



Press Release: NOPA Celebrates 1st Year Anniversary and Accomplishments

June 3, 2010

This past May, The National Organization of Portuguese Americans (NOPA) celebrated its first anniversary of serving US citizens and residents of Portuguese descent. NOPA was established last year on May 15, 2009 with the mission of empowering Portuguese Americans through advocacy, community development, education, and organizational support. For the past year, NOPA has played a supporting role to organizations and elected officials serving our community, served as an advocate for issues that impact the Portuguese-American community, provided capacity and development support to community organizations, supported Portuguese language education efforts, promoted the Portuguese culture in the US, and assisted in strengthening Portuguese - US relations.

Our first year accomplishments:

- **Community Support** - NOPA sent out over 19 funding alerts that informing organizations, municipal leaders, and elected officials about federal and foundation grants, and resources for non-profits. Alerts also included fundraising and grant development advice.
- **Advocacy** - To better inform the Portuguese American community about issues that impact the Portuguese-American community, NOPA sent out over 21 legislative alerts on important Congressional bills, 4 action alerts appealing for calls and letters to elected officials, a health care reform white paper, and we kept the community informed during the US Ambassador to Portugal nomination and confirmation process. We also sent 2 position statements on the need to nominate a Portuguese American as US Ambassador to Portugal and another on immigration reform, which we sent to all 50 US Senators.
- **Organizational Support** - NOPA provided support to community organizations by assisting with grant development and serving as a clearinghouse for non-profit capacity building resources. We also have scheduled organizational development workshops that will be held on the east and west coasts.
- **Portuguese Language Education** - NOPA supported community efforts to keep the Portuguese language alive within our community and youth by meeting with educators to discuss challenges, solutions, and is currently developing an action plan to assist with improving opportunities to teach Portuguese.



- **Portuguese Culture Promotion** - NOPA is currently working on developing a comprehensive source of information which will serve as a national resource for the Portuguese American community and also for other communities across the US. The publication, which will also be available online, will highlight information about our culture, artists, elected officials, community leaders, and important events. *NOPA is currently seeking sponsors to cover publication costs.*
- **Strengthening Portuguese - US Relations** - As a response to the floods that devastated Madeira on February 20th, NOPA was on the phone at 3 A.M. coordinating with the Cruz Vermelha on the following Monday to set up a specific account, so that the Luso American community could send their donations for the purpose of helping our brothers and sisters suffering from the tragedy. We also set up a special account, so that individuals who did not feel comfortable making bank account wire transfers could just use their credit cards to make their donation via the NOPA website.

NOPA believes in providing result, outcome, and impact-oriented services, which would have not been possible this past year without the generosity of its Board of Directors. Since its founding, the Board Members agreed that NOPA was to be self funded during its first year recognizing that many in our community would be hesitant to support a new organization without a track record.

Now that NOPA has celebrated its first anniversary, we invite everyone who has been pleased with our performance over the past year and would like to see more to make an impact on the lives of Portuguese Americans by empowering our communities through NOPA improving access to economic opportunities, education, immigration rights, political representation, and social services.

To review NOPA's different contribution opportunities and make a tax-deductable donation by credit card, please visit:

<http://www.nopa-us.org/16.html>

Those wishing to send a check can mail their contribution to:

NOPA, Inc.
PO Box 2652
Falls Church, VA 22042

NOPA commits to being a transparent organization and will be posting its yearly financial reports on its website for our community's review of how donations are used. All donations will be used for organizational operations and programs only.

NOPA was established as an affiliate and community support organization therefore does not have memberships. We serve all US citizens and residents of Portuguese



descent, including those who decide to or cannot afford to send us a donation. Everyone is welcome to sign up and receive our information and benefit from our services. We look forward to another year in the service of our Portuguese American community.

For any questions, please contact NOPA at 703-389-3512 or info@nopa-us.org.

About Us

NOPA is a national non-profit, non-partisan, tax-exempt organization created to address the many growing needs of the Portuguese-American community living in the United States. Headquartered in the Greater Washington DC Region, NOPA conducts applied research, policy analysis, advocacy, and providing a Portuguese-American perspective in critical policy areas. NOPA provides Portuguese language education and culture promotion as well as capacity-building assistance to its affiliates who work at the state and local level to advance opportunities for individuals and families.

Contact Us

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