



The Cabletow

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



MW ROMEO A. YU

Our Grand Master for MY 2006 - 2007

Wreath Laying



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OUR COVER

MW Romeo A. Yu, 43, is the 89th Grand Master of the Grand Lodge Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines. He is our youngest post-war Grand Master, but he is determined to serve the Craft on a full time basis to accomplish the thrusts of his administrative program.

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A Biographical Sketch of

MW ROMEO A. YU: OUR GRAND MASTER FOR 2006-2007

by eF.R.eN

Introduction

I met a young Brother at a Masonic assemblage in Davao City many years ago. Since he at once treated me as a long-time friend, though that was the first time we met, I felt at ease with him. No hang-ups, no grandiloquence, no pretenses. In subsequent meetings, he remained constant. Since then, he has just been his natural and confident self, thereby demonstrating that sincerity and plain dealing distinguish Masons from those who are not.

Yes, MW ROMEO A. YU, our Grand Master for 2006-2007, is a young man and Mason who shuns hypocrisy and indolence. He is tireless, dedicated, committed, selfless, caring. He exudes a vision truly attesting to his resolve to help bring our Grand Lodge to greater heights of achievement, as well as to help the Craft in our grand jurisdiction recapture its old glory.

He has recurrently told the brethren, "*Freemasonry, like brotherly love, which is one of its principal tenets, is a beautiful and many-splendored thing. We must keep its beauty and splendor unsullied. We should, each one of us, have the passion to do things beautiful because such a passion is power. We should always think, speak and act as worthy and exemplary Masons.*"

Indeed, our Grand Master for 2006-2007 has demonstrated a style filled with genuine love for the Craft and characterized by unfeigned humility and sincerity. He is happiest when he is sowing and sharing blessings with others, especially his brothers in Masonry.

Youngest Post-War Grand Master

MW Romeo A. Yu is the youngest Brother in the post-war era to occupy the Grand Oriental Chair. During this era, as imposed in the 1984 Masonic Law Book, the minimum age of a candidate for the position of Junior Grand Warden (JGW) is 40 years.

MW Romeo A. Yu was born on March 10, 1963 to the late VW Raymundo L. Yu, Sr. and the former Joaquina Y. Ang. So, on installation night he is 43 years and one

month old – approximately 10 months younger than MW Reynato S. Puno when he was installed Grand Master in 1984.

Like MW Puno, he believes that we can regain the Craft's old glory only if and when we do not suffer any consideration to induce us to act in a manner unworthy of the respectable character which we, as members of the Masonic fraternity, sustain; only if and when we ever display the discretion, the virtue, and the dignity which become a worthy and exemplary Mason – a Mason both in creed and in deed; only if and when we convince the world, by our actions, that, as a Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania, USA, once said, *"Freemasonry is having a faith to live by. Freemasonry is being a self to live with. Freemasonry is having worthy causes to live for. Freemasonry is a never-ending pursuit of excellence."*

Thus, MW Romeo A. Yu has issued this clarion call to the brethren: *"Our teachings in Masonry are all directed to excellence in performing our duties to God, our country, our neighbor and ourselves. Those precious Masonic teachings of love, benevolence, truth, temperance, prudence, justice and so forth should be internalized and showcased in our daily conduct. Many of us occupy influential positions in government and in private industry. We must constantly remember that in every moment of our life – in public, at work, at pleasure, or even when we are alone with ourselves, we are Masons. Then most probably we can influence the non-Masons and hopefully change the direction of our country towards a better future."*

MW Romy A. Yu may be the youngest Brother in the post-bellum era who has reached the Grand East, but we are optimistic he will steer and guide the ship of the Craft in our grand jurisdiction safely to its destination because he belongs to a Masonic family and because 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 in general and in our Grand Lodge in particular.

Belonging to a Masonic Family

Our Grand Master for 2006-2007 may be said to be a chip off the old block; for his father was a Past Master of Sarangani Lodge No. 50 in Davao City, which is also the Lodge to which his maternal grandfather, Bro. Ang Kiong Yee, belonged; the Senior Grand Deacon during the term of MW Juan C. Nabong, Jr. (1989-1990); a 33^o Inspector General Honorary (IGH) who got himself actively involved in the affairs of Davao Bodies, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite (A.&A.S.R.) of Freemasonry; a Past Valley Deputy of the Valley of Davao City; a Past President of Filipinas Shrine Club; and a magnanimous contributor to the construction and completion of our present Grand Lodge building, Plaridel Masonic Temple II.

MW Romy A. Yu's paternal grandfather, Bro. Yu Tiong Sun, likewise, was a Widow's Son. He was a member of Iloilo-Acacia Lodge No. 11 in Iloilo City.

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MW Romy A. Yu's brothers, moreover, are all members of the Craft. VW Raymundo Jr., chairman of Merrill Lynch International Bank in Singapore since 1983, was Worshipful Master of Service Lodge No. 95 in 1988 and Grand Organist of our Grand Lodge in 1990. Bro. Valentino, a holder of a Master's degree in Electronics who now works in the USA as a computer engineer, has continued to be an active Master Mason. VW Romero, MW Romy's twin brother, who is a practicing lawyer whose line of specialization is Labor Law, served as Worshipful Master of Service Lodge for two consecutive terms (1990 and 1991) During this Masonic year, he serves as Grand Sword Bearer. VW Victor, a CPA-lawyer, has served as a strong pillar of the same Lodge, has contributed articles to *The Cabletow*, worked as Grand Historian during MW Napoleon A. Soriano's year in the Grand East, and labored as Senior Grand Lecturer (SGL) during the administrations of MW Eugenio S. Labitoria and the late MW Ricardo P. Galvez.

MW Romy A. Yu's lady and inspiration in his Masonic initiatives, Sister Christine Go, who is a political science graduate of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, and the vice-president of Mintrade Corporation in Davao City, also belongs to a Masonic family. Her father, Bro. Guilbert C. Go, like MW Romy's father, has been a member of Sarangani Lodge No. 50. Her mother, Sister Pacita Go, is the sister of MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., our Grand Master in 1994, whose father, Bro. Pablo Ko, Sr., was long associated with the Craft, and whose brother, VW William C. Ko, is a Past District Deputy Grand Master (PDDGM). Sister Christine's brother, Edward, was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason at Service Lodge No. 95 in 2001.

Hence, MW Romy A. Yu is highly resolved to further strengthen the Masonic family in every district of our grand jurisdiction. He fondly hopes that the brethren will get members of their families more actively involved than before in affairs Masonic.

His Profession

Our Grand Master for 2006-2007 is a business executive by profession. As such, he has helped his family to gainfully engage in the lucrative business of real estate and agriculture. He will doubtless use his expertise for improving the financial condition of our Grand Lodge.

The First DeMolay Grand Master

Just as Walt Disney was proud of his membership in the Order of DeMolay, MW Romy A. Yu tells those with whom he comes in contact that he joined the Feliciano Iñigo Chapter, Order of DeMolay, when he was but 15 years old, and that at present, he is an Active Member of the Philippine Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay.

With his ascension to the Grand Oriental Chair, the dream of MW Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM, Grand Master of the Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay of the Republic of the Philippines, that a DeMolay become a Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons in the Philippine grand jurisdiction was finally realized.

One of the thrusts during his year in the Grand East, therefore, is to give full support not only to the Order of DeMolay but to the other Masonic youth organizations as well, namely, the Order of Rainbow for Girls and the Order of Job's Daughter. He wants to see members of these organizations get more actively involved than before in Masonic functions. He also wants the brethren in the different districts to harness the support of the officers and members of the Orders of the Eastern Star and the Amaranth. He really wants to see a stronger Masonic Family in the Philippine grand jurisdiction, and he fondly hopes that more DeMolays seek membership in the Craft.

String of Achievements, Recognitions

At 21, he filed his petition for membership in Beacon Lodge No. 213. He was initiated, passed, and raised in that Lodge on June 23, August 18, and September 8, 1984, respectively.

In 1985, he acted as vice-chairman of his Mother Lodge's Committees on Masonic Education and Rituals. He was at the same time Masonic District No. 18's Correspondent to *The Cabletow*.

In 1986, he was elected and installed Junior Warden of Beacon Lodge No. 213 and in 1987, its Senior Warden. On January 2, 1988, at age 24, he was installed as Worshipful Master of the same Lodge.

When he was still a Warden, he chaired his Lodge's Committees on Masonic Education and Rituals; besides, he served as overall coordinator of the district when this hosted the Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge in Davao City – the first Ancom outside Luzon.

During his years in the South and West, he was a member of the Advisory Council of Feliciano Iñigo Chapter, Order of DeMolay.

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

In 1989, at 26, he was the Grand Lodge Inspector (GLI) for Toril Lodge No. 208.

In 1990, at the age of 27, he was appointed by MW John L. Choa as his Deputy for Masonic District No. 18.

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During his term as District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM), VW Romy A. Yu played a significant role in the formation of Podomo Lodge No. 294. Besides, he organized the District Council and made this fully functioning.

Up to today, he has been one of the principal advisers to the officers of Podomo Lodge, a regular member of the District Council's Board of Advisers, and a perennial resource speaker in the same district's leadership training seminars.

VW Romy A. Yu, moreover, chaired the Board of Trustees of the Davao Masonic Center (DMC) Foundation, Inc. He spearheaded the completion of the existing edifice; 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 used as sports and parking area.

During the 1991 Annual Communication in Bacolod City, VW Romy A. Yu was chosen Most Outstanding District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM), while Masonic District No. 18 was declared Most Outstanding District.

Subsequently, at 28, he was appointed by then Grand Master Jose R. Guerrero as Grand Bible Bearer.

Since 1991, he has served as a member of the Working Committee of the Grand Guild of Past Masters of the Philippines (GGPMP).

In 1993, he served as adviser on finance to the Executive Committee that oversaw the conduct of the Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge in Davao City.

In Masonic years 1994-1995 and 1995-1996, during the terms of MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr. and MW Danilo D. Angeles, respectively, he served as Junior Grand Lecturer (JGL) for Southern Mindanao.

In Masonic year 2002-2003, during the administration of MW Eugenio S. Labitoria, he again served as JGL, this time for South Central Mindanao.

He "traveled" to different parts of the country, serving as Installing Officer during the installation of the officers of various Lodges, as well as lecturer during the conferral of the degrees of Masonry on candidates therefor. He also attended the conventions of other districts than Masonic District No. 18. When time permitted him, he attended the special events of different Masonic Districts and Lodges.

Because he got actively involved in their affairs, the following Lodges made him Honorary Member:

- Mati Aurora Lodge No. 190
- Don Salvador P. Lopez Memorial Lodge No. 276
- Panabo Dalisay Lodge No. 237
- Dadiangas Lodge No. 225
- Koronadal Lodge No. 209
- Maribulan Lodge No. 304
- Sultan Kudarat Lodge No. 348
- Ruperto S. Demonteverde Memorial Lodge No. 320
- Gen. Artemio Ricarte Lodge No. 322
- Bukidnon Lodge No. 245
- Leonardo T. Pañares Lodge No. 220

Elected Junior Grand Warden (JGW)

In the Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge held in Manila (which was supposed to have been held in his native city, Davao), VW Romy A. Yu was catapulted by the brethren to the honored position of Junior Grand Warden (JGW). This was the first time ever that an alternate nominee was elected to the Grand South. His election as such was viewed by the brethren as the GAOTU's way of saying that he could help a great deal in the task of leading our Grand Lodge to greater heights of achievement, so that, eventually, the Craft would recapture its golden moments when it was able to exert its deciding influence on the affairs of our nation. The brethren were confident that, with his youthful dynamism as well as his zeal and enthusiasm for the Craft, RW Romy A. Yu could contribute significantly to the task of regaining our old glory. Truly, the GAOTU causes many a tight spot to open into the right place.

Involvement in Grand Lodge Committees

RW Yu has worked in various Grand Lodge Committees, such as the following:

- Committee on Masonic Education (1994-1995, 1995-1996)
- Committee on Works (1994-1995, 1995-1996)
- Committee on Necrology (1994-1995, 1995-1996, 2003-2004)
- Committee on Revision of the Constitution (2001-2002)
- Committee on Finance (2003-2004, 2004-2005, 2005-2006)
- Committee on Masonic Temples/Buildings (2005-2006)
- Ancom Special Committee (2005-2006)

Subsequent Grand Lodge Positions

RW Romy A. Yu worked "in the quarries" as Senior Grand Warden in 2004-2005 and then as Deputy Grand Master in 2005-2006.

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A Scottish Rite Mason and a Noble of the Mystic Shrine

Like his father, our Grand Master for 2006-2007 belongs to Davao Bodies, A.&A.S.R. He was, moreover, created a Noble of the Mystic Shrine (A.A.O.N.M.S.); specifically, he is a member of Aloha Temple.

A Grand Representative

MW Romy A. Yu, furthermore, is the Grand Representative of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of China near the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines, which, by the way, sponsored the formation of the former in 1949, during the term of MW Esteban Munarriz, who served the Craft as Grand Secretary for 24 years.

In Conclusion

The brethren are optimistic that he will perform well his assigned task to lead the Craft during his year in the Grand East because he is willing and ready to spend time and effort to serve the brethren and their families; because he is proficient in the rituals; because he is possessed of knowledge of the Craft's teachings and principles, rules and regulations; and because he himself may be considered a Mason in creed and in deed.

MW Romy A. Yu has put together a program of administration designed to bring into a happy reality our vision of a dynamic Masonic fraternity committed to becoming once more a deciding influence in the affairs of our nation. To this end, he urges each of us to exert a little more effort to continue learning and living Masonry's touchstone tenets and pure principles, so that our conduct will so reflect the effectiveness of these tenets and principles as to stimulate other good and true men to seek out Masonry.

Listen to this urgent message of his:

"If and when all of us without exception avidly study Masonry and strictly obey with all our heart its mild and gentle teachings, we will doubtless be recognized by all and sundry as a fraternity marked by moral leadership, educational advancement, and philanthropic endeavors. We should, each one of us, ever remember that to preserve unsullied the reputation of our fraternity, as well as to remove every aspersion against it by the regularity of our conduct on all occasions and in all places, is a duty incumbent on every Master Mason. By the actions of each one of us the name of our fraternity is kept strong, unblemished and honored. Our fraternity is made real through the behavior of each one of us. How important, then, it is for each one of us to be a Mason both in creed and in deed at all times."

GRAND MASTER'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS



Introduction

Twenty-two years ago, I knocked at the door of Freemasonry, and I was brought from darkness to light in Beacon Lodge No. 213. Since then I've sought after knowledge and endeavored to build myself from rough to perfect ashlar in order to be better able to help build a better world to live in.

Tonight I was installed to the most exalted position – that of Grand Master of Masons in the Philippine jurisdiction. I'll cherish the memory of this auspicious occasion throughout the rest of my life. I have to thank you very much, dear brethren, for having reposed your trust and confidence in my humble person and character. I in turn assure you that I'll serve you and your families to the best of my limited ability and, of course, with the grace of the Grand Architect of the Universe. I'll endeavor to do the assignment you've given me, to lead the Craft in our grand jurisdiction during my year in the Grand East, on a full-time basis.

Acknowledgements

Before I proceed with my discourse, propriety dictates that, in behalf of the other Grand Lodge Officers, I express our deepest appreciation to the installing team, the very able Installing Officer, MW Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM, and the equally able Master of Ceremonies, MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., PGM, for they installed us to our respective offices with the highest degree of proficiency.

MW Rosendo C. Herrera, please approach the podium...

I want, at this juncture, to make it known that our installation would not have been conducted in the most orderly manner without the assistance of one whom I call the mother of mothers, the President of the Federated Mothers' Club of the Philippines, Order of DeMolay, our Sister Esperanza Herrera. (VW Grand Marshal, you will escort our Sister Esperanza Herrera to the Grand East....)



The newly installed Grand Master presents grateful tokens to MW Rosendo and Sis. Esperanza Herrera.

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*Grand Master Romy A. Yu gives
MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr. a token of appreciation.*

Allow me to present this simple token to our Sister Esperanza for the wonderful preparation of the hall setting of our installation proceedings this afternoon, and let us give Sister Esperanza a big round of applause.

MW Rosendo C. Herrera has installed many Grand Masters, but this afternoon he installed the first DeMolay Grand Master.

MW Sir, with the highest degree of humility and in token of my sincerest appreciation, I present you and please accept this simple token.

(VW Grand Marshal, please conduct Sister Esperanza to her seat.)

May I call on our Master of Ceremonies, MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., to approach the podium...

Brethren, sisters and friends, a while ago at the installation proper, you witnessed the performance of MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr. The floor works at the installation ceremony were conducted in the highest degree of proficiency. Nay, more than this. It was most significant for me to have MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr. as our Master of Ceremonies for several reasons. You see, when I was a young Mason, even before I came to know my wife, MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr. and I had been close friends. Our friendship deepened when he was Grand Master in 1994 and I served under him as Junior Grand Lecturer for Northern Mindanao. He has guided me throughout my Masonic career. On my journey to the Grand South, he guided me through and through. This afternoon, he conducted me to the Grand East. For these and other reasons, therefore, I most humbly express my deepest appreciation. Please, Most Worshipful, accept this small token.

When I took my vow of office as Grand Master of Masons in the jurisdiction of the Philippines a while ago, I remembered a man whom I can call a Mason in creed and in deed and to whose memory I dedicate this solemn installation. I am referring to my late father, VW Raymundo L. Yu.

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation to my mother, your Sister Joaquina Ang Yu, for her continuing loving care and affection, and to my brothers for all the support they have accorded me all these years.

And, of course, to my beloved wife, your Sister Christine, who, despite her inability to be with us tonight in this hall, is with us in spirit. She has never complained; instead, she has been very supportive to me in the course of my Masonic career. I cannot thank her enough for all her sacrifices all these years. She is, decidedly, "the wind beneath my wings" – and my inspiration in the performance of the assignment you've given me.

I'd also like to thank all relatives, friends, and dignitaries of foreign jurisdictions for gracing our installation ceremony with their presence.

His Program of Administration

My dear brethren, sisters and friends, this morning the newly installed officers of our Grand Lodge had a briefing on the program of administration we are to pursue this Masonic year. We've come up with a manual that will guide us in carrying out the 13 thrusts of our administrative program. We've adopted "Masons in Creed and in Deed" as the thematic focus of our year-round activities and "Think, Speak and Act as Masons" as our slogan. With this theme and slogan constantly in our minds and hearts, we'll strive to bring our Grand Lodge in particular and the Craft in general to greater heights of achievement. We'll endeavor to recapture those golden days when Masonry exerted a deciding influence on the affairs of our local and national communities. We'll exert all-out effort to convince the non-Masonic public that we are, indeed, an organization of excellence. To achieve this end, we'll stimulate the brethren to live by the highest ethical standards both in public and private life. We'll spur them to continuously improve themselves in Masonry through the help of the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies. We'll observe financial discipline at all levels of our Craft. We'll strengthen the different segments of our Masonic Family – the Craft and our Allied Orders and Appendant Bodies, so that we'll work together in closer harmony than before to accomplish common goals. We'll sincerely support the public school system, which was established by our Masonic forebears as the foundation of our democratic society. We'll also continue to support our allied orders and get them involved in our worthwhile projects and activities. We'll carry out community development projects and activities, such as helping protect our environment. We'll be more concerned than before with our sick and elderly brethren as well as with the widows and orphans of our departed brethren. We'll reach out to our inactive brethren and invite them to rejoin us in our Masonic functions. We'll also improve communication and flow of information between our Grand Lodge and its subordinate Lodges. We'll do other things which will help us recapture the old glory of our Craft, including conducting dialogues and having fellowships with various groups that are wary of Freemasonry.

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Concluding Statements

My dear brethren, sisters and friends, as I stand before you, I can feel the load of the work attendant to the Grand Oriental Chair weighing down on my shoulders. I cannot bear the load by myself. That is why I now call on you, dear brethren, both as individuals and as Blue Lodges and Masonic Districts, not to deny me your time, your talent, your effort, and above all, your enthusiasm for and commitment to Freemasonry. On my part, as I said earlier, I'll strive to serve you and the Craft the best way I can – with the limited ability with which God has blest me.

Individually and collectively, let's give meaning and substance to our theme and slogan; for, as MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM, has recurrently stressed, only those with fingertip familiarity of our touchstone tenets can save the fraternity from the wayward route; only those who immensely immerse themselves in the imperishable principles of Freemasonry can lead and be a light to others; only among Masons whose hearts are soaked in our tenets can we hope to find the resurgence of the blood which flowed in the veins of our heroic Masonic forebears who laid the cornerstone of the fraternity which we now enjoy. Therefore, my brethren, let's strive to ever think, speak and act as Masons; let's endeavor to be Masons both in creed and in deed on all occasions; for only then can we claim to be an organization of excellence; only then can we convince the world that we are a fraternal organization composed of men who others will say are men of honor, virtue and charitable feelings.

Thank you very much, and God bless us all



A Masonic Family: MW Romy (center) with VW Victor, VW Raymundo, Jr., Sis. Joaquina, and VW Romero Yu.

CIRCULAR NO. 6 - YU

GRAND MASTER'S THEME, SLOGAN, CALENDAR OF EVENTS/ACTIVITIES, THRUSTS

1. Our Theme during this Masonic year is "MASONS IN CREED AND IN DEED"
2. Our Slogan is "THINK, SPEAK AND ACT AS MASONS."
3. In the pursuit of our Theme and Slogan, above-said, our thrusts are as follows:

- 1.1. Maintain high ethical and moral standards in public and private life
- 1.2. Membership growth and development
- 1.3. Financial discipline in Grand Lodge and subordinate lodges
- 1.4. Well-oriented members through continuing IMES
- 1.5. Uniform and impressive rites and ceremonies
- 1.6. Harmonious relationship among Masons and between Lodges
- 1.7. Support the public school system
- 1.8. Support youth organizations and appendant bodies
- 1.9. Environmental concerns
- 1.10. Concern for sick and elderly brethren, widows & orphans
- 1.11. Lost sheep program
- 1.12. Improve communication and flow of information to subordinate lodges
- 1.13. Dialogues and fellowships with various groups wary of Freemasonry

4. Our Calendar of Events is as follows:

APRIL 2006	90 th ANCOM, Cebu City (April 27-29) Briefing of MY 2006-2007 GLP Elected and Appointed Officers Conferral of Installed Past Master's Degree Installation of GLP Elected and Appointed Officers
MAY	Turnover Ceremony to MY 2006-2007 DDGMs Orientation of Grand Lodge Inspectors Installation of Grand Lodge Inspectors Organization of District Council Briefing on 2006-2007 IMES program
JUNE	Observance of Philippine Independence Day Dr. Jose P. Rizal's Birthday Masonic Information Forum/Friendship Day Support Public Schools District Conventions
JULY	Physical Fitness and Sports Month Youth Lodge History District Conventions
AUGUST	National Heroes Month

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SEPTEMBER	District Conventions Honoring Senior Masons Reaching Out to the Lost Sheep District Conventions
OCTOBER	Lodge of Remembrance Widows and Orphans Day Family of Masons District Conventions
NOVEMBER	Andres Bonifacio Day Masons and the Environment District Conventions
DECEMBER	Grand Lodge Anniversary Bro. Jose P. Rizal Day Gift Giving Subordinate Lodge Elections Lodge Leadership and Planning Seminar
JANUARY 2007	Proficiency Examination of Elected Lodge Officers Installation of Lodge Officers
FEBRUARY	Ladies Night Installation of Lodge Officers Regional Conventions
MARCH	Honoring the Past Masters Recognition and Awards
APRIL	Honoring District Officers 91 st ANCOM

5. Our Calendar of Activities is as follows:

APRIL 2006 90th ANCOM, Cebu City

Attendance at the ANCOM is mandatory for all Grand Lodge Elected and Appointed Officers. Failure to be officially installed will impair the officers' authority to perform their duties.

All Grand Lodge Elected and Appointed Officers are likewise enjoined to attend the briefing on the Grand Lodge Program for MY 2006-2007.

MAY DISTRICT REORGANIZATIONS

The Turnover Ceremony from the immediate PDDGM to the new DDGM will be the first order of business of the districts; the new DDGM will then orient the Grand Lodge Inspectors on their duties and responsibilities.

The Grand Lodge Inspectors shall be installed individually in the stated meeting in May in the Lodges where they are assigned. This will afford the members of the Lodge the opportunity to witness the ceremony of installation. The new DDGM also makes his 1st official visitation of the Lodges on this occasion.

The new DDGM will, as soon as possible, convene the District Council to (1) elect and appoint officers thereof and (2) discuss the Grand Lodge Program for 2006-2007, with particular focus on the IMES.

A District without a District Council should immediately organize one during this Masonic year.

JUNE GOOD CITIZENSHIP MONTH

Masons are charged to be exemplary in the discharge of their civil duties. This entails obedience to just laws, for a Mason is expected to be a peaceable citizen and to participate in vital civic activities.

Masonic districts are to actively participate in the June 12 Independence Day celebration and in the commemoration of Dr. Jose P. Rizal's birthday on June 19.

During the month, we renew our full support for the public school system, especially in the elementary and high school levels. Education is the most vital tool emphasized by the Craft worldwide as the effective instrument to gain freedom from injustices including poverty. Every District is encouraged to adopt a public school, donate library books, sponsor scholarships, etc.

Districts are likewise encouraged to observe St. Johns' Day, in honor of the patron saints of Masonry and in commemoration of the founding of the 1st Grand Lodge of the world.

JULY PHYSICAL FITNESS & SPORTS MONTH

Health is wealth, as the wise adage says. Our life is a gift from the Creator which we are to carefully preserve. This is why we should exercise moderation in all things, for excesses do harm to our bodies.

Districts are to organize physical fitness and sports events in coordination with youth and appendant organizations.

This month, we give special attention to our DeMolays by inviting a DeMolay to deliver the "Flower Talk" during the stated meeting of the Lodge.

Districts are encouraged to hold a Friendship Day. In this activity, non-Masons are invited and a knowledgeable Mason is to deliver a short backgrounder on what Freemasonry is. This activity could be the culmination of the physical fitness and sports events.

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AUGUST REMEMBERING OUR NATIONAL HEROES

It is a virtue to look back to where we came from, especially our history as a nation. When we do so, we can be proud of the fact that the roll of our national heroes is lined with names of members of the Craft.

Districts are to participate in the celebration of National Heroes Day. They are required likewise to properly celebrate the birth anniversary of Bro. Marcelo H. Del Pilar, the Father of Philippine Masonry.

SEPTEMBER HONORING SENIOR MASONS

We have a lot to thank our elder brethren for what our fraternity is today. In their youthful years, they worked in the quarries; now in their sunset years their work is to be appreciated.

Each Lodge shall dedicate their September stated meeting to their Senior Members with a modest testimonial dinner. Senior Members who cannot attend Lodge meetings shall be visited and reminded that they are present in the minds of the brethren. The 3 principal officers of the Lodge must lead in the visitation.

OCTOBER IN MEMORY OF OUR DECEASED BRETHREN

In this life, nothing can be more certain than death. We live on borrowed time and sooner or later, each one of us will travel to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveller returns.

Through the annual Lodge of Remembrance, we recall the memories of our deceased brethren and reflect on our own impending destinies. The Lodge of Remembrance is a must for all Masonic districts.

Widows and Orphans Day is also to be celebrated during this month. Refer to Edict No. 162. This is to assure our brethren's widows and orphans of the continuing fraternal link binding them to us despite the passing of their loved ones.

NOVEMBER THE MASON AND HIS ENVIRONMENT

There is an increasing incidence of natural disasters causing loss of lives and properties. Sages attribute these as a way of nature fighting back. Man has denuded the forest, contaminated rivers and seas, polluted the air and practically desecrated the Creator's magnificent creation.

Districts are enjoined to be hyperactive in environmental concerns, initiating environmental projects like tree planting, waste management, coastal clean up, air and noise pollution control, etc.

November is also the birth month of Gat Andres Bonifacio, the Great Plebeian, whose Katipunán was patterned after our fraternal order. Masons are to remember him kindly by participating in public celebrations of the anniversary of his birth.

DECEMBER THE GREATEST OF THESE IS CHARITY

December is traditionally the season for giving and Masons are exhorted to be generous givers as accentuated in the perambulation of the Fellowcraft degree. For nationwide impact, gift giving in all districts should be synchronized with the Grand Lodge's 94th anniversary. Recipients of gifts should be carefully chosen from among the poorest of the poor.

December is also election month in subordinate Lodges. In this respect, Article II, Sec. 2 of the Uniform Code of By-Laws for subordinate Lodges must be strictly adhered to.

After their election and appointment, all Lodge officers must undergo a Lodge Leadership Seminar to be conducted by the District Officers and selected knowledgeable brethren. This seminar may preferably be conducted on December 30 after participating in the Rizal Day Activity.

JANUARY TRANSFER OF LODGE LEADERSHIP

Installations of new officers are preferably to be conducted within this month, which is the start of the year for subordinate lodges. Installation ceremonies should be well planned, rehearsed and open to the public to enable non-Masons to witness our ceremonies and erase misconceptions about our Craft.

Before their installation, Elected Lights must undergo proficiency examinations in accordance with the requirements of our Masonic Law Book.

FEBRUARY LOVE MONTH

Districts are enjoined to honor the brethren's wives, girlfriends, mothers and sisters with a well-planned Ladies Night. This is in gratitude for their support of our Masonic activities and a reminder of Masonry's high regard for women.

MARCH HONORING PAST MASTERS/AWARDS NIGHT

As we near the culmination of the Masonic year, we pause and look back to what had been done and what could have been done.

For what had been done, we give due recognition to the members who gave their wholehearted support to the various Masonic projects undertaken. We also express fraternal gratitude to the Past Masters for their leadership in the past.

Every District is likewise encouraged to recognize in each Lodge a member who has best put into action the Grand Lodge theme, "Masons in Creed and in Deed." From the Lodge awardees, the District will select a District Nominee whose name will be forwarded to the Grand Lodge for proper recognition.

APRIL RENEWAL OF COMMITMENT TO GRAND LODGE

The Grand Lodge Masonic year comes to a close and preparations for the turnover of responsibilities to the incoming Grand Lodge Officers are to be completed. Grand Lodge Committees are to finalize their reports for inclusion in the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge.

Lodges are enjoined to discuss items to bring up for deliberation during the plenary session in the 91st ANCOM and to assess nominees for leadership in the Grand Lodge.

THE MASON AS EXEMPLAR OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP

It is a duty incumbent on every Filipino citizen, but particularly upon every Mason, to be loyal to the Republic, to defend the State, to contribute to the development of the State, to uphold the Constitution and obey the laws, to cooperate with duly constituted authorities, to exercise rights responsibly and with due regard to the rights of others, to engage in gainful work, and to register and vote.

The Mason in particular should set the example of responsible citizenship because he adds to the aforementioned duties and obligations his sworn word and his sacred honor that he will do certain things and refrain from doing certain things. He has solemnly promised and sworn, for instance, to support the dignity of his character on all occasions; to ever display the discretion, the virtue and the dignity which become a worthy and exemplary Mason; and to be exemplary in the discharge of his civil duties. He also solemnly pledged that he will never suffer any consideration to induce him to act in any manner unworthy of the character which he, as a member of the Craft, sustains. Every one of his pledges involves his duty not only as a Mason but as a man and a citizen as well.

Like the GMHA, the true and exemplary Mason will demonstrate staunch fidelity to duty even in the face of overwhelming odds and severe temptations. He will not take the opportunity to break some law for his own private gain; rather, he will abide by the law. Knowing that there are many acts which are with difficulty proved to be illegal, but which all may see as unmoral, if not immoral, he exerts effort to avoid such acts.

The Cabletow

PROPOSED BUDGET ON REVENUES AND EXPENSES
For Fiscal Year April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007
(With Comparative Figures of Previous Masonic Year)

	Approved 2005-2006	Proposed 2006-2007	Actual Audited 31-Mar-06
REVENUES			
Per Capital	6,723,900.00	6,700,500.00	7,686,888.00
Degree Fee	2,100,000.00	2,850,000.00	3,238,900.00
Cabletow Subscription	1,543,590.00	1,784,250.00	1,333,840.33
Recovery of Mas. Supply Cost	1,650,000.00	1,500,000.00	1,534,455.01
Rental Halls & Offices	410,000.00	1,800,000.00	383,326.32
Interest/Dividend Income	950,000.00	800,000.00	1,257,181.00
Other/Commission Income	1,000,000.00	1,300,000.00	1,341,659.49
Member's Contribution	-	200,000.00	1,174,529.88
Total Revenues	14,377,490.00	16,934,750.00	17,950,780.03
 Expenses			
Masonic Supplies Cost	1,178,580.00	900,000.00	757,811.55
Salaries/Wages/Honorarium	3,603,710.00	3,650,000.00	3,274,004.35
SSS/Philhealth and Pag-Ibig	250,000.00	250,000.00	201,098.90
Travel/Transportation	600,000.00	600,000.00	20,045.28
Repairs & Maintenance	385,000.00	550,000.00	371,938.34
Taxes & Licenses	156,000.00	200,000.00	156,601.50
Postage/Tel/Telegraph	690,000.00	700,000.00	623,174.87
Office Supplies	360,000.00	400,000.00	331,345.36
Light & Water	1,350,000.00	1,600,000.00	1,345,940.92
Legal, Audit & Other Prof. Fees	190,000.00	200,000.00	139,300.00
Security Services	450,000.00	1,100,000.00	409,788.30
Insurance	70,000.00	140,000.00	55,357.04
Bank Charges	10,000.00	12,000.00	13,163.79
GM Discretionary	150,000.00	150,000.00	100,000.00
Cabletow Expenses	1,543,590.00	1,784,250.00	1,432,471.58
Laundry and Linen	-	20,000.00	-
Staff Training	-	50,000.00	-
Miscellaneous	300,000.00	300,000.00	343,419.74
Awards & Honors	175,000.00	175,000.00	178,836.36
Bad Debts	-	-	76,605.71
IMES	300,000.00	50,000.00	300,000.00
Computerization	50,000.00	50,000.00	7,018.18
Provision for Retirement	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00
Provision for Scholarship Program	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00
Total Expenses	12,011,880.00	13,081,250.00	10,337,921.77
 Revenues Over Expenses			
Before Non-Cash Items	1,415,610.00	3,853,500.00	7,612,858.26
 Non-Cash Expenses	Approved 2005-2006	Proposed 2006-2007	Unaudited Actual 31-Mar-06
Depreciation	1,600,000.00	2,000,000.00	1,721,801.48
Provision for Foreign Exchange Loss	-	50,000.00	420,016.67
Provision for Doubtful Accounts	-	300,000.00	178,919.42
Provision for Inventory Obsolescence	-	50,000.00	40,707.30
Total Non-Monetary Expenses	1,600,000.00	2,400,000.00	2,361,444.87
 Excess of Receipts			
Over Disbursements	965,610.00	1,453,500.00	5,251,413.39

Editorial Policy

*Grand Master MW Romeo A. Yu's theme for the ensuing year is "Masons in Creed and in Deed," and this is the underlying thread in his program and activities for the entire jurisdiction. His corollary call is for us to "Think, Speak and Act as Masons." Thus, **The Cabletow** should be hand-in-glove with his thrusts and their executions.*

The recently-concluded Annual Communications mandated six issues starting this Masonic year. Each issue for this year will thus have three main sections: (1) Updates from the Grand Master's office on the implementation of his theme and program, which will be taken care of by the Editorial Board; (2) Updates from the districts on their execution of the GM's program; and (3) Opinions on the theme and on other burning issues within the Fraternity.

For section 2, most welcome are inputs from districts, lodges and brethren that dwell on the GM's theme, most especially, best practices, as in projects already completed in their respective milieu. We give high premium to articles that amplify the lessons learned in the generation of trust along the various phases of the projects, in the setting up of systems in the projects' conceptualization up to completion, and in the surfacing and utilization of resources for the same.

For section 3, we would welcome articles from brethren that intend to enhance the level of trust within the Grand Lodge as a whole, as well as within its districts. Even articles which deal with concerns on our levels of trust, provided they are beefed up with empirical evidence. We would likewise be eager to consider articles seeking to improve the quality of our systems and the level of our resources.

On the other hand, we are not inclined to consider articles on our usual fare — installations, fund-raising affairs, fellowships, etc. The foregoing should guide brethren accordingly.

Grand Lodge Officers Masonic Year 2006-2007

Grand Master	-	MW Romeo A. Yu
Deputy Grand Master	-	RW Jaime Y. Gonzales
Senior Grand Warden	-	RW Pacifico B. Aniang
Junior Grand Warden	-	RW Peter U. Lim Lo Suy
Grand Treasurer	-	MW Rudyardo V. Bunda, PGM
Grand Secretary	-	MW Danilo D. Angeles, PGM
Asst. Grand Treasurer	-	VW Ramon L. Go
Asst. Grand Secretary	-	VW Godofredo V. Senires, Jr.
Grand Auditor	-	VW Conrado C. Lee
Grand Chaplain	-	VW Fernando V. Pascua, Jr.
Grand Orator	-	VW Paul T. Arcangel
Grand Marshal	-	VW Rolando A. Chiu
Grand Historian	-	VW Jesus Flor R. Nicolas
Senior Grand Deacon	-	VW George T. Ang Dy Pay
Junior Grand Deacon	-	VW Reynaldo P. Mabaylan
Grand Standard Bearer	-	VW Reynaldo I. Reyes
Grand Sword Bearer	-	VW Romero A. Yu
Grand Bible Bearer	-	VW Rufino U. Yao
Senior Grand Lecturer	-	VW Benjamin S. Geli
Junior Grand Lecturers	-	
National Capital Region	-	VW Robert O. Asuncion
Northern Luzon	-	VW Edilberto P. Carabbanan
Central Luzon	-	VW Alexander G. Coloma
Southern Luzon	-	VW Edgardo E. Lupisan
Western Visayas	-	VW Pablo S. Chu
Central and Eastern Visayas	-	VW William J. Go
Northern and Western Mindanao	-	VW Bonafebe D. Leyson
Southern Mindanao	-	VW Fortunato G. Cagas, Jr.
Overseas Districts	-	VW Angel C. Baldemor
Senior Grand Steward	-	VW Antonio U. Chua Junior
Grand Steward	-	VW Suharto T. Mangudadatu
Grand Pursuivant	-	VW Marcelo T. Reyes
Grand Organist	-	VW Manolo B. Dybongco
Grand Tyler	-	VW Joven K. Chua

BOARD FOR GENERAL PURPOSES

Chairman	-	MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM
Vice-Chairman	-	MW Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM
Members	-	MW Damaso C. Tria, PGM MW Rudyardo V. Bunda, PGM MW Raymundo N. Beltran, PGM MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., PGM MW Danilo D. Angeles, PGM
Secretary	-	RW Jaime Y. Gonzales, DGM

The Cabletow

DISTRICT NUMBER

NEW	OLD	DDGM	DGL
NCR-A	1	VW Percival T. Salazar	VW Avelino I. Razon, Jr. VW Lawrence D. Agustin VW Rufino G. Tabios VW Rufino S. Lanaca VW Lloyd Lester Y. Lee
NCR-B	3	VW Nelson T. Yao	VW Juan D. Domasian VW Victor T. Ong VW Edwin R. Chao VW Charito C. Mabitazan VW D. Paulo D. Vidanes
NCR-C	5	VW Arnold D. Gunnacao	VW Robert R. Formoso VW Arnold V. Garcia VW Benjamin P. Salvador VW Ronald Allan F. Fabian
NCR-D	7	VW Rolando F. Rocha	VW Miguel B. Maraan, Jr. VW Jose V. Corpuz, Jr. VW Elias J. Delos Santos VW Severino P. Estrella VW Horacio S. Gonzalez VW Abraham B. Akilit VW Alexander A. Colangan
NCR-E	9	VW John T. Teng	VW Angelito B. Garcia VW William S. Magno VW Paul Francis T. Co VW Albert Paul B. Dimas VW Cesar O. Ostrea
NCR-F	11	VW Edgardo B. Tolentino	VW Adolfo S. Palcon VW William A. Pre VW Constante A. Espiritu VW Edward R. Valido VW Rodolfo B. Costales VW Joseph B. Paguirigan VW Alexander P. Santos
NCR-G	13	VW Danilo C. Datu	VW Felipe T. Lingan VW Idefonso R. Quilang, III VW Fausto G. Itchon VW Edwin G. Lucas VW Rioni B. Delos Trinos VW Adan S. Ballesteros VW Salvador T. Dacumos VW Alfrito D. Mah VW Rodolfo S. Gatdula VW Ricardo F. Otero, Jr. VW Arsenio L. Quijano, Jr. VW Emil A. M. Dela Rosa VW Nicolas S. Diaz VW Efren V. Panganiban VW Mario G. Villasana VW Reynaldo M. Dionisio VW Nathanael B. Madrid
CAR-A	43	VW Mathias B. Golocan	
R I-A	37	VW Roderick Emmanuel R. Mina	
R I & CAR-B	41	VW Antonio C. Ferraren, Jr.	
R I & CAR-C	47	VW Gaspar Y. Chan	
R II-A	39	VW Manuel M. Tucay	
R II-B	45	VW Felimon S. Donato, Jr.	
R II-C	49	VW Gualberto E. Agatep, Jr.	
R II-D	51	VW Carlos C. Serrano	
R II-E	53	VW Epifanio L.D. Galima, Jr.	
R III-A	23	VW Danilo C. Sigua	
R III-B	25	VW Yolando Y. Dela Silva	
R III-C	27	VW Opiniano Y. Jayme, Sr.	
R III-D	29	VW Juan S. Nepomuceno	
R III-E	31	VW Gabriel F. Crisostomo	

The Cabletow

DISTRICT NUMBER

NEW	OLD	DDGM	DGL
R III-F	33	VW Philip M. Natividad	VW Manolo B. Abrina VW Edgardo A. Alfonso VW Amado R. Santos
R III-G	35	VW Christopher Y. Gococo	VW Restituto V. Balmaceda, Jr. VW Enrico G. Barin VW Andy T. Po
R IV-A	2	VW Mario G. Marasigan	VW Cesar D. Catubo VW Rafael P. Creencia VW Delfin P. Narvaez VW Crestituto C. Sepacio, Sr. VW Eleuterio R. Sierra VW Abraham N. Tolentino VW Reynaldo A. Rillo
R IV-B	6	VW Renato A. Mogol	VW Arcadio B. Gapangada, Jr. VW Edwin C. Tan
R IV-C	8	VW Abner O. Malabanan	VW Alfonso P. Dagudag VW Marvin L. Llamas VW Eduardo R. Somera
R IV-D	10	VW Rodolfo Y. Magtibay	VW Benedicto P. Parumog VW Jovencio P. Velasquez
R IV-E	52	VW Nolasco E. Talucod	VW Emmanuel E. Bayaoa VW Rogelio C. Maulion
R V-A	12	VW Tomas L. Ong	VW Ernesto L. An VW Dean F. Capucao
R V-B	14	VW Eduardo N. Ty	VW Joaquin T. Lee VW Rogelio C. Lee
R VI-A - Panay	20	VW Elias A. Conlu	VW Florito C. Almeida VW Jose Leo R. Contreras VW Eduardo S. Suelan
R VI-B	22	VW Nelson H. Tan	VW Jose C. Baynosa VW Restituto V. Pahilanga, Jr.
R VII-A	24	VW William C. Ko	VW Romeo C. Sanches VW Wayne M. Chavez
R VIII-A	16	VW Abundio L. Amante	VW Alvin Y. Limhachiong VW Alan T. Mate
R VIII-B	18	VW Emmanuel K. Veloso	VW Reynaldo M. Acop VW Mervyn N. Anover VW Gregorio C. Dolina
R IX-A	38	VW Adriano B. Durano III	VW Mariano C. Bitor, Jr. VW Ferdinand M. Morales VW Nelson E. Wooton
R IX & X-B	32	VW Paulino S. Perez	VW Leopoldo C. Canizares VW Rodolfo B. Nazareno
R IX-C	50	VW Salvador C. Wee	VW Servando L. Halili VW Silvestre L. Isnani
R X-A	28	VW Franklin U. Siao	VW Jeoffre W. Acebido VW Edgardo B. De Veyra VW Danilo P. Lagbas
R X-B	30	VW Henry J. Tan	VW Sergio E. Firmacion II VW Rogelio G. Tirona
R X-C	34	VW Rico M. Medina, Sr.	VW Malcolm T. Enerio, Jr. VW Romeo C. Jimenez

The Cabletow

DISTRICT NUMBER			
NEW	OLD	DDGM	DGL
R X & ARMM-D	36	VW Warlito M. Sanguila	VW Florante B. Piansay VW Phillip Steven D. So
R X-E	40A	VW Almer M. Alfonso	VW Jose M. Galarajo, Jr. VW Ramon B. Manlunas
R X-F	40B	VW Mardonio M. Lao	VW Gideon B. Cabahug
R XI-A	44	VW Charles R. D. Reyes	VW Hector M. Maniquis
R XI-B	42	VW Lyndel C. Canda	VW Senes P. Abing, Jr. VW Joselito B. Caballero
R XII-A	46	VW Rodolfo V. Lim	VW Francisco M. Romarate
R XII-B	48	VW Romeo A. Bartolome	VW Raul C. Bueno VW Frederico E. Destajo
R XIII-A	26	VW Patrick R. Battad	VW Florencio D. Agot VW Eulogio D. Milla VW Nelbert T. Poculan
OVERSEAS -A	15	VW Gregory B. Blas	VW Harold G. Sebastian
OVERSEAS -B	17	VW Dennis E. Provencher	VW Amado P. Arnaiz
OVERSEAS-C	19	VW Arnold Trienta	VW Marcelo L. Laya
OVERSEAS-D	21	VW Hermingildo R. Flancia	VW James G. Aquino
OVERSEAS-E	54	VW Ernest J. Strange	VW Jaime I. Villamor

THE MASON AS EXEMPLAR OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP (cont.)

The Mason who is true to his promises and obligations, or the Mason in creed and in deed, is a better citizen than his non-Mason countryman because he has learned to subdue the passions as a result of continuous study and practice of the mild and gentle teachings of Freemasonry; because he has improved himself through the beneficent influence of Masonic ideals, principles and values; because he has learned how to live meaningfully, richly and abundantly by immersing himself in Masonic philosophy and symbology; and because he has pledged his word and his sacred honor – and even his character as it is seen naked by God – that he will do certain things and refrain from doing certain things.

The duty of the Mason is to endeavor to make man think better of his neighbor; to quiet, instead of aggravating, difficulties; to bring together those who are severed or estranged; to keep friends from becoming foes, and to persuade foes to become friends. To do this, he must needs control his own passions, and be not rash and hasty, nor swift to take offence, nor easy to be angered. (Morals and Dogma, p. 123).

Ancom Highlights



The Big Six at the Wreath-Laying Ceremony in the Cebu Normal University:
RW Jimmy Gonzales, SGW; RW Romy Yu, DGM; MW Jun Ebdane, Jr., GM; RW Boy Aniag, JGW; MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., PGM; and VW William Go, DDGM-No. 24



MW Romeo A. Yu takes his oath of office as Grand Master for Masonic Year 2006-2007.



MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., PGM, invests MW Romeo A. Yu with Grand Master's Jewel.



Installing Officer Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM, presents the gavel of authority to the newly installed Grand Master.



MW Danilo D. Angeles, PGM, presents Past Grand Master's Jewel to Immediate Past Grand Master Hermogenes E. Ebdane, Jr., beside whom is Sister Alma.



MW Romeo A. Yu poses with members of his family after installation ceremony.



MW Goshen Tsao, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of China, and party present token to MW Romeo A. Yu.



MW Goshen Tsao of the Grand Lodge of China also presents token to MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., PGM.

GRAND MASTER'S SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES
Masonic Year 2006-2007**May 2006**

- 02 - District Turnover Ceremony, NCR-C, 6:00 PM, GLP
03-04 - Grand Session, Order of Amaranth, Muñoz, Nueva Ecija
05 - Grand Guardian Council Annual Session
06 - Joint District Turnover, MD R X-D & R X-E
10 - Official Visitation, Beacon Lodge No. 213, Davao City
12 - District Turnover, NCR-B, 6:00 PM, GLP
13 - District Turnover, District R 3-D, Nueva Ecija
14 - District Turnover, District R 3-F, Cabanatuan City
15 - Meeting with MW Enrique L. Locsin, PGM, 12 NN
GLP Conference Room
16 - Meeting with PGMs, Manila Hotel – 6PM
17 - Courtesy Call – Masonic Charities for Crippled Children - 4PM
19 - Guest Speaker, Centennial Celebration
Mabini Lodge No. 39, Aparri, Cagayan
22 - Official Visitation, Mt. Apo Lodge No. 45
Zamboanga City – 6PM
23 - Official Visitation, Zamboangan Lodge No. 310
Zamboanga City – 9AM
- Mindanao Jurisdictional DeMolay Conclave
Inland Resort, Zamboanga City – 3PM
24 - Official Visitation, Juan S. Alano Lodge No. 137
Isabela City, Basilan – 10AM
26 - Presided as Master for the Necrological Rites for VW Rodolfo
G. Gonzales, PGSS, Funeraria Paz, Araneta., Q.C.
27 - DeMolay Alumni Association of the Philippines (DAAP)
Annual Congress, UP Los Baños, Laguna
30 - Courtesy Call MD NCR-E District Officers
31 - Courtesy Call MD NCR-G District Officers

June

- 01 - Joint District Visitation, Bukidnon District R X-E & R X-F
05 - Official Visitation - Podomo Lodge No. 294, Davao City
06 - Dialogue with Archbishop Fernando Capalla, Davao City
07 - Necrological Service & Interment of Mrs. Remedios Bunda,
mother of MW Rudyardo Bunda, PGM, Grand Treasurer
08 - Meeting with MW Roberto Q. Pagotan, PGM & Smart Telecom
- Courtesy Call - MD NCR-A
10 - Necrological Service & Funeral - Sis. Efigenia C. Occeña
12 - Independence Day Celebration

The Cabletow

Wreath Laying, Rizal Monument, Luneta Park, Manila

- Wreath Laying, Grand Lodge of the Philippines

- Courtesy Call Service Lodge No. 95

13 - Fraternal Visit to VW Ernesto Cua, PDDGM Laoag Lodge No.71

14 - Courtesy Call - Alfonso Lee Sin Mem. Lodge No. 158

15 - Courtesy Call MD R IV-A

17 - Constitution - Tarlac Kaunlaran Lodge No. 360

Tarlac State University Business Center, Tarlac City

19 - Jose Rizal's 145th Birth Anniversary, Wreath Laying Ceremony
in Calamba, Laguna

- District Convention Host: San Pedro Lodge No. 292

MD R IV-B Laguna

21 - Official District Visitation & Ground Breaking Ceremony
for School Bldg., R I-A, Dagupan City

22 - Guest Speaker, Centennial Anniversary, Royal Arch Masons,
Luzon Chapter, York Rite, Diamond Hotel, Roxas Blvd, Mla.

23 - Necrological Service (Presiding Master) for ROMEO L.
JUSTINIANO, PDGL Bacolod City

24 - Lodge of Instructions, District NCR-E

Capitol Masonic Temple, Q.C.

- Presentation of 50th Year Button to VW Benjamin C.

Gotamco Philippine Plaza

27-28 - 27th Anniversary, Dadiangas Lodge No. 225 Gen. Santos City

July 01 - Official Visitation, Manuel Valencia Ko Mem. Lodge No. 210
Victorias, Negros Occidental

03 - Official Visitation, Leonardo T. Pañares Mem. Lodge No. 220
Cagayan de Oro City

04 - Guest of Honor & Speaker 59th Anniversary of Teodoro M.
Kalaw Mem. Lodge No. 136

05 - Courtesy Call MD R I & CAR-B, Union Lodge No. 70

La Union, Pangasinan

- Official Visitation, Jose Rizal Lodge No. 22

07-08 - Visayas Regional Convention – Host MD RVI-B, Bacolod City

12 - Official Visitation, Sultan Kudarat Lodge No. 348, Koronadal
City - 4th Anniversary Celebration

13 - Corporate Board Meeting, Grand Master's Conference Hall

14-15 - Northeastern Luzon Convention – Host MD R II-D,

Cauayan City

22 - District Convention, NCR-E, Quezon City

August 12 - Bicol Multi-District Convention – Host: MD R V-A, Daet)

R V-A Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur & Catanduanes

- R V-B Albay, Sorsogon & Masbate
19 - Southern Tagalog Multi-District Convention
Host: MD R IV-C, Quezon
- 25-26 - Northern Luzon Convention – Host: MD R I-A, Dagupan City
- September 15 to October 15** - Overseas Visitation
- October** 20-21 - Western Mindanao Convention
Host: MD R IX & R X-B, Dipolog City
- 27-29 - Annual Communication, Grand Lodge of China
- November** 03-04 - Southern Mindanao Convention
Host: MD R XI-A, Davao City
- 10-11 - Northern Mindanao Convention – Host: MD RX-A)
- 18 - NCR Multi District Convention – Host: MD NCR-B
NCR-A Manila, Scottish Rite Temple
NCR-B Manila, Plaridel Masonic Temple
NCR-C Manila, Plaridel Masonic Temple
NCR-D Manila, Plaridel Masonic Temple
NCR-E Manila, Plaridel Masonic Temple
NCR-F Quezon City Masonic Temple
NCR-G Quezon City Masonic Temple
- 25 - 80th Anniversary, Palawan Lodge No. 99, Puerto Princesa
- 30 - District Convention R IV-A Cavite
- December** 1-2 - Central Luzon Multi District Convention
Host: MD R III-C, Olongapo City
R III-A Pampanga
R III-B Bataan
R III-C Zambales
R III-D Nueva Ecija
R III-E Bulacan
R III-F Nueva Ecija
R III-G Tarlac

2007

- February** 5-8 - District Convention - Overseas-A, Guam
9-10 - District Convention - Overseas-E, Saipan
23-24 - 51st Mindanao Regional Convention - Host: MD R X-B
Western Mindanap Region
Northern Mindanao Region
Southern Mindanao Region
- March** 16-17 - Annual Communication - Grand Lodge of Japan

Circular No. 4 - YU

ON OUR LAST ELECTION FOR JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN AND THE ONGOING ELECTORAL REFORMS

The last election for Junior Grand Warden (JGW) again emphasizes the importance of and need for continuing electoral reforms. Let us revisit our recent historical reforms experience the better to understand the critical need to hasten the upgrading of our election laws to meet the exigencies of the time.

Background

During the term of MW Eugenio S. Labitoria, the Committee on Electoral Reforms was created. It was chaired by MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM, and co-chaired by the then Deputy Grand Master, the late MW Ricardo P. Galvez, PGM.

The Committee reported to the delegates to the 88th Annual Communication in Cagayan de Oro City that:

It deemed it wise to start the move towards reforms by taking a small albeit a significant step – strengthening our system of electing our Junior Grand Warden. It is our hope that this small step will lead to bigger and bolder steps in the days to come.

The new rules on the election of the Junior Grand Warden proposed by the committee were then unanimously approved by the brethren in the said Annual Communication.

In the following Masonic year, MW Roberto Q. Pagotan implemented the new electoral process for the position of the Junior Grand Warden.

In 2005, MW Hermogenes E. Ebdane, Jr. formally incorporated the said rules in the Constitution of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines (Revised 1994). They appear in Part I, Article V, Section 5(d) of our Constitution.

Election Process

Our election process for the position of Junior Grand Warden (JGW) now goes through the following critical phases:

Phase 1 – the Suggestion Phase – Names of brethren for JGW are suggested by the brethren.

Phase 2 – the Recommendation Phase – The Past Grand Masters (PGMs) initially choose seven from those recommended by the brethren who they consider are best qualified for the position. The profiles and programs of the seven chosen brethren are then circulated to the brethren and published in *The Cabletow*, so that the brethren can evaluate their qualifications and programs.

Phase 3 – the Nomination Phase – The PGMs choose the brethren whose names are to be finally submitted to the Electoral Committee (Elecom). Here the PGMs again deliberate, taking into account, among other things, the programs of the recommended brethren as well as the comments and reports of the brethren. The PGMs are "specially enjoined" to consider whether the nominated brethren have complied with election rules and regulations, basing their consideration on the best available pieces of information, which they themselves have gathered and those reported by the brethren.

Phase 4 – the Conduct by the Elecom of the Election during the Ancom.

(Please refer to the Report of the Committee on Electoral Reforms in the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of F. & A.M. of the Philippines during the 88th Annual Communication.)

New Electoral Rules

Part I, Article V and now Section 5(d)(6) of our Constitution provides that the seven brethren chosen shall *"bind themselves in writing and under Masonic Oath to refrain from committing any or all of the following acts: (a) directly tolerate any person or group to work in favor of his election; (b) attend any blue lodge meetings (except his own blue lodge); (c) accept any invitation to be the speaker or lecturer in any lodge meeting or district or regional convention or be the guest of honor or installing officer in any blue lodge installation, and attend or participate in any Masonic function, fellowship or gathering whether in the blue lodge or appendant bodies and other related institutions. Under exceptional circumstances, however, they can request for dispensation from the Past Grand Masters to attend a Masonic function or gathering subject to the conditions they may impose. Compliance with the prohibition shall be monitored by the Past Grand Masters. The prohibition shall last until the last day of election for the position of the Junior Grand Warden."*

Section 5(d)(7) of the same further provides that *"On the day before the election of Junior Grand Warden, the Grand Master shall again call the Past Grand Masters to a meeting to make a final re-assessment of the qualifications of the seven brethren*

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previously chosen. On the basis, among others, of the comments of the brethren at large on their qualifications and programs, the Past Grand Masters shall make a final deliberation on the worthiness of the seven previously chosen brethren for the position of Junior Grand Warden. The Past Grand Masters are specially enjoined to consider whether they strictly complied with our election laws, edicts, rules and regulations on the basis of the best available information. The final list of brethren worthy for the position of Junior Grand Warden, which shall not be less than five nor more than seven, shall be announced to the brethren one hour before the election.

JGW Election in the 89th Annual Communication

In the last elections conducted, the Past Grand Masters submitted only three nominees for the position of Junior Grand Warden. Some brethren questioned the short list considering the above provision of our Constitution that "*The final list of brethren worthy for the position of Junior Grand Warden, which shall not be less than five nor more than seven, shall be announced to the brethren one hour before the election*". The Past Grand Masters explained that among the remaining nominees, they considered that only the three remaining nominees appeared to have complied strictly with our election laws, edicts, rules and regulations on the basis of the best available information, and thus worthy of the position of Junior Grand Warden as per our new electoral rules. They believed that they were bound to nominate not less than 5 if there were at least 5 candidates whose compliance with our election laws was beyond doubt. The PGMs felt that the time called for the strictest compliance with our election reform laws. Anything less would derail the momentum of our efforts to reform our electoral process. They also refused to nominate other suggested brethren because the new nominees would not have undergone the first two phases of our reformed electoral process for the Junior Grand Warden which the Past Grand Masters also consider as important phases. Election for Junior Grand Warden is therefore in accord with our Constitution.

Masonic Reforms Start From Within

In the Masonic Year 2003-2004, the late MW Ricardo P. Galvez, PGM, adopted the theme "Masonic Reforms Start From Within". When presenting the Past Grand Master's Jewel to MW Galvez, MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM, remarked that such theme is "*a simple message that convicts us of all our imperfections, inspires us to correct our shortcomings and tells us where to begin – to begin with ourselves*". He also remarked that MW Galvez "*did not bellyache about the problems he inherited, he did not resort to 'fingerpointing' and he did not pay attention to the catcalls from the sidelines. He immediately fought the enemy from within – the doubts in our minds, the impurities in our hearts, and the impatience of our hands –*

for he knows that our first enemy is ourselves and unless we conquer ourselves, we cannot conquer others. At the end of that Masonic year and without any fanfare, we found our fraternity in a much better shape. Silently, we had financial reforms, electoral reforms and strengthening of the mystic tie of harmony among the brethren. Our fraternity started to unify and stabilize from that Masonic year onwards and reforms still continue up to the present time.

A Humble Plea

It is to be regretted that the last election for Junior Grand Warden has caused some unnecessary confusion and discussion in the Craft. My beloved brethren, the Grand Lodge of the Philippines is not a perfect organization because we who compose it are imperfect human beings. Its improvement is "progressive" just like Masonry; we will continue to improve just like our "search for that which was lost."

We need the support of every brother in our jurisdiction in this progressive undertaking toward improvement. Learning from the GMHA who is worthy of emulation, we should constantly enter our respective inner temples (i.e., our own selves) and see in our faithful breasts if any improvement can be made in our ancient and honorable fraternity.

As your Grand Master, I most humbly plead with all of you, dear brethren, that you assist our Grand Lodge in continuing the reforms initiated in the recent past and share your instructive tongue with us. In the most friendly and fraternal manner, I humbly extend my hand to the brethren who felt transgressed or aggrieved. I encourage each one of you to assist us in continuing our "Masonic Reforms from Within." We assure you that we will lend our attentive ear to your good counsel, so that we will join hands in continually improving our Grand Lodge. Let us cement our true bonds of friendship with the common goal to make our Grand Lodge humbly reflect that order and beauty which reigns forever in the Celestial Lodge above, where we are all eventually destined to travel.

Let us not allow our fraternity to suffer the same fate that some organizations have suffered because they have lost sight of their original noble purposes after schisms and are continually plagued by uncontrollable passions and prejudices. Let us unite again just like in our heroic past and surpass this present challenge. Let us show the world that Masons in this jurisdiction are, indeed, Masons in creed and in deed.

May we all continue to embrace one another as friends and brothers! Masonry, after all, is, or should be, a realm of peace, unity of purpose, and harmony in carrying out worthwhile endeavors, all for God's greater glory.

Circular Nos. 10 & 11 - YU

PROPOSAL ON ELECTORAL REFORMS

There is a need to get the inputs of the brethren from the Blue Lodges throughout our jurisdiction on how to improve our system of election in the Grand Lodge inasmuch as one of the major thrusts of our program for Masonic Year 2006-2007 is Grand Lodge Electoral Reforms, which should be put in place without further delay since unmasonic elections will erode and ultimately destroy the unity of the Craft.

Hence, in his Circular No. 10 dated May 20, 2006, our Grand Master, MW Romeo A. Yu, has directed directed:

1. All the Blue Lodges to include in the agenda of their coming meetings an item to discuss proposals to improve our electoral system in the Grand Lodge and to forthwith transmit the same to their respective DDGMs and to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge.
2. All the Masonic Districts to include in their agenda during their conventions an item to discuss the merit of the proposals coming from various Blue Lodges within their jurisdictions without prejudice to the submission of their own inputs and to forthwith transmit the results thereof to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge.
3. The Grand Secretary to transmit, from time to time, to the Committee on Electoral Reforms all those recommendations for its study and appropriate action.

As circumstances will warrant, the Most Worshipful Grand Master may call for a Special Communication for the purpose of considering and taking action on those proposals for electoral reforms in the election of our Grand Lodge Officers.

SUBMISSION OF MONTHLY REPORTS

It has been observed that (1) some Lodges have been submitting incomplete monthly reports to the Grand Lodge and (2) the Minutes of the meeting do not include the listing of the brethren present during the meeting. Hence, in his Circular No. 11 dated June 7, 2006, our Grand Master, MW Romeo A. Yu, has directed Lodge Masters and Secretaries to include in their monthly reports (1) the Minutes of the Stated and Special Meetings, (2) the Treasurer's Financial Report, (3) the Secretary's Financial Report, and (4) the Monthly Membership Report. He has also directed them to include in the minutes of the meetings a list of the brethren who attended the meetings.

MATTERS APPROVED DURING THE 90TH ANCOM

The following matters were approved during the 90th ANCOM held at the SM Center Mall, Cebu City.

- Edict No. 227 – Transfer of management of the Masonic Library from the Office of the Grand Secretary to the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies (IMES).
- Edict No. 226 – Reiteration of Edict No. 197-Bunyi, Increasing the fees to form a new Lodge.
- Edict No. 225 – Institutionalizing the Office of the Grand Lodge Auditor and redefining its powers and functions.
- Edict No. 224 – An Edict creating a Council of Elders and defining its powers and purposes.
- Edict No. 187-A – Amending the scope and coverage of Section 2 (I) Article IV of the Ordinances of the Masonic Law Book.
- Edict No. 185-B – Amending certain portions of Edict Nos. 185 and 185-A.
- Clark Pampanga will be the venue of the 91st Annual Communication in April 2007 and bidders from Bukidnon, Manila and Bacolod City are to submit their proposals to the Grand Lodge on or before July 15, 2006 for the venue of the 92nd Annual Communication in April 2008.
- The Charters of Kapayapaan Lodge No. 345 and Capas Lodge No. 356 were both arrested.
- Expulsion of VIRGILIO SATSATIN RODIL (a.k.a. Virgil S. Rodil) from the Fraternity.
- The voluntary dissolution of Acacia Mutual Aid Society, Inc. (AMASI)

During the ANCOM, only one Lodge was granted a permanent charter and assigned its respective number, Tarlac Kaunlaran Lodge No. 360.

The dispensations of the following Lodges were extended up to March 2007:

- Subic Bay Lodge U.D.
- St. John the Baptist Masonic Lodge U.D.
- Intramuros Lodge U.D.

All other resolutions and committee reports were presented and eventually approved.

REPORT OF THE GRAND TREASURER

MW HERMOGENES E. EBDANE, JR. AND BRETHREN:

I am pleased to report to you the financial condition and the results of operation of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines as of March 31, 2006, as audited by our external auditor, Alba Romeo & Co., CPA's.

The fiscal year ended up with Total Resources of P147,189,986, of which cash and cash equivalents amount to P25,434,107.00. This is lower than that of the preceding year, mainly because of withdrawal from money market placement of Old Plaridel Masonic Temple Fund amounting to P10M as initial working fund for the reconstruction of the building. On Sept. 7, 2005, the Grand Lodge entered into a loan agreement with AMASI, wherein the Grand Lodge extend financial assistance to AMASI to pay up its obligations and responsibilities to its members. This was recorded in our book of accounts as Accounts Receivable from AMASI amounting to P2.5M. During the year we placed P13Million in Time Deposit to earn better yield.

Total Revenues of P17,192,968 exceeded the budget by P3,573,290.03 due to increase in per capita and degree fee and net proceeds from different fund-raising projects of the Grand Master.

We managed to keep some expenses below the budget although other items exceeded the budget due to price adjustments.

Travel/Transportation expenses are very minimal. The Grand Master requested the allocation of his budget to IMES Fund in the amount of P300,000 and P250,000 for the glass partition of the E. Aguinaldo Hall in the Grand Lodge building, which we treated in our books as Fixed Asset.

Non-cash expenses reflected adjustments in the value of our Foreign Exchange, which have not been reevaluated for two years. We provide allowance for doubtful accounts for those receivables aging over one year. Spoiled and obsolete inventories have already been expended.

I would like to extend my thanks to everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve the Grand Lodge. And to our Accounting Staff and our External Auditors, I wish to express my appreciation for their efforts in preparing the financial reports.

Fraternally submitted:

(Sgd) RUDYARDO V. BUNDA, PGM,GMH
Grand Treasurer

MCCCI PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We wish to report that the MCCCI continues to be properly managed. We continue to receive financial contributions and support from our brethren, appendant Masonic organizations and friends of Masons.

We hold our regular meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7 pm at the Philippine Columbian Association. All Brethren are welcome to attend the meeting.

Our traditional Christmas party was held at E. Aguinaldo Hall of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines at San Marcelino St., Paco, Manila. The children beneficiaries with their parents enjoyed the hospitality of the Brethren and their ladies.

We have extended the coverage of our activities to include harelip and cleft palate, juvenile cataract in coordination with Manila Mount Lebanon Lodge No. 1, and ocular prosthesis fitting cases thru Eye-Care Associates.

We maintain our agreement with Philippine General Hospital, Orthopaedic Department to assist us in more serious cases, which Mary Johnston Hospital cannot handle.

We had 23 patients at PGH, 15 at Mary Johnston Hospital and 4 at our Davao Unit in 2005.

We engaged the services of an independent auditor to audit our financial transactions. This is available for examination by the brethren during reasonable times at our office.

Attached herewith are the pictorials of our works for the Brethren to appreciate.

We wish to thank all the Brethren for their wholehearted support and cooperation.

(Sgd.) VW Antonio DF. Josen, Jr., PDGL
President

*Masonry is an institution of
philanthropic endeavors.*

AWARDEES FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

Outstanding achievers received their awards on Saturday, April 29, 2006, shortly before the installation of Grand Lodge Officers for Masonic Year 2006-2007. They are as follows:

a. MOST OUTSTANDING LODGE:

Judge Valerio V. Rovira Lodge #259

b. MOST OUTSTANDING DISTRICT:

Masonic District #1

c. MOST OUTSTANDING WORSHIPFUL MASTER:

WB Bernardo B. Bayangos, Saranay Lodge No. 193

d. MOST OUTSTANDING DDGM:

VW Ferdinando G. Sevilla, MD #31

e. MOST OUTSTANDING DGL:

VW Rufino G. Tabios, MD #1

f. MOST OUTSTANDING GLI:

WI Reu Laurence D. Agustin, Macario R. Ramos Mem. Lodge #355

g. MOST OUTSTANDING GRAND LODGE SECRETARY:

VW Nestor V. Tampol, Mt. Mainam Lodge #49

h. MOST OUTSTANDING MASTER MASON:

VW Joselito P. Tamaray, Tayabas Lodge #43

i. GRAND MASTER'S AWARD FOR SERVICE TO THE CRAFT:

1. VW Homobono C. Pique
2. VW Fernando V. Pascua, Jr.

j. GRAND MASTER'S AWARD FOR MASONIC PUBLICATION:

The Trestle Board, Sarangani Lodge #50

Brethren who had demonstrated outstanding achievements and/or contributions in their respective fields of endeavor received special awards. They are as follows:

a. MOST OUTSTANDING MASTER MASON IN THE JUDICIARY:

Bro Eduardo I. Tanguanco, Aguinaldo Lodge #31

b. MOST OUTSTANDING MASTER MASON IN THE POLICE SERVICE:

VW Arturo C. Lomibao, Bontoc Lodge #140

c. MOST OUTSTANDING MASTER MASON IN PUBLIC SERVICE:

Bro Rustico Juan L. Narvaez, Mt. Mainam Lodge #49

d. GRAND MASTER'S SPECIAL AWARD DISTINGUISHED SERVICE:

WB Dominador A. Arevalo, Jr.

e. GRAND LODGE GOLD MEDAL OF HONOR:

MW Damaso C. Tria, PGM

f. FIFTY-YEAR GOLD BUTTON WITH DIPLOMA:

WB Procopio M. Velasco, Mt. Kaladias Lodge No. 91

The Committee on Awards was composed of MW Danilo D. Angeles, PGM, chairman; VW George Ang Dy Pay, member; and VW Edwin I. Corvera, member.

**MERIT IS A JUST TITLE TO MASONIC
PRIVILEGES AND HONORS.**



A TRIBUTE TO BRETHREN

by VW Johnson C. Lee

It seemed only a while ago that I accepted the job of being the chairman of the Grand Annual Communication of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines (ANCOM), and before I knew it, it was all over.

So, how did we fare vis-à-vis our program of preparations?

Just as Leo Oracion felt triumphant when he hoisted the Philippine Flag on the summit of Mt. Everest, I believe we also reached the summit of excellence in hosting the ANCOM 2006. Mainly because we aimed at hosting a successful convention, we wound up where we had wanted to be – i.e., to make the atmosphere as festive as possible because we knew that this is the event all Masons are looking forward to. We understood then that this annual event remains the highlight of every Masonic year. So, we made it a point to make the celebration itself significant.

Something directed us brethren of Maktan Lodge No. 30 towards achievement and honor. True-blooded Masons in word and in deed, we have always sailed on, endlessly working hard to maintain, if not surpass, our Lodge's good standing and reputation. After hosting several Visayas Masonic Conventions, and upon the insistence of WB Alexander Sia, we felt that we were ready to host for the first time the Grand Annual Communication of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines.

Three years ago, Masonic District No. 24 almost bagged the honor of hosting ANCOM 2004. We were then prepared to assume the task of preparing for this very important event. Due to some miscalculation, however, we lost the chance of hosting it.

In any case, when we learned that the hosting of ANCOM 2006 had been, finally, awarded to us, we held committee meetings twice a month for the whole year of 2005 and almost every week for the first quarter of 2006. Truth is, it was tough enough to select committee chairmen and members, but it was much tougher to coordinate the different committees. It was doubly hard when one or two did not function well. In the midst of the sea of swirling activities, we found it difficult to focus our attention on one concern. Everything seemed so important that we felt we could get disoriented on what to hurdle first.

Meticulous, I lost my temper many a time, particularly when everything seemed dysfunctional. (My apologies, brethren!)

Despite painstaking preparations, apparently we could not avoid hitches. For instance, how would you feel if you are the Grand Master riding in a van and your entourage would ride in luxury cars? And how would you feel if you are a delegate and the welcoming party would give first priority of free transport service only to those who are registered in the arrival list? Embarrassed, to say the least!

We tended to focus on what seemed to be bigger problems and to gloss over the minor details. It would have been easy to point fingers at who were responsible, but this couldn't have improved the situation at all. Yet, after the event, why is it easy to spot the flaws in our preparations? Why could we see clearly the things we failed to do? How true this saying is: *Hindsight is always 20/20 vision!*

The hustles notwithstanding, I still believe we did a very good job. All proceedings went through very well: the registration, the wreath-laying ceremony in honor of Dr. Jose P. Rizal, the opening plenary session, the Past Grand Masters Night, the reporting of Grand Lodge Officers and Chairmen of Standing and Special Committees, the elections, the Fellowship Night, the Installation of the Grand Lodge Officers for Masonic Year 2006-2007, the Raffle Draw, and so forth. Indeed, we had a lot of fun, and I believe we gained an excellent rating and provided the brethren with a lasting impression about ANCOM 2006 in Cebu.

We deemed it not unusual to encounter a Brother or two who got infuriated because their expectations had not been met. But we did understand them. We would like to think that they would understand us, too; after all, we are all Brothers. Masonry truly provides us with opportunities to exercise the important tenet of brotherly love and the cardinal virtue of temperance. Masonry truly lives!

At any rate, the success of ANCOM 2006 would not have become a reality without the support of all Lodges in Masonic District No. 24 (now R VII-A), namely:

- Maktan Lodge No. 30 (lead Lodge)
- Cebu Lodge No. 128
- Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 252
- Datu Lapu-Lapu Lodge No. 347
- Dagohoy Lodge No. 84

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the officers of Maktan Lodge No. 30, headed by WM Richard Alexander T. Lim.

Special thanks and commendation to our very own District Deputy Grand Master, VW William J. Go; our Secretariat, headed by VW Robert E. Savellon, PRGL; our Treasurer, VW Benjamin T. Go; VW Illuminado K. Nirza; and Past Masters Camos C.

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Dy Hong, Alexander S. Sia, Jimmy Chi Kiong K. Go, Eddie K. Go, and Teodoro O. Madamba.

My gratitude to members of other Lodges in the district for their support. Allow me to make special mention of:

- VW Jose Y. Mateo, who gathered the biggest participation of players ever in ANCOM Masonic Golf Tournament.
- VW Juanito Abergas, who greatly helped us in raising funds.
- VW William C. Ko, VW George U. Teson, VW Danilo L. Kimseng, WB Stanley Uang, VW Dennis Villamor, VW Joselito Y. Lim, VW Jaime R. Bernal, WM Vergilio S. S. Ponsage, WM Emmanuelito Lim, and WM Daniel A. Cantor.

I would like to convey sincerest gratitude to other brethren who are not members of Masonic District No. 24 for their support, namely:

My blood brother, VW Conrado C. Lee; Bro. Jimmy A. Ang; Bro. Lloyd Lester Lee, WB Mar Reyes, Bro. Samuel Bagasin, and Bro. Drusillo Bolodo – to name but a few.

Sincere appreciation to our Sisters in Maktan Lodge No. 30, most especially to Sis. Marybeth Dy Hong, Milagros R. Lee, Shirley Sia, and Jessica R. Go.

Sincere appreciation, likewise, to the Secretariat of the GLP, headed by Ms. Consuelo Morillo and Ms. Felina Villasanta.

Of course, sincerest thanks to MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., Past Grand Master, for his guidance and for his dynamic and inspiring leadership in the district for several years now.

My sincere “thank you from the bottom of my heart” to all our sponsors and donors whose contributions paved the way for the success of the Ancom in Cebu City.

What we learned overall is that the success of ANCOM 2006 could be attributed not so much to the vision and dedication of the leaders in the district as the unselfish support and cooperation of the brethren therein. This has brought the district to new heights of achievement; it has made things happen in this part of our grand jurisdiction.

Records show that 2, 131 delegates registered. If we are not mistaken, we recorded the biggest number of participants ever in ANCOM history.

And we would like to thank all the delegates for attending the ANCOM and in the same token we convey sincerest fraternal thanks to MW Hermogenes E. Ebdane, Jr. and RW (now MW) Romeo A. Yu.

Our success, dear brethren, is your success, too. Remember, we never cease to be craftsmen. We never stop at what we have already achieved; rather, we will continue to move towards the path of achievement, facing whatever challenge there is in store for us.

Let us all remember that Masonry is a little more smile, a little less frown. A little more we, and a little less I. A little more laugh, and a little less cry. Masonry is simply you and I.

Maayong Adlaw Kaninyong Tanan at Mabuhay Tayong Lahat!

WHAT A GOOD MASON IS

- *A good Mason is one who can look upon death, and see its face with the same countenance with which he hears its story ... (MAD p. 219).*
- *A good Mason is one that can equally despise riches when he hath them and when he hath them not; ... that can look upon another man's lands with equanimity and pleasure, as if they were his own. (Ibid., pp.219-220).*
- *The true Mason, sincerely holding that a Supreme God created and governs this world, believes also that He governs it by laws, which though wise, just and beneficent, are yet steady, unwavering, inexorable (Ibid., p. 228).*
- *The true Mason ... believes that his agonies and sorrows are ordained for his chastening, his strengthening, his elaboration and development.*
- *The true Mason labors for the benefit of those who are to come after him, and for the advancement and improvement of his race. (MAD, p. 312).*
- *The true Mason is a practical philosopher, who, under religious emblems, in all ages adopted by wisdom, builds upon plans traced by nature and reason the moral edifice of knowledge. He ought to find, in the symmetrical relation of all the parts of this rational edifice, the principle and rule of all his duties, the source of all his pleasures. He improves his moral nature, becomes a better man, and finds in the reunion of virtuous men, assembled with pure views, the means of multiplying his acts of beneficence.*



ASK YOUR GRAND LECTURERS

by VW BENJAMIN S. GELI, SGL

This column will come out regularly in *The Cabletow* to address questions and concerns of Masons within the Philippine Jurisdiction. We encourage the brethren to send in their questions so that we can share these with the others through *The Cabletow*.

In the event that a circular issued by a Grand Master is in conflict with an edict of an earlier Grand Master, which one will prevail?

The edict will prevail. A circular is a letter or a memorandum issued for information or for clarification, whereas an edict is an authoritative proclamation or command issued by the Grand Master during the recess of the Grand Lodge. Unless revoked or amended by the brethren during an Annual Grand Communication, the edict becomes a part of our Masonic Law Book.

Can an edict repeal or amend an existing ordinance in the Masonic Law Book?

Yes. The Grand Master, in the exercise of his legislative powers during the recess of the Grand Lodge, may issue edicts which will repeal, amend or revise an existing provision in the Masonic Law Book. This edict will be submitted for ratification during the Ancom, and if ratified, it becomes the new ordinance.

Grand Masters are, however, cautioned to be very cautious in the exercise of this power. Ordinances in the Masonic Law Book are deliberated on during the Ancom and approved by the Grand Lodge as a body. A single individual, although an incumbent Grand Master, should not impose his own will over the Grand Lodge, unless urgently necessary.

Can a Lodge suspend Charter Members for non-payment of dues?

Charter members become such for the purpose of organizing a Lodge under dispensation. After the Lodge is granted a charter during the Ancom, charter members are considered as demitted unless they manifest their desire to remain as dual/plural members in the newly chartered Lodge. In the latter case, they can eventually be suspended for non-payment of dues.

Can a Lodge suspend a life member by longevity?

Yes. Life members by service are only exempted from payment of per-capita dues to the Grand Lodge. They are not immune from charges for unmasonic conduct to be charged against them, and if found guilty, they can be reprimanded, suspended or expelled.

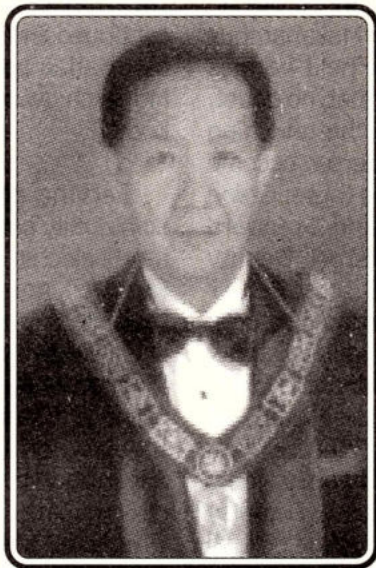
Our Junior Grand Warden for MY 2006-2007:

RW PETER U. LIM LO SUY

Born in the zodiac sign Libra on October 16, 1948 in Cagayan de Oro City, he grew up in a family engaged in

business where he learned the rudiments of the wholesale and retail trade at a very young age. To this day he is known in the business community of the city as a successful entrepreneur and business executive. Yet he has remained modest, humble and unchanging in his character and even in the choice of his friends, among whom are those who are endowed with wealth, those who are clothed with power and those whom he had known many decades ago in his youth, as well as those who have served under him as his employees.

He is simple and plain, but he knows when to be exquisite in taste on things that become necessary when the situation calls for it because of his stature in life. His heart flows in the abundance of his generosity to those who are in distress of genuine help, yet the recipients are hardly known by others, except by the immediate members of the family. He is blessed with countless friends, literally speaking.



He is one guy who is infectious in his determination to succeed. He is firm up in pushing for success but he is never

a slave-driver. He possesses the outstanding qualities of a leader and a born winner ... Diplomatic in handling complicated situations, sincere and honest in his dealings with others and very generous of his valuable opinions, gifted with natural charisma, a visionary with a strong business acumen, a good listener, dedicated to the job at hand, and a leader who leads by example. He knows his own limitations and

imperfections but never gets tired of learning to improve himself.

RW Peter U. Lim Lo Suy distinguished himself as a leader of unquestionable capabilities when in 1985 he was awarded as the Most Outstanding Worshipful Master in District No. 17; as Most Outstanding Worshipful Master in the Philippines (GLP Award) in 1986; and holds the distinction of being chosen Most Outstanding District Deputy Grand Master in the Philippines (GLP Award) in 1988-1991 (3 consecutive years). He is also a recipient of various awards and

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recognitions, to name a few, as Most Outstanding Mason of Macajalar Lodge 184 in 1984; Mason of the Year of the same Lodge; was conferred the Grand Cross of Color, International Order of Rainbow for Girls; coronated 33rd Degree, Inspector General Honorary in 1989. His Fraternal affiliations include the Order of Eastern Star, Cadena de Amor Chapter No. 16, Filipinas Shrine Club, Mindanao Bodies, A & A.S.R. and Makahambus Lodge No. 315. He has held various positions in the Fraternity that, no doubt, have provided him with the enriching experience that makes a person become an effective leader. Among these: Grand Tyler (2003-2004); Grand Standard Bearer (2002-2003); District Deputy Grand Master, Masonic District No. 17 (1988-1991); District Grand Lecturer, Masonic District No. 17; Valley Deputy (1990-1994); Valley Supervisor (1987-1990); Venerable Master (1986) of Mindanao Bodies, A. & A.S.R.; Junior Grand Master for Mindanao Supreme Council, International Order of DeMolay (1993); Chapter Advisor, Wadih Saab Chapter, also of the Order of DeMolay (1985-1988); and Rainbow Dad, Anthurium Assembly No. 5 (1985-1987).

In his civic, business as well as community group affiliations, he has occupied respectable positions, both elective and appointive. In 1993-1994, he was elected, unopposed, as the Vice District Governor of Lions Clubs International, District 301-E, Mindanao. Prior to his election, he has served the District in various capacities under different District Governors. Concurrently, he is the Executive Advisor of the incumbent District Governor. As an active member of the association, he received

a Governor's Recognition Award in 2005 and as the Most Outstanding Lion of District 310-E in 1991-1992. He is also one of the six awardees in the 57-year history of his club, the Cagayan de Oro Host Lions Club, as Most Outstanding Lion of the Year. He is a life member of the Lions Clubs International and a Melvin Jones Fellow of the Lions Clubs International Foundation. For his continued and active membership in the association he was given the 25 years Monarch Award by the international body.

Serving the people through his community and business affiliations, the newly elected Junior Grand Warden is a familiar personality admired and respected by many of his colleagues. He is an elected member of the Board of Directors of the Misamis Oriental Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, of Kung Hua School Alumni Association and a founding member-director of the Cagayan de Oro Filipino-Chinese Volunteer Fire Brigade Foundation Inc. He is also the incumbent President of the Golden Village Homeowners Association, Inc. in Cagayan de Oro City.

For all his shortcomings, he is well loved and respected by the employees of the companies he manages.... Toyota Cagayan de Oro as Executive Vice President and General Manager; Philytyres Corporation as President and General Manager; and Limac Enterprises, Inc. as Chairman of the Board and President. By profession he is a Certified Public Accountant; by occupation he is a businessman and an entrepreneur.

The various testimonials speak well of the future Grand Master. It wouldn't be a surprise if he will make a difference in his leadership with his passion to excel. With a loving and supportive wife, Doris, behind him and two daughters, Sharmaine and Loraine, and a son, Bryan, who are his inspirations, we can all look forward to a fruitful year four summers from now with him at the

helm of our fraternity. This is the man we have chosen to lead us, a health-conscious individual who does his exercise regularly and watches his diet to keep himself fit and one who used to swing golf clubs at a driving range and fairways many months ago. A caring father to his children and a very loving and devoted husband to his wife Doris is RW Peter Lim Lo Suy.

A Mason in creed and in deed will be loyal to the Republic because he is proud of the fact that his Masonic forebears founded it on the pillars of brotherly love, relief and truth. He will pay his taxes religiously because he sees this as part of his duty to help defend and help develop our nation, which was born as a result of our heroic brethren's struggle for liberty, equality and fraternity. He will uphold the Constitution because he knows that his Masonic forebears fought hard and long to enshrine in it Masonic ideals, principles and values. He will obey the laws which are just for all. He will demonstrate intense interest in, strong support of, and continuing commitment to the public educational system because he knows that his Masonic forebears established it throughout the land as the foundation of our democratic society. He will shoulder the inconvenience of going to the polls even on a stormy day and induce others to do likewise, as well as assist in making the elections, national and local alike, truly free, clean, honest, peaceful, and orderly. He will also engage in gainful work, as well as stretch forth a helping hand to raise his economically disadvantaged countrymen, not in the form of dole-outs, but in the form of community development projects designed to equip them with livelihood skills that will enable them to be productive and self-reliant citizens. He will not only disseminate widely among his countrymen the tenet of brotherly love, but also unite with them in perfect solidarity of purpose and interest in order to have force, not only to fight the evils that beset Philippine society, but also to attain the ends of a truly human life.

Ala GMHA!

It was past 9:00pm and was already crunch time. The newly-constructed Old Plaridel Masonic Temple Building was to be inaugurated the following day, April 19, 2006. Together with a number of brethren gathered around the flagpole area of our main Grand Lodge building, I then observed VW Homobono "Boy" Pique, PDDGM, in his black Mercedes Benz pass by behind us. As the car came to a halt, VW Boy got off and rushed to the almost finished structure. In no time we from afar noticed VW Boy bump head on into the left side glass door and for a moment lost his footing. He quickly rose to his feet, wiped his forehead and proceeded to the second floor. He was still nursing his bloodied forehead when I caught up with him. He told me there was a leak in the plumbing system. It had to be overhauled, right away, and he immediately ordered it so.

After the blood had clot I rejoined the brethren, who told me that VW Boy, in early December 2005, when looking for the septic vault of the Demolay building at the start of the construction, was bitten by the dog of the building's caretaker. At the time I did interview him for this article, we sat at the Past Grand Master's room, where he related to me

that he had to rush to the Research Center for Tropical Medicine in Alabang for anti-rabies treatment, which

commenced only on the following day and consisted of five injections for five days, first on the initial 3 days, then on the 5th and then 7th day. That, he said, was really quite a pain, not only physically, but mentally as well, because prior to the cog-biting incident, he had already committed to then Grand Master Hermogenes E. Ebdane a cornerstone-laying

ceremony for December 19, 2005, to commemorate the formation of the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands. VW Boy had taken it upon himself that the whole area should be cleaned up by then.

There seemed to be no stopping VW Boy from pursuing the construction of the old building. His story, he believes, has some divine twist in it. The old temple was burnt on August 12, 2000 and there had been no significant movement towards a reconstruction. During the term of the late MW Ricardo P. Galvez, a formula for its funding was circularized throughout the jurisdiction, where per tile was to be sold per brother for P 5,000. Projecting some 3,000 takers, the anticipated inflow was P 15,000



VW Boy Pique

million. VW Boy, having just completed the Locsin Hall at the Jacobo Zobel Temple Building in Makati, was already willing to help out but there were not so many takers and the formula lost steam.

Then sometime in June 2005, on his way back to Makati via Quiapo, VW Boy suddenly remembered that he had left behind something in the previous engagement. So he directed his driver to turn around to pick up what they had forgotten while he himself got off and took a PVP aircon bus to Makati. As the bus passed by the facade of the old temple, VW Boy grimaced at the comments of two ladies seated directly behind him —“is it not that this belongs to Freemasons, who are known to be well-placed in society, why is it taking so long for them to have the structure rebuilt?” That left a deep, disturbing and recurring mark on VW Boy.

Less than a month after, VW Boy then sought an audience with Past Grand Master Enrique L. Locsin to reaffirm his commitment to the reconstruction of the old temple. He also raised concern that the costs of materials had significantly increased. VW Boy then proposed that the building plan be reduced, just so work could proceed. MW Locsin concurred with the proposition and thus requested VW Boy to adjust the plans. They then sought a meeting with Grand Master Ebdane.

That meeting materialized only in September. A new project concept was presented by VW Boy to MWs Ebdane and Locsin. There were two options.

One, if the work was to be contracted out, it would cost us some P 23 million. If the work would be done by internal administration, with VW Boy in-charge, the cost could be cut down to some P 18.7 million. Either way, there were some variables, which were not in our control, among which was the Expanded Value Added Tax which was then pending with the Supreme Court. GM Ebdane indicated his inclination to go ahead with the construction. Still, the three of them agreed to give the project some thought for some factors to ripen up. VW Boy took the time to quickly fly to the USA to monitor his construction office there. While in the USA, VW Boy strengthened his resolve to manage the whole project.

Shortly after his return in November, VW Boy reported to the Grand Master for work. The Grand Master, for his part, called up brethren from the DPWH and received from them their respective commitments to help out. Target for completion was then set for April 19, 2006, and afterwards, it was “all systems go,” so to speak. VW Boy had to decline his nomination for Junior Grand Warden, for delicadeza’s sake.

There were three major periods — laying the foundation; setting up the infrastructure shell; and finishing. With full trust given him by GM Ebdane, VW Boy proceeded with working out the resources and the systems.

For the resources and materials, he had to make full use of his being a top-rate contractor and of his being a Shriner to negotiate hard for discounts.

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Puyat Steel gave him 47% discount on the roofing materials. Pag-asa Steel Incorporated gave him some 30% discount on steel bars. Solid Cement reduced its price from P170 to P150 per bag of cement. Other suppliers were as generous. VW Sonny Wang's better half, Sister Jane, negotiated with Boysen Paints for substantial discounts. VW Mariano Lee arranged for discounts on structural steel. Brethren connected with the DPWH took charge of the equipment requirements. VW Romeo Velasco took care of the electrical work. VW Boy even had to bring in the expertise of Bro. Dalmacio Cruzado and Engr. Mario Banzon Laparan, who was part of the team that did the finishing portion of the RCBC Building in Ayala Ave, to be sure the handling was professional, as it could be very costly otherwise.

It was hands-on management, no less, for VW Boy, who set up his temporary office at the canteen-by-the-wall. I saw him morning, noon and night. At the start, he was managing from 80 to 100 craftsmen; towards the end, the number had soared to 150, all of whom had to work overtime just so the temple could be completed. VW Boy even had to monitor the release of the nails, just to ensure there was no wastage. Every night, he had to secure 10 bottles of

Ascorbic Acid and distributed these among the workers to maintain their level of immunity from sickness, and they were blessed that none of the workers got seriously ill during the whole period, particularly in the cold months of December to mid-February. Every Sunday afternoon, VW Boy tendered dinner to all the workers, including their families, to perk up morale and cohesiveness. For almost five months, December to April, he had to be physically and mentally away from his own construction firm just so he could focus on our paramount Masonic project.

The temple was finally completed in record time. Asked what was the key to this, VW Boy only had this to say "it was determination and perseverance. I am thankful that the brethren, especially MW Jun Ebdane, had full trust in me. The building was done in calmness, as if there was no sound of iron or of a distracting comment from any one brother."

As we were about to part, VW Boy cited the door of the PGM's room, which could have cost us P44 thousand, but which he got for only P15 thousand. He was thankful that I would be writing an article on his labors, but he cautioned me at once not to overdo it. — Mawi.

He who industriously sows and reaps is a good laborer, and worthy of his hire. But he who sows that which shall be reaped by others, by those who will know not of and care not for the sower, is a laborer of the nobler order, and, worthy of a more excellent reward (MAD, p.231).

Reception of Dignitaries





Elected Grand Lodge Officers: MW Rudyardo V. Bunda, PGM, Gr. Treasurer;
 RW Peter Lim Lo Suy, JGW; RW Jaime Y. Gonzales, DGM;
 MW Romëo A. Yu, GM; RW Pacifico B. Aniang, SGW;
 and MW Danilo D. Angeles, PGM, Gr. Sec.



Elected and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers