



# The Council

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ALPHA PHI OMEGA (PHILIPPINES) ALUMNI COUNCIL OF NORTH AMERICA



## ACNA IS NOW 28 ALUMNI AA STRONG!

By Bro. Henry Astorga

*And has more room to grow . . . (Just so you know). That's hot info. Who would have guessed twenty-eight years ago that ACNA would be this big and robust? No one in their wildest dreams would have predicted it (even Jimmy the Greek in Vegas would have been off by a mile!)*

But in the midst of growth and advancement comes the proverbial growing pains and the challenges that make the journey undeniably inspiring. Be sure to be in Chicago to see your beloved ACNA in action and be at the front row of this year's kick-off activities.

These are the topics that will make you sweat: Membership Expansion, Finances, Succession, Service Programs, APO Phils connection.

This is where we get the HOT topics cracking:  
4:00 PM – 8:00 PM – ACNA BOD Meeting, Boardroom A

The weather will be fine, although a bit breezy, as always; but most of all APO Midwest-Chicago Brothers and Sisters will be there to keep us warm, cozy and tipsy! For more details of the APO-ACNA Council Meeting in Chicago please check out details on the last page.

## THE ACNA MISSION

by Sis, Irma Almazan

*The APO Alumni Council of North America (ACNA) will hold its 11th Biennial Humanitarian, Medical, Dental, and Optical Mission project for the year 2017 in the Municipality of Lake Sebu, General Santos, Cotabato on May 25, 2017. It is scheduled prior to the 29<sup>th</sup> APO Phils. NBGA in Cotabato City. This service project is the commitment of ACNA to our fellow countrymen back in the Philippines in coordination with some APO Phils. local alumni associations and chapters.*

We will have approximately 120 volunteers for the medical, dental, and optical teams. Several brothers and sisters from ACNA will also participate and volunteer their time to this mission service. The council will provide the financial support to cover expenses for medicine, medical & dental supplies, food, and other related expenses to ensure the success of the mission. **ACNA projected a total expense of \$8,000.00 to cover all expenditures of the mission project.**

*Continued on page 8*



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*My Dear Fellow Members of Alpha Phi Omega,*

*I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and may this coming year bring you more prosperity and happiness.*

*On behalf of all the incoming executive officers of The Alumni Council of North America, I would like to wish each and everyone a blessed Happy New Year. In just a few hours we will be welcoming another year. Your executive officers are all excited to assume office on day one and are roaring to advance the interests of ACNA. We would like to convey our sincere gratitude in your trust and support in choosing us as the next administration to lead and serve. We are confident that we will strive to do our best to meet your goals and expectations.*

The state of ACNA is as vibrant as ever. This has been manifested in the latest convention held in Washington DC last September. You have witnessed first hand the camaraderie and the fun. Although this doesn't come as a surprise because we are all members of Alpha Phi Omega and this is who we are. The participation from all the different alumni groups was overwhelming. The presence of an overseas-based group gracing the affair encourages me to expand the visibility of ACNA and to spread our friendship globally. Yes my dear brothers and Sisters – collectively we can show the world that we are all great leaders willing to serve without any reservation. I borrow our slogan in GLA that we in ACNA should Lead, Build, and Serve. We will make this our mission over the next two years, and beyond.

ACNA membership has grown over the past few years. More Alumni groups are joining. Participation has been very prominent. This only means one thing: the ACNA model is working. How can we make it better is the challenge. We are all coming from different alumni group, and together we have formed this umbrella organization. We celebrate this diversity. The theme in my administration is "Unity In Diversity." In an organization, strength can only be achieved through Unity. I encourage you, my dear Brothers and Sisters, to cast away our petty differences and unite with one common goal: to strengthen ACNA as a whole. We all can shape the future of ACNA, and make it more relevant for the next generations to come.

During the last board meeting in September, it has been approved that we will form a Constitutional Review Committee (CRC). I have already contacted some of our members who have expertise on this matter and will tap into their knowledge

to review our CBL and make it more relevant to our current time. After coming up with a recommendation, I will share it with all alumni groups for further review and input on general membership. I look forward to your feedback and suggestions, and will work with you to come up with a new and improved CBL. We all treasure your input and your suggestions are very important to us. We all have to work to make and build ACNA for the next generation and thinking "YES we can!"

On this note allow me to thank you all for the support and hard work and sacrifices you have all rendered. Let us all continue to propagate the LEADERSHIP, FRIENDSHIP and SERVICE that we always do, as these traits have been ingrained in our hearts by our founding fathers. Keep on doing.

May GOD Bless us all. See you all on March 31st, 2017 in Chicago for the first quarterly ACNA meeting.

**Sis Irma H. Almazan**

*ACNA President Admin. 2017-2018*

### The Council

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Alumni Council of North America exclusively for its members, families and friends. The opinions expressed hererin are those of the writers, and are not intended to represent APO-ACNA.

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Sancho Sy

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Cora De Jesus • Lemuel Banaga • Irma Almazan  
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#### **The Council**

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## *President's keynote speech during APO DC Induction last January 2017*

**Good evening my dear Brothers and Sisters, families and Friends.**

**Allow me to extend my heartfelt gratitude to APODC for inviting me as their keynote speaker. This is a great task and I am very honored and humbled to be here. The only thing that makes it easier is that I am delivering this speech in front of my fellow APO and would like to speak about APO in relation to the its younger generation — "The APO Millennials."**

I am sure that our APO lives are always intersecting with our personal lives. It seems that one doesn't exist without the other. Maybe you will agree with me that some of us even upped it to the next level and made APO their career. I strongly advise you to balance it. Take care of your family first, then next is your APO family.

I joined the Alpha Phi Omega Auxiliary Sorority in 1971 during my pre nursing years at Far Eastern University. The moment I got my class cards, me and my best friend, Sister Anita Inductivo, went to look for the APO hangout. Anita had been around with APO ever since she was a kid because he had an APO elder brother from Delta Chapter. She was the one who convinced me to join the APOAS. I will not bore you about the initiations, the influence of APO in my life, and how APO molded my personality, preparing me for the many years ahead.

FEU was where I met my future husband, an affiliate from Theta Chapter. This was one of the greatest highlights in my APO life – finding the love of my life.

I migrated to the United States in 1980 as a registered nurse. I went back home in 1982 to marry my college APO sweetheart, who later joined us in the states. All together, we started to raise a family. Our son Timothy was born on June 25, 1985.

As a young, new family living in a different world, we were met with all the challenges an immigrant faces. We were thrown in, and forced to adjust and adapt to a new environment and culture. In my mind, I repeated to myself, "Strive hard, work hard, and focus on achieving the "Great American Dream!"

I am very happy to say that we achieved that goal.

Once an APO, you are always an APO. Even though we did not participate in APO for many years while raising our family, we never forgot our roots.

Family life came first. Now, during the later part of our career, we can now concentrate on our APO life. In order to make up for the lost years being inactive, we came back with a vengeance, doubling our effort to make up for the lost time.

We were happy to learn that the APO values did not change. For instance, "Be a LEADER, Be a FRIEND and be of SERVICE." Those cardinal principles of our beloved institution have all been ingrained in our hearts, and we were able to apply these principles not only in our APO Lives but our Personal Lives as well.

As we pass the baton to a new generation of APO millennials, I emphasize the importance of tradition... and to hold tight to our principles of leadership, friendship, and service.

I am now standing in front of you as the President of Alpha Phi Omega Alumni Council of North America. With all your collective efforts we can move ACNA forward, and make our organization relevant for the next generation to come.

We consider all of us as "first generation" APO, because we were initiated in the Philippines and then migrated here in North America.

We are a well adjusted generation, and we KNOW first hand the meaning of sacrifice and hardship in achieving the American Dream. We have lived our APO lives well, exemplifying our scout oath and laws and abiding to the 12 jewels. Sometimes we veer off course, but we always find the right way back on the APO path. We can never be prouder as an APO, and sometimes this makes it hard for others who are outside our circle to understand the strength in our bonds.

America has always been a magnet for immigrants and more APO initiated in the Philippines are coming. Our generation has now given rise to the Millennial Generation. These are our brothers and sisters born in the 80-90s, and so it is safe to say that they belong to batch 2000 and above.

What can we do to help them to become the future leaders of APO in North America? We from batch 90's and below have that responsibility to act as a role model for the next generation to come.

Time is changing and the older generation may have gone through a different initiation, but APO, and APO ideals remain consistent. We still embrace the same ideals and purpose as what our founders have taught us.

Those of the Millennial generation have many different challenges. Even though many of them were born in the USA, the competing for jobs is very tough these days. The fast pace of living and constant communication and social media influence is a key component in their lives. They are the wired generation. The Millennial generation brings new and exciting energy to APO. I envision this generation as the generation to expand APO globally through mobile technology. In this generation, I confidently see new, creative leaders, who will continue to uplift our values for generations to come. We must continue to work and support our future APO and share our wisdom and experiences with them.

In ACNA we will be giving leadership seminars in our Quarterly meetings and we encourage all future leaders to attend, most especially the millennials.

Advice from an elder APO is priceless. We have created this long tradition starting from the time when we first joined, where we were indoctrinated with all the principles and ideals of this brotherhood/sisterhood. We understand the importance of passing this tradition on from one generation to the next. Imparting our wisdom is the key reason why APO have grown into such a magnificent and widespread organization — a size I never envisioned when I was just a new initiate way back in 1971.

As we are quickly evolving and living in this interconnected world, we should exist to inspire, to move, to educate and to motivate the future APO in the next century.

Finding the future by remembering the wisdom of the past can help us all achieve that.

Millennials should emulate their elders to become a stronger APO and as is often recited in our loyalty pledge, "if you work for APO's name speak well of him and stand in the institution that it represent. Do not condemn it for if you do the first high wind will blow you away and probably you will never know why."

My brothers and Sisters we should all remain a strong and unbroken circle of brotherhood/sisterhood.

God Bless us all!  
Irma Almazan, ACNA President 2017-2018  
Keynote speech Jan. 28, 2017



## ACNA IN 2017: A VERBAL SNAPCHAT

By Bro. Henry Astorga

*ACNA is a thriving organization and has been steadily growing these last two and a half decades. It was a brainchild of three APO Brothers who had nothing but pure and honest intent to grow the APO Philippine brand in their new land. Proudly, and as we openly declare, they were: Brothers Danny Nagrampa, Egay Ninofranco, and Joey Makayan.*

**To the founders**, ACNA was a formative concept borne out of an enduring idealism of the Pinoy APO brotherhood. It was an innocent, quintessential creation of boldness whose basic resolve was to be of service to the community while building the APO Pinoy alumni presence in this part of the world and hopefully, beyond.

**Perhaps unbeknownst** to them (the originators) — theirs was an experimental enterprise - just like the American democracy. ACNA was aimed to be a subsequent step of a process. Like the democratic model ACNA was an open-ended and idealistic endeavor anchored in the APO principles of LFS, with the hope, in spite of its open and fluid parameters, that future leaders will be guided by the APO moral compass of LFS. Just like the U.S. democracy, they viewed ACNA as an organic body that will grow, develop and adjust to the demands of the times of its AA membership (as opposed to a closed communal ideology laden with bureaucracies, censorship, and choking red tape).

**However**, for years now, ACNA leaders have slowly pushed ACNA into an arena for which it was neither designed nor even imagined, much less conceived by its forebears. An arena that although reminded them of days of old, was no longer the theater within which they wished to perform their present lives — this arena, meaning the “old ways of doing business” administratively.

These past ten years have seen ACNA go through one of its most tumultuous phases. It was battered, bothered and bewildered by events that normally would bring ordinary-willed organizations to their knees. Events that tried to pull ACNA back to the “old ways” — subjugated, engulfed and controlled. But, ACNA stood tall. Along with its steadfast cadre of AAs who blocked, tackled and ran for her, it weathered the test. Like a quarterback, ACNA was not built for the heavy rough-and-tumble assaults, or secondary rough ups, or special team onslaughts as other players. In ACNA-land it’s the AAs that do all such rough and tumble stuff. ACNA, as conceived, was meant to pass, direct, and execute. It was meant to shepherd the fray and lead the way. More importantly, ACNA was meant to be its own franchise — a stand alone organization in service of APO principles under the aegis of its AA constituents. Although it stands on its own, it is still mindful of its ties to its past, its loyalty to the motherland and affinity to a wider body.

**Obviously**, the founding trio of ACNA did not foresee all the inevitable challenges of the organization they conceived. But one thing was clear: they had faith in the APO brotherhood. A faith they blindly held that each APO leader will do the right thing. Who among us wants to prove them wrong? Anyone?

**Gladly**, the original ACNA ideals have held true for a good number of years. To date, 2017, it can be said, and quite proudly so, that ACNA still holds the ideals of its founding closer than ever before.





# ALPHA PHI OMEGA

## ALUMNI COUNCIL OF NORTH AMERICA

### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ADMIN YEAR 2017-2018



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Sis Cyndril Carreon Palencia  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President



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Sis Ofelia Vita Amon  
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Sis Bebet A. Bancod  
Auditor



Bro Henry Astorga  
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Bro Sancho Sy  
Editor-in-Chief



Bro Windelix Delos Reyes  
ACNA Webmaster

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Auditor: DeeJae Delara

PRO: Jun Cristobal

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Board of Directors:

Santi Sipin

Dennis Gawat

Vic De Leon

Edwin Ramos

### ***APO Great Lakes AA***

Executive Officers (2017 - 2018)

President: Bro DICK SANTAANA, Elesay@yahoo.com

VP: Bro DUANE VILLARIN, mi2md2@yahoo.com

Secretary: Bro PETER ANGELO, pmangelo@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer : Sis MARICEL ANGELO, mango@sbcbglobal.net

Auditor: Bro RODEL ROCETES, rodel13842@yahoo.com

### ***APO Greater Los Angeles AA***

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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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Bro. Ric Jordan Digma



## *The APO-ACNA 11th Biennial Humanitarian, Medical, Dental and Optical Mission*



*Venue of the upcoming ACNA International Humanitarian Medical Dental Optical Mission in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato*

### **The 11<sup>th</sup> IHMDO Mission's Goal – Target Recipients:**

- Dental Service Recipients - 200 adults/ children
- Medical check-up & Exam - 200 adults/ children
- Distribute Multi Vitamins - 200 children age between 2-5
- Circumcision Service - 100 boys age 7-15 years old
- Optical/ Eye Exam Service - 200 adults – to receive Reading eyeglasses
- Humanitarian Goods - 100 families – to receive clothes, shoes, etc.
- Children's Feeding Program - 200 children

**Total Target Recipients of our mission service - 1,200 individuals (adults & children)**

This year's mission is being Chaired by 1<sup>st</sup> VP Brother Lemuel Banaga. Together with the Executive officers, we are all working hard to deliver the best quality care to the residents of Lake Sebu,

Funding this project is a challenge. Donations from families and Friends, Brothers and Sisters keep on coming and hopefully by next month we will have achieve our goal.





## APO GLA AA: 30 YEARS OF SERVICE AT LA MARATHON



## APO BRITISH COLUMBIA AA CELEBRATES 25 YEARS!



ANNIVERSARY CAKE



APOAABC ORGANIZER 1991 AWARDEES



APOAABC PRESIDENT AWARDEES - 1991 TO 2016



25TH ANNIVERSARY VOLUNTEER AWARDEE

ALUMNI COUNCIL OF NORTH AMERICA  
Income and Expense Report  
As of February 28, 2017

January 31, 2017 Balance forward 3,189.52

**Income**

|                                |          |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|
| ACNA Share APODC Convention SP | 1,000.00 |          |
| Annual Dues 2017-2018          | 400.00   |          |
| Annual Dues 2019-2020          | 200.00   |          |
| Voluntary Donations            | 200.00   |          |
| IHMDO Donation                 | 50.00    |          |
| <b>Total Cash Receipts</b>     |          | 1,850.00 |

**Total Gross Income 5,039.52**

**Expenses (Accounts Payable)**

|                                   |        |                 |
|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------------|
| ACNA checks; Rubber stamp         | 80.18  |                 |
| APO South Bay AA Souvenir Program | 150.00 |                 |
| Office Supplies                   | 10.90  |                 |
| Postage Stamps                    | 19.60  |                 |
| Water for Life Project            | 360.00 |                 |
| Remittance Fee                    | 10.00  |                 |
| Bank Charges - Online Dep         | 3.00   |                 |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>             |        | <u>(633.68)</u> |

**Bank Balance as of February 28, 2017 4,405.84**

|   |        |                 |
|---|--------|-----------------|
| Add: IHMDO Donation - 501c3 (Mark Lee MD) | 500.00 |                 |
| IHMDO Donation - 501c3                    | 738.00 |                 |
|   |        | <u>1,238.00</u> |

**Book Balance as of February 28, 2017 \$ 5,643.84**

Prepared by:

Audited by:

Noted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ofelia Vita-Amon  
ACNA Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bebet Bancod  
ACNA Auditor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Irma Almazan  
ACNA President





## ACNA: WATER FOR LIFE PROJECT

**Project Name:** Hydraulic Ram Pump-Water for Life

**Project recipients and location:**

20 Households in Sitio Tangkal, Brgy Tinago, Linamon, Lanao del Norte, Mindanao, Philippines.

**Project duration:** 3-4 days

**Background:** Hydraulic Ram Pump is applying the potential energy principles thus saves a high cost of energy. Source of water will be river and creek with the considerable Head. No electricity needed, No gas fuel, less maintenance, low cost materials, and easy to install on site. The output of ram pump 1/2" diameter can produce 8 liters/minute x 1440 minutes in one day is equal to 11,520 liters divided by 200 liters in a barrel that will translate to more or less 60 barrels a day. The water can be use for supplying the needs of the households, cattles, gardens, tilapia fishpond, and drip irrigation. The said project will greatly impact the community as a whole.

Giving them water for their livelihood and give them hope. Ram pump can be assembled within a day but the installation on site it varies on the situation (say 3-4 days). Transportation is easy, practical and lightweight. Labor cost is very low for the installation.

The community is hoping for some organization to fund for this project.

**Objective:** To finance the set up of Hydraulic Ram Pump.

**Cost breakdown:**

Water for life project- green technology using potential energy Program of works and bill of materials

1. Swing valve 1" diameter brass- Php 755.00 each
2. G.I. nipple pipe 1"- 6 pcs
3. Tee -2 pcs
4. Reducer adaptor- 2 pcs
5. Gate valve- 2 pcs
6. Reducer G. I. 2"X1" - 1 pc
7. PVC adaptor 3"- 2 pcs
8. Teflon
9. Marine epoxy
10. Drive pipe 1" x 40 feet
11. Distribution pipe 1/2" varied on distance roughly 150 meters
12. Faucet- pc
13. Total estimated cost labor and materials Php18,000.00 divided by 50 is equal to roughly USD360.00 per setup.

**Project implementation and management:**

1. Chairman: Sis Belinda Reponte (APOToronto) and husband Emerson Reponte (Philippines)
2. Participation: ACNA-Personal monetary donations, Alumni Association donations and money from ACNA funds.
3. Plan of Action: Submit the project proposal to ACNA Board for approval by February 7, 2017. Once approved, will ask the treasurer to release fund as soon as it is approved.
4. Project evaluation/report

**Update:** This is to proudly inform you that we are now initializing the second installation of our "Water for Life" project. On behalf of the ACNA execom and the beneficiaries of this noble project, I would like to thank the ACNA BOD for your support and would like to acknowledge the hard work of Sir Emerson and Sis Belinda Reponte, without whom this project will not come to fruition.

*All the best. Bro Lemuel Bañaga, 1st VP*



## ***ACNA Spring Meeting 2017 and APO Midwest-Chicago 16th Induction of Officers***

**Dates:** MARCH 30 – APRIL 2, 2017 (Thursday-Sunday)

**Venue:** WYNDHAM GLENVIEW SUITES (soon to be Delta Hotel By Marriott Suites), 1400 Milwaukee Avenue, Glenview, IL 60025

**Registration:** ACNA Delegates: \$250/person (Includes Meeting Room, Fellowship, Luncheon and Dinner Dance), Non-ACNA Delegates / Guests: \$120/person (for Fellowship and Dinner-Dance)

**ROOM RATE:** \$109.00/night + tax - single or double occupancy. Each additional adult is \$10.00 additional fee to a maximum of four adults per room. The suites include a separate parlor area & sleeping room, mini fridge, microwave. Reserved rooms are limited. Kindly register ASAP or the hotel rooms will be open to public. Individual call-in; Individual pays own all charges on rooms

**HOTEL REGISTRATION - PHONE AND CODE:** Deadline for room reservation to guarantee room block rate is March 6, 2017. Tel. No. 1 (847) 803-9800  
Room Block Code: APO Midwest  
Guest room check-in time: 3:00 PM  
Guest room check-out time: 12:00 PM  
Self - Parking: FREE  
Airport shuttle is available to/from Chicago O'hare Airport - please call for pick-up

### **Schedule of Activities:**

#### **March 31, 2017 Friday**

All morning – arrival of delegates, brothers, sisters and guests check-in at the hotel

4PM – 8PM – ACNA BOD Meeting, Boardroom A

4PM – 8PM – Symposium with Brothers and Sisters; Speaker: Bro. Henry Astorga; Topic: ACNA PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE; Salon ABC

For delegates, non-official delegates, brothers, sisters and guests – dinner / fellowship the entire evening at the APO Hospitality Suite

#### **April 1, 2017 Saturday**

Morning Breakfast – at the APO Hospitality Suite

8AM – 4PM – ACNA Spring Meeting, Salon ABC  
(Lunch break 12N – 1PM)

6PM – 12MN – Induction of Officers of APO Midwest-Chicago Reception

After 12MN – fellowship at APO Hospitality Suite

#### **April 12, 2015 Sunday**

8AM Continental Breakfast at the APO Hospitality Suite  
(Checkout time: by 12 noon)

12PM – Luncheon / Farewell get-together at the residence of Bro. Petronilo Ramos; 5386 Galloway Drive, Hoffman Estates IL 60192; Cell no. (847)990-0375

Irma Almazan  
16413 Bubbling View Circle  
Cerritos, CA 90703

Stamps  
Here