your passion, your service, and your unwavering support of our mission. Together, we will continue creating opportunities, strengthening our communities, and ensuring that PACCA's legacy continues to grow across Arizona.

With gratitude,
Atty. Luan Mai





MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Every community has a story.

It's written in the businesses that open their doors each morning, the leaders who step forward to serve, the young people who dare to dream, and the neighbors who choose to lift one another up. With every new member, every partnership, and every shared success, the PACCA story continues to grow. This month's issue captures that journey.

From a new chapter in local leadership and meaningful conversations at our Legally Speaking event to the inspiring stories behind our Entrepreneur Spotlight, you'll discover how leadership, innovation, and collaboration continue to shape our community. We also explore the proposed Trump Accounts initiative and what it could mean for the future of family savings. Because informed decisions today help build stronger legacies tomorrow.

One story is especially close to our hearts. In our Youth Leadership Spotlight, we celebrate a young ambassador representing PACCA at Little Miss & Teen Philippines Arizona 2026. Her journey is more than a pageant experience. It's a reflection of confidence, cultural pride, and the promise of the next generation of Filipino-American leaders.

As you read through these pages, we hope you'll see more than headlines. We hope you'll see the people, dreams, and opportunities that connect us all. Thank you for being part of a Chamber that continues to grow because of members like you.

Together, we are not just building businesses, we are building a stronger community and a legacy for generations to come.

Rooted in community, rising together.
Kristine Bartolome



MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR

Can you believe we're already at the midpoint of 2026? As we hit our own "midyear reset," it felt only right to make that the heartbeat of this month's issue.

July has been a busy, and for many of us, a well-deserved vacation month. Between family trips and much-needed downtime, myself included, it's been a season of catching our breath. But as summer winds down and back-to-school season approaches, July is also the perfect time to pause, regroup, and get ready for the milestones ahead in the second half of the year.

That said, PACCA didn't slow down entirely. Our *Legally Speaking* panel discussion brought members together for a candid, practical conversation on the legal questions that matter most to our community, and I had the privilege of co-moderating the discussion. It's always energizing to see a room full of engaged members asking sharp questions and walking away with real answers. That same energy carried into our membership speech, where we talked about what it really means to belong to PACCA: Access, Accountability, and Momentum. I'm thrilled to share that new members joined us that day, and we couldn't be more excited to welcome them into the fold.

Speaking of momentum: this issue is all about taking stock and recalibrating. We're looking back at PACCA's milestones so far this year and sharing a timely tip on re-evaluating your business plan at the midyear mark.

Here's to a strong second half of the year for PACCA, and for every business in our community pushing forward.

Maraming salamat and see you at the next event!
Richelle Caubang





TRUMP ACCOUNTS AND THE FUTURE OF FAMILY SAVINGS: WHAT THIS NEW NATIONAL INITIATIVE SIGNALS FOR LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING

A new financial initiative known as “Trump Accounts” is now part of the national conversation, as the U.S. continues expanding discussions around long-term savings and generational financial planning.

According to **Reuters**, the program is designed to give families an early start in building financial security through investment-based savings accounts for children. Under the proposal, children born between 2025 and 2028 will be eligible for **Trump Accounts**, each receiving a \$1,000 federal contribution to begin building long-term savings. Families will be able to add to these accounts over time, creating another tax-advantaged tool alongside existing college savings and retirement options. At its core, the conversation centers on something many families already value deeply: **starting early and planning ahead.**

“At the center of this conversation is a simple idea: how do we help families plan further ahead for their children’s future?”

WHAT’S DRIVING THIS SHIFT?

Beyond the program itself, this reflects a wider national focus on **financial literacy, savings behavior, and long-term wealth building.**

Supporters highlight:

- **Early investment growth through compounding**
- **Encouraging financial habits from childhood**
- **Expanding access to structured savings tools**

At the same time, critics question whether programs like this will meaningfully reduce long-term wealth inequality or truly close the financial gap across communities.

“Financial stability is built over time, but the real question is whether opportunity is equally accessible to everyone.”

Corporate Support and Growing Momentum

One notable aspect of the rollout is the early support from major U.S. companies. Several corporations have already pledged backing for the program, including participation through employer matches or additional seed contributions:

- **Visa**
- **Dell Technologies**
- **Comcast**

In addition, semiconductor company **Micron** has pledged \$250 million to support **Trump Accounts**, signaling growing corporate interest in early wealth-building initiatives.

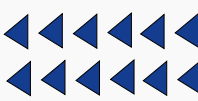
This level of involvement highlights how public policy and private-sector support are increasingly intersecting in the financial space.

“When government programs and private companies align, financial systems can shift faster than people expect.”

FAST FACTS

- \$1,000 government-funded account per eligible child
- Eligible births: 2025–2028
- Families can contribute additional savings
- Structured as long-term investment accounts
- Corporate participation already announced

“Financial opportunity is expanding, but access and awareness still determine who benefits most.”



TRUMP ACCOUNTS AND THE FUTURE OF FAMILY SAVINGS: WHAT THIS NEW NATIONAL INITIATIVE SIGNALS FOR LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING

WHY THIS FEELS RELEVANT TO MANY FAMILIES

For many Filipino-American families and communities like ours, this conversation feels familiar. We already understand the importance of long-term planning, working hard, saving consistently, and prioritizing education and future stability for our children.

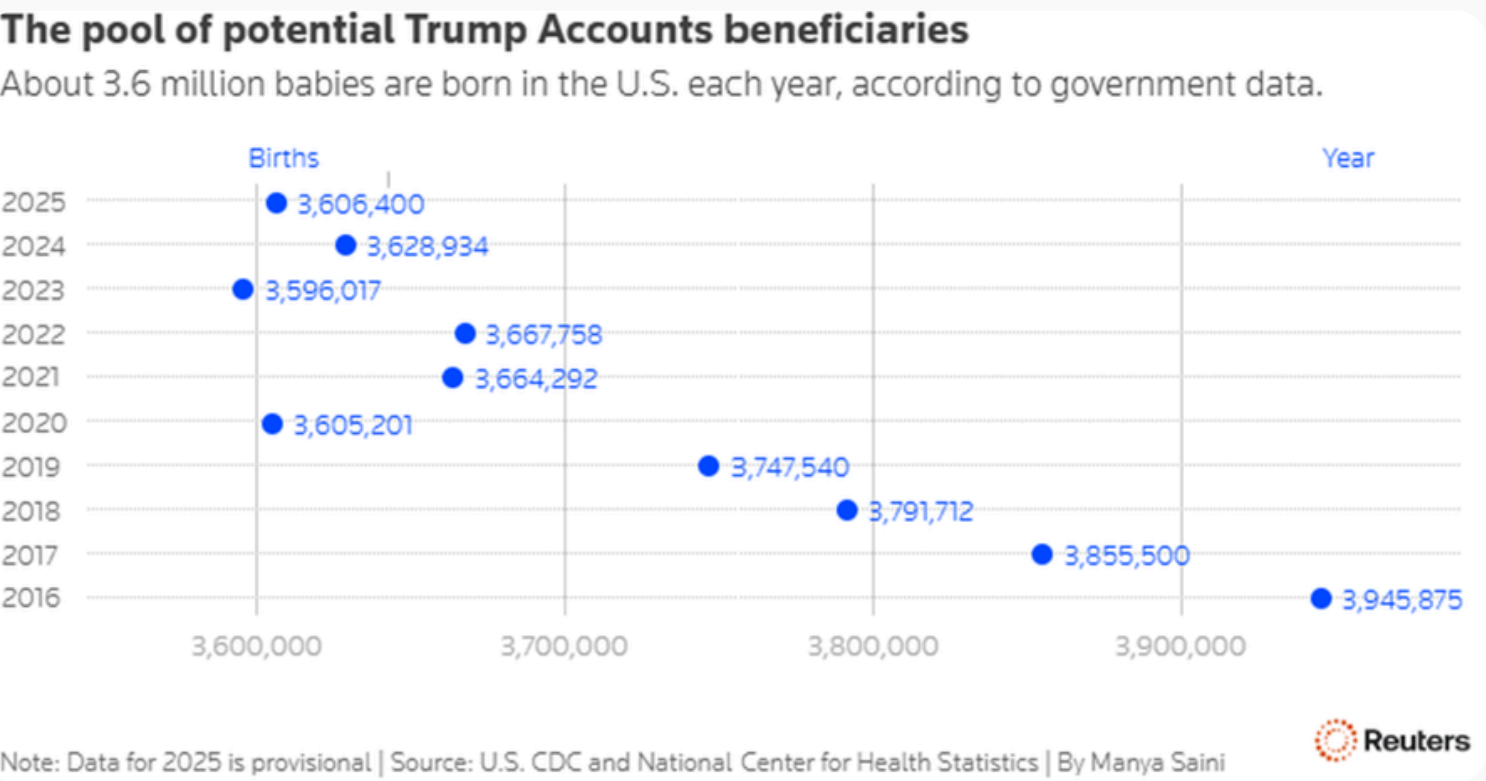
Programs like this simply bring a national spotlight to something many families are already practicing in their own way: thinking ahead, even when resources are limited.

“Most families are already doing the hard work, the difference often comes from access, timing, and information.”

FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

- Financial literacy is becoming essential, not optional
- Early planning creates more flexibility later in life
- Awareness of programs = access to opportunity
- Consistency matters more than timing alone

“The earlier families understand financial systems, the more choices they create for the future.”



Moving Forward Together

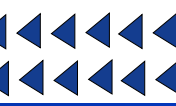
At PACCA, we continue to focus on helping our community stay informed, engaged, and prepared for conversations that impact long-term financial well-being.

Because beyond policy headlines, these moments invite a bigger reflection, how we position ourselves, our families, and our next generation for what comes next.

“The future isn’t just something we wait for; it’s something we prepare for.”

- For families, professionals, and communities, the focus continues to move toward:
- Early awareness
 - Long-term planning
 - Financial education
 - Strategic participation in evolving systems

At its core, this is not just about one program, it is about how financial opportunity is structured moving forward.



A NEW CHAPTER FOR CHANDLER: LEADERSHIP, GROWTH, AND OPPORTUNITY

Every city has defining moments.

Moments that signal not only a change in leadership but also the beginning of a new chapter. One filled with fresh ideas, renewed partnerships, and new opportunities for the community it serves.

For the City of Chandler, that moment arrived with the recent mayoral election.

After eight years under the leadership of Mayor Kevin Hartke, Chandler's voters have chosen a new direction. Unofficial results from the July 21 primary election show Councilmember Matt Orlando leading the race for mayor, succeeding the city's term-limited mayor and ushering in a new era for one of Arizona's most vibrant and economically dynamic communities.

For many residents, this election is more than a change at City Hall. It represents the next chapter in the story of a city that has grown into a hub for innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic opportunity.

From thriving family-owned businesses to global technology companies, Chandler has built a reputation as one of Arizona's premier destinations for business and investment.

Behind that success is a strong partnership between local government, business leaders, nonprofit organizations, and community advocates.

All working together to create an environment where people and businesses can flourish.

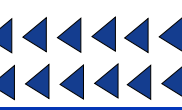
That spirit of collaboration is one the Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Arizona (PACCA) knows well.



PACCA believes that strong communities are built through meaningful relationships.

As Filipino-American entrepreneurs, professionals, and business owners continue to make their mark throughout the East Valley, collaboration with local leaders becomes increasingly important in shaping an inclusive and prosperous future.

“Leadership transitions offer more than change. They offer opportunity.”



A NEW CHAPTER FOR CHANDLER: LEADERSHIP, GROWTH, AND OPPORTUNITY



They invite fresh conversations about economic development, support for small businesses, workforce growth, innovation, and community engagement. They create new avenues for organizations like PACCA to strengthen partnerships that benefit not only our members but the broader Arizona community.

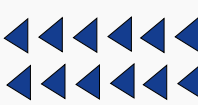
Whether through business networking, advocacy, educational programs, or community initiatives, PACCA remains committed to working alongside civic leaders who recognize the important role that small businesses and diverse communities play in Arizona's continued success.

As Chandler begins this new chapter, we congratulate Mayor-elect Matt Orlando on his victory and thank all those who stepped forward to serve their community through the electoral process. Public service requires dedication, vision, and a willingness to lead, and those qualities deserve recognition regardless of the outcome.

The story of Chandler is still being written. Its next chapter will be shaped by collaboration, innovation, and the collective efforts of residents, businesses, and community organizations working toward a shared vision of growth and opportunity.

PACCA looks forward to being part of that story. Continuing to build bridges, strengthen partnerships, and champion the entrepreneurial spirit that helps communities thrive.

Because when our cities grow stronger, our businesses grow stronger. And when businesses succeed, communities flourish.



WHERE DREAMS TAKE THE STAGE: THE JOURNEY TO LITTLE MISS & TEEN PHILIPPINES ARIZONA 2026

Every crown begins with a dream. For weeks, a remarkable group of young Filipinas has been preparing for a moment they will remember for the rest of their lives. They've practiced their walks, refined their speeches, discovered new talents, stepped outside their comfort zones, and formed friendships that will last long after the final applause. On Saturday, August 1, 2026, those dreams will come to life as the spotlight shines on the Little Miss Philippines Arizona and Teen Philippines Arizona 2026 Coronation Night at the beautiful Talking Stick Resort Ballroom in Scottsdale, Arizona. But this evening is about much more than crowns, sashes, or titles. It is about young women discovering who they are. These are the moments that shape future leaders. The Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Arizona (PACCA) is proud to support programs like Little Miss and Teen Philippines Arizona because they reflect the very heart of our mission—to strengthen our community by empowering future generations. When we invest in our youth, we invest in the future of Filipino-American leadership, culture, and service. Behind every contestant is a family cheering from the audience, mentors who have encouraged them every step of the way, volunteers who have dedicated countless hours, and a community that believes in investing in the next generation. Every smile on stage represents weeks of preparation, personal growth, and the courage to say, "I can do this." Throughout their journey, these young ambassadors have learned valuable lessons that cannot be measured by scores alone. As guests enter the ballroom on Coronation Night, they won't simply witness a pageant, they'll experience a celebration of heritage, family, and community.



They will see cultural pride woven into every presentation, confidence reflected in every smile, and dreams taking shape with every step across the stage. There will be moments of excitement, joyful laughter, proud tears, and thunderous applause. Families will celebrate milestones, friendships will grow even stronger, and one unforgettable evening will become a cherished memory for every contestant.

By the end of the night, new titleholders will be crowned. Yet the true victory belongs to every young woman who had the courage to participate, challenge herself, and proudly represent her Filipino heritage. Their journey reminds us that leadership begins with confidence, confidence grows through opportunity, and opportunity flourishes when a community believes in its youth.

As PACCA continues its commitment to building a stronger Filipino American community, we invite everyone to join us for this inspiring celebration on Saturday, August 1, 2026, at the Talking Stick Resort Ballroom in Scottsdale. Come celebrate the young women who are not only wearing beautiful gowns and crowns, but who are carrying forward a proud legacy of culture, compassion, leadership, and hope.



Because every great leader starts with a single step... and sometimes, that step begins on a stage.



COCO GONZALEZ: PHARMACIST & WELLNESS ENTREPRENEUR

"MY MISSION IS TO EMPOWER PEOPLE TO TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR HEALTH, CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE, AND BUILD STRONGER COMMUNITIES." ~ COCO GONZALEZ

Coco Gonzalez brings a rare combination of clinical training, entrepreneurial drive, and creative pursuits to PACCA's community. As a pharmacist, wellness educator, and business owner, she has built her career around helping people live healthier, stronger, and more fulfilling lives — and off the clock, she brings that same energy to acting, with credits listed on IMDB.

Through her work with ACTIVZ, Coco educates individuals and families on advanced nutritional science that supports cellular health, energy, healthy aging, and overall well-being. Her approach pairs pharmacist-level knowledge with a genuine passion for helping others take charge of their own health.

Beyond health advocacy, Coco mentors aspiring entrepreneurs looking to build an additional income stream while making a positive impact — turning wellness education into opportunity for others. As PACCA's Events and Social Media Ambassador, she's also a familiar face at chamber gatherings, deeply committed to supporting local businesses and creating community connections.

How Coco can collaborate with you:

- **Personalized Wellness Education — science-based nutritional solutions and lifestyle coaching**
- **Business Mentorship — guidance and support for entrepreneurship and financial flexibility**
- **Community Engagement — public speaking and educational partnership**



Interested in connecting with Coco about wellness or entrepreneurship opportunities? Reach out to explore how she can support your goals.

[_getactivate.activz.com](https://getactivate.activz.com)

linktr.ee/cocoshines



Coco Gonzalez's ACTIVZ Company with the tagline: "Activate Health. Empower Life. Redefine Wellness."



Ms. Coco Gonzalez in all of her event appearances.



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE: ESSENTIAL RESOURCES EVERY ARIZONA BUSINESS OWNER SHOULD KNOW

Starting and operating a business involves more than providing great products or services. Every business owner also has the responsibility of understanding Arizona's tax requirements. Fortunately, the Arizona Department of Revenue (ADOR) offers free resources and online tools designed to help businesses stay compliant and avoid costly mistakes.

Whether you're opening your first business or have been operating for years, here are some valuable ADOR resources worth knowing.

WHY THESE RESOURCES MATTER

Many small businesses spend unnecessary money correcting avoidable tax mistakes. Taking advantage of the free resources offered by the Arizona Department of Revenue can help you:

- Stay compliant
- Save time
- Reduce penalties
- Improve recordkeeping
- Focus more on growing your business

Think of ADOR not just as a tax agency, but as a partner providing tools to help Arizona businesses succeed.

1. Register Your Business Tax Account

If your business collects sales tax or hires employees, you'll likely need to register with the Arizona Department of Revenue.

Completing your registration online is fast and helps ensure your business meets state requirements from the start. Through AZTaxes.gov, you can:

- Register your business
- Apply for a Transaction Privilege Tax (TPT) license
- Manage your tax account online
- Update business information

2. Understanding Arizona's Transaction Privilege Tax (TPT)

Many business owners refer to it as "sales tax," but Arizona actually imposes a Transaction Privilege Tax (TPT) on businesses for the privilege of conducting business in the state. Understanding your tax obligations early can help prevent penalties later.

Businesses that sell taxable goods or services generally must:

- Obtain a TPT license
- Collect applicable taxes
- File returns on time
- Keep accurate business records

3. File and Pay Taxes Online

Arizona makes tax filing convenient through [AZTaxes.gov](https://www.aztaxes.gov). Using the online portal saves time and reduces paperwork.

Business owners can:

- File TPT returns
- Make tax payments
- View filing history
- Receive account notices electronically
- Manage multiple business locations

4. Free Educational Resources

ADOR offers numerous educational materials including:

- Business tax guides
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Industry-specific tax information
- Filing tutorials
- Webinars and instructional videos

These resources are especially valuable for new entrepreneurs learning Arizona's tax system.

5. Tax Rate Lookup Tools

If your business sells products throughout Arizona, tax rates may vary depending on city and county. Using the correct tax rate helps avoid underpayment or overcharging customers. ADOR provides tools to:

- Look up TPT rates
- Verify tax jurisdictions
- Determine the correct tax to collect

6. Stay Informed

Tax laws occasionally change. Staying informed helps businesses remain compliant and avoid surprises.

Business owners can stay updated by subscribing to:

- ADOR newsletters
- Tax alerts
- Legislative updates
- Filing reminders



PACCA BUSINESS TIP

One of the greatest strengths of being a PACCA member is having access to a network of experienced business owners who are willing to share their knowledge. If you're unsure about taxes, licensing, accounting, or starting a business, don't hesitate to ask fellow PACCA members. Chances are, someone has faced the same challenge and can point you in the right direction.



HERITAGE & CULTURE: TWO FLAGS, ONE FAMILY

Background

For most of the United States, July 4th means fireworks, barbecues, and a day off. But for many Filipino-American families, the date carries a second, quieter meaning... one most of our neighbors have never heard of.

In the Philippines, July 4 is observed as Philippine-American Friendship Day. It traces back to July 4, 1946, when the United States formally recognized full Philippine independence under the Treaty of Manila, ending nearly five decades of American governance over the islands.



The commemorative logo of the 80th anniversary of Philippines-US relations is officially launched at the SM MOA Globe in Pasay City on Feb. 5, 2026.

Historical Day

The date wasn't chosen by accident. It was set to coincide with America's own Independence Day, a symbolic handshake between two nations closing one chapter and opening another as equals.

For sixteen years, July 4 actually served as the Philippines' official Independence Day, before President Diosdado Macapagal moved the observance to June 12 in 1962, honoring Emilio Aguinaldo's 1898 declaration of independence from Spain instead. So today, Filipino-Americans find ourselves in a rare position: we get to celebrate not one, but two independence days within a month of each other. June 12 belongs to the Philippines alone; it is a day of Filipino resilience, forged in the fight against Spanish colonial rule. July 4 belongs to both nations at once: a shared date, a shared flag-raising, a reminder that our story with America has never been simple, but it has endured.

Freedom fought and achieved

That endurance was paid for, in part, by sacrifice. July 4 is also a day of remembrance for the thousands of Filipino soldiers who fought and died under the American flag during World War II, after President Roosevelt called the Philippine Commonwealth Army into U.S. service in 1941. Grandfathers and great-grandfathers in many of our own families carry that history. Some through medals, some through stories passed down at the dinner table, some through silence that says just as much.

For our family, growing up between these two dates has always felt less like choosing an allegiance and more like holding two truths at once. We are proudly, unmistakably Filipino. And we are also, undeniably, shaped by this country's opportunities, its neighborhoods, its Fourth of July cookouts where a plate of lumpia sits right next to the burgers. Two flags, raised side by side, isn't a contradiction. It's just what home looks like for many of us.

PACCA welcomes you to celebrate.

Whether your family has one flag or two, the instinct to hold onto where you come from while building a life somewhere new is not uniquely Filipino. If you're Filipino-American, we hope this July 4th you'll pause, even briefly, to recognize the layered history behind the fireworks. And if you're joining us from a different background, we hope you'll see a little of your own family's story reflected here too because that's exactly the kind of community PACCA was built to be.

So light the grill, wave both flags if you have them, and take a moment this Friendship Day to remember: our roots run deep, and our story is still being written together.



A TASTE OF HOME ARRIVES IN ARIZONA: **SEAFOOD CITY OPENS ITS DOORS TO A NEW CHAPTER**

There are certain places that instantly feel familiar the moment you walk through the doors.

The aroma of freshly grilled favorites. The vibrant colors of tropical fruits. Shelves lined with childhood snacks, pantry staples, and ingredients that have brought generations of families together around the dinner table. Conversations flowing in English, Filipino, and many other Asian languages. Smiles exchanged between neighbors who suddenly feel a little closer to home.

For thousands of Arizonans, that feeling is about to become a reality. On Thursday, July 30, Seafood City, North America's largest Filipino and Asian supermarket, will officially open its first Arizona location in Chandler. Spanning an impressive 66,000 square feet, the new store represents far more than another grocery destination. It is a celebration of culture, heritage, entrepreneurship, and community.

For more than three decades, Seafood City has served as a bridge between generations, connecting families to the flavors, traditions, and memories that define home. From Filipino favorites to specialties from Japan, Korea, China, Thailand, Vietnam, and many other parts of Asia, the Chandler location promises one of Arizona's most diverse selections of authentic groceries, freshly prepared meals, and cultural experiences under one roof.

The Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Arizona (PACCA) proudly welcomes Seafood City to Arizona and celebrates this exciting milestone.

For many Filipino Americans, this opening is deeply personal. It means no longer driving across state lines or waiting for special trips to purchase beloved ingredients. It means sharing family recipes with children using the same products their grandparents once used. It means introducing friends and neighbors to the richness of Filipino cuisine and the incredible diversity of Asian cultures. More importantly, it reflects something much bigger.

Arizona's Filipino American community continues to grow, contributing to the state's economy, healthcare, education, military service, entrepreneurship, and civic leadership. The arrival of Seafood City is a recognition of that growth. A sign that Arizona has become an important home for a vibrant and thriving community. The opening also creates new opportunities for collaboration among local businesses, community organizations, and cultural leaders. It becomes another gathering place where stories are shared, traditions are celebrated, and meaningful connections are formed. As an organization dedicated to empowering businesses, strengthening communities, and promoting Filipino American entrepreneurship, PACCA recognizes the positive economic and cultural impact that Seafood City's presence will bring to our state. Seafood City's arrival is not simply about expanding into a new market.

It is about creating a place where culture is celebrated every day. Where heritage is passed from one generation to the next. Where families gather over familiar flavors, entrepreneurs discover new partnerships, and communities continue to grow stronger together. Every successful community has places that become more than buildings. They become landmarks of identity. Places where memories are made, traditions are preserved, and newcomers are welcomed with open arms. With its first Arizona location, Seafood City is poised to become one of those places. As the doors open in Chandler, they also open a new chapter for Arizona—one that celebrates diversity, honors heritage, supports local economic growth, and reminds us that no matter how far we travel, there will always be a place that feels like home.



SEAFOOD CITY Grand Opening Flyer



Inside the SEAFOOD CITY

Welcome to Arizona, Seafood City. We are excited to grow, celebrate, and build community together.



EVERY GREAT JOURNEY BEGINS WITH COURAGE: **HOW DAPHNE BARTOLOME IS PROUDLY REPRESENTING PACCA AT LITTLE MISS PHILIPPINES ARIZONA 2026**



When twelve-year-old **Daphne Bartolome** first stepped into the world of **Little Miss Philippines Arizona 2026**, she wasn't chasing a crown. She was embracing an opportunity to grow, to learn, and to proudly represent something much bigger than herself.

This year, Daphne has the honor of representing the Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Arizona (PACCA), carrying with her the values of leadership, service, cultural pride, and community that the organization has championed for generations.

Like many young girls, Daphne arrived with a mix of excitement and nervousness. Every rehearsal, every interview, every practice walk, and every community event became another chapter in her journey. With each experience, she discovered that confidence isn't about being fearless, it's about believing in yourself enough to keep trying, even when something feels new or challenging.

These are the same values that PACCA strives to cultivate throughout the Filipino-American community.

Representing PACCA has given Daphne more than a title, it has given her the opportunity to become an ambassador for an organization that believes in investing in future leaders. Through her journey, she has shown that leadership has no age requirement. It begins with character, compassion, and the courage to step forward.

Beyond the pageant stage, Daphne is a curious learner who enjoys dancing, practicing martial arts, serving in her school's Student Council, and spending quality time with her family. She dreams of one day becoming a lawyer because she believes that one voice can make a difference and that standing up for what is right can help build a kinder and more just community.

As the weeks passed, something beautiful began to unfold.

The shy moments became confident smiles. The questions became conversations. The rehearsals became opportunities to grow. And the stage slowly transformed from an unfamiliar place into one where Daphne could proudly be herself.

Along the way, she built new friendships with fellow candidates, celebrated the richness of Filipino culture, and gained a deeper appreciation for the traditions that connect generations of Filipino families. Every lesson reminded her that true beauty is found not only in appearance but also in kindness, humility, respect, and the willingness to lift others up.

As **Coronation Night approaches on August 1, 2026, at the Talking Stick Resort Ballroom in Scottsdale**, excitement continues to grow. Friends, family, mentors, and the entire PACCA community will gather to celebrate not only the crowning of new titleholders but also the remarkable journeys of every young woman who had the courage to participate.

For Daphne, this journey has already become a victory. The confidence she has gained, the friendships she has formed, the lessons she has learned, and the pride she has found in representing both her Filipino heritage and PACCA are achievements that will remain with her long after the lights dim and the evening comes to a close.

No matter what happens on Coronation Night, Daphne has already shown what it means to lead with heart. She reminds us that the greatest accomplishments are not always measured by the crowns we wear, but by the lives we touch, the values we uphold, and the example we set for others.

At PACCA, we believe our future is shaped by young leaders like Daphne. Leaders who are rooted in their culture, committed to their community, and courageous enough to pursue their dreams. And for that, we couldn't be prouder.



PACCA CONTINUES ITS MISSION OF *EMPOWERING THE COMMUNITY THROUGH LEGAL EDUCATION*



The Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Arizona (PACCA) proudly hosted another impactful Community Legal Education Event, bringing together respected legal professionals, community leaders, business owners, and families for an afternoon centered on education, empowerment, and meaningful connection.

Led by Event Chair **Sol Aquino Tinio**, the program exemplified PACCA's ongoing commitment to delivering high-quality educational opportunities that address the real-life needs of Arizona's diverse and growing community. Through thoughtful planning and collaboration, the event created a welcoming space where attendees could ask questions, gain practical legal insights, and engage directly with experienced professionals.

Education remains one of the most powerful tools for community advancement. Access to reliable legal information empowers individuals and families to make informed decisions, protect their rights, preserve their assets, and confidently plan for the future. For entrepreneurs and business owners, understanding legal responsibilities and opportunities is essential to building sustainable ventures that contribute to Arizona's economic growth.

Adding to the significance of the event, PACCA proudly welcomed **Lisa Ritchie**, President of the Chinese Chamber Community. This meaningful connection marks an exciting step toward cross-cultural collaboration—creating a historic opportunity to build stronger partnerships and expand collective impact across communities.

The success of this event was made possible through the collective efforts of PACCA's Board of Directors, dedicated volunteers, committed members, and valued community partners. Their shared spirit of service continues to strengthen the Chamber's mission and broaden its reach throughout Arizona. PACCA extends its sincere appreciation to our generous sponsors whose support made this event possible:

Christina Laguna-Kelly – Call Christina Now
The Law Offices of Erik L. Mullins
Jaime Fernandez – NYFTY Lending / NYFTY Mortgage
Azroy Salim – Hello Vietnam Pho

The educational panel featured distinguished Arizona attorneys who generously shared their expertise across key areas of everyday life:

- **Elsa Landeros** provided valuable guidance on estate planning, including wills, trusts, asset protection, and strategies for building generational wealth.
- **Kelsey Zubkoff** offered insight into immigration law, helping families better understand complex processes while emphasizing compassion and advocacy.
- **Jordan Romero**, representing The Law Offices of Erik L. Mullins, discussed personal injury and motor vehicle accident law, equipping attendees with knowledge to protect their rights.
- **John Kang** shared practical expertise in contract, business, and family law, empowering attendees to make sound legal and business decisions.

Each presentation reinforced the importance of seeking professional guidance when navigating major life and business decisions, helping participants feel more confident and prepared.

PACCA was also honored to welcome **Dr. Stephen Neal Jr.**, educator, community leader, and write-in candidate for Arizona State Superintendent of Public Instruction. His presence highlighted the strong connection between education, civic engagement, and thriving communities.

Community education thrives through collaboration. When sponsors invest in educational initiatives, they do more than support a single event—they contribute to stronger families, informed citizens, resilient businesses, and a healthier local economy. Their partnership ensures that valuable knowledge remains accessible to all.

These collaborations demonstrate the power of unity among businesses, professionals, and nonprofit organizations. By combining resources, expertise, and a shared vision, we create opportunities that benefit not only today's community members but also future generations.

PACCA remains steadfast in its mission to educate, inspire, and connect. Every seminar, networking event, and educational forum reflects its dedication to strengthening businesses, empowering entrepreneurs, supporting families, and fostering leadership across cultures.

As PACCA continues to grow, it invites community members, professionals, and business leaders to be part of this journey. Together, we can build bridges, expand opportunities, and create a stronger, more prosperous Arizona through education, collaboration, and service.



WELCOME TO PACCA!

Welcome to PACCA: Evangeline Pascasio

Certified John Maxwell Leadership Coach | Speaker | Trainer | Wellness & Life Coach

PACCA is excited to welcome Evangeline, a dynamic and purpose-driven professional dedicated to empowering individuals, families, and organizations through transformational coaching and leadership development.

As a Certified John Maxwell Leadership Coach, Speaker, and Trainer, as well as a Certified Wellness Coach, Evangeline brings a well-rounded approach to growth combining leadership principles with whole-person wellness. Her work supports clients in building clarity, confidence, and intentional direction in both personal and professional life.

Her coaching expertise spans life, marriage, and parenting, offering guidance that strengthens relationships and nurtures personal well-being. She also provides executive coaching and healthcare consulting, helping professionals and organizations elevate performance while maintaining balance and purpose.

In addition, Evangeline leads impactful leadership and DISC trainings, workshops, and masterminds designed to equip individuals and teams with the tools they need to communicate better, lead effectively, and grow with confidence.

We are honored to welcome Evangeline Pascasio into the PACCA community of leaders, educators, and changemakers. Her passion for development and service aligns deeply with our mission of connection, empowerment, and collective growth.

Welcome to PACCA, Evangeline!



Welcome to PACCA: Roida L. Henderson

Founder | Chandler Sari-Sari | Filipino Food & Culture Entrepreneur

PACCA is excited to welcome Roida, the founder behind Chandler Sari-Sari, a vibrant local business sharing the rich and comforting flavors of authentic Filipino cuisine right here in the community.

Through Chandler Sari-Sari, Roida brings a taste of the Philippines closer to home offering a variety of beloved Filipino foods that reflect tradition, culture, and the joy of shared meals. Her work helps keep cultural heritage alive while creating opportunities for connection through food.

Rooted in authenticity and community spirit, Roida’s passion goes beyond food it’s about preserving identity, celebrating Filipino culture, and bringing people together one dish at a time. Her entrepreneurial journey reflects resilience, pride, and a deep love for sharing something meaningful with others.

We are thrilled to welcome Roida L. Henderson into the PACCA network of entrepreneurs and cultural ambassadors. Her presence adds warmth, flavor, and cultural richness to our growing community.

Welcome to PACCA, Roida!



Welcome to PACCA: Tess Schell

Financial Services Professional | Freedom Equity Group | Wealth & Protection Advocate

PACCA is excited to welcome Tess, a dedicated financial services professional committed to helping individuals and families create greater financial confidence, protection, and long-term security.

Through her work with Freedom Equity Group, Tess supports clients in exploring strategies that help protect what matters most while building a stronger financial future. Her approach is rooted in education, empowerment, and helping people make informed decisions with clarity and purpose.

Tess is passionate about guiding families toward financial solutions that provide peace of mind whether that means preparing for the unexpected, planning ahead, or strengthening long-term financial stability. Her work reflects a deep commitment to service and a belief that financial awareness is a key part of overall well-being.

We are honored to welcome Tess Schell into the PACCA community of professionals who are dedicated to impact, education, and empowerment.

Welcome to PACCA, Tess!





WELCOME TO PACCA!

Welcome to PACCA: Tessa Pryor

Assisted Living Care Provider | Manna Assisted Living Home | Compassionate Senior Care Advocate

PACCA is excited to welcome Tessa, a compassionate care provider dedicated to creating a safe, loving, and family-centered environment for seniors in need of support and dignity in daily living.

Through Manna Assisted Living Home, Tessa embodies a true “caring hands, compassionate heart” philosophy ensuring residents are not only cared for, but genuinely valued, respected, and at home. Her approach reflects warmth, patience, and a deep commitment to making every individual feel seen and supported.

Her mission goes beyond caregiving, it is about creating a true home environment where comfort, dignity, and emotional well-being are prioritized. Tessa’s work reflects the heart of community care, where families can feel peace of mind knowing their loved ones are in good hands.

We are honored to welcome Tessa Pryor into the PACCA community of professionals and caregivers who lead with compassion, service, and heart.

Welcome to PACCA, Tessa!





Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Arizona (PACCA)

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026 EDITION

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FINAL THOUGHTS

As we close out this July edition, we are reminded that the strength of our community lies in our shared commitment to growth, collaboration, and service. Each story, event, and milestone featured this month reflects the vibrant spirit of PACCA—a community built on connection and driven by purpose.

From empowering entrepreneurs to celebrating culture and supporting one another through meaningful initiatives, PACCA continues to serve as a bridge for opportunity and impact. For over three decades, the organization has remained dedicated to fostering relationships, supporting businesses, and uplifting the Filipino-American community in Arizona and beyond.

As we look ahead to the coming months, we are excited for what's to come—especially our upcoming Ceremonial Turnover & Induction of Officers and New Members, where we will celebrate leadership, welcome new members, and continue building a stronger future together.

Let us carry forward the spirit of bayanihan—working together, supporting one another, and creating opportunities not just for ourselves, but for the generations to come.

Thank you for being part of PACCA. Together, we grow stronger.

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SHARE YOUR STORY WITH PACCA

Every PACCA story begins with people — our entrepreneurs, families, leaders, and community builders. The moments we share, the businesses we grow, and the culture we carry forward are what truly connect us.

We invite you to submit an article, share a personal story, or highlight a business, initiative, or meaningful moment that reflects the heart of our Filipino-American community.

From milestones and community impact to cultural celebrations and quiet wins worth celebrating, your story helps shape who we are and where we're going.



Send your submission to:

kristine@ourcommunitymortgage.com

LET'S CONTINUE BUILDING THE PACCA STORY — TOGETHER.

Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Arizona (PACCA)



Stay Connected with Us!
 Follow PACCA on social media for the latest updates, events, and community highlights — and visit our website for exclusive resources and news.

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