

Khai Tran

I am honored to be just nominated to serve on the APOA board.

I am a 1st generation immigrant, my immediate family relocated to St. Louis, MO in early 1988. In 1979, my late father (Chinese), my mother (Chinese/Vietnamese), older brother and I were fortunate enough to leave Vietnam and make it over to the refugee camps in Hong Kong when I was about 1 years old. An opportunity came up to immigrate to Wales, UK so my parents made the decision to separate from my mother's family at the camps and immigrate to the UK where I spent most of my childhood. My mother's side was able to immigrate to the US a little later. By 1988, my mother's side was established and owned/operated their own restaurant in St. Louis. They sponsored our family to move over to the US. My immediate family moved to Oakland in 1989, my father wanted us to be closer to our Chinese/Vietnamese heritage and culture. I am not as fluent as I used to be but I can still hold a conversation in both Cantonese and Vietnamese. My younger sister was born shortly after moving to Oakland.

My father passed away from lung cancer shortly before my younger sister's 1st birthday. Growing up in East Oakland as a teenager in the public school system was a challenge. I traveled and worked at the family's restaurant in St. Louis during the summer months before I was legally allowed to work elsewhere. My high school years were spent working 2+ jobs, volunteering for the Kiwanis, and being an active member of the Asian Youth Services Committee (AYSC) sponsored by the Oakland Police Department. I became a US citizen my senior year in high school, graduated top 5% of my class, and was accepted to UC Davis.

While going to school at UCD, I was a supervisor and bus driver for Unitrans Transit service, A crew chief for Student Works Painting, and a charter bus driver for Davis Airporter which allowed me to have a lot of experience and interaction with international students visiting for the UCD English program.

After graduating with a B.S. in Architecture, I was hired by Waste Management Inc. as an Operations Auditor. I later worked for Mark III Engineering, project managing custom home builds and commercial tenant improvements. In late 2008, I joined SMUD's New Construction division. My last 13 year with SMUD, I managed the Smart Meters & Network deployment, Assistant to the Director of Distribution Services, managed the construction of the Distribution Automation project, Scheduling Operations for the Downtown Underground Electric Network, Golden One Arena 21kV, Substation Maintenance, Franklin Substation and Station G construction, and currently Telecommunications for Sac Valley and Power Generation at our mountain hydro facilities.

I currently serve as SMUD's Military Employee Resource Group Treasurer, 100+ members. I am the Utility Technology Council (UTC) Region 10 Vice-Chair which covers utility companies in Hawaii, Nevada, Arizona, and California. I am also a National Finance Committee Regional Representative for UTC. As a SMUD employee, I am committed to serving our community and continue to volunteer for the many local groups and organizations dedicated to supporting our communities, particularly those that support the underserved.

I live in Folsom with my wife Anne (Sac County Civil Engineer), 11 year old daughter Emma, and 8 year old son Rhys. Before moving to Folsom, we lived in Elk Grove, Greenhaven, and the Arden/Arcade area.