

The Council

ALPHA PHI OMEGA (PHILIPPINES) ALUMNI COUNCIL OF NORTH AMERICA



ACNA, A SHARED VISION . . .

by Brother Toti Ayo

With this Fall Issue of The Council, I am glad to have been able to share and reach out to and with you once again. In time for the Fall 2013 Board meeting in Foster City, CA this end of August, we wish you all the best! Pope Francis, in his recent trip to Brazil for the World Youth Day last July 2013, in a remarkably blunt and straightforward assessment of the state of the Catholic Church, delivered a long address to the country's Bishops and said that it should look in the mirror and ask why so many people are leaving the faith of their fathers. "I would like all of us to ask ourselves today: are we still a Church capable of warming hearts?" he said in a speech remarkable for its frankness about the hemorrhaging of the Church in many countries. "At times we lose people because they don't understand what we are saying, because we have forgotten the language of simplicity and import an intellectualism foreign to our people," he said.

In another talk at Rio's theater, he said that leaders must address the issues raised in protests in Brazil, saying *dialogue is the only way to resolve the issues.*

He urged leaders not to remain deaf to "the outcry, the call for justice (that) continues to be heard even today" and, in an apparent reference to corruption, spoke of "the task of rehabilitating politics."

These words from Pope Francis I find striking and I want to share and invite you all to reflect on some of these thoughts *relative to*, and as we give our time and provide leadership in Alpha Phi Omega (Philippines), The Alumni Council of North America

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ACNA-HMDO Mission volunteers at the Darigayus Luna, La Union service project.

HMDO MISSIONS AND THE BICOL EXPERIENCE

By Art Rivera

The Legazpi Convention - On the weekend of May 23-26, all roads led to Legazpi, Albay dubbed the "City of Fun and Adventure" in heart of Bicolandia. Thousands of brothers, sisters and families, from all parts of the Philippines, the US, Canada, Middle East and from the other parts of the globe, converged at the Ibalong Centrum for the 27th National Biennial Convention of Alpha Phi Omega Philippines. The gathering adapted the theme "Together as One, Rooted and Grounded in Service" during the weeklong celebration. We salute the working committees of the 27th NBC Hosts, the Gamma Xi (Aquinas University) Alumni Association for a job well done.

The Biennial gathering brings all of us together as the National Leaders look back to the accomplishments of the last two years and look ahead and plan for the vision and direction of APO Philippines in the next two-development years.

For Greater LA delegates, it was an opportune time to mingle with brothers and sisters we have not seen for a long time and a chance to take a vacation and see the sights of Bicol and the country. Greater LA was led by the "Be Cool" brothers Egay Ninofranco, Toti Ayo, Mar Garchitorena and Jun Linsangan. Joining them were ACNA First Couple Lito and Josie Tarculas, GLA President Melody Ang-Gayon, Ophel and Tony Amon, Doms Tunque, Alex Pastores, Jerome Paggao, Roland Paras, Erna Villanueva, Yoyi Hijado, Mike and Betsy Medina and daughters Gerelle and Celeste and Gie and Art Rivera. We joined in all the revelry, celebrations and the endless handclasps, hugs and greetings from old and newfound friends.

We were booked at the Casablanca Hotel, almost a stone's throw from the majestic Mayon Volcano. The sight is one to behold and the weather allowed us to admire this beautiful wonder of nature which seem to follow you wherever you go in Albay. The APOGLA sponsored "Pakain sa Volunteers Part 2" was held on Saturday, May 25 at the premises of the convention center. This was a small gesture in appreciation to the work done by the numerous volunteers at the convention.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fraternal Greetings!

Allow me to extend my good wishes to all our ACNA-member Alumni Associations - Brothers, Sisters and their families - especially to the members of the Board of Directors and our Council's Executive Officers.

Our ACNA Fall 2013 BOD and Council Meeting is fast approaching. May I remind all Alumni Association Presidents to please attend and represent your AA well. This is the forum where you may raise any, if at all, your AA's concerns.

Well, ACNA did it again! Last May 2013, while APO Phil members all over the world were gearing up for the APO Philippines Biennial Convention in Legazpi, Albay, APO ACNA member volunteers and donors here in North America were preparing balikbayan boxes for ACNA's 9th Humanitarian, Medical, Dental and Optical Mission in the Philippines.

I would like to personally thank all the Alumni Associations, Brothers, Sisters and friends who put in time, money and effort in helping this very noble project of ACNA.

Special thanks to our Project Chairs Sis Irma Almazan and co-Chair Bro. Aleks Garcia. Special thanks, too, to Sis Cita and Sis Bhogs of Lambda Chapter . . . walang mga kapaguran. They took care of coordinating with the Local and Barangay Officials - including accommodations and foods for our local volunteers.

This mission wouldn't have been possible without the services of our APO Medical Professional volunteers from Araneta University, the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Medical Center, and Dental Students from the Centro Escolar University. Maraming salamat!

Lastly, but not the least, to Col. Cesar Noble (US Army Retired) for allowing us to use his place in Luna, La Union, as the staging area for our supplies, accommodations and fellowship after the Medical Mission.

Here are the highlights that ACNA member volunteers did prior to the Biennial Convention:

May 11 – Feed the Poor - at Balikbalik in Manila
May 18 – 9th International Humanitarian Medical, Dental and Optical Mission – Part I at Darigayus Luna, La Union.
May 22 – 9th International Humanitarian, Medical, Dental and Optical Mission- Part II at Legazpi, Albay.
May 22 – Bro. Joe Eco (ACNA-Sponsored) Conducted a Leadership Training for Collegiate Students at Legazpi Science High School.
May 25 – Balik Chapter Award - providing Cash Prizes and Plaques to deserving Collegiate Chapters.

Briefly, on the new/updated ACNA Directory, per our ACNA Treasurer's report (which will be published on or before the fall meeting at SFSV), only a few Alumni Associations and individuals sent in their Ads contract. That is why we had to postpone the printing. I am very optimistic, however, that this coming BOD meeting, we will get the needed response. To all our AA Presidents, please push this initiative to your respective Alumni Associations. As always, we appreciate your support. Humbly, I am counting on you my dear AA Presidents to make this happen.

After two and a half decades, ACNA has proven itself to be a viable organization. We have planted a seed that will continue to grow over time. We can only appreciate our member AAs - always ready to give a helping hand.

Just as important as our past achievements, let us not lose sight on our shortcomings as well - resolute in our commitment to do better. We all know that we are faced with many challenges ahead. It is how we address these challenges that will define who we really are and how much we can really take.

I call on you Brothers and Sisters to work on unity among us. Unity is our greatest strength. A unique mixture of characters has transformed our Council into this many number of Alumni Associations under ACNA's umbrella. Our objectives and our goals are our unifying factors. We have come together in difficult times this recent past, we shall do the same as we move on along.

As your trusted steward, I am determined to be one with you all along to preserve this moment. May this serve as a significant opportunity for ACNA to reaffirm its position on important issues where consensus is a must and embody that position loud and clear as a public statement of our policy.

Perhaps most importantly, this is a time for us to do what we do best. That is to educate ourselves and all our brethren about the values this ACNA embraces and the behavior that we find acceptable.

I conclude with an appeal to all ACNA members to bring forth the very best to serve our organization. ACNA is blessed and is privileged to being a wonderful umbrella of Alumni Associations. We cannot deny that today, it is the world's largest umbrella of Alumni Associations we call 'The Council' - and its members can only commit to fulfill that promise to make it great!

Thank you very much and see you all this coming August 30th and 31st for the ACNA 2013 Fall Meeting.

Yours in Service

Brother Lito Tarculas
 ACNA President, 2013 -2014

APO MIDWEST-CHICAGO HOSTED 2013 ACNA SPRING MEETING MARKED 14TH INDUCTION OF OFFICERS

♫ Chicago, ♫ Chicago—that toddlin' town. ♫ Chicago, ♫ Chicago—I will show you around.
♫ I love it! Bet your bottom dollar you'll lose the blues in Chicago, Chicago♫.

The site, sound, smell and taste of true APO hospitality was overwhelming during the ACNA 2013 Spring Meeting hosted by APO Midwest-Chicago Alumni Association on March 15-17. Our host AA, members and officers of APO Midwest-Chicago made certain that we shook-off the winter blues and loved every minute of the long weekend of fellowship. No one wanted to pack their bags and jet back home. The event was highlighted with the celebration of APO Midwest-Chicago AA's 14th Induction Ball.

True to APO Midwest-Chicago hospitality, delegates and guests were treated to sumptuous 5-star buffet breakfast, bookended by a banquet of unending supply of food, wine and beer! Not to forget the seemingly endless stock of laughter and *katsawan* spiked with the coolest jamming sessions, guitar, violin and beautiful voices.

Awe-struck by the numbers of APhiO sisters in one AA, their joyful presence, their unselfish service and team work with the out-numbered, yet hard-working brothers explains the overflowing warmth and *asikaso* that the delegates and guests enjoyed. Sis Beth Casion and company showed us around and we were treated to a tour of the city by night and a breathtaking view of the city lights from the John Hancock Observatory. We romped around the Millennium Park like a bunch of high-school kids on a field trip. Some delegates braved their way through the long lines at the renowned Sears Tower. We loved it! Thank you APO Midwest-Chicago for the wonderful memories, for allowing us rekindle the joy of our fraternal bonds, for the new things learned and for old & forgotten promises renewed.

- Sis. Madonna Castro, APO-SB



The Council

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Editor-in-Chief
Sancho Sy

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BICOL EXPERIENCE AND HMDO MISSION: LA UNION

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For its part, the Alumni Council of North America, service projects were dedicated to the poor and the needy, in coordination with local chapters and Medical professionals, including the “Feed the Poor” on May 11 at Balic Balic in Manila, the 9th Medical Dental and Optical Mission Part 1 on May 18 in Darigayos in Luna, La Union. Hundreds of the town folks availed of the distribution of clothes and medical supplies as well as medical, dental and optical services. Part 2 was held on May 22 in Legazpi a day before the opening of the 27th National Convention. Also held on May 22 was the ACNA sponsored “Leadership Training” for collegiate brothers and sisters held at the Lepazpi Science High School campus and was ably conducted by APO Philippines Past VP for Alumni Affairs, and Florida-based Joe Eco of Eta Chapter. ACNA also recognized and presented the APO Philippines “Balik Chapter” Award to the Alpha Kappa Chapter, Jamiatul Al Islamia of Marawi City, Lanao del Sur when they bested other chapters for the coveted award, which included cash to the chapter to be used for its developmental projects.

The National Convention began with the Parade on Thursday, May 23 along the streets of the city and culminating at the Ibalong Centrum, thus the 27th National Convention is officially open. City and Provincial offices including the Department of Tourism got involved in the celebrations. The Office of Legazpi City Mayor, Carmen Geraldine Rosal, hosted the dinners for the delegates on Thursday, then APO Philippines President Jimmy de Castro and APO Chairman of the Board, hosted the Friday dinner of the delegates and the Saturday dinner was hosted by Office of the Governor of Albay, Cesar Sarte Salceda.

While food was abundant, beer was also overflowing, as San Miguel was one of the major sponsors. APO Souvenirs were also aplenty including t-shirts, pins, handicrafts, jewelry, mugs, glasses, watches and anything under the APO sun. Pili nut products were also peddled all over the convention venue. Legazpi in May was very hot and humid yet beautiful and exciting specially for us who are first time tourist in this lovely city. We did consume a lot of “Laing” and “Bicol Express” the most famous recipes of the region. Summer fruits like durian, mangosteen, lanzones,

BICOL EXPERIENCE AND HMDO MISSION: BICOL

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mangoes, bananas, buko and many more were all part of our daily fare. We also went around to see the sights of the Cagsawa Ruins, Embarcadero de Legazpi Busuan Falls, Hoyop Hoyopan Caves, Lignon Hills, the magnificent churches and all the wonderful vistas where our eyes feasted. What brought us together were the hospitality and the gentleness of the Bicolanos as they welcomed us into their lives and into their beautiful land. Added treat was a trip to Naga City where we visited Ateneo de Naga, the Penefrancia church and all the sights and cuisine of the city. We dined at the famous Bob Marlin Restaurant compliments of the Honorable Judge Ayo, brother of GLA's Toti Ayo.

After the convention, APOGLA, led by President Melody Ang-Gayon, joined forces with the local chapters and alumni associations and the Samahang APO ng Rodriguez for the Adopt-a-Sitio project on May 29. The delegates included Tony and Ophel Amon, Mar Garchitorea, Erna Villanueva, and Project Chair Roland Paras. From the Philippine side, they worked with Sis Fitz Patelo (Eta) and the assistance of Sis Rosalie Licauco (Eta) of the Office of the Vice President of the Philippines. Ten balikbayan boxes of pre-loved clothes were distributed to about 600 families and 500 hygiene kits were given to 500 children of Barangay San Isidro Rodriguez (Montalban) in Rizal province. The clothes and hygiene packets were collected by GLA through the initiative of the tandem of Ann Asuncion and Casey Mansilla. The goal was to make this a long-term reach out project in keeping with helping and improving the socio-economic conditions of the needy and the less fortunate in selected parts of the country.

For all that we have seen and savored during the APO Philippines Convention, there were lessons learned, there were life experiences that need to be shared and a determined look into the future to make APO a greater, functional and caring world-class organization. We will look back to Legazpi with warm, fond and beautiful memories and anticipate the 2015 convention with high expectations and hopes of another fruitful endeavor. Indeed, the Legazpi experience was a "combination of innovation, brotherhood, fun, food and friendship!"

Cheers and Mabuhay! by Art Rivera



ACNA, A SHARED VISION . . . by Brother Toti Ayo

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(ACNA), particularly, our respective member-Alumni Associations [in ACNA].

To some of us, some past events may have given us a reason or two to scorn and become cynical - legitimate or not, about the worthiness of an active participation or lack of it - be it in the local level with our respective Alumni Associations or with the national leadership. But whatever one's reason/s may be, as in Mark Twain's once burned cat, *it is a matter of knowing which one is hot and which one is not*. No more excuses!

Given the privilege to have lived in this North American land where we are blessed and thankful to be surrounded with and have fairly an easier access to the extra needed tools in building a more effective organization and be more cohesive in its functions, it is important that we put them to a more meaningful use. Let us take advantage and be grateful for these God-given gifts and potentials.

If we care about strengthening an organization that ACNA is, now is the time to give your fair share of participation - and hopefully, find fulfillment and satisfaction in doing so. With due respect to the leadership of the past few years, ACNA has received and has allowed itself to be distracted, as it waivered thru indecisions, on how it handled and dealt with the issue that pertains to the promotion of ARNA. Apathy and with a constant 'changing of the guard' partly to blame we might say, the prevalent attitude was 'Que Sera, Sera' on decisions and policies that will have taken its toll and which has proven itself to be a step backwards, an unnecessary distraction, an unhealthy proposition and quite a waste of time and resources to say the least - having seen nothing basically after all those years. Sadly, it has given us quite a bit of animosities among brothers to put it mildly. Arrogance and rudeness were uncalled for. Basic courtesy, respect and understanding was hardly to be found sometimes. LFS, a Lip Service!

Yes, we went thru some roadblocks and quite a few humps on the road. Obviously, we witnessed some failed attempts to experiment, advance and made us live on a different agenda. We lived thru some failed policies and deceptions internally. We have witnessed unsavory in-fighting among members and misgivings among AAs. We shake hands at some point. But that's about it. We became no different from others . . . until we respond differently and know our best option - *to work on a system that will make us a model organization that we hope for*. Idealism, yes, maybe. But with commitment and determination, our dream will come true over time. That's what we want to be. We learn. We shall be firm and keep our focus not to fall thru the same crack. Ours is an uncharted course. . . Let us do what we know is best. And, yes, "*the toughest steel is forged in the hottest fire*" . . .

On this note, let us remember to highlight as we should the successes that we've been thru. These successes have nourished our soul and strengthened our confidence as we learn and understand that much more lies ahead - yes, there is a promise for us 'at the end of the rainbow'.

Whatever those successes that we all had, the successes of these respective AAs severally, we can only reassure ourselves that despite the factors, yet unknown, we know we can live and be 'The Dream' that we want to be in this vast Continent. There is much more. . . much, much more, indeed, that we can do and will do.

Together, we shall. With our families, we will!

Certainly, it's not the photo shoots while feeding the hungry or assisting in a marathon, the streamers or whatever gathering of a few that legitimizes a good AA. It is what we do, credible and forthright, in relation to and as it affects the Alpha Phi Omega movement worldwide in a positive way, that will ultimately make the difference.

In a world where only change is constant, our lessons learned with our past failures and indecisions, the misfortunes, will be an indispensable guide, the prize of experience, a necessary tool we have learned where an effective leadership will take us far above and beyond our expectations.

Let us all give our share in making the North American landscape of Alpha Phi Omega Alumni work the best way possible. Let us make our respective AAs work the way a deserving ACNA-recognized AA should and prove itself worthy of its recognition. Let us work on a template that will make it easier for all ACNA-member Alumni Associations to work on in harmony. Let us inspire our leaders, our visionaries to lead us where we should be in the next twenty-five years!

Let us work on a shared vision. Let us re-define what we stand for. Let us establish our goals, our responsibilities, what we hope to accomplish and how we plan to go about it.

Let us always be reminded to continue to work, build-on and strengthen the foundation of ethics: Integrity, Teamwork, Mutual Respect and Personal Accountability!

Years ago, you will note, as I mentioned: "*By then, we will have developed our values . . . we will have created our personality and defined our culture. Collectively, we will have fostered our growth - not so much for what we are but for what we stand for!*" Yes, we are constantly working to achieve all these. Learn more about ACNA, its dream and its promise, visit: <http://apo-acna.org/about-us/acna-council>.

We know and understand that ACNA, like any other organization, is only as good, is and will always be powered by the effectiveness of the support it receives from its member-AAs. We cannot or should not leave them up to our elected officers to do the tasks we expect to be done. It's a shared responsibility.

Always, we shall be in a competitive world, an ever-changing world. Let us be proactive and responsive to these changes. *Let us be the change that the world of Alpha Phi Omega (Philippines) needs!*

Soon enough, we will once again gather for our biennial convention in New York on the labor day weekend in September, 2014. This will be the second time [the first time was during its infancy in 1992] that NY will serve as ACNA's Convention host. . . something to look forward to once again.

Finally, may our upcoming events and experiences be as wonderful as the great experiences we have had. May we be ever inspired to do more with the hope of finding something more important than we are and dedicate our life to it. With a deep sense of satisfaction, we may continue to be the men and women we are meant to be and a source of inspiration to others.

Feel free to reach me at: totiayo@gmail.com

ACNA - As a Tax-Exempt Non-Profit Umbrella Organization

It has been socialized in the leaders circle a few times, that a plan is in the works for ACNA striving to become a tax-exempt non-profit Umbrella Organization.

What does that exactly mean? Answer: ACNA shall seek to obtain with the Internal Revenue Service, a tax-exempt non-profit exception first, then apply for a Group Exception” for, and in behalf of, every “Able and Willing” member organization. This will alleviate any member association, the need to go through the tedious/expensive process of IRS tax-exemption, there-by paving more emphasis and concentration to Alpha Phi Omega’s main objective.Community Service.

Willingness and Ability were quoted for a reason.as privileges come along with commitment, obligations and serious responsibilities. Everyone will be subject to the strict IRS rules along with its annual reporting and surveillance requirements. Meticulous as they seem, they are doable through organized structure and “timely” management. Timely is again quoted, as timing is always of the essence.penalties are a must to avoid. They range from losing tax-exemption status to monetary penalties, and many, if I may mention, are presently trapped in this kind of situation due to in-attentiveness and sometimes, plain negligence.

The main question is. . . . “Is ACNA really IN for THIS?”. The PROS heavily outweighing the CONS, the logical answer is YES, but who knows, some AAs may have other things in mind. Distinct among the CONS is. our DONORS can claim tax-exemption and we could solicit from outside sources, particularly, other charitable foundations and institutions. . . . big time!

For the inquiring minds, I would encourage you to browse the following Internal Revenue Service reference documents, ie. a) REV. PROC. 80-27, b) IRC 511, and c) REV. PROC. 84-46 among others.

A formal proposal shall be presented to the ACNA Board very soon by Brother President Lito Tarculas.

By: Bro. Ferdie Yambot
0016-1970-03434
APOGLA



**ALPHA PHI OMEGA
(Philippines)
ALUMNI COUNCIL OF
NORTH AMERICA (ACNA)
www.apo-acna.org**

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Sis JEANETTE AUAYANG - Toronto
Bro ROLLY CARPENA - Washington State



ACNA
*Fall Quarter Meeting
for 2013-2014*

**Foster City, California
August 30-31, 2013**

COUNCIL MEETING A G E N D A

- I. **Meeting Call to Order** - Bro Lito Tarculas
- II. **Invocation** - Bro Jun Abbariao
- III. **Approval of the Agenda** - Bro Lito Tarculas
- IV. **Welcome Address** - Bro Jun De Castro
- V. **Roll Call/Determination of Quorum** - Sis Madonna Castro
- VI. **Approval of Spring 2013 Minutes of the Meeting**
- Bro Lito Tarculas
- VII. **Treasurer's Report** - Bro Aleks Garcia
- VIII. **Auditor's Report** - Bro Thom Pascual
- IX. **PRO's Report** - Bro Leo Baltazar
- X. **ID Officer Report** – Bro Jun Madrigal/Bro Alvin Pacheco
- XI. **Old Business** -
 - a. Member Directory 2013 – 2014 - Sis Irma Almazan
 - b. 2014 Calendar Report - Bro Jun Abbariao
 - c. 9th IHMDO Mission Report - Sis Irma Almazan
- XII. **Break**
- XIII. **Resumption of the Meeting**
- XIV. **New Business**
 - a. AA Presidents Report
 - b. APO Learning Center - Bro Aleks Garcia
- XV. **Other Matters**
- XVI. **Announcements/Messages**
- XVII. **Toast Song**

SCHEDULES AND FEES

Date : Friday/Saturday, August 30 & 31, 2013

Hosts : APO AA San Francisco/Silicon Valley
APO AA Central Valley of California

Venue : Crown Plaza Foster City
1221 Chess Dr. Foster City, CA 94404,
Tel. 650-570-5700

Delegate Registration Fee:
On site : \$ 165.00
Early Bird: 150.00

Non-Delegate Registration Fee:
On-site : \$ 135.00
Early Bird: 120.00

Fees includes:

Friday : Dinner - Hospitality Suite
Saturday: Breakfast - Hospitality Suite
Lunch - Standford Room
Gala Night/Dinner - Marco Polo Rm
Located at Ground Flr,in-front of Coffee
Shop & Hotel Reception
Sunday: Brunch/Picnic - Leo J Ryan Park,
Shell Blvd, Foster City, Ca. 94404

For golfers & other members.
Gala Night/Dinner Dance only, Saturday, 08/31/
2013. \$ 65.00 per head.

Member can reserve a room at Crown Plaza
Foster City.

Option 1. Reservation thru Internet
<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/alphaphiom>
Booking code : G5Z
Group rate : \$ 95.00 +9.0% tax &
\$ 2.00 Tourism Fee.

Option 2. By Phone : 1-888-233-9527
1-650-570-5700

Group Code : Alpha Phi Omega
Group rate : Same as above

For detailed guest room information please see
attached. Discounted rate will be secured until
August 15, 2013.

Transportation Coordinators:
Bro Ernest Batara - Tel : 1-650-483-7484
Bro Jun v de Castro - Tel : 1650-740-5338
Bro Elmer de Loyola - 1-408-234-7859

Tour coordinator:
Bro Rennel Atienza - 1-707-771-0577

AΦΩ