



The Cable Tow

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES

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MW Ricardo P. Galvez
Our Grand Master for
MY 2003-2004

THE ELECTED GRAND LODGE OFFICERS



(L-R) MW John L. Choa, PGM, Grand Treasurer; RW Romeo A. Yu, Junior Grand Warden; RW Roberto Q. Pagotan, Deputy Grand Master; MW Ricardo P. Galvez, Grand Master; RW Hermogenes E. Ebdane, Jr., Senior Grand Warden; and MW Reynold S. Fajardo, PGM, GMH, Grand Secretary.

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Our Cover

MW Ricardo P. Galvez, erstwhile Solicitor General of the Philippines, is the 86th Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons in the Philippine jurisdiction. A biographical sketch of him is found on pp. 2-4

Meet...

MW RICARDO P. GALVEZ **OUR 86TH GRAND MASTER**

Birth, Education

The eldest of the eight children of the late Merchant Marine Captain Sisenando A. Galvez and Estrella Patiño, MW Ricardo P. Galvez was born in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras (then part of Iloilo Province) on July 31, 1933.

Due to his father's commission with the US Navy as Chief Petty Officer during the pre-war years, MW Galvez started his early schooling at the Legarda Elementary School in Manila. Then he moved to the Caridad Elementary School in Cavite. He completed his intermediate grades at the Dr. Alejandro Albert Elementary School in Dapitan, Sampaloc in 1946.

The young Ricardo then enrolled at the San Beda College in Mendiola, Manila, where he consistently made the honors' list.

Capt. Sisenando Galvez relocated his family to Iloilo City in 1946. It was at the UP-Iloilo where the young Ricardo finished his secondary education in 1950. Two years later he graduated with the title of Associate in Arts at the same school. While still a student of UP-Iloilo, after reading UP Professor Ricardo R. Pascual's "Rizal Beyond the Grave," MW Galvez became fascinated with Freemasonry.

He represented UP-Iloilo in inter-school oratorical contests and was a consistent medalist therein. Indeed, he

was elected President of the UP-Iloilo Oratorical-Debating Club.

MW Galvez then pursued his studies in the College of Law of UP-Diliman, where he graduated in 1956. In the same year he passed the Bar Examination with the grade of 83.95%.

Professional Career

MW Galvez practiced law as an associate at the Manuel O. Soriano Law Offices, then one of the more prestigious law offices in Western Visayas.

In 1960, he was appointed Special Counsel, Office of the City Fiscal, Iloilo City. Then in 1963 he rejoined the M.O. Soriano Law Offices.

In 1967, he was appointed Asst. City Fiscal, Iloilo City; in 1969, Third Asst. City Fiscal, same city; and in 1970, First Asst. Provincial Fiscal, Iloilo Province. In 1971, he was appointed City Fiscal of Iloilo City. Then in January 1983, he was appointed Regional Trial Judge, Cagayan de Oro City.

In 1973, the Biographical Researchers Society chose him as one of the 10 most outstanding city fiscals in the Philippines, and in January 1983, he received an award from the PC-CIS for his competent and speedy handling of criminal investigations as City Fiscal of Iloilo City. This award was given to him in Camp Crame, Quezon City, by then PC Chief, Gen. Fidel V. Ramos.

In January 1989, he was appointed Regional Trial Court (RTC) Judge, Roxas City. Then in July 1989, he was appointed RTC Judge in Iloilo City.

In 1991-92, he was Executive Judge of the Regional Trial Court of Iloilo Province. He came to be the first president of the Regional Trial Judges Association of Panay Island, comprising the Provinces of Iloilo, Capiz, Antique, Aklan, and Guimaras.

In the same period, he was chosen one of the three most outstanding regional trial court judges in the Philippines by the Foundation of Judicial Excellence, the other two awardees being Judge Angelina Gutierrez (now Associate Justice of the Supreme Court) and Judge Godardo A. Jacinto (now Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals).

On February 27, 1992, then President Corazon C. Aquino appointed MW Galvez to the Court of Appeals, and on July 1, 1998, President Joseph E. Estrada appointed him Solicitor General of the Philippines.

As Solicitor General, MW Galvez argued successfully before the Supreme Court several leading cases, such as the Oil Deregulation Law, the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) with the United States. He also filed the petition against the unauthorized rate hike imposed by Meralco. It was only recently that the Supreme Court decided with finality in favor of the power utility firm's consumers.

Since 1968, MW Galvez has been a dedicated professor of law at the

University of Iloilo, Central Philippine University in Iloilo, Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro, and Manuel Luis Quezon University, Far Eastern University, San Sebastian College, and University of Perpetual Help in Metro Manila.

Not only did he lecture for the UP Law Center, Institute of Judicial Administration for eight years, but he is also a permanent lecturer of the Philippine Judicial Academy (PHIJA), the Remedial Law Department of which he is Vice-Chairman.

MW Galvez is, moreover, a Bar Reviewer in Criminal Procedure at various law schools in Metro Manila, Cebu, Tacloban, Cotabato, Cagayan de Oro, and Iloilo. He is also a Bar Reviewer in Remedial Law at the University of the Philippines in Mindanao. He is, in addition, the lecturer in the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Program before the various chapters of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) throughout the country.

A Bar Examiner in Criminal Law in 1996, MW Galvez ranked No. 3 among the five candidates to the Supreme Court nominated by the Judicial and Bar Council in 1999. He was also a member of the committee that drafted the 2000 Rules of Criminal Procedure.

In February 2001, after EDSA 2, he submitted his courtesy resignation as Solicitor General of the Philippines. Thereafter he became Counsel of the Tan, Acut and Law Offices at the Philippine Stock Exchange, 23rd Floor, East Tower, Ortigas Center.

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Masonic Career

MW Ricardo P. Galvez duly acknowledges the subtle encouragement by the late VW Valerio Rovira and VW Severino Aguilar for him to enter the fold of Masonry. These two Very Worshipful Brothers often invited him to attend Masonic functions.

Then on June 21, 1974, MW Galvez was initiated as Entered Apprentice at Kalantiao Lodge No. 187 in Iloilo City, and on February 1, 1975 he was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in the same Lodge. He will never forget that the officers and members of Maranao Lodge No. 111 in Iligan City traveled to Iloilo City and assisted in his raising.

In 1980, MW Galvez was Worshipful Master of his Mother Lodge; in 1981-83, District Grand Lecturer of then MD 20.

He has been a member of the Committee on Constitutional Amendments of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines (GLP), as well as chairman of two committees – that on Resolutions and that on Jurisprudence.

In 1994, he served as the GLP's Grand Orator. Then in 2000 he served as Junior Grand Warden; in 2001, as Senior Grand Warden; and in 2002, as Deputy Grand Master; and this year, he is our Grand Master.

Our Grand Master was adjudged Most Proficient Junior Deacon of then MD 20 in 1977; Most Proficient Junior Warden of the same district, 1978; and Most

Proficient Senior Warden, 1979.

Earlier, in 1976, he garnered first place in the extemporaneous speech contest during the Masonic Convention of the same district – No. 22.

MW Galvez is a dual member of Macalajar Lodge No. 184 and of Pagkakaisa Lodge No. 282, as well as honorary member of lodges Maranao No. 111 and Kidapawan No. 170.

He was chosen one of the Ten Most Outstanding Freemasons of the Philippines in 1995.

As a Scottish Rite Freemason, MW Galvez was Venerable Master of the Iloilo Lodge of Perfection in 1980; he was also Wise Master of the Manuel Camus Chapter of the Rose Croix of Panay Bodies, A. & A.S.R.

Other Affiliations

MW Galvez was president of the Iloilo Mt. Baloy Lions Club in 1976; Deputy Governor, District 301 – B, Lions Clubs of the Philippines, 1996; Vice-Governor for Panay, Dist. 301-B, Lions Clubs of the Philippines, 1977; President, YMCA of Misamis Oriental, 1983-86, 1988; and National President, Philippine Amateur Radio Association (PARA), 1987.

Spouse and Children

MW Ricardo P. Galvez is happily married to Sister Teresita Divinagracia Nery of Dumangas, Iloilo. He and Sis. Teresita have four children – Ma. Rica Teresa, Ricardo Jr., Sisenando III (Andy) and Peter.

MW Ricardo P. Galvez's Inaugural Address

Most Worshipful Reynato S. Puno, PGM, GMH, and Most Worshipful Pablo C. Ko, Jr., PGM, I thank you for being my Installing Officer and my Master of Ceremonies, respectively, and for the prestige and honor that you have together brought in to this occasion, my installation as Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines.

May I request all the brethren, sisters and guests to give Past Grand Masters Reynato S. Puno and Pablo C. Ko, Jr., a big round of applause. Secondly, may I express utmost gratitude and appreciation to my wife, your Sister, Teresita, who, despite her being busy with her tasks as Chief of the Cash Receipts Division, Office of the City Treasurer of Iloilo City, took time to be with me today. Her understanding and support for my preoccupation with Masonry for twenty-eight years has become a significant component of our relationship as husband and wife.

And so with two of my four children, Ricky and Andy and the latter's wife, Zaida, who all expressed their desire to be here this afternoon, to bear witness to this solemn occasion. They are here this afternoon to witness the rituals of our Craft. I likewise wish to express my appreciation to my sister Estrellita and her husband, Capt. Domingo Lopez, for being with us this afternoon.

I would also like to express my utmost appreciation to each and every Past Grand Master who is gracing this auspicious ceremony, for it is by your

numbers, my dear Most Worshipful Sirs, that significantly determine the success and impact of ceremonies of this level. Thank you again, Most Worshipful Sirs, especially Most Worshipful Damaso C. Tria, who, though much older but definitely much stronger than I am, had still found time to be around.

Occasions like this are made much more meaningful and memorable with the presence of our dear brethren-dignitaries from other Masonic jurisdictions. I am therefore very pleased with the presence of each one of you, for definitely, you have gone out of your way to be here with us. Please take home to your respective jurisdictions our utmost gratitude and felicitations and I, personally, shall etch in my heart your invaluable presence at this occasion. The memories of our having rubbed shoulders during this ANCOM, among others, will keep me going for the rest of my life.

May I extend my congratulations to the other Grand Line Officers who were elected, most especially our new Junior Grand Warden, Right Worshipful Romeo A. Yu.

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Also, I wish to thank all of you, my brethren, for having given me the trust of the highest office that is within your power to bestow. Old as I am, I am extremely honored for having been installed this afternoon as Grand Master.

I have been a member of the Craft since 1975, and never did it occur to me that someday I would be its Grand Master in this jurisdiction, until Iloilo won the bid to host the Annual Communications in said place, and the brethren from District 20, led by Very Worshipful Tommy Que and Very Worshipful and Illustrious Severino Aguilar, a judge of the Regional Trial Court in Iloilo, prevailed upon me to present myself as a probable candidate, and eventually as a nominee, for the position of Junior Grand Warden, in the elections held at the 2000 Annual Communications in Iloilo. May I request the two gentlemen, together with the others from District No. 20, to stand up. May I also express my appreciation to the other Lodges of which I am a member, Macajalar Lodge No. 184 and Pagkakaisa Lodge No. 282, for bearing with me through all these times.

I must admit that together with Most Worshipful Past Grand Masters John L. Choa and Napoleon A. Soriano, I had vehemently opposed the transfer of the venue of the Annual Communications this year from Davao City to Manila. But untoward and wholly unexpected events had supervened, not to our liking, and compelled Most Worshipful Grand Master Eugenio S. Labitoria to cause the transfer of the Annual Communications from Davao to Manila. And as expected,

there were so many vehement criticisms, and even vitriolic remarks heaped upon him. And I was the first one to express the view, that even if I had insisted that Davao City would be the situs of our gathering, the Most Worshipful Grand Master had already spoken, and we should abide by his word.

Old as I already am, but like the memorable, then already even older than me and aging George Burns, I would also rather look ahead than look back. Jesus Christ himself said, "Once the hand is laid to the plow, no one who looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

I am perhaps the happiest Mason around with the exception of Most Worshipful Eugenio S. Labitoria, who can say "Thanks" that this Annual Communications is almost over, what with its twists and turns especially on the tickling issues related to its venue.

And the wisdom of age has dictated upon me to assemble a team of youth, one full of energy, sound and color, beauty and grandeur. And as this is a night for the newly-installed elected and appointed officers of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge for the ensuing year, may I ask each and every one of you to please rise for a collective gesture of applause.

Imagining we have our respective glasses of wine and refreshment, let us toast in gratitude to the blessings of our Great Architect of the Universe for through Him, we have this high level of solidarity, commitment and determination to implement the drawn-up programs for the ensuing year to the

best of our abilities.

The theme for the ensuing year is **“Masonic reforms start from within.”** It simply means that reform starts from each one of us, from each of our every person.

I believe that while most of us are eager to change things around us, eager for electoral reforms that level the field, that would give a chance for those who are qualified, but less financially endowed among us, to take the reins of leadership of our Fraternity, we often overlook that for such a change to take place, it has to be energized through our very own selves. Yes, we want to inject more morality to our practice of Masonry; but, more often than not, we forget that the key to preaching our very own gospels is that of cleansing just from where they are coming — our very own selves.

I believe in that goodness that is safely deposited in each one of us and during my tenure, I have decided to make the best of the limited term of a Grand Master to enhance conditions for the development of that goodness in all of us.

It will therefore be my policy, and I call on the whole jurisdiction, especially my elected and appointed officers, to develop in ourselves the good that is in us, that we may all achieve the reforms that we dream about.

From the Grand Oriental Chair, this will be the directional command. So, whether it be through edicts and

circulars, the Senior Grand Lecturer, or the Editorial Board of *The Cabletow*, my Grand Line and District Officers, my visit to lodges, districts, or multi-district or regional conventions, there will be no confusion as to the message. Let us, each one of us, improve ourselves for the better along the exemplary path of Masonic discipline.

I therefore call on my District Deputies to enhance their creativity by consulting with their respective constituencies so that we can have projects and activities which will not only promote the aforesaid theme, **“Masonic reforms start from within,”** but which also respond to the felt needs of our respective communities. Let us become more effective and relevant to the call and needs of our communities

The term of a Grand Master in our jurisdiction is but too short for one who wishes to do so many things. On the other hand, for a Grand Master who wishes just to complete his term just for its sake, that term may even be too long, and the waiting for its end so painstaking.

I will take my term by the day, hoping that on every turn and opportunity that comes my way, our ensuing administration may be able to enhance, even just a bit, that which awaits our nurturing, so that by the same measure, its equivalent of evil may be repelled or overcome in us. With this in mind, let us all roll up our sleeves and get down to work.

I give thanks to you all, and good evening!

GRAND MASTER'S EDITORIAL MESSAGE

Leadership in the Grand Lodge is essentially the management of power, which basically is the management of three components — trust, systems and resources. Management involves planning, organizing, controlling and evaluating these components, of which trust is the decisive one.

Management of power and trust is a very delicate art. Especially for a fraternity such as ours wherein the general membership, in-between its Annual Communications, surrenders to the Grand Master almost absolute executive, legislative and judicial powers, the high importance of trust and its management cannot be overemphasized.

I, as your Grand Master, have been given three years, since the time I was elected Junior Grand Warden, to formulate my program and theme — “Masonic Reforms Start from Within.” Its finalization had to take into account the latest “state of the craft” as indicated in the main reports. My team had been duly installed and through them I intend to exercise my leadership discretion. These make up the first issue of *The Cabletow*.

Ahead lies the program implementation, even as I advocate enhancing trust and creativity, within the tradition of our Ancient Landmarks and regulations. I have instructed my Grand Line and territorial deputies about my inclination for decentralized decision-making to encourage them to be creative and to be good managers with service in mind. As a way of reporting to the brethren, the results of implementation will crowd the succeeding issues of this publication.

The theme “Masonic Reforms Start from Within” is essentially geared at


creating a sense of mission that will propel the Craft toward what we are trying to accomplish. At the same time accommodating creative dissent. I would therefore call on brethren to submit articles that dwell on broadly-shared and perceived reforms needed within the fraternity and within ourselves and would prefer a concentration of articles on the whats whys and wherefors of such reforms. And, most importantly, what these reforms should be exact from each one of us, for Masonry is a progressive moral science. This is the main thrust of the next three issues of *The Cabletow* for the rest of my term.

A secondary thrust would be that of making part of *The Cabletow* as a window for social interaction — especially between and among the brethren and also the appendant bodies.

Thus, we intend to print out in their brevity news about the Masonic community — their projects, special events, accomplishments, honors, appointments, bonuses, and whatever worth printing. While we invite information from all corners, I would also advise that we be selective about what we send in to *The Cabletow*.

Thus, with the foregoing main and secondary thrusts, I have instructed our new Editorial Board to ruthlessly prioritize. They are to read selectively and to delete liberally. I have full trust in them to edit judiciously.

OUR JGW FOR 2003-2004: A MODEL OF YOUTHFUL DYNAMISM

 One who meets him would feel at ease with him since he at once treats one a long-time friend. No hang-ups, no grandiloquence, no pretenses. He is just his natural, self-confident self. That is how this writer got to know him not a few years ago. And today, our Junior Grand Warden (JGW) for 2003-2004, RW ROMEO A. YU, is still the same person – bubbling with energy, exuding dynamism, sharing sincerity, manifesting plain dealing.

He was born on March 10, 1963 to Joaquina Ang Yu and VW Raymundo L. Yu, Sr., a Past Master of Sarangani Lodge No. 50 in Davao City; the Senior Grand Deacon of our Grand Lodge during the term of MW Juan C. Nabong, Jr., in the Grand East (1989-1990); a 33rd degree Inspector General Honorary (IGH), who got himself actively involved in the affairs of Davao Bodies, A. & A.S.R.; a Past President of Filipinas Shrine Club; and a benevolent contributor to the construction of our present Grand Lodge Building, Plaridel Masonic Temple II.

At 15, Romy affiliated with Feliciano Iñigo Chapter, Order of DeMolay. (At present, he is an Active Member of the Philippine Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay.)

An economist, RW Romy A. Yu has helped the family to gainfully engage in the lucrative business of real estate and agriculture.

Initiated as Entered Apprentice on June 23, 1984, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on August 18, 1984, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on September 8, 1984 at Beacon

Lodge No. 213 in Davao City, RW Romy has indefatigably worked “in the quarries,” emulating the example of dedicated service to the Craft set by his paternal grandfather, Bro. Yu Tiong Sun, a member of Iloilo-Acacia Lodge No. 11 in Iloilo City; his maternal grandfather, Bro. Ang Kiong Yee, also member of Sarangani Lodge No. 50; his own late father; and his father-in-law, Bro. Guilbert Go of Sarangani Lodge No. 50, who is Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic and the chairman of Mintrade, a firm specializing in wood processing.

A string of achievements and recognitions has been strewn in his path, preparing him for wider latitudes, bigger horizons, and firmer grounds for leadership in the Craft and in the Grand Lodge. Life has really prepared such a dynamic young man and Mason for the enormous task of the Junior Grand Wardenship.

In 1985, Bro. Romy acted as vice-chairman of his Mother Lodge’s Committees on Masonic Education and Rituals. (In the same year, he was a member of the Advisory Council of Feliciano Iñigo Chapter, Order of DeMolay. (He would serve in that

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capacity up to 1987.)

In 1985, too, he was Masonic District No. 18's Correspondent to *The Cabletow*.

In 1986 (at age 22), he was elected and installed Junior Warden of Beacon Lodge; in the year following, Senior Warden; and in 1988, Worshipful Master.

During his years in the South and West, he chaired his Mother Lodge's Committees on Masonic Education and Rituals. When he was Senior Warden, he served as over-all coordinator of the Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge in Davao City – the first Ancom outside of Luzon.

Since 1989, WB Romy has been adviser to his Mother Lodge's Committees on Ways and Means, Special Projects, Masonic Education, and Rituals.

In 1989-1990, he was assigned to Toril Lodge No. 208 as Grand Lodge Inspector (GLI).

In the ensuing Masonic year (at age 27), he was the Grand Master's Deputy for Masonic District No. 18. As such, VW Romy A. Yu played a significant role in the formation of Podomo Lodge No. 294, and he organized the District Council. (Up to today, he has been one of the principal advisers to the officers and members of Podomo Lodge, a regular member of the District Council's Board of Advisers, and a regular resource speaker in the district's Masonic leadership training seminars.)

In 1990-1991, he chaired the Board of Trustees of the Davao Masonic Center (DMC) Foundation, Inc. As such, he spearheaded the completion of the existing building; the construction of the DMC Multi-Purpose Social Hall, which was consecrated and dedicated by MW John L. Choa, PGM, on November 22, 1990; and the concreting of the vacant lot, which is now being utilized as sports and parking area.

Not surprisingly, then, VW Romy A. Yu was awarded Most Outstanding DDGM during the 1991 Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge in Bacolod City, with Masonic District No. 18 garnering the Most Outstanding District Award. Merit is, decidedly, a just title to our privileges.

In Masonic year 1991-1992, VW Romy was appointed Grand Bible Bearer by then Grand Master Jose R. Guerrero. Since that year he has been a member of the Working Committee of the Grand Guild of Past Masters of the Philippines (GGPMP).

In 1993-1994, VW Romy served as Executive Committee adviser for Finance on the occasion of the Ancom in Davao City.

In 1994-1996, he zealously worked "in the quarries" as Junior Grand Lecturer (JGL) for Southern Mindanao. In the same period he was a member of the Grand Lodge's Committees on Masonic Education, Works and Necrology.

In the ensuing Masonic year, he again zealously worked "in the quarries"

as JGL, this time for South Central Mindanao.

In 2001-2002 he sat as member of the Grand Lodge's Committee on Revision of the Constitution.

VW Romy A. Yu has been an active member of Davao Bodies, A. & A.S.R., as well as of Aloha Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine (AAONMS).

He is, moreover, an honorary member of such Lodges as Panabo Dalisay No. 237, Ruperto S. Demonteverde Mem. Lodge No. 320, General Artemio Ricarte No. 322, and Mount Malindang No. 130. He is, furthermore, an adopted son of Masonic District No. 34.

In the Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge in Manila (which was supposed to be held in Davao City) in April 2003, VW Romy A. Yu was, to the surprise of many, catapulted by the brethren to the honored position of Junior Grand Warden. But others saw his election to this honored position as the GAOTU's design, as the GAOTU's way of saying that such a dynamic Brother can help a great deal in the task of leading our Grand Lodge to greater heights. Yes, with his youthful dynamism, he can help the other Grand Line Officers steer and guide the ship of the Craft. Truly, the GAOTU causes many a tight spot to open into the right place.

RW Romy A. Yu's 19 years of active involvement in and dedicated service to the Craft has deepened and widened his grasp of how to help the Grand Lodge leadership stimulate the brethren toward

collaboratively regaining the lost glory of the Craft in this jurisdiction.

Besides, RW Romy unquestionably belongs to a Masonic family. His brothers and other relatives are also members of the Craft. VW Raymundo A. Yu, Jr., who has been Chairman of Merrill Lynch International Bank in Singapore since 1983, was Worshipful Master of Service Lodge No. 95 in 1988. Bro. Valentino A. Yu, who is now in the USA as a computer engineer, being a holder of a Master's degree in Electronics, is a Master Mason, too. WB Romero A. Yu, RW Romy's twin brother and a practicing lawyer specializing in Labor Law, is a Past Master. VW Victor A. Yu, a CPA-lawyer, is not a stranger to readers of this publication, many of his articles having been published herein. He served our Grand Lodge as Grand Historian during the term of MW Napoleon A. Soriano and as Senior Grand Lecturer (SGL) during the term of MW Eugenio S. Labitoria. This year, he is again serving the Craft as SGL. In *Philippine Lodges* (2003), he is cited by the authors, MW Reynold S. Fajardo, PGM, GMH, and VW Geminiano V. Galarosa, Jr., PDGL, as one of the brethren partly responsible for the success of Service Lodge No. 95.

Sister Christine Go Yu, a Political Science graduate of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, vice-president of Mintrade Corporation in Davao City, and RW Romy's support and inspiration in his Masonic labors, also belongs to a Masonic family, her mother, Sister Pacita Go, being the younger sister of MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., PGM, whose father Bro. Pablo Ko, Sr., has been a long-

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time Widow's Son, and whose brother, VW William C. Ko, is a PDDGM. Sister Christine's brother, Bro. Edward Go, was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason at Service Lodge No. 95 in 2001.

In addition, long before his election to the honored position of JGW, RW Romy had served as Installing Officer during the installation of the officers of Lodges in different parts of the country. His willingness to spend time and effort to serve the brethren and their families, as well as his proficiency in the rituals and his knowledge of the Craft's teachings and principles, rules and regulations, is another reason for the brethren to cast their vote of confidence in him.

Occasionally showered with thorns and pains, the road RW Romy traveled may not conform with what some brethren prefer, but he has remained

constant in his untrammelled trek to and through the highways and byways of a Mason's life. He looks forward to this Masonic year and to the years following with projects and programs that address the challenges confronting Freemasonry in our jurisdiction.

A young man and Mason who shuns hypocrisy and indolence, RW Romy is tireless, dedicated, committed, selfless, caring. He exudes a vision truly attesting to his resolve to help bring the Grand Lodge to greater heights. To him, "Freemasonry is beautiful. We must keep its beauty unsullied. Every one of us must have the passion to do things beautiful because such a passion is power." Yes, our JGW for 2003-2004 has a style filled with love for the Craft and characterized by humility. He is happiest when he is sowing and sharing his blessings with others, especially his brothers in Masonry. – eF.R.eN



Mother and Sons. (L-R) VW Victor A. Yu, RW Romeo A. Yu, Bro. Valentino A. Yu, Sis. Joaquina Ang Yu, VW Raymundo A. Yu, Jr., and WB Romero A. Yu

**GRAND LODGE OFFICERS FOR
MASONIC YEAR 2003-2004**

Grand Master	-	MW Ricardo P. Galvez
Deputy Grand Master	-	RW Roberto Q. Pagotan
Senior Grand Warden	-	RW Hermogenes E. Ebdane, Jr.
Junior Grand Warden	-	RW Romeo A. Yu
Grand Treasurer	-	MW John L. Choa, PGM
Grand Secretary	-	MW Reynold S. Fajardo, PGM, GMH
Asst. Grand Treasurer	-	VW Agerico V. Amagna, Jr.
Asst. Grand Secretary	-	VW Jaime Y. Gonzales
Grand Chaplain	-	VW Opiniano L. Jayme, Jr.
Grand Orator	-	VW Raoul V. Victorino
Grand Marshal	-	VW Cesar D.L. Go
Grand Historian	-	VW Hermeno A. Palamine
Senior Grand Deacon	-	VW Leonilo T. Alger
Junior Grand Deacon	-	VW Benito K. Tan
Grand Standard Bearer	-	VW Cipriano E. Querol, Jr.
Grand Sword Bearer	-	VW Tommy O. Que
Grand Bible Bearer	-	VW Michael Paul O. Ong
Senior Grand Lecturer	-	VW Victor A. Yu
Junior Grand Lecturer		
Metro Manila	-	VW Eliseo C. Miranda
Northern Luzon	-	VW Edilberto P. Carabaccan
Central Luzon	-	VW Carlos R. Manabat
Southern Luzon	-	VW Ireneo L. Racimo
Western Visayas	-	VW Severino C. Aguilar
Eastern Visayas	-	VW Edward Y. Chua
Northern & Western Mindanao	-	VW Leonardo M. Arcol
Southern Mindanao	-	VW Reynaldo I. Reyes
Overseas District	-	VW Michael M. Pope
Senior Grand Steward	-	VW Juanito B. Vaño, Jr.
Junior Grand Steward	-	VW Roberto T. Alabado, Jr.
Grand Pursuivant	-	VW Albero P. Caga-anan
Grand Organist	-	VW Pax S. Mangudadatu
Grand Tyler	-	VW Peter U. Lim Lo Suy

BOARD FOR GENERAL PURPOSES

MW Rudyardo V. Bunda, PGM, GMH	-	Chairman
MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM, GMH	-	Vice-Chairman
MW Raymundo N. Beltran, PGM	-	Member
MW John L. Choa, PGM	-	Member
MW Danilo D. Angeles, PGM	-	Member

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MW Napoleon A. Soriano, PGM	-	Member
MW Eugenio S. Labitoria, PGM	-	Member
RW Roberto Q. Pagotan	-	Secretary

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS

1	Ramoncito P. Javier	29	Crisanto D. Carlos
2	Rolly H. Sarmiento	30	Ramon G. Tabor
3	Sigfredo M. Ibay	31	Marcelo P. Agustin
5	Mariano K. Lee	32	Oscar D. Tomarong
6	Edwin I. Corvera	33	Henry T. Yu
7	Edgar D. Lim	34	Paulino S. Perez
8	Edilberto M. de Luna	35	Reynaldo T. Caysip
9	Freddie B. Feir	36	Wellington H. Yee
10	Roberto R. Chua	37	Rufino Ramil Z. San Juan V
11	Conrado C. Lee	38	Romeo C. Hofileña, Sr.
12	Dilip R. Lalwani	39	Renato R. Pataueg
13	Homobono C. Pique	40	Aristoteles D. Trani
14	Josue F. Ernacio	41	Antonio T. Tactay
15	Joe S. San Agustin	42	Resuldo D. Malintad
16	Edmundo A. Cinco	43	Norberto M. Cue, Sr.
17	Tomas M. Duya	44	Edgardo R. Sancho
18	Romeo D. Dirilo	45	Antonio B. Paguirigan
19	Ronaldo O. Sotomango	46	Roberto A. Omandac
20	Edgardo L. Catilo	47	Henry B. Crisologo
21	Robert E. Ring	48	Suharto T. Mangudadatu
22	Joel C. Obar	49	Rogelio P. Matalang
23	Edgar R. Pattai	50	Daniel G. Lim
24	Johnson C. Lee	51	Lorenzo G. Itchon, Jr.
25	Simplicio V. Palac	52	Edgardo P. Yuzon
26	Leonor C. Ledesma, Jr.	53	Romulo M. Camat
27	Carlito B. Faustino	54	Wilfredo G. Ching
28	Benito A. Barcelona		

DISTRICT GRAND LECTURERS

1	Gop S. Sadhwani Tommy Y. Uyliapco Edgardo Z. Peredes	2	Romulo D. Alegre Eduardo B. Bayot Bobby S. Guinto Armando L. Quion Romeo B. Reyes, Sr.
3	Orlando M. Intal Vicente U. Cu, Jr.	5	Andres L. Chao Alexander R. Vadil

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6	Roberto B. Arevalo Renato A. Mogol	7	David Hong Kiao S. Tan Rodel A. Aburquez
8	Alex Reynor Cariaga Evergisto D. Dael	9	Edwin L. Dizon Ramon R. Ignacio Arsenio M. Torres, Jr.
10	Rolando B. Darao Cristaldino B. Torino	11	Jeffrey M. Belagan Michael L. Benjamin
12.	Fernando L. Rabo Richard Emmanuel P. Ragrario Santiago M. Villanueva	13	Godofredo C. De Guzman Reynaldo A. Fabros Ricardo P. Idquival
14	Ernesto T. Valencia Glenn C. Young	15	Jun A. Masculino
16	Elito E. Dapulag	17	Napoleon A. Sison
18	Rogelio P. Allosa Antonio C. Lopez, Jr.	19	Zaldemar T. Ricamona
20	Edilberto I. Macahilig Ahmed C. Pama	21	Michael R. Jugan
22	Hermie G. Agad Diosdado J. Aspa, Jr. Leo M. Cueva	23	Danilo C. Sigua
24	Bernardo A. Neri Jose Y. Mateo	25	Mario M. Valerio
26	Froilan C. Montero Leovigildo A. Pantejo Danilo P. Perral	27	Alejo C. Antonio Oscar D.G. Reyes
28	Amante E. Siapno Franklin U. Siao Ricardo B. Uy	29	Emiliano G. Perez, Jr. Trese D. Wenceslao Eufronio L. Soriano, Jr. Maximo D. Suner
30	Arturo R. Legaspi Ernesto A. Panlilio	31	Maximo D. Gregorio

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- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 32 | Jose R. Apdujan
Juan A. Malinao | 33 | Orlando M. Eligio
Celso G. Paredes
Vitaliano D. Espiritu |
| 34 | Christopher S. Ramayrat
Danilo C. Taliba | 35 | Jaisu L. Maripose
Manuel C. Martinez |
| 36 | Angelo M. Rentoy
Musa C. Saruang | 37 | Gilmore N. Botardo
Mario G. De Guzman
Joseph C. Hufano |
| 38 | Adriano B. Durano, III
Angelito L. Martinez, II
Jeremias D. Gavenia | 39 | Ernesto G. Rupac |
| 40 | Romeo S. Labadan
Faiz P. Saab
Juan E. Salang, Jr. | 41 | Constante P. Uy
Enrique C. Cuadra |
| 42 | Ursulino S. Nolasco
Francisco G. Rivero | 43 | Luke Warren A. Challongen |
| 44 | Art O. Tan | 45 | Filemon S. Donato, Jr.
Francisco Ignacio C. Ramirez, III
Rodolfo B. Costales |
| 46 | Rodolfo A. Alvarez
Noel F. Baynosa | 47 | Erwin F. Damian
Enrique T. Que |
| 48 | Joseph Y. Ang
Celso F. Navales | 49 | Justiniano J. Diego
Paulino Y. Lim |
| 50 | Andres B. Espiritusanto, Jr.
Hassan U. Kurais | 51 | Ricarte P. Adriano, Jr.
Efren M. Cacaitan
Antonio A. Portabes
Sergio M. Paggao |
| 52 | Modesto C. Leynes
Nolasco E. Talucod | 53 | Romeo A. Buado
Rey B. Salvador |
| 54 | Elias C. Buenaventura | | |

PROGRAM FOR MASONIC YEAR 2003-2004

THEME : Masonic Reforms Start From Within

With the above theme, we enter into the Masonic Year 2003-2004 confronting a rough and rugged road. Confusion and perils beleaguer not only our beloved Fraternity but also our nation and the world. Nonetheless, during hardships and uncertainly, Masons have always risen up and demonstrated exemplary conduct worthy of emulation. Responding to the challenges of the times, we also step forward and draw inspiration from the most excellent Tenets of Freemasonry, ever remembering where we were first prepared to become members of the Craft.

We shall initiate and implement reforms in our Grand Lodge to effectively serve the brethren, their kin and the community. Let us reclaim our distinction as an organizational paradigm of Tolerance, Harmony, Service and Good Governance. Our true nature will be proficiently communicated to the public only through our faithfulness to the sublime principles of our Mystic Circle and our never-ending labors for Nobler Deeds, Higher Thoughts, Purer Actions and Greater Achievements.

Together, we pray to the Great Architect of the Universe for temperance to chasten, fortitude to support, prudence to direct and justice to guide all our actions. May all our acts reflect honor upon our ancient and honorable institution, so that future generations can inherit a better Freemasonry, a better Philippines, and a better world.

VISION : A Fraternity Relevant to the Brethren, their Kin and the Community

MISSION :

- Strengthen and Institutionalize Moral Reforms within the Fraternity
- Provide Better Service to the Brethren, their Kin and the Public
- Strengthen Masonic Leadership and Values at the District/Lodge Level
- Increase Interaction and Understanding with the Community

PROGRAMS

In the field of Information, Education and Communication

- Transparency and Good Governance in Grand Lodge Administration

The Cabletow

- Timely dissemination of Information through *The Cabletow*, Circular, etc.
- Encouraging District Bulletins and Lodge Newsletters
- Strengthening the Institute for Masonic Education and Studies (IMES)
- Encouraging Involvement of the Community in Masonic Activities
- Maximizing the potentials of GLP sponsored and/or authorized organizations and their existing programs

In the field of Organization Management

- Encourage a pro-active Corporate Board and Board for General Purposes
- Continue reforms to ensure transparency and good governance at GLP
- Ensure effective performance of GLP Committees
- Establishment of the Masonic Mediation Center and training of mediators
- Standardization of Grand Lodge Office Policies and Procedures
- Installation of inexpensive computerization program for the Grand Lodge
- Closer coordination with GLP sponsored and/or authorized organizations and appendant bodies

In the Field of Advocacy, Networking and Public Service

- Continuing Rehabilitation of Acacia
- Creation of Opportunities for Dialogue among Leaders of Religions
- District/Lodge Activities Based on Grand Lodge Monthly Topics
- Rehabilitation of the Masonic Property at Manila North Cemetery
- Assistance to Deprived Public Schools (used books, equipment, etc.)

Relevant Monthly Topics for District/Lodge Activities during MY 2003-2004

- | | | |
|------|---|---|
| May | - | Masonic Planning and Organization |
| June | - | Freemasonry in Community Development (Independence Day) |

July	-	Appreciating our Lodge History
August	-	Masonry and the Family
September	-	Supporting Youth Development
October	-	Immortality of the Soul (Lodge of Remembrance)
November	-	Masons and the Environment
December	-	Meditation and Prayer
January	-	Lodge Leadership, Planning and Management
February	-	Freemasonry and Religion
March	-	Renewal of Masonic Commitment
April	-	The Value of Annual Communications

Masonic Education shall relate to such activities to allow personal internalization and actualization of what is taught in our Lodges. It is our objective that our time-honored tenets and virtues be exemplified from such activities to manifest that Masonry indeed makes good men better. Through this sharing of common experience, we may aspire for, or even articulate, the spirit of unity and purpose of Masonry as a compelling influence for Good Will among men.

Masonry's natural work is practical life; the use of all the faculties in their proper spheres, and for their natural function. Love of Truth, Justice and Generosity, as attributes of God, must appear in a life marked by these qualities; that is the only effectual ordinance of Masonry.... The natural form of Masonry is goodness, morality, living a true, just, affectionate, and self-faithful life, from the motive of a good man.... (MD, p. 162).

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APPROVED BUDGET ON REVENUES AND EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR APRIL 01, 2003 TO MARCH 31, 2004 (with Comparative Figures of the 2002-2003 Approved Budget)

	APPROVED BUDGET 2003-2004	APPROVED BUDGET 2002-2003	ACTUAL AUDITED 03/31/2003
REVENUES			
Per Capita	6,250,500.00	6,345,000.00	6,107,133.00
Degree Fee	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00	2,468,720.00
Cabletow Subscription	1,270,000.00	1,365,460.00	1,449,985.00
Sales of Masonic Supplies	1,500,000.00	1,300,000.00	1,604,625.00
Rental Income	430,000.00	500,000.00	435,646.34
Interest/Dividend Income	250,000.00	250,000.00	327,706.00
Other Income	500,000.00	500,000.00	1,210,367.00
TOTAL INCOME	11,700,500.00	11,760,460.00	13,604,182.34
EXPENSES			
Masonic Supplies Cost	1,071,000.00	928,000.00	951,475.00
Salaries/Wages/Honoraria	3,330,000.00	3,200,000.00	3,322,360.00
SSS/Philhealth/Pag-ibig	180,000.00	170,000.00	168,548.00
Travel/Transportation	600,000.00	600,000.00	602,750.00
Repairs & Maintenance	300,000.00	400,000.00	195,406.00
Taxes & Licenses	90,000.00	100,000.00	76,356.00
Postage/Telephone	482,000.00	400,000.00	454,967.00
Office Supplies	225,000.00	300,000.00	193,656.00
Light & Water	850,000.00	850,000.00	731,245.00
Security Service	450,000.00	450,000.00	328,995.00
Audit/Legal & Other Fees	150,000.00	200,000.00	141,006.00
Insurance	70,000.00	75,000.00	49,493.00
Bank Charges	10,000.00	10,000.00	8,711.00
GM Discretionary	150,000.00	150,000.00	149,786.00
Interest	-	100,000.00	-
Cabletow Expenses	1,270,000.00	1,365,460.00	910,070.00
Provision for Retirement	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00
Provision for Scholarship Prog.	100,000.00	-	-
Provision for Debt Prepayment	-	1,200,000.00	-
Miscellaneous	300,000.00	250,000.00	293,652.00
Awards and Honors	90,000.00	100,000.00	91,969.00
Computerization	50,000.00	-	-
Depreciation	1,655,000.00	-	1,653,343.00
Loss on Asset Disposal	-	-	6,007.00
Doubtful Accounts	-	-	13,275.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	11,523,000.00	10,948,460.00	10,443,070.00
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	177,500.00	812,000.00	3,161,112.34

GRAND MASTER'S SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

2003

MAY

- 05 - Cabletow Staff Meeting - 4:00 PM
- 07 - Corporate Board Meeting - GLP Conference Room
- 08 - Grand Annual Session, Order of Amaranth, Davao City
- 17 - Constitution & Installation – Dasmariñas Lodge No. 346
Orchard Golf & Country Club, Cavite
- 18 - Turnover Ceremonies, Masonic District No. 2
Host: Mendez-Nuñez Lodge No. 316
- 24 - Turnover Ceremonies, Masonic District No. 27, Zambales
- 31 - Turnover Ceremonies, Masonic District No. 29, Cabanatuan

JUNE

- 04 - Corporate Board Meeting
- 07 - Turnover Ceremonies, Masonic District No. 33, Guimba,
Nueva Ecija
- 12 - Independence Day Celebration
- 14 - Blessing – Tabuk - AM
Constitution – Timpuyog Lodge – PM
- 19 - Bro. Jose Rizal Birth Anniversary
- 21 - Joint District Convention, Masonic District
Nos. 10 & 52 - Batangas, Mindoro
- 28 - Constitution – XIX Martyrs - Aklan

JULY

- 02 - Corporate Board Meeting
- 05 - Constitution - Datu Lapu-Lapu Lodge - Cebu City
- 12 - Constitution – Sultan Kudarat, Koronadal, 3:00 PM
- 19 - Constitution – La Trinidad Lodge, Baguio City

AUGUST

- 06 - Corporate Board Meeting
- 16 - Visayas Regional Convention
Host: Quintin Salas Mem. Lodge No. 231, Antique
- 19 - District Convention, Masonic District No. 8, Lucena City

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SEPTEMBER

03 - Corporate Board Meeting

OCTOBER

01 - Corporate Board Meeting

04 - Northeastern Luzon Convention – Tuguegarao, Cagayan Valley

11 - Bicol Regional Convention

16 - 18 - Western Mindanao Convention, Iligan City

NOVEMBER

05 - Corporate Board Meeting

08 - South Central Mindanao Convention

15 - Northern Mindanao Convention

22 - Northwestern Luzon Convention, Alaminos, Pangasinan

29 - Masonic District No. 2 Convention, Cavite

30 - Andres Bonifacio Day

DECEMBER

01 - Corporate Board Meeting

06 - Central Luzon Convention, Bulacan

13 - NCR Convention

2004

JANUARY

07 - Corporate Board Meeting

FEBRUARY

04 - Corporate Board Meeting

21 - 22 - Mindanao Regional Convention, Dipolog City

MARCH

03 - Corporate Board Meeting

APRIL

20 - 22 - Annual Communication – Cagayan de Oro City

DAY-TO-DAY ACCOUNT OF THE GLFAMP'S 87TH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

by *The Cabletow* Editors

April 24, 2003; Thursday

The Grand Master, MW Eugenio S. Labitoria, led the brethren and guests in laying floral wreaths at the monument of Bro. Jose Rizal in the park named in his honor. Afterwards they paid Manila City Mayor Joselito L. Atienza a courtesy call at his office in City Hall.

RW Ricardo P. Galvez, Deputy Grand Master, presided over the formal opening ceremonies of the Ancom proper, which were highlighted by the Grand Oration of VW Fernando V. Pascua, Jr., and the keynote address of Hon. Brother Radu Homescu, Ph.D., Ambassador of Romania.

MW Enrique L. Locsin, PGM, reported on the progress of the reconstruction of the old Plaridel Masonic Temple.

Lunch over, the rolls of the GLPFAMP's Officers, PGMs and Lodges were called to establish quorum.

MW Eugenio S. Labitoria then urged the Grand Representatives presented before him to work a little harder to build up rapport with the jurisdictions they represent, and MW Rudyardo V. Bunda, PGM, speaking in behalf of the Grand Representatives, assured the Grand Master they would comply with his bidding.

MW Bunda then reported on the status of the Acacia Mutual Aid Society Inc. (AMASI). (His report is reprinted in this issue).

The day's activities were capped by the festive Grand Master's Night at the Grand Lodge premises.

In acknowledgement of their zealous and dedicated service to the Craft individual brethren and Masonic Bodies received well-deserved awards. (The names of the awardees are listed on pp. 26-28.)

April 25, 2003, Friday

The GLFAMP Inc. and the Masonic Charities for Crippled Children Inc. (MCCCI) held their meetings. (The MCCCI President's report is reprinted somewhere in this issue.)

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RW Galvez then presented the Account and Budget of the GLFAMP for MY 2003-2004, which was approved by the Ancom. (Again, the said account and budget is reprinted in this issue for the brethren's re-view.)

The 86th Ancom Proceedings having been approved by the assembly, the Grand Master, the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Secretary, and the various Grand Lodge Committees presented their respective reports. (The important portions of the reports of the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary are also reproduced in this issue.)

As per Circular No. 3 - Galvez, the following were among the issues resolved by the Ancom:

1. EDICT NO. 79-A dated December 12, 2002 – granting an additional award of Past Grand Master's Ring to Past Grand Masters, which shall be made of 18K and of a specific design.
2. EDICT NO 79-B DATED March 3, 2003 – authorizing every subordinate Lodge, upon its discretion, to award its Past Masters with an additional award of Past Master's Ring, provided such Past Masters have performed outstanding services to the Lodge.
3. EDICT NO. 175-B dated January 22, 2003 – harmonizing Edict Nos. 47 (Quasha), 77 (Mandac), 175 (Adiong) and 175-A (Locsin) and clarifying procedures for Grand Honors and Reception of dignitaries.
4. EDICT NO. 217 dated July 30, 2002 – constituting all endowments under the care of the Grand Lodge into the Grand Lodge Scholarship Fund and the creation of the Committee on Grand Lodge Scholarship to supervise the fund and the program.
5. The resolution of Noli Me Tangere No. 148 to regain number 42, which was originally assigned to it by the Grand Lodge.
6. Cagayan de Oro will be the venue of the 88th Ancom.
7. The creation of a Trial Commission to determine the culpability of the officers and staff of Acacia Mutual Aid Society, Inc.
8. Life Membership henceforth may only be acquired by Longevity.
9. Expulsion of Bro. Horrance M. Torente – declaring the expulsion imposed by Pinatubo Lodge No. 52 illegal and restoring his status as a member in good standing.

Granted Charters were the following:

1. XIX Martyrs Lodge No. 342 in Kalibo, Aklan;
2. Timpuyog Lodge No. 343 in Ramon, Isabela;
3. La Trinidad Lodge No. 344 in La Trinidad, Benguet;
4. Kapayapaan Lodge No. 345 in Quezon City;
5. Dasmariñas Lodge No. 346 in Dasmariñas, Cavite;
6. Datu Lapu-Lapu Lodge No. 347 in Cebu City;
7. Sultan Kudarat Lodge No. 348 in Koronadal City; and
8. Timoteo S. Uy, Sr., Memorial Lodge No. 349 in Ozamiz City.

Next came the elections. The Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden were automatically nominated to the next higher positions. The incumbent Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary were likewise considered automatically nominated to their posts. The Past Grand Masters did not nominate any other candidate to said posts; thus, all the above were automatically elected.

The Election Committee (Elecom) then announced the Past Grand Masters' nominees for the honored position of Junior Grand Warden, namely: (1) VW Fernando V. Pascua, Jr., (2) VW Jaime Y. Gonzales, (3) VW Felicisimo O. Joson, Jr., (4) VW Gregorio M. Camiling, Jr., (5) VW Manuel T. Lee, with VW Jose Marlowe S. Pedregosa, VW Romeo A. Yu and VW Pax Mangudadatu as alternate candidates.

The five regular nominees expressed their desire to withdraw from the election. VW Suharto Mangudadatu spoke in behalf of his father and announced that the latter was declining his nomination for the position of Junior Grand Warden. Hence, the brethren had to choose between the two remaining alternate candidates. In the end, VW (and now RW) Romeo A. Yu was elected JGW for 2003-2004. (His biography is printed in this issue.)

April 26, 2003, Saturday

Grand Master-elect Ricardo P. Galvez met with his Officers, elected and appointed alike, at the Abad Santos Hall. Senior Grand Lecturer Victor A. Yu then presided over the conferral of the Installed Past Masters Degree.

At 3:00 p.m., the Grand Lodge Officers for MY 2003-2004 were installed at the same hall, with MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM, GMH, and MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., PGM, as Installing Officer and Master of Ceremonies, respectively.

The Inaugural Ball took place at the Emilio Aguinaldo Hall.

That's the short story of the 87th Ancom of the GLFAMP in Manila.

AWARDS at the ANCOM

MOST OUTSTANDING LODGE

- a. Whole Jurisdiction - Kaduh Lodge No. 278
- b. NCR - Mencius Lodge No. 93
- c. Luzon - Pampanga Masonic Lodge No. 48
- d. Visayas - Hamtik Lodge No. 76
- e. Mindanao - Macajalar Lodge No. 184

MOST OUTSTANDING DISTRICT

- a. NCR - Masonic District No. 1
- b. Luzon - Masonic District No. 2
- c. Mindanao - Masonic District No. 28

MOST OUTSTANDING WORSHIPFUL MASTER

- a. Whole Jurisdiction - WB Ricardo F. Jalipa, Jr.
Kaduh Lodge No. 278
- b. NCR - WB Roy S. Tan
Taga-Ilog Lodge No. 79
- c. Luzon - WB Ireneo P. Dones
Memorial Lodge No. 90
- d. Visayas - WB Nery D. Duremdes
Hamtik Lodge No. 76
- d. Mindanao - WB Ernesto A. Panlilio
Macajalar Lodge No. 184

MOST OUTSTANDING DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

- a. Whole Jurisdiction - VW Robert O. Asuncion
Masonic District No. 7
- b. NCR - VW Nemesio P. Jardeleza
Masonic District No. 1
- c. Luzon - VW Nicanor B. dela Cruz
Masonic District No. 23
- d. Mindanao - VW James C. Go
Masonic District No. 28

MOST OUTSTANDING DISTRICT GRAND LECTURER

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| a. NCR | - VW Edgardo Z. Paredes
Masonic District No. 1 |
| b. Luzon | - VW Melvin E. de Guzman
Masonic District No. 37 |
| c. Visayas | - VW Ahmed C. Pama
Masonic District No. 20 |
| d. Mindanao | - VW Alexander L. Chiu
Masonic District No. 48 |

MOST OUTSTANDING GRAND LODGE INSPECTOR

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| a. NCR | - WI Rufino G. Tabios |
| b. Luzon | - WI Mario M. Valerio |
| c. Visayas | - WI Vicente E. Villareal |
| d. Mindanao | - WI Edgardo A. Montero |

MOST OUTSTANDING LODGE SECRETARY

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| a. NCR | - Bro. Joselito D. Bulawin
Jacques DeMolay Lodge No. 305 |
| b. Luzon | - VW Llewellyn M. Santos
Laoag Lodge No. 71 |
| c. Visayas | - Bro. Alexis C. Salvani
Hamtik Lodge No. 76 |
| d. Mindanao | - Bro. Rolando U. Layumas
Iligan Lodge No. 207 |

MOST OUTSTANDING MASTER MASON

VW Domingo T. Teng

OUTSTANDING MASTER MASONS

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Teodoro A. Bay | - Judiciary |
| Eduardo S. Ramos | - Civic Service |
| Erasto L. Sanchez | - Law Enforcement |
| Samuel M. Fiji | - Investigative Service |
| Benjamin So Si Hok | - Architecture |
| Antonio R. Manio | - Banking & Jewelry |
| Fernando C. Pace | - Traffic Management |
| Benito K. Tan | - Humanitarian Services |
| Virginio R. Aris | - Maritime Service |

Benjamin C. Akol

- Business & Port Service

GM's AWARD FOR MASONIC PUBLICATION

Information Serial

- Hamtik Lodge No. 76

The Trowel

- Macajalar Lodge No. 184

The Mason

- Kaduh Lodge No. 278

Gazette

- Labong Lodge No. 59

Bulletin

- Taga-Ilog Lodge No. 79

Bulletin

- Masonic District No. 9

Plumbline

- Masonic District No. 1

The Lanao Trowel

- Masonic District No. 36

GM's AWARD FOR SERVICE TO THE CRAFT

WM Dominic W. Siao

WB Marcelo T. Reyes

Taga-Ilog Lodge No. 79

GM's AWARD FOR MASONIC EDUCATION

Ernesto A. Uy

- Effective Lodge Management

Frederick R. Castro

- District Deputy Grand Master, MD #36

• The sincere Mason does that which is right to do, not because it will insure him success, or bring with it a reward, or gain the applause of men, or be the "best policy", more prudent or more advisable; but because he knows that it is right and, therefore, ought to be done. (MD, p. 219).

• Merit is just title to our privileges. On the awardees recognition has not been undeservedly bestowed.

REPORT OF THE GRAND SECRETARY, MW REYNOLDS. FAJARDO, PGM, GMH

LODGES

The Grand Lodge now has a total of 289 regular lodges and 8 under dispensation or a total of 297 lodges.

Gualberto C. Agatep, Sr. Memorial Lodge, which was granted a charter by the Grand Lodge in April 2002 and assigned number 341, was duly constituted by MW Grand Master Eugenio S. Labitoria on June 8, 2002.

The five UD Lodges which were not given charters in April 2002 but whose dispensations were extended up to March 31, 2003 have continued to function. These lodges are: La Trinidad Lodge UD in La Trinidad, Benguet; XIX Martyrs Lodge UD in Kalibo, Aklan; Kapayapaan Lodge UD in Quezon City; Timpuyog Lodge UD in Ramon, Isabela; and Dasmariñas Lodge UD in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

During his term, MW Labitoria issued dispensations to three lodges all of which he instituted. These lodges are Datu Lapu-Lapu Lodge UD in Cebu City, which was instituted on August 15, 2002; Sultan Kudarat Lodge UD in Koronadal City, South Cotabato, instituted on October 11, 2002; and Timoteo S. Uy Sr. Memorial Lodge UD in Ozamiz City, which was instituted on January 18, 2003.

MEMBERSHIP

As of December 31, 2002, the Grand Lodge of the Philippines had a total membership of 17, 266. This figure, however, includes 1, 715 who are dual members. Thus our net membership is only 15, 551.

This year our lodges raised 300 brothers, affiliated 8, restored 103 to full membership and extended plural membership to 41, for a gross gain of 452. In the same period, however, the Grand Lodge lost 673 brothers, to wit: 110 passed to the celestial lodge on high, 132 demitted, 1 was expelled, 425 were suspended for non-payment of dues and 5 were suspended for other reasons. In fine, the Grand Lodge suffered a loss of 221 members. One reason for the negative growth of the Grand Lodge is the drop in the number of those entering the Fraternity and those being restored and affiliated. In the year 2001 our lodges raised 535 brothers, restored 395 and affiliated 12 for a gross gain of 942. This is 490 more than our gross gain for this year.

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One more disturbing development worth mentioning is that while our membership is going down, our number of life members by longevity is increasing. In December 2000 we had 2973 life members by longevity. Last year, 2001, the figure went up to 3047 and this year the number stands at 3252. Since our net membership, as stated above, is only 15, 551 that means that 20% of all Masons under the Philippine jurisdiction are life members by longevity or, stated differently, one out of every five members does not have to pay his dues. The number of our paying members this year is only 12, 299 compared to last year which was 12,667. At the risk of being repetitious, this year we suffered a loss of 221 in membership and 368 in the number of paying members.

DEATHS

The names of our brothers who dropped their working tools last year are given in an attached list. Their names and the dates of their deaths are indicated under the name of the lodges where they held membership.

In another attachment, the details of the membership of the lodges are given in tabulated form. It shows the number of those they initiated, passed and raised, those who affiliated, demitted, were suspended for non-payment of dues, died, were expelled, who are plural members and are life members by longevity.

MASONIC LIBRARY

This year the library acquired 78 new books. Our collection of books is now 5,502. Some of the new acquisitions in 2002 are "Kinship to Greatness," "ACASIA Souvenir Handbook," "The Secret Teaching," "Dialogues with the Masters," and "The Living Word."

In closing, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the brethren of this Grand Jurisdiction for once again giving me the privilege to be of service to the Fraternity.

CERTIFICATES ISSUED

This year it was my pleasure to issue the following certificates to our brothers:

Master Mason Certificate	326
Life Member by Longevity Certificate	169
Immediate Past Master Certificate	172
Past Master Certificate	71
Honorary Membership Certificate	87
Travel Certificate	74
50-Year Membership Certificate	1
Grand Representative Certificate	2
Charter	1
TOTAL	903

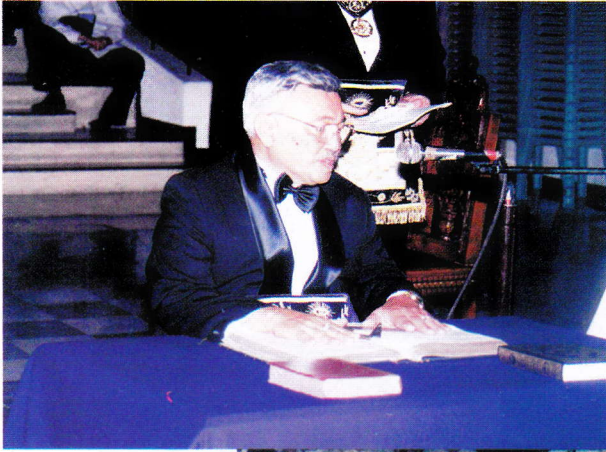
INSTALLATION OF THE GLEAMP OFFICERS FOR MY 2003-2004 IN PHOTOS



The Grand Master Taking His Obligation at the Altar: a Panoramic View

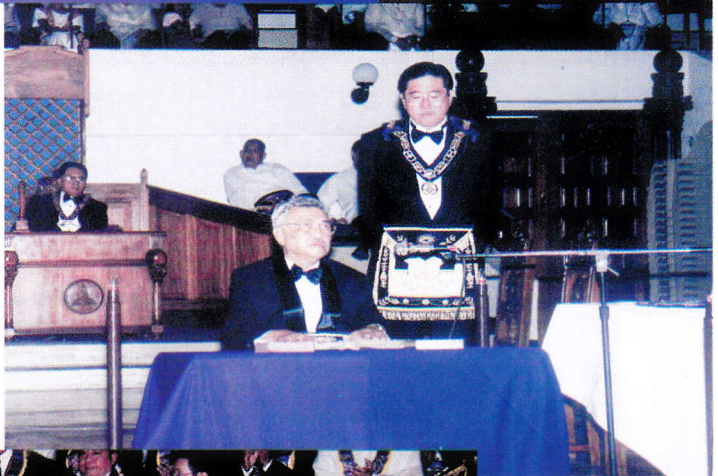


MW Ricardo P. Galvez at the Altar: "I do most sincerely promise and swear that throughout my year in the Grand East, I will impress upon the brethren's minds and hearts the urgency of living their Masonry in their daily lives and actions."



MW Galvez in deep thought: "Will I succeed in motivating the brethren to re-dedicate themselves to the task of showing the whole world, by their actions, that Masonry has made a big difference in their lives?"

The incoming Grand Master seems to be praying to the Deity for strength and guidance so that he will be able to do the things on his trestleboard.



The Master of Ceremonies, MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., PGM, leads the incoming Grand Master to the East for further instruction from the Installing Officer, while the brethren, in full Masonic regalia, look on.



MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM, GMH, Installing Officer, hands to the newly installed Grand Master, MW Ricardo P. Galvez, the gavel symbol of authority. Looking on are (from left to right) PGMs Napoleon A. Soriano, Jose Percival L. Adiong, Eugenio S. Labitoria, and Damaso C. Tria. At extreme right is MW Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM.

Grand Master Ricardo P. Galvez joyfully accepts MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr's congratulatory hands.



MW Galvez is congratulated by RW Roberto Q. Pagotan, DGM.



MW Galvez, with the symbol authority on his breast, intently listens to the Installing Officer. His Deputy, RW Pagotan, seems to be looking forward to the time he will be installed as Grand Master.

MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM, GMH, instructs the Master of Ceremonies, MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., PGM, to make the proclamation.



Newly installed Grand Master Ricardo P. Galvez delivers his inaugural address (which is printed on 5-7 of this issue).

REPORT OF THE GRAND TREASURER, MW JOHN L. CHOA, PGM

It is my pleasure to report the result of operations and the financial condition of the Grand Lodge as of March 31, 2003, as audited by ALBA ROMEO & CO., CPAs.

Total resources of the Grand Lodge now amounts to P126,623,865.00 as compared with the previous year of P123,312,722.00. The excess of revenues over expenses for this year is P4,145,817.00 while that of the previous year is P11,053,844.00. This is so because the prior year's figure included the proceeds of P8,000,000.00 from the insurance company as settlement for the fire loss.

There were some items in the expenses which overshot the budget. For instance, the budget of Postage. This is so because the incumbent administration decided to send the circulars, edicts, and other informative materials through the mail or by courier instead of e-mail. The salaries and wages exceeded the budget because we were paying the salaries of two Building Administrators; the salary of one of them was not included in the budget.

It is a credit to our Grand Master, MW Eugenio S. Labitoria, that all donations from lodges and individual masons in the country and abroad amounting to P1,025,000.00 were all duly issued with official receipts by the Grand Lodge and were all recorded in the book.

In the assessment of the annual dues of lodges, the office of the Grand Treasurer had encountered several complaints because the records of the members at the Grand Lodge were not updated. These membership records are used as bases of the assessment comparing with those reported by the lodges. The records submitted by some lodges were not correct either because the previous lodge secretary did not turn over the documents which he was holding or there were no records at all in the lodge. We suggest that the Committee on Administration of Lodges should look into this matter and that the Grand Lodge records should be updated.

On March 21, 2003 our External Auditors wrote a letter (copy of which is enclosed herewith) addressed to the Corporate Board regarding the disposition of the unrecorded secret bank account with Traders Royal Bank, Aduana Branch, which resulted in their issuance of a qualified opinion on the financial statements of the Grand Lodge for the fiscal years ended March 31, 2002 and 2001 due to lack of documents pertaining to the account. To lift qualified opinion, the transactions have to be approved by the board and/or ratified by the members, as well as recorded in

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the organization's accounting books. Besides, disbursements to third parties have to be properly supported with contracts (if applicable), invoices and official receipts (from the third parties), and disbursements paid to cash and to officers have to be liquidated and properly supported with receipts and invoices (also coming from third parties).

Unfortunately, to date, these requirements have not been complied with. In view thereof, our Grand Master, MW Eugenio S. Labitoria, has ordered the accounting department to book the unrecorded transactions to comply with accounting and auditing procedures, as Accounts Receivable based on the records retrieved from the bank and will remain as Account Receivable until it is fully liquidated. The External Auditors now issued a report with unqualified opinion.

I wish to inform you, brethren, that we have paid Acacia P1,200,000.00 in two trenches, to wit: P200,000.00 on January 10, 2003 and P1,000,000.000 on March 29, 2003, as settlement of our loan incurred during the term of MW Bañez. This was approved by the Corporate Board with your Grand Treasurer abstaining from this decision because, as stated in my previous report to the Ancom in Olongapo, I recommended, and was approved, the offsetting of accounts since the Grand Lodge has an investment with Acacia in the amount of P1.5 (trust funds). This investment dates back to the year 1996 when the undersigned was not yet the Grand Treasurer. The offsetting was not implemented; instead, a decision was made that Grand Lodge should pay Acacia, so that Acacia could pay-off the investments of some investors.

I would also like to inform you that the insurance money which was received during the past administration and previously deposited as ordinary savings account, earning an interest of 1% per annum, is now invested with Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company as special savings account with an interest rate of 7.25% per annum. As Chairman of the Investment Committee, your Grand Treasurer has recommended the investment of this amount to a better placement for the interest of the Grand Lodge.

Lastly, let me thank you again for the trust and confidence you have bestowed on me. Rest assured that I did my duty to the best of my ability with the guiding principle of what is right and legal.

Let me also express my appreciation to the External Auditors and our accounting staff for a job well done.

Thanks to all of you, my brethren!

ACACIA REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Brethren:

In the General Membership Meeting of Acacia Mutual Aid Society, Inc held in Olongapo City on April 24, 2002, I presented the financial picture of Acacia which showed that our Mutual Aid Society is technically bankrupt. Notwithstanding this stark situation, we decided to save Acacia and approved a Financial Recovery Plan covering membership of all brother Masons in the Philippine Jurisdiction, restructuring of PEP maturities over a period of twenty five years inclusive of a grace period of three years, discontinuance of the GLMAP or condonation of the One-Time-Payment Plan, Fund Raising, like a One-Time P200 Contribution from our members, and implementation of operating cost-cutting measures.

Based on the above mandate, I am pleased to report the measures that had been taken during the year and the resulting financial position of Acacia.

MEMBERSHIP

In terms of membership, we already have a total enrollment of 9,293 members representing 77% of our membership target. Of this, 564 members or 6.1% are 70 years old and above.

On July 24, 2002, I signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Philippine Prudential Life Insurance Co. to further boost the capability of Acacia in extending the best possible insurance benefits and services to the members. Under the agreement, the amount of the

reinsurance coverage of each member who is not less than 18 nor more than 70 years old shall be P17,000.

DEBT SETTLEMENT

In a meeting with the creditors, the financial situation of Acacia and its inability to pay their money placements on their maturities was discussed. I proposed a twenty-five-year repayment schedule with a grace period of three years from the effective date of the Debt Settlement Agreement. This seemed not acceptable to many creditors. A second option was presented whereby Acacia pays the creditor 50% of their deposit within one year while the other 50% is condoned by the creditor in favor of the Society.

As of the latest count, the total amount confirmed for debt settlement based on the second option is P3,136 Million representing about 25% of PEP liabilities. Incidentally, the Supreme Council, A. & A.S.R., donated its placement with Acacia amounting to more than P162 thousand.

ONE-TIME PAYMENT OF PHP 1,500 (GLMAP)

There are 1,291 subscribers to the One-Time-Payment Plan. Under this plan, Acacia is contingently liable to pay P14,846,500. It was indicated before that Acacia is not capable of meeting this obligation. It was, therefore, proposed that the OTP Plan be discontinued and that their membership be given up by way of donation in favor of the Society. They will, however, be exempted from

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the P200 contribution being solicited from all brethren Masons.

As of March 31, 2003, only 238 members favorably responded to our appeal. I am afraid the rest might jeopardize the rehabilitation of Acacia.

FUND RAISING

Up to March 31, 2003, Acacia has collected a total contribution of P1.3 Million, broken down as follows:

One Time Contribution of P200 from the members (Target is P2.4 Million)	P850,000.00
From some benevolent Masons, Past Grand Masters and the Members of the Board of Trustees	P240,000.00
Supreme Council, A. & A.S.R.	P162,274.00
Okinawa brethren (\$1000)	P 51,579.00
TOTAL	P1,303,853

These Masonic gestures of our benevolent brethren definitely inspire us to bring back Acacia to its former status and preserve the good name of the Fraternity.

RESULTS OF OPERATION

As of the end of the year 2002, the Balance Sheet of Acacia did not show any significant change. The Total Assets net of probable write-offs still stands at P7.12 Million. No provisions for losses

has been made on the P3.3 Million deposit with UNISAVE pending final disposition of our claims with PDIC. The total liabilities amounted to P17.3 Million, contingent liabilities totalled P14.3 Million, of which P10 Million represents Acacia's obligation to One-Time Payment Plan subscriber and the balance represents our obligations to subscribers to Individual Membership Plan.

During the year 2002, Acacia generated a total income of P1.79 Million, P1.06 Million of which came from the financial contributions and other donations. Premium income amounting to P730 thousand is net of the remittances to Prudential Life for the cost of reinsurance.

Expenses totalled P2.08 Million. They are classified as underwriting and operating expenses. Underwriting expenses which basically represent payments for Death claims amounted to P780 thousand and mean reserve (for IMP), P548 thousand. Total claims paid by Acacia in 2002 amounted to 73 with 37 brethren dying below 70 yrs. old and 36 brethren dying above 70 yrs old.

Prudential Life reinsurance took effect only on August 7, 2002. Hence, claims made before the effectivity of the reinsurance were paid by Acacia. Insurance Benefits of the members who were 70 years old and above were also paid by Acacia. Claims of subscribers to OTP Plan who did not waive their membership were also paid by Acacia. Henceforth, Acacia will not be able to afford to pay the benefits under this Plan.

Operating expenses have been substantially reduced to P680 thousand. Except for the fee and penalties paid to Orchard Golf & Country Club amounting to P120,834.14, other expense items for operation were paid as budgeted, which is 82.27% less than the previous year.

For the year 2002, Acacia showed a net loss of P289,868, which is 82.27% less than that of the previous year. We are therefore giving ourselves one more year to determine whether Acacia is indeed viable or not. Condonation of our contingent liabilities is the key to rehabilitation. In this connection, we

reiterate our appeal to the OTP and IMP subscribers to waive their coverages. This may be bitter but I always say a better solution than dissolution.

Confident that you will favor us in our appeals for understanding and charity for the sake of Acacia and Philippine Masonry, I thank you in behalf of our Board of Trustees and our staff, and we pray that the Grand Architect of the Universe bless us all and guide us in our Masonic endeavors.

Fraternally yours,

(Sgd) RUDYARDO V. BUNDA

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

FINDINGS

1. The corporation does not appear to have clear-cut investment policy guidelines which will guide the Board in deciding on which investments are worthwhile looking into. Rather, it appears that the Board has essentially relied on the representation and explanation presented by the then President Espejo.

2. An apparent gross negligence was committed by the management in seeing to it that certain policies were adopted to protect the asset of the company such as annotation of mortgages made in its favor.

3. There are apparent specific instances of neglect committed by the then Management as well as violation of the Board's fiduciary duty relative to

its handling of the funds of the company under the following circumstances:

(a) Investment in share of golf clubs, the returns therefrom being doubtful.

(b) Placement of investments in small unknown banks lured by apparent large returns but whose track record is doubtful.

(c) Unexplained increases in overhead expenses despite repeated report on financial losses.

(d) Failure to exercise required management prudence to reinsure the risk that may arise from the deaths of members.

RECOMMENDATIONS

With the foregoing preliminary factual

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milieu, the Board can start with the following recommendations:

1. The creation of an Audit Committee or the appointment of an external auditor who answers solely to the Board.

2. The need for the Board to formulate clear investment policies to guide the management in its preliminary evaluation of investment prospects as well as in the adoption of the same by the Board.

3. The creation of a formal investigating committee with authority to request production of documents and to subpoena persons involved or may be required to attend to answer questions, pinpoint responsibilities, determine weak points and satisfy inquiries of members that need to be clarified.

4. Determination of persons responsible for possible violation of fiduciary duty to protect the assets and

funds of the company, the unauthorized withdrawal of company's guaranty funds without the required passbook and possible violation of the 19 creditor rule of the Revised Securities Act and the pertinent provisions of the Insurance Code with the end in view of determining possible criminal culpability and file charges accordingly.

We humbly submit and hope that the foregoing report sufficiently addresses the preliminary requirements of the Board under the mandate afforded the Investigating Committee.

Respectfully submitted.

(sgd) Santiago T. Gabionza
Chairman

(sgd) Fernando V. Pascua, Jr.
Member

(sgd) Jaime Y. Gonzales
Member



- The duty of a Mason as an honest man is plain and easy. It requires of us honesty in contract, sincerity in affirming, simplicity in bargaining, and faithfulness in performing. (*MD*, p. 116).

- Masonry is to be liberal, but only of that which is our own; to be generous, but only when we have first been just; and to give, when to give deprives us of a luxury or a comfort. (*Ibid.*, p. 122).

REPORT OF THE MASONIC CHARITIES FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN, INC.

MW Eugenio S. Labitoria
Grand Master of Masons in the
Jurisdiction of the Philippines
Plaridel Masonic Temple

Dear Most Worshipful Sir and Brethren:

We are happy to report to you that the Masonic Charities for Crippled Children is in a very good financial condition. We receive, aside from the assessments of the brethren, support donations and financial contributions from other organizations and friends.

As usual, MW Rosendo and Sister Esperanza Herrera hosted the traditional Christmas Party of our patients.

We are submitting a pictorial of the work done by our Mother Unit at Mary Johnson Hospital and by our provincial units.

We are conferring with the Head of the Orthopedic Department of the Philippine General Hospital, so that we can help indigent patients who are being operated on and treated at the said Hospital, but lack braces, crutches, Ilizarov, medicines and the like.

We are maintaining our provincial units, aside from our mother unit in Mary Johnston Hospital.

The annual meeting of the Masonic Charities for the election of the members of the Board of Trustees is held on the third Monday of September every year. We enjoin the brethren to attend or the Lodges to send their delegates for a greater involvement of the brethren in this great and worthwhile undertaking.

We are now attending to juvenile cataract cases and we undertake ocular prosthesis for children.

The assessment of the brethren is P75.00 annually and there is no need for any increase, despite the economic crisis that grips the country.

We appeal to the brethren to look for patients, so that we can attend to as many patients as our finances permit.

We thank you, MW Sir and brethren, for the support you are extending to our project, the biggest philanthropic activity of the Grand Lodge.

Faternally yours,

(Sgd) Raymundo M. Beltran, PGM
President

ROUND THE DISTRICTS, LODGES, AND APPENDANT BODIES

OFFICERS OF THE IOJD, GRAND BETHEL OF THE PHILIPPINES

With the supervision of the Grand Bethel Guardian, Mom Julie Kansi and the Associate Grand Bethel Guardian, Dad Jack Tomacmol, is the new set of officers of the International Order of Job's Daughters, Grand Bethel of the Philippines for the year 2003-2004 is composed of:

GB Honored Queen Love Joy Alameda – Bethel 4, Iloilo City;
GB Senior Princess Rodelyn de Guzman – Bethel 22, Manila;
GB Junior Princess Charisse Caga-anan – Bethel 10, Ozamiz City;
GB Guide Christine Tomacmol – Bethel 14, Kidapawan City;
GB Marshal Omairah Lukman – Bethel 22, Manila;
GB Chaplain Katherine Leyson – Bethel 19, Cagayan de Oro City;
GB Treasurer Mariko Yano – Bethel 22, Manila;
GB Recorder Cevi Villagomez – Bethel 6, Davao City;
GB Librarian Melanie Leonen – Bethel 19, Cagayan de Oro City;
GB Musician Rachel Tomacmol – Bethel 14, Kidapawan City;
GB 1st Messenger Donna Ybanez – Bethel 14, Kidapawan City;
GB 2nd Messenger Michiko Yano – Bethel 22, Manila;
GB 3rd Messenger Nancy Jalipa – Bethel 14, Kidapawan City;
GB 4th Messenger Hannah Aragon – Bethel 22, Manila; and
GB 5th Messenger Hazel Lopez – Bethel 22, Manila



TESTIMONIAL DINNER FOR RW ROMEO A. YU

by WB Jose A.I. Magbanua, PM

Past Grand Master Rosendo and Sister Esperanza Herrera hosted a testimonial dinner for RW Romeo A. Yu, Junior Grand Warden of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, who is a member of the Feliciano Iñigo Chapter, Order of DeMolay, Davao City.

The event was held at the Champagne Salon of the Manila Hotel on May 30, 2003.

The short but simple program started with the invocation by MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM. DeMolay Ericson B. Atanancio, a Past National Master Councilor of the Philippine DeMolay Congress, gave the welcome remarks, wherein he emphasized the continuing service of our brethren for the development programs of the Masonic youth organizations.

MW Herrera later on expressed his hope that RW Yu's election would serve as an inspiration to other DeMolays to

continue their service to the Order and their fellowmen through the Masonic fraternity. RW Romeo A. Yu, in his response, recalled how his membership in the Order of DeMolay helped shape his foundations. He stressed how the Seven Cardinal Virtues had implanted in him the desire to serve.

The night's program was emceed by VW Ramoncito Javier, DDGM for Masonic District No. 1.

An intimate contingent of Past Grand Masters and their ladies, Masonic Dignitaries, prominent Senior DeMolays and Active DeMolays were in attendance.



RW Romeo A. Yu, Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, flanked by MW Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM, and Sis. Esperanza S. Herrera during the testimonial dinner held in his honor.

GRAND MASTER GALVEZ CONSTITUTES DASMARIÑAS LODGE NO. 346

by VW Eulogio I. Arnan, PDGL

The constitution of a new Masonic Lodge is the result of the cumulative and indefatigable efforts of brethren who wish to lay the foundation of Masonic advocacy on new terrain. The date May 17, 2003 will long be remembered and celebrated by brethren as the foundation day of Dasmariñas Lodge No. 346.

A handful of brethren started out the dream of a new lodge in Dasmariñas, Cavite – Bro. Mario B. Marasigan of Tamaraw Lodge No. 65; VW Edgardo E. Lupisan, then the District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District No. 2 (Cavite); and VW Fernando R. Umandap, then the Worshipful Master of Bagong Ilaw Lodge No. 97. On March 28, 2002, a first organizational meeting for establishing the new lodge was assembled by Bros. Mario G. Marasigan, Jerry Ramiro C. Murillo, Alfredo C. delos Santos and Crisanto S. Camaclang and drew in 20 Past Masters and Master Masons. Bro. Marasigan was elected as Founding Chairman. Two subsequent meetings firmed up the requirements for the institution of the new lodge.

On April 19, 2002, in accordance with established ceremonies for a lodge institution, Dasmariñas Lodge was granted a dispensation by then Grand Master Napoleon A. Soriano.

Among the installed officers were the following: Worshipful Master - Mario G. Marasigan; Senior Warden – Jerry

Ramiro C. Murillo; Junior Warden – Alfredo C. delos Santos; Treasurer – Bernabe A. Ragadio; Secretary – VW Eulogio I. Arnan; and Auditor – Javier G. del Rosario. Together with the other officers and members, they then proceeded with their Masonic labors.

After less than a year of work, the lodge under dispensation garnered the following: 77 Chartered Members, eight new Master Masons, one Fellow Craft Mason and fifteen petitioners. Finding the lodge under dispensation as having complied with all the requirements for a new numbered Lodge, the Grand Lodge, during its last Annual Communications, granted the Charter and number for Dasmariñas Lodge. Again in accordance with established ceremonies, the Grand Master, MW Ricardo P. Galvez, assisted by Senior Grand Lecturer Victor A. Yu, on May 17, 2003 constituted the new lodge at the Orchard Golf and Country Club, Dasmariñas (photo below).

VW Eduardo V. Bayot, District Grand Lecturer, then proceeded with the Installation of Officers, with the same

set of officers during the Lodge institution having been re-elected for the ensuing Masonic year. WB Joseph A.

Capuyan acted as Master of Ceremonies and was assisted by VW Bobby S. Guinto, DGL.



Dasmariñas Lodge No. 346 pose with MW Galvez and other Grand Lodge Officers, VW Bayot, WB Capuyan and VW Guinto after the double Masonic affair.

WM NELSON T. YAU DONATES FLAG TO GLP



Photo taken by VW Sigfredo M. Ibay, DDGM of MD#3, shows MW Ricardo P. Galvez (center) assisted by VW Mawi B. Lazaro, Jr., (right) The Cabletow Editor, receiving the flag from WB Nelson T. Yau (left), current Worshipful Master of Labong Lodge No. 59.

MD#2 Turn-Over

The turn-over ceremony of Masonic District No. 2 was held at the newly erected but unfinished building of Mendez-Nuñez Lodge No. 316 at Mendez, Cavite on May 18, 2003. It was attended by more than 300 guests and brethren from Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, and Metro Manila. The ceremony started at 3:30 in the afternoon with an invocation by Bro. Jun Montano and the fellowship lasted through the night.



Picture above shows from L-R: VW Regalado Manimtim, PDDGM; VW Romeo Argota, PDDGM; SGW Hermogenes Ebdane, Jr.; MW Raymundo Beltran, PGM; VW Rolly H. Sarmiento, the newly installed DDGM of Masonic District No. 2; MW Ricardo P. Galvez, Grand Master, VW Hermogenes Arayata, Jr., PDDGM; and MW Oscar Bunyi, PGM.



VW Rolly H. Sarmiento delivering his inaugural speech. (From L-R) VW Hermogenes Arayata, Jr., PDDGM; MW Oscar Bunyi, PGM; VW Ed Lupisan, PDDGM; VW Rene Racimo, PDDGM; and VW Ed Perez, PDDGM (partly hidden).



MW Ricardo P. Galvez being presented with a Certificate of Appreciation. Standing from L-R: VW Angelito Monge, VW Rolly H. Sarmiento, MW Ricardo P. Galvez and WB Romulo H. Sarmiento, PM of Owens Lodge No. 164 of the Grand Lodge of the State of Virginia, the eldest brother of the DDGM, who came from Norfolk, V.A. to be the Master of Ceremonies during the occasion.



Some of the ladies who graced the affair together with the wife of the DDGM. Standing from L-R: Sis. Rosie Reyes; HL Fe Vidallon, DDGM, Order of the Amaranth; HL Erlinda A. Sarmiento, the DDGM's wife; HL Josie Maranan, PRM of Lumina Filipina Court No. 35; and Sis. Aurora Ramos.

MD#27 TURN-OVER

by VW Opiniano Jayme, Sr.
Grand Chaplain

No less than our Grand Master, MW Ricardo P. Galvez, on May 24, 2003, graced the turn-over ceremony between the outgoing and incoming district leaderships for MD#27 (Olongapo and Zambales). Brethren, sisters and guests flocked at the prestigious Admiral's Guest House inside the Subic Free Port Zone.

Invoking God's blessing. (L-R) New District Grand Lecturers Alejo C. Antonio and Oscar D.G. Reyes, new District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM) Carlito B. Faustino, Grand Master Ricardo P. Galvez and outgoing DDGM Rolando H. dela Rosa.



MW Galvez congratulates his Deputy for MD #27, VW Carlito B. Faustino, after the latter received a plaque of appreciation from his immediate predecessor, VW Rolando H. dela Rosa.

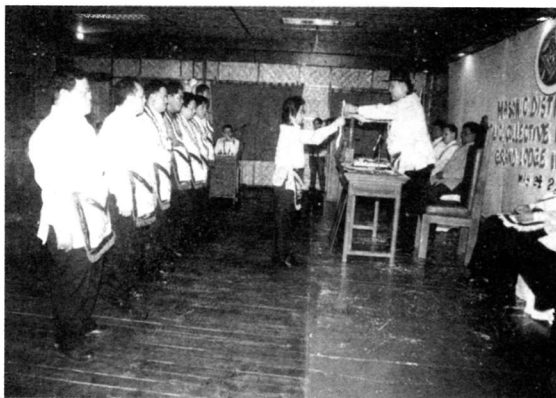
MD#48 (SOCSKSARGEN)
DDGM Teng Mangudadatu Installs GLIs

by WB Liberato R. Delizo

Masonic District 48's Deputy Grand Master (DDGM), VW Suharto T. Mangudadatu, officiated over the collective installation of the district's Grand Lodge Inspectors on May 24, 2003 at the Isla Parilla Resort in Gen. Santos City, amidst a scenic sunset and waves pounding on the resort's walls.

Masonic paraphernalia had to first be set in place at the resort. Then a lodge was dutifully opened for the occasion. This was done through the courtesy of Mt. Matutum Lodge No. 156, headed by Worshipful Master Xavier Capitan. After the reception of the dignitaries, DDGM Mangudadatu immediately installed the following GLIs to their respective assignments (photo below):

- WI Godofredo M. Dawang
- Mt. Matutum Lodge No. 156
- WI Cesar D. Taleon
- Koronadal Lodge No. 209
- WI Angel S. Daproza
- Dadiangas Lodge No. 225
- WI Cirilo Y. Flores
- Daguma M.R. Lodge No. 244
- WI Fernando M. Figueroa
- Kaduh Lodge No. 278
- WI Ricardo F. Jalipa
- Maribulan Lodge No. 304
- WI Liberato R. Delizo
- Sultan Kudarat Lodge No. 348



After being introduced by WI Ricardo F. Jalipa, Guest of Honor and Speaker Fidel Peñamante, the Health Officer of Gen. Santos City, focused on the SARS global phenomenon, its probable causes, as well as its prescribed care and prevention. Brethren, Sisters and other guests then showered Dr. Peñamante questions and concerns, which were all adequately addressed.

RW Romeo A. Yu, new Junior Grand Warden, after thanking the district for its support for his successful election bid, then prodded the brethren to ponder more seriously on the Grand Master's theme, "Masonic Reforms Start from Within," so that the brethren, together, can be more creative in translating such theme to concrete projects. After RW Yu's talk, DDGM Mangudadatu closed the lodge in short form to give way to the much-awaited fellowship. There was then still time to catch up with the setting sun.

MD#29 Turn-Over

by WB Emil Andrew M. dela Rosa, II of Talavera Lodge No. 273

There was no stopping the Grand Master, MW Ricardo P. Galvez and his party, which included the new Junior Grand Warden (JGW), RW Romeo A. Yu, from driving up on May 31, 2003 to Cabanatuan City to grace the turn-over of district officers for Southern Nueva Ecija. The roads and the bridges were awful, no thanks to typhoon Chedeng, which just recently wrought havoc to the entire Central Luzon Region.

DDGM Cris Carlos, in his inaugural speech, spelled out the program of the District Council for this Masonic Year, even as he emphasized the decisive importance of the support of wife Sonia and their two kids for his commitment and morale. Sister Sonia, for her part, tended to the needs of Sisters in the Amaranth, who rendered a dance piece and who even challenged the brethren and guests that “whosoever would not applaud the dance would be *pangit*.”

Photo below taken by Bro. Placido M. Urbina shows a section of the presidential table – (from left) MW Danilo Angeles, PGM; the Grand Master; Sister Sonia and husband; VW Crisanto D. Carlos, the new DDGM for MD #29; and RW Romeo A. Yu, JGW. RW Yu made full use of the opportunity given him to address the gathering by conveying his gratitude for the support he had garnered from the district in his successful bid for the Grand South.



PGM Danilo Angeles, GM Ricardo Galvez, DDGM Cris Carlos, Sister Sonia, and JGW Romeo Yu

Makati Vice-Mayor Ernesto Mercado, a childhood friend of DDGM Carlos, praised the ideals, tenets and practices of Masonry and even pledged support for elementary-to-college scholarships for five deserving children of the poor, to the big applause of brother Masons, Sisters and guests. But what brought the house down was Honorable Vice-Mayor Mercado's indication that sooner or later he would come forward and knock at the door of Freemasonry.

The Grand Master, visibly encouraged by the speech of the Vice-

Mayor, then exhorted the brethren and sisters to address the needs of the least of flock, the needy and the sick. He, however, emphasized that before we could be very effective in rendering service, we should institute reforms within the Craft and turn ourselves better Masons. He gladly welcomed the intent of Vice-Mayor Mercado to join the fraternity by volunteering his presence. Should the Vice-Mayor eventually come knocking, the Grand Master himself would open the door for him. With such pomp and grandeur, the fellowship proceeded in harmonious glee and order.

MD#33 Turn-Over

by VW Juanito F. Ignacio, District Secretary

Brethren of Masonic District No. 33, which consists of lodges in the towns of Cuyapo, Guimba, Lupao, Talugtog, San Jose City and the Science City of Muñoz, their families and guests, gathered for the traditional turn-over ceremony at Guimba last June 8, 2004. Our fraternal brother, the Honorable Mayor of Guimba, Jose Lucius Pocholo M. Dizon, who is the son of the well-known VW Boyong-Boyong Dizon, welcomed the brethren and their guests.

As a practice in the district during such turn-overs, the outgoing District Deputy Grand Master, VW Martin P. Ciriaco, made his report as to the state of the Craft and its accomplishments during his stewardship.

After accepting the gavel, symbol of authority, the new DDGM, VW Henry T. Yu, advocated his plans and programs. He pledged his commitment to translate into concrete activities and projects the current theme of the Grand Lodge, "Masonic Reforms Start from Within," by

generating outreach services. He also elaborated on how we, as brethren, should be more creative in increasing the "radius of our extended compasses" to cover those beyond our usual limits and practice of charity.

VW Henry T. Yu, for and in behalf of MD #33, also pledged to our Grand Lodge 250 cubic meters or the equivalent of 20 truckloads of sand to help in the construction of the burnt temple at the San Marcelino compound. He also jumpstarted the

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fund-raising for the District Charity Fund by donating the amount of 50,000 pesos.

Meanwhile, RW Romeo A. Yu, aside from conveying his gratitude to the brethren of the district for their support to his successful run for the Junior Grand Warden's post, exhorted the brethren to look more deeply into their respective selves so as to discover the hidden portal of service and love for fellowmen. MW Ricardo P. Galvez, being the Guest of Honor and Speaker, elaborated on the current theme and prodded the district to reach for the heights in generating reforms not only within our individual selves, in our

lodges, but also within the GLP and our surrounding communities. So extended was the fellowship that the Grand Master and his party decided to spend the night at Guimba.

A section of the assembly at Guimba. Seated (L-R) RW Romeo A. Yu, JGW; MW Ricardo P. Galvez, GM; Mr. & Mrs. Yu Suy Guan, the DDGM's parents; Bro. & Sis. Lim Tiong Lun, the DDGM's in-laws; Hazel Karen, the DDGM's daughter; Sis. Rowena, the DDGM's wife and inspiration; and the DDGM, VW Henry T. Yu. Standing (also L-R): Bro. Efren T. Yu, Bro. & Sis. Danilo T. Yu, and Bro. Eduardo A. Ting.



MD#3 CONDUCTS MASONIC EDUCATION SEMINAR

by WB Mar T. Reyes, Labong Lodge No. 59



Picture above is a cut from the Lodge Planning Seminar conducted by Masonic District No. 3 last May 31, 2003 at the Stafford Hall of the GLP Building. VW Sigfredo M. Ibay, District Deputy Grand Master, is shown in dark t-shirt actively participating in the workshop session.

VW Victor A. Yu, Senior Grand Lecturer, motivated the brethren by echoing the Vision, Mission and Goals of the Grand Lodge and its current leadership.

The district's seven member-lodges were able to come up with their vision -- "A Harmonious and Dynamic District No. 3." To achieve this, two main requirements were identified: (1) Promoting the Programs of the GLP and (2) Facilitating the programs of all 7 member-lodges.

The brethren then set the goals for Masonic District No. 3, to wit: (1) Maximize the potential of the GLP Programs and Management and (2) Conduct regular, effective and efficient Masonic Education.

All queries were answered as clear as day just as "the sun rises in the East to open and govern the day and sets in in the West as the close of the day that none may go away dissatisfied, harmony being the strength of all societies, especially of ours." With peace and harmony prevailing, the brethren retreated to the beloved canteen for much-needed refreshment and fellowship.

A Letter of Gratitude

To the Members of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines:

I am the daughter of Rodrigo J. Ramilleza of Vizcaya Lodge No. 144. In November 2001, I was diagnosed to be having Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE). As a result, I was first confined at the Mary Chiles Hospital; after four days, I was brought to the National Kidney and Transplant Institute for further examination. I stayed there for a month and 10 days. My hospital bills amounted to P325,000. I was then discharged after an agreement between the hospital and my family that one of our properties would be left as a collateral inasmuch as we had not yet settled our debt amounting to P135,000. I was then brought to the Veterans Memorial and Medical Center, from where I was discharged in March 2002.

The Masons did not put my father down in our time of crisis. They reached out their helping hands during the time I was an SLE patient, thereby alleviating the great sufferings of my parents, who had to worry about the costliness of my sickness. I say this because in a period of four months, I had undergone several expensive laboratory tests and hemodialysis. I had also been brought to the ICU in a comatose state. My hospitalization expenses were high and the medicines expensive, so that our family turned to be financially broke and unstable.

During these times when we had no one else to turn to, my father, a member of Vizcaya Lodge No. 144, appealed to his fellow Masons for financial help. And they unhesitantly and eagerly lent us their helping hands. Their financial assistance had gone a long way in saving my life. This has made me realize

that members of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines really live by their ideals, specifically their ideal of helping one another and their families particularly in times of distress or crisis.

With all the prayers of friends, relatives and "Dad" Masons, as well as with the grace of our Almighty Lord, I and my family have surpassed all the difficulties and pains of this trial. We thank you for all the prayers and the monetary help. These have made us strong.

In behalf of my family, I thank all the Masons, my "Dads," who, in one way or another, have extended their unselfish financial and moral support. I would also like to personally thank two "Dads," Engr. Nonie Novio and Lt. Col. Salbuero, and their families for their exceptional generosity. We do appreciate very much all your financial help, sympathetic efforts, and moral support. We cannot repay your goodness, but you will always be included in my prayers. May the Lord bless you all for your generosity.

Again, my heartfelt thanks to Masonry and its members...

Gratefully yours,

(Sgd) Ma. Leah Rose Ramilloza

There will always be in this world wrongs to forgive, suffering to alleviate, sorrow asking for sympathy, necessities and destitution to relieve, and ample occasion for the exercise of active charity and beneficence. (MD, p. 147).

FOR THE BRETHREN'S FURTHER MASONIC ENLIGHTENMENT

BENEFITS OF FREEMASONRY

by VW Victor A. Yu, SGL

Why do we join Freemasonry? Some do it because of the good impression they have of some Masons they encounter and the admirable things they see done by Masons. Others are impressed with the rich history of the Craft. A lot are also influenced by the Masonic lineage or history in their families. Undeniably, some also join because of mercenary motives. Regardless of the motivation for joining, we can sum up by saying that all of us join Freemasonry because of a perceived personal benefit.

Benefit can come in the form of being able to improve ourselves and join in the admirable undertakings we see done by Masons. It can also mean being able to share the rich history of the Craft or the Masonic history in our families. Sadly, the most obvious and undesirable benefit is to expect relief even with our minutest concerns (i.e., traffic and parking violations) and never taking into account that it is when we give relief (not when we receive relief) that we form true friendship and establish fraternal connections. Worst, some even instigate dishonest plots and conspiracies all in the guise of our fraternal bonds but examination of hearts and consciences will surely reveal selfish motives.

Before being initiated, we were asked: Do you seriously declare upon your honor that unbiased by mercenary motives, you freely and voluntarily offer yourself as a candidate for the mysteries of Masonry? In answering this question, we examined ourselves if we were joining Masonry because "our friends pressured us

to join." We also examined ourselves if we had any mercenary intentions in mind. Of course, nobody with such intentions will admit and only the candidate and the Great Architect of the Universe will ever know. However, such motives will surely disappear if there is appreciation of the lessons taught in our Lodges. The way to help in this process of appreciation is to make sure our lives as men and Masons are worthy for young Masons to emulate.

But what is usually taken for granted is the last part: "voluntarily offer yourself as a candidate for the mysteries of Masonry". We fail to recognize that Freemasonry is a mystic science and there is much to study and learn. It is only in learning about Masonry that we will truly become Masters in improving ourselves. It is only in learning about Masonry that we become humble as we realize that we cannot achieve perfect knowledge in our lifetimes. That is why a scientist once remarked, "*A little science makes a scientist think that he is God but*

a lot of science makes him realize that there is a God." There are Masons who are quick to question the rituals they see. It is a mystery that they will appreciate our rituals more and even become better persons if they first inquire within themselves as to why we did it that way instead of passing judgment quickly. By instinctively trying to understand instead of insisting to be understood, they have become more understanding in character and will become less judgmental also outside of the Lodge. When becoming Masters of Lodges, we are given an opportunity to have a glimpse of how we handle power. Having a chance to have absolute power, we should take note of our tendencies to abuse power. With such knowledge of our evil tendencies, we then become very circumscribed in the use of power whether within or without our Lodges. Proper appreciation of our mysteries can bear fruit in our very lives.

The next question asked: Do you seriously declare upon your honor, that you are prompted to solicit the privileges of Masonry by a favorable opinion conceived of the Institution, a desire for knowledge and a sincere wish to be serviceable to your fellow creatures? With this question, we are taught that the benefits proper to be expected are: 1. To be able to be counted as a Member of our Fraternity; 2. To acquire knowledge; 3. To be able to serve our fellowmen.

Our Fraternity counts as its members National Heroes, Past Presidents and leaders in the various sectors of society. A Mason once asked: Does Masonry

make great men or do great men join Masonry? Both propositions could be correct because they are consistent with our principle of making good men better. If we are made by our Supreme Grand Master, we possess some bit of greatness in us. Sometimes it takes Masonry to bring out such greatness in man. In this manner, Masonry makes great men. When great men see the great achievements of Masonry, they become curious and eventually are encouraged to join our circle. So, great men also join Masonry and hopefully they learn lessons which will make them even greater men.

Desire for knowledge implies that Masonry can give us the tools by which we can continue our never-ending quest for knowledge in life. In Masonry, we have a lot of rituals and valuable lessons are imbedded in such rituals. It is unfortunate that some brethren even heatedly argue over whether one step is needed or two steps in a certain ceremony. Instead of arguing over the form, why not ask how the ritual teaches us to become better persons. We should be more concerned with substance rather than form. Who knows? Maybe the vagueness was meant to teach us how to discuss differences amicably.

Service to our fellowmen is a natural tendency once we have truly appreciated Freemasonry. What good is it for a Lodge to have numerous charity projects if peace and harmony does not prevail among the brethren in their Lodge? If Lodges concentrate on achieving peace and harmony among them, charitable endeavors will be a natural output of such peace and harmony. The reason

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could be that once a man is happy within himself, he tends to share his happiness.

The third question asked: Do you seriously declare upon your honor that you will cheerfully conform to all the ancient established usages and customs of the Fraternity? With this question, we were challenged to be adventurous and also to be men of principles because at that time we had no idea what are the Masonic usages and customs. In giving our assent, we accepted the challenge and gave our word that we would conform. We gain knowledge of our usages and customs through our continuing study of

Masonry and our experiences with the brethren. Our usages and customs are meant to promote order and beauty in our Lodges. With this in mind, we should ever remember never to misuse our usages and customs for our own selfish motives and never to use them to cover up for our insecurities in life.

Brethren, it is said in the Gospels that those that are first shall be last and those that are last shall be first. Same is true in Masonry. Even if we have spent a lot of years in Masonry, we should regularly review the above first three pondering questions we were asked to ensure that we now have the attitude expected of a Freemason.



★ *Masonry is essentially philanthropic, philosophical, and progressive. It has for the basis of its dogma a firm belief in the existence of God and His providence, and of the immortality of the soul; for its object the dissemination of moral, philosophical and religious truth, and the practice of all virtues. (MD, p. 220).*

★ *Masonry is philanthropic; for it recognizes the great truth that all men are of the same origin, have common interests, and should co-operate together to the same end. (Ibid., p. 221).*

*A COUPLE OF THOUGHTS
ON OUR THEME*

by eF.R.eN



Our theme for this Masonic year, "Masonic Reforms Start from Within," is decidedly fraught with meanings. But let me limit my thoughts on it to just two.

One of these is, every one of us Masons must make himself a man of sterling character – one whose life is imbued with the ideals and principles of Freemasonry, whose heart is ruled by sincere affection not only for the Craft and the brethren, as well as their families, but for all humanity, and whose conduct is guided by the Craft's symbolic working tools, particularly the common gavel, by means of which he endeavors to divest his heart and conscience of all the vices and superfluities of life.

Such a man and Mason ever has before him that very striking and arresting symbol, "a point within a circle" – the "point" representing him as a member of the Lodge, and the "circle" the boundary line of his duties toward God, his neighbor, and himself, as well as the Craft, beyond which he should never suffer his passions, interests and prejudices to betray him on any occasion. Clearly, the "circumference" of the "circle," or the boundary line of his manifold duties, is Freemasonry, whose teachings, rules and regulations he endeavors to earnestly study and practice, and never to violate.

Our theme for this Masonic year, then, is a reminder for each one of us to think, act and be a Mason, as well by name as by nature, so that nobody can say of him, that he is but a nominal Mason, to whom the teachings of the degrees of Masonry meant little or even nothing.

Secondly, if each one of us ever has before him the symbolism of that "point within a circle," he himself gets actively involved in the affairs of his Lodge and in those of the Masonic District his Lodge belongs to.

A mistaken but prevalent attitude among many Masonic circles has been to let Someone Else do the job. Whenever there is a job to do, one name is on everyone's list, "Someone Else will do it." Yes, Someone Else is most frequently relied upon to support a particular project or to be a member or chair of a certain committee. Everyone just assumes that Someone Else will provide what is needed. A wonderful person is Someone Else; in fact, he appears to be Superman. But a person can only do so much.

Suppose Someone Else demitted or shied away from the Lodge. What would we do with the things he had done?

One of the reforms we should pursue, therefore, is to cast away that mistaken but prevalent attitude of depending on Someone Else. No, we should not depend on Someone Else anymore! We must participate, if not lead, in Lodge or Masonic District projects and activities whenever we have the chance to do so.

Let us, brethren, depend on our own selves, and not on Someone Else!

The Moral Development of Man

(From the Institute of Moralogy, Japan)

(Introductory Note: Understanding one's own moral character - its strength and weaknesses - is essential to any effort to reform the self. This article is being offered as a guide for individual introspection. It can also serve as a guide - reference as we Masons try our best to nurture our own families along desirable directions. - Ed.)

How does our moral nature develop, and what is the main developmental task in each respective stage of life? How is this in the context of lifelong education?

Infancy. Infancy is the period when we learn the basic habits of living such as eating, excretion, and sleeping and, at the same time, acquire language. During this period, we have strong needs to seek love and comfort in addition to the needs that maintain life. The healthy development of mind and body depends greatly on a close relationship between child and mother (or mother-substitute) in infancy. When a child's needs to find love and comfort are satisfied by good relationships of love and discipline, the child unconsciously acquires a sense of trust toward the world surrounding him. It is this sense of trust that will become the basis of his future moral development.

The human development between child and mother, which starts with the fetus in the mother's womb, has a great influence on the development of the child's moral character. This is the experience which a child unconsciously accumulates prior to the existence of "memory" as such. It is said that this unconscious functioning of the mind is greatly related to the child's future happiness or unhappiness. For example, one could discuss the prenatal care of the unborn child, hospitalism, and so forth.

In this period a child needs to behave according to the desires and intentions of those people who hold great affection for him, such as parents and family. He has the need to please these people and to be praised by them. These needs to obtain social approval have an important meaning for the child's moral training. Discipline is originally heteronomous

and compulsory. However, when discipline given under very thoughtful guidance by affectionate and reliable persons is connected with the child's needs to seek social recognition, a child will acquire desirable basic patterns of behavior which become the basis of the development of the child's moral nature.

Gradually, in progressing from infancy to childhood, the child will become independent of the protection of the parents and will achieve a sense of autonomy through various experiences. The developmental task in infancy is to acquire a sense of trust and a sense of autonomy through careful parental affection and discipline.

Childhood. During childhood the social needs for recognition and praise become stronger, and the child adopts an attitude of positively and actively pursuing his purposes while coping with difficult tasks. A child who has experienced enough sense of trust and autonomy in infancy is said to have a greater likelihood of developing initiative and industry compared with one who has not had such experience.

On the contrary, a child who is not blessed with a desirable human relation with its mother and father and a warm family environment will not acquire regular habits and will have difficulty in developing appropriate self-respect. Also, such a child is liable to develop an excessive sense of guilt when scolded by parents or teachers, and will be inclined toward feelings of inferiority when he fails to fulfill assignments in school. In this way a child who loses self-confidence has difficulty in establishing close relationships with friends and desirable relationships with those around him.

When a child is put into such a situation, he will indulge in various kinds of problematic actions and behavior. For example, he may become isolated, defensive, spiritless, apathetic, aggressive, or violent. For this reason it is said that the cause of a poor school record and of juvenile delinquency is, in many cases, self-abhorrence and loss of self-confidence.

A key point in family and school education during this period is that one should not assess one's own children in comparison with other children with respect to scholarship, physical strength, etc. Rather, one must lead one's children in such a way that they can gain confidence with reference to their own efforts and degree of progress. Parents should not be overly protective of their children in the home; neither should they rear their

children on the principle of *laissez-faire*. With due respect to the wishes of their children, parents should insist that children responsibly accomplish what the children themselves have decided they should do. It is very important to children's moral development that they be assigned a role to play – to carry a certain burden of responsibility in their collective activities both inside and outside of school, thereby accumulating experience in mutual cooperation.

Thus, the developmental task in childhood is to acquire a sense of initiative and industry based on the sense of trust and autonomy developed in infancy.

Adolescence. Adolescence is the period when young people are awakened to themselves and when they reach sexual maturity, it is the time when they are confronted with great changes psychologically and physiologically; it is a time of crisis during which they have great tumult of mind. Especially during this period they have a very strong need to fulfill themselves. In other words, they are forced to select their course with regard to their career, to search for their social role, and to establish a new identity for themselves. Young people are thus looking for the kind of values and world views which can be trusted and to which they can commit themselves.

When a youth can find himself, he can be affirmative and constructive in relation to himself and others; he is able to be more empathetic with regard to others' joys and sorrows, and he can contribute more actively to society. During this stage the youth's autonomous moral development expands. If he fails to find himself, however, he becomes overly self-conscious, wants everything his own way, and becomes over-defensive out of anxiety. He may become more attached to himself and his own willful ways.

In order to establish their true selves, young people must understand that they exist in relation to others and society. At this stage of development, they should try to establish such relations, leaving behind their self-centered inclinations and achieving a perspective that includes empathy for others, mutual cooperation, and social solidarity.

Adult and Middle Age Period. In the adult age, one marries and raises the next generation, which of course is a very important task.

Furthermore, one takes on important roles in social, economic and cultural activities.

The need to actualize oneself is a powerful spiritual need, and one must endeavor to the utmost in pursuit of one's ideals and values. The fulfillment of this need, however, tends to take the form of attachment to oneself. One may be sensitive to one's own and one's companions' interests, advantages, and disadvantages. Unfortunately, our desire for property, the will to power, and the desire for fame are boundless. When such desires arise out of egocentricity, this kind of attitude is clearly selfish.

Selfishness is a real hindrance to the actualization of the true self and the perfection of character. The claim for social justice is often nothing but an invisible mantle for selfishness, designed to justify one's own attitudes, beliefs and prejudices. When one tries to fulfill one's own ideals and values, one sometimes egotistically ignores harmony with others and society and, in fact, may demonstrate opposition to other people and groups. It is therefore a very important task during this period to eradicate this kind of selfishness.

No matter how hard one tries to cope with one's development and the establishment of one's self, if that effort remains only egoistic, one will be unable to lead a truly joyful life. Because of selfishness one often suffers from isolation, engages in opposition to others, and creates suffering for oneself and others. It is desirable that self-actualization proceeds in harmony with others and the world at large. This can happen only through constant reform from self-centeredness to a spirit which tries to achieve coexistence between self and others and the orderly progress of society in a moral spirit. The desire for self-actualization can be oriented to the right way only through this moral sense.

Adulthood is thus that important period when one performs the social duties through one's occupation and also brings up the next generation at home and in society. In this period one puts oneself in the position of considering and caring for others. In this way one can cultivate the kind of mind that will have empathy with others' situations, and be capable of loving and nurturing them. Thus, the developmental task in adulthood is

to harmonize a sense of the identity with a strong sense of empathy for others, and to assume one's social, economic, and cultural responsibilities.

Old Age. In the period of old age one's physical abilities decline, but one grows to ever-greater maturity spiritually and morally. In this period, those who have achieved self-actualization in adulthood, through lively personal intercourse with others, become aware of the meaning of their lives and their mission; they deepen and sharpen the awareness of unity with God and nature, and they attain a higher level of maturity in their ability to love and cultivate people. During this period one can be grateful for everything; one's personal integrity increases and one can attain a deep sense of benevolence which transcends mere attachment to oneself or to relationships. Out of this sense of benevolence one can then devote one's remaining years to the realization, to the best of one's ability, of the well-being of the next generation.

The true actualization of self and the perfection of character thus means edification to the level of having a character open to others, the world, and nature, one that is full of benevolence and seeks to nourish all things. This, then, is the developmental task during the aging period, but at the same time this is the ultimate task throughout one's life.

- We think, at the age of twenty, that life is much too long for that which we have to learn and do.... But, when at the age of sixty, we halt, and look back along the way we have come, and cast up and endeavor to balance our accounts with time and opportunity, we find that we have made life much too short, and thrown away a huge portion of our time. (MD, p. 115).

- To sleep little, and to study much; to say little, and to hear and think much; to learn, that we may be able to do, and then do, earnestly and vigorously, whatever may be required of us by duty, and by the good of our fellows, our country and mankind - these are the duties of every Mason who desires to imitate the GMHA. (Ibid., p. 116).



RW ROMEO A. YU
JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN
MY 2003-2004

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Grand Lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines

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