

For Immediate Release  
Date: Monday, October 18, 2004

Contact: Karen Willard  
[301-587-2781/karen.willard@navasa.org](mailto:301-587-2781/karen.willard@navasa.org)

## **NAVASA Board of Directors Elects Vee Phan Nelson as New Chair**

**Houston** — A board meeting held September 30, 2004, during the National Alliance of Vietnamese American Service Agencies' (NAVASA's) National Conference served as the forum for electing a new Board of Directors and selecting a new Board Chair. Newly appointed and elected Board members chose Ms. Vee Phan Nelson as the new Chair of NAVASA's Board of Directors.

Of Vietnamese descent, Ms. Nelson was born and raised in Laos. She is currently acting as Executive Director of the Center for Asian Pacific Islanders (CAPI) located in Minneapolis, Minn. Since she assumed the position four years ago, Ms. Nelson has provided overall leadership and has developed CAPI into a non-profit organization with \$1.8 million in annual revenue, employing 25 diverse staff members and serving over 3,500 refugees annually from around the world. Ms. Nelson's election represents the first time a woman has become Chairperson of NAVASA's Board.

After her election, Ms. Nelson received a ceremonial gavel from the former chairperson, Mr. Duc Hong Duong. Speaking of her new role leading the Board, Ms. Nelson states, "I will focus my energies over the next four years on helping the organization build strength and viability, and ensure the board has a consistent understanding of the NAVASA mission. I want the organization to become a stronger voice and resource to help member organizations build capacity to meet the cultural, economic, and social needs of the Vietnamese American youth, elders, and families."

The new Board of Directors and Board retirees were acknowledged during a Recognition Banquet held October 2, 2004. The new Board is comprised of both elected and appointed members, numbering 15 in all. NAVASA members re-elected six board members to new terms (Vee Phan Nelson, Diem Duc Ngo, Tam Nguyen, Duy Pham, Yen Pham, and Amra Sabanic), inaugurated three new board members (Anhlan Nguyen, Tri Duc Ta, and Hoang Tran), and ratified the appointment of six independent board members (Diana Bui, Bob Jones III, Dan Krotz, Ducchi Quan, Dr. Ho Tran, and Dr. DeVance Walker). All members of the Board of Directors will serve four year terms.

In addition to new Chair Vee Nelson, the Board of Director's Executive Committee is made up of Vice-Chair Diem Duc Ngo, Vice-Chair Amra Sabanic, Treasurer Duy Pham, and Secretary Ducchi Quan. Executive Committee members serve two year terms.

Further information about NAVASA can be obtained by visiting [www.navasa.org](http://www.navasa.org).

++++

NAVASA is a national advocacy agency currently comprised of 35 community- and faith-based organizations. Since its incorporation in 1995 as a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization, NAVASA has promoted economic self-sufficiency and active citizenship for Vietnamese-Americans through full participation in the socio-political system. Located in metropolitan Washington DC, NAVASA is fully committed to assisting its affiliate organizations to address the civic, economic, linguistic, and social needs facing community members in their specific localities.

**National Alliance of Vietnamese American Service Agencies  
1010 Wayne Avenue, Suite 310, Silver Spring, MD. 20910**

**Tel: 301/587-2781 \* Fax: 301/587-2783**  
**Email: [navasa@navasa.org](mailto:navasa@navasa.org)**