

## Chairman's Message

### **Eighteenth Annual Convention of the Alliance of South Asian America Labor (ASAAL)**

**Theme: "Our Work, Our Pride and Our Progress"**

#### **Greetings!**

I am truly honored and delighted to serve as Chair of the Convention Committee for the *Eighteenth Annual Convention of the Alliance of South Asian American Labor (ASAAL)*. This year, we gather under the powerful and purposeful theme: **"Our Work, Our Pride, and Our Progress."** This is more than just a slogan - it is a reflection of who we are, the values we uphold, and the vision we share for a just, inclusive, and equitable future. Our work is the foundation of our communities. Our pride is rooted in our culture, our resilience, and our contributions. And our progress is driven by solidarity, advocacy, and the tireless pursuit of dignity for all workers.

At the heart of all we do is **our work**. It defines who we are. Through our work, we transform ideas into action, challenges into opportunities, and goals into tangible results. Whether the task is large or small, visible or behind the scenes, every effort matters. Every late night,

every thoughtful decision, every extra step taken builds the foundation of ASAAL's continued success.

But our work is more than just responsibility - it is a **commitment to the growth of our labor movement, the advancement of South Asian American workers, and the progress of society as a whole.**

We take **pride** in our work because it reflects our values, our standards, and our integrity. Pride is not arrogance - it is confidence born from dedication, skill, and perseverance. It is what we see in our diverse teams, our tireless organizers, and every member who brings passion and purpose to their role.

Our pride is what sustains us during difficult times. It is what unites us across communities, backgrounds, and professions. It is the pride of knowing that **our collective voice matters**, and that together, we are building something far greater than ourselves.

Yes, we have made **remarkable progress**. From grassroots organizing to policy advocacy and from worker education to civic engagement, ASAAL continues to break new ground. But progress does not come easily. It is earned-through hard work, through listening and learning, and through standing together in the face of adversity. Every milestone we have achieved has been

made possible by the commitment and courage of people like you - members, leaders, allies, and supporters.

Yet let me be clear: **our journey is far from over.**

Progress is not a destination, but a path we walk every day. As we look ahead, let us carry forward the lessons of the past and keep our vision firmly on the future we are building together.

In closing, let this year's theme serve as a daily reminder that **our work** is meaningful, that **our pride** strengthens our purpose, and that **our progress** is a shared achievement - one we will continue to build, together.

And, let us continue to make progress proudly and together, for the greater good and benefit of our own communities, for the communities we serve and for the greater social community of which we are an integral part.

As Chair, it has been a privilege working with each of you to ensure this convention is a meaningful celebration of our journey and a bold step forward for our collective movement.

Golam M. Mathbor, MSS, MSW, Ph.D.

Chair, Convention Committee

Professor and Interim Dean, School of Social Work

Monmouth University, New Jersey, USA