



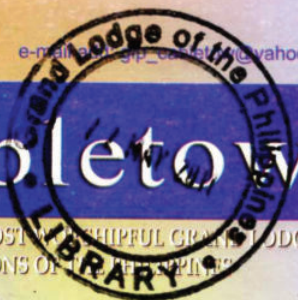
VOL. 87, NO. 1

MAY - JUNE 2010

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The Cabletong

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



MW AVELINO I. RAZON, JR.

**Grand Master of Masons in the Jurisdiction of the Philippines
for Masonic Year 2010-2011**



ELECTED GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

(L-R): MW Rudyardo V. Bunda, PGM, GMH, Grand Treasurer; RW Juanito P. Abergas, Deputy Grand Master; MW Avelino I. Razon, Jr., Grand Master; RW Santiago T. Gabionza, Senior Grand Warden; RW Juanito G. Espino, Junior Grand Warden; and MW Danilo D. Angeles, PGM, GM, J, Grand Secretary.

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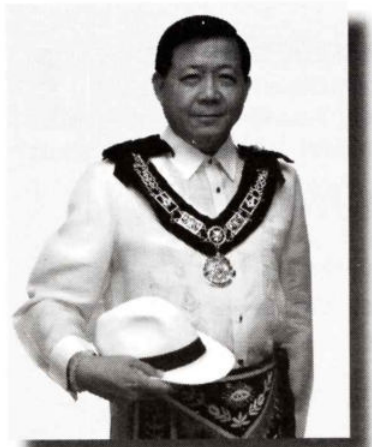
**Vol. 87, No. 1
May - June 2010**

THE CABLETOW is a bimonthly publication of the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines. Main Office: Plaridel Masonic Temple, San Marcelino St., Ermita, Manila, D 2801, Philippines

Members of Blue Lodges in this grand jurisdiction are regular subscribers thereto. Brethren in other grand jurisdictions are invited to subscribe to it at US \$20 a year. Send check payable to the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines, with complete mailing address, to THE CABLETOW at the address given above. Subscribers are advised to notify THE CABLETOW of address changes.

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GIVING DUE MEANING AND SUBSTANCE TO OUR THEME

I WANT, first of all, to extend warmest greetings to all the brethren of this Jurisdiction and all Master Masons in other countries and climes.

By dint of your suffrages, dear brethren, you elevated me to the highest position of authority in our Grand Jurisdiction. Thank you very much for reposing your confidence in my person and character.

As your new Grand Master, I enjoin you to join us leaders of our Grand Lodge in expanding the scope of our altruistic or charitable work from the delivery of basic services to our countrymen victimized by natural calamities to the advocacy of active, exemplary citizenship and environmental protection. By doing this, we will contribute our share in the task of spreading the light of Masonry's teachings, precepts and principles as widely as we can among fellow Filipinos.

That's why we have adopted as our theme for my year in the Grand East "By precept and example, we shall distinguish our conduct as men and as Masons."

We shall, each of us, discharge faithfully our duty to disseminate, by word or precept, the mild and gentle teachings of Masonry among those who come under the pale of our influence. But a more important duty is for us to assimilate into our beings the priceless precepts and pure principles of the Fraternity, and then to live them very consistently in everyday life, thereby exemplifying them as effective tools for ennobling and exalting ourselves. By both precept and example, therefore, we will induce others to exalt and ennoble themselves, too.

Inducing others by both precept and example to learn and live by Masonic teachings is indispensably necessary, particularly in these times of increasing materialism and continuing inhumanity of man to brotherman. We must, in particular, maintain in their fullest splendor those truly Masonic ornaments: Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Let us ever remember that we

have been charged not only to practice these tenets or principles in our daily lives, but also to enforce strenuously, by both precept and example, a steady obedience to them by others.

I therefore call upon you, dear brethren, to help me and the other officers of our Grand Lodge give due meaning and substance to the theme we have chosen for this Masonic year. Your whole-hearted cooperation and unstinted support in this regard will hasten the melding of both our precepts and our actions to achieve the immediate fulfillment of the *raison d'être* of Masonry in this part of the world.

As Masons, we ought to work as a team, as did our Masonic forebears, as we earnestly endeavor to help Masonry build its symbolic temple of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity in the souls of men and of nations, particularly of fellow Filipinos and of the Filipino nation.

As we labor noiselessly, tirelessly and relentlessly to help build our local and national, as well as international, communities into better places to live in, we must not forget to implore with all humility God's blessing, inspiration and guidance:

Yes, dear brethren, let us, by both precept and example, manifest to the non-Masonic world that the consistent practice of Masonic teachings, precepts and principles, the faithful discharge of all our duties, and the responsible performance of our assigned tasks shall distinguish our conduct as men and as Masons.

Fraternally,



AVELINO I. RAZON, JR.
Grand Master, 2010-2011

- We shall expand the scope of our altruistic or charitable work from the delivery of basic services to our countrymen victimized by natural calamities to the advocacy of active, exemplary citizenship and environmental protection. By doing so, we will contribute our share in the task of spreading the light of Masonry's teachings, precepts, and principles as widely as we can among our countrymen.
- We shall, by precept and example, disseminate the mild and gentle teachings of Masonry among fellow Filipinos.

"SELLING" PHILIPPINE MASONRY AS A "QUALITY PRODUCT"

THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP OF OUR GRAND LODGE has instructed us that "By precept and example, we shall distinguish our conduct as men and as Masons" will be the focus of our labors during this Masonic year. This thematic focus was suggested by an anonymous Masonic author when he stated, "A bell is not a bell until you ring it. A song is not a song until you sing it. Masonry is not Masonry until you live it. And brotherhood is not brotherhood until you share it."

But, of course, we cannot live our Masonry unless we have taken time out of our busy schedules in order to learn avidly its timeless teachings, priceless precepts, and pure principles, many of which are couched, embedded, veiled or hidden in "symbolical forms borrowed principally from the mason's trade and from architecture." After patiently and persistently devoting time to learning eagerly the teachings, precepts and principles of Masonry, we must be highly resolved to live by them so constantly in daily life that our fellowmen, particularly our countrymen, and especially those with whom we rub elbows daily, will be inspired, edified and induced to emulate our exemplary conduct. We must ever bear in mind that, as enunciated by the late WB and Chief Justice Manuel V. Moran, "The purpose of Masonry is to create in the world a band of men to whom others may look for example and inspiration – men who others will say are men of honor, virtue and charitable feelings."

But Masonry has for its object not only the consistent practice by its initiates of the moral and social, as well as the domestic and public, virtues

upon which it is founded, but also the wide dissemination among non-Masons of the moral, political, philosophical, and religious truths which it teaches; for, to paraphrase a statement of Ill. Albert Pike, 33^o, in his MORALS AND DOGMA: "If Filipinos and others residing in the Philippines were all Masons and strictly obeyed with all their heart Masonry's mild and gentle teachings, precept and principles, this country would be a paradise, while ignorance, superstition, bigotry, intolerance, persecution, greed, injustice, and other moral evils make of it a hell..."

We must, in other words, put our Masonry in the service of our local and national communities and the residents therein; for, as another eminent Freemason, Count Leo Tolstoy, has appropriately asserted, "Life is a life of service, and in that service one has to suffer a great deal that is hard to bear, but more often to experience a great deal of joy. But that joy can be real only if people look upon their lives as a service and have a definite object in life outside themselves and their personal happiness."

Correlatively, our Grand Master

in 1969, MW Manuel M. Crudo, recurrently told the brethren that, to him, "Masonry means, among other things, disinterested and dedicated service to family, community, country, fraternity and humanity, all for the greater glory of Deity. Masonry is service without counting the cost, service without expecting any other reward than that inner flow of achievement which one feels when one has done one's duties to the best of one's ability."

We must, therefore, do our duties as men and as Masons as best as we can. Both individually and concertededly, we must work toward helping bring about in Philippine society a wiser, juster, more merciful, and therefore more peaceful and harmonious order. We Craftsmen in this Jurisdiction are called upon by the leadership of our Grand Lodge to go forth into the world "out there" and do with all our might what must be done to help Philippine society grow better and richer, economically, morally and spiritually. As individual Masons and as Blue Lodges or Masonic Districts, we can do much to promote the noble and glorious causes of peace, justice and harmony. Our altruistic service is needed by our local and national communities now, perhaps more than in the past.

To be better motivated to dedicate ourselves to altruistic service, let us weigh and consider the following significant statement of Earl Nightingale:

"Don't let the fear of the time it will take to accomplish something stand in the way of your doing it. The time will pass anyway: we might as well put that passing of time to the best possible use."

In like manner, George Bernard Shaw said sincerely, "Life is not a brief candle. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold for the moment. And I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations."

Dr. Albert Schweitzer, similarly, stressed the import of service in this manner: "I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."

If, by precept and example, we "sell" Masonry as a "quality product," then the non-Masonic public will realize that it is one of the most potent forces for good available to the modern world; that it is an institution of moral leadership, educational advancement, and philanthropic endeavors; that it is an organization whose members are engaged in a patient, persistent and endless pursuit of moral excellence, personal perfection, or self-mastery; and that it is, therefore, a noble profession or a worthwhile way of life.

Since we have just started the current Masonic year, I modestly propose that we renew our commitment to doing certain things deemed necessary to make Philippine Masonry especially suited to building a better country to live in, as well as happier people to live with. These things include the following:

1. Building a Philippine society composed of men bound in heart and mind to the tenets of compassion, relief and truth;
2. Providing support for the dif-

ferent segments of the Masonic Family in our jurisdiction;

3. Living Masonic principles and purposes within to community in order to contribute to the building of a moral and happy society;

4. Assuring the leadership necessary for making the Masonic vision a reality within both the Masonic Family and the communities in which we live and work as men and as Masons; and

5. Increasing awareness and communications which will result in understanding, cooperation, and wider

appreciations within Philippine society in particular and the human community in general.

To be able to fulfill those renewed commitments, we must be guided by the collective wisdom of our ancient and honorable fraternity, as well as exert earnest efforts in communication, cooperation and organization.

May we succeed in giving due meaning and substance to the theme we have chosen as the focus of our activities during this Masonic year. –
eF.R.eN

• Masonry has for its foundation the constant practice of all the virtues; for its object the wide dissemination of its teachings among non-Masons; and for its principal purpose the creation in the world of a band of men to whom others may look for example, edification, and inspiration – men who others will say are men of honor, virtue, and charitable feelings.

• Bro. & Count Leo Tolstoy: “Life is a life of service, and in that service one has to suffer a great deal that is hard to bear, but more often to experience a great deal of joy. But that joy can be real only if people look upon their lives as a service and have a definite object in life outside themselves and their personal happiness.”

Meet OUR GRAND MASTER for 2010-2011

MW AVELINO I. RAZON, JR.

The eldest of five children, MW Avelino Ignacio Razon, Jr., or "Sonny" to family and friends, first saw light in this world on September 27, 1952 and was brought up by Avelino Razon, Sr. and Rita Ignacio, who transmitted to their children the good old traditional values and culture of the Filipino people. He is happily married to Sis. Cecilia Cleofe and their marital union was blessed with four children, namely: Kristine Carol, Reginald David, Jerick Jan and Evan Gabriel.

Masonically, MW Razon saw the light in Cosmos Lodge No. 8, where he was initiated as an Entered Apprentice Mason on February 22, 1991, passed to the degree of Fellow Craft on March 15, 1991 and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on April 19, 1991. He then served his Mother Lodge as its Master in 2005. He also actively served in various Grand Lodge Committees in several Masonic Years after he became a Master Mason.

Dedicated to serve the Craft, he became a Charter Member of Datu Lapu-Lapu Lodge No. 347 and Trinity Lodge No. 367. He was also twice awarded Outstanding Mason by our Grand Lodge.

In October 2002, he became a member of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and also served as the High Shereef of Maginoo Shrine Oasis. He is also an honorary member of the Saigon Shrine Oasis, and



was elevated to the 32^o of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry on September 27, 2003. On October 25, 2004, MW Razon was conferred the rank of Knight Commander of the York Rite. He was one of the organizers of the Ancient Royal Order of the Cork and is a member of the Order of the Secret Monitor, Philippine Conclave.

Treading round after round of the ladder that leads to fame in our mystic circle, in 2006 he served as the District Grand Lecturer of Masonic District NCR-A. He was subsequently elected and served as our Junior Grand Warden in 2007, Senior Grand Warden in 2008 and Deputy Grand Master in 2009.

A product of our glorious public education system in the past, he obtained both his elementary and high school education at the University of the Philippines Integrated School (UPIS) and cut short his first year of college at that state university when he entered the Philippine Military Academy on April 1, 1970.

Being a member of the Philippine Military Academy Marangal Class of 1974, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant of the Philippine Constabulary after graduation and earned his military spurs in the hinterlands of Jolo, Sulu, where he was Commanding Officer of the 563rd PC Company in 1974.

From 1978 to 1981, he served as Senior-Aide-de-Camp to the then Chief of the Philippine Constabulary, Major General Fidel V. Ramos. In October 1981, he was appointed as the Commanding Officer of the 224th PC Company in Laguna, where he served as such until 1983. In October 1983, he was recalled to Camp Crame, where he was instrumental in the formation of the PC Special Action Force, serving first as its Deputy Force Commander and as its Executive Officer in concurrent capacity, and later as its Commander from February 1987 to August 1989.

In February 1986, he served as Special Assistant on Security for then Acting Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Fidel V. Ramos, and played an active role in the EDSA People's Power Revolution. He subsequently served as Chief of the National Capital Region Narcotics Field Unit, and later became Deputy Group Commander for Special Operations of the Presidential Security Group and Group Commander of the Presidential Protection Group.

From then on, he traveled to other significant assignments, leaving colorful trails of accomplishments along the way. Among others, he was loved by the people of Manila as he swept the city clean of criminals and violators of the law when he was Western Police District Director twice, from 1996 to 1998, and then from 1999 to 2001. At age 50, with two stars on his shoulders, he gave life to the Region 7 police when he headed Police Regional Office 7 from 2001 to 2002.

He gave the much needed focus on and attention to police training and education when he was Director for Human Resource and Doctrine Development from 2002 to 2003. He helped steer the PNP on the right track when he was the Director for Operations from 2003 to 2004. And he left no stone unturned as he endeavored to make the National Capital Region the safest place in the country when he was NCRPO Director from 2004 to 2005.

In 2005, he moved up the ladder of the PNP hierarchy with ease, holding the post of Chief of the PNP Directorial Staff with a difference as he played a key role in the crafting and implementation of the PNP Integrated Transformation Program. As the Deputy Chief PNP for Operations from 2005 to 2006, he was the moving spirit behind the continuing transformation of the police force. And as the second man in command of the PNP as Deputy Chief PNP for Administration from 2006 to 2007, he was the moving spirit beside the Chief, PNP.

As Chief of the Philippine National Police from October 1, 2007 to September 27, 2008, MW Razon moved the national police force forward, bringing back the old glory of "Mamang Pulis"

and "Aleng Pulis" who evoked respect and a feeling of security among the citizenry, yet strikes fear in the hearts of criminals and terrorists.

In his life as a soldier and policeman, he earned numerous medals, awards and commendations from the Armed Forces of the Philippines and from the Philippine National Police, where he served for thirty-eight years.

In 2009, he was appointed as

the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process and was instrumental in bringing back to the negotiating table the various rebel groups that had previously abandoned the peaceful option of nation-building.

Now our Grand Master, he en-joins us to tirelessly labor with him and to faithfully discharge all our important duties as men and as Masons in this Masonic Year, 2010-2011.



Our newly installed Grand Master, MW Avelino I. Razon, Jr. (center), poses with members of his immediate family (L-R): Jerick Jan, Evan Gabriel, Kristine Carol, Sister Cecil, Meg, and Reginald David.

**The "First Family"
of the Freemasons of the Philippines
in 2010-2011**

INAUGURAL SPEECH OF MW AVELINO I. RAZON, JR.

(Delivered at the Jose Abad Santos Hall, Plaridel Masonic Temple, San Marcelino St., Ermita Manila on April 24, 2010)

We are gathered here today to mark the start of a new Masonic year. Once again, we are embarking on a journey towards a more fruitful and meaningful period of our Brotherhood. We will tread the road once more with our steps spurred on by a common desire to continue spreading Masonic light in our country and in the world.

As your new Grand Master, I am very grateful for your trust and confidence in my ability to steer our Brotherhood towards further advancement, both in terms of expansion and the level of service we extend to humanity. My brethren, I am much honored to lead the way towards our desired goal. I accept the responsibility to chart the direction we have to take in the days and months ahead. And I accept the challenge of addressing the flaws of our fraternity to preserve the essence of our Craft.

I am, therefore, pleased that, for this Masonic Year, we have adopted the theme "By Precepts and Example, We Shall Distinguish Our Conduct as Men and as Masons" This theme will serve both as an anchor of our plans and programs and as the touchstone of how well we have dealt with the imperfections of our Brotherhood. By adhering strictly to the rules of men in word and in deed, we can spread the light of hope and salvation to many more people. This renewed commitment to the precepts of our Craft will spur us to show greater concern for our fellowmen as the social ills in our midst have not abated, but instead increased with the rise of new problems spawned by man's excesses.

It goes without saying, then,

that our theme answers the need to rectify the failings of our Brotherhood in recent years. By precept and example, we can arrest the apathy or indifference that has deceptively crept into the Fraternity. We can stop the transformation of a number of our Lodges into ordinary social clubs that seem to have strayed from the Masonic virtue of making good men better.

We can even correct the shift in perspective of some brethren who now rely upon treasures, power and fame instead of living up to the virtue of service above self. Now is the time to stop this destructive trend lest we diminish the dignity of our Craft.

I thus call on you, my brethren, to support me in this endeavor to further strengthen the pillars of our Brotherhood by precepts and example. I call on you to rally around this task to rekindle the passion and commitment that made Freemasonry as a truly lofty organization that bred men who became great builders not only of literal temples but also of temples of good moral character in the hearts of men. Our journey towards a more fruitful period will be possible if we become the living examples of the noble tenets of the Craft.

Let us be like our forefathers who veered away from tradition, fear

and complacency to become builders of communities and agents of change. We can emulate their heroic deeds by putting service above ourselves unlike others who are indifferent to the sufferings of the poor and the oppressed. Or we can continue to search for truth and embrace the same spirit of change to help inspire our countrymen to empower themselves through peaceful means in their quest for a better life.

I enjoin you to support my leadership that is anchored on our precepts and our efforts to live by these rules. I trust that, together, we can stem the influx of apathy or indifference in our fraternity by gearing our Plans and Programs towards that premise. Thus, Masonic Education will be integrated in our activities to ensure that we always imbibe the correct rituals and more importantly, the tenets and values that will help us fully realize our role as servant leaders in society.

We will sustain as well the formation of our new members through the mentoring program for values among Masons, which is designed to mold them into men of principles genuinely interested in the Craft.

Our undertakings for the months ahead also include our intensified efforts to help save the environment as shown by our upcoming participation in the "Sagip Kalikasan Dos," a project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Under this scheme, we will replace the seedlings that did not survive when they were planted during the launching of this project last year. In effect, we are not only helping the government prevent a repeat of the devastating floods last year; we are likewise echoing our theme in the act of replanting seeds of commitment and passion in the hearts of our brethren.

There are other undertakings as we journey towards our goal and one of these is the coming "Interfaith Worship for Peace and Prosperity in November 2010." This event will prove once again the unifying of Freemasonry as it brings together people of different faiths to form a fraternity working for the good of mankind. It is hoped that this interfaith worship will free us of to the complacency or indifference that sometimes befalls us, making us forget the true essence of our calling as Freemasons.

My brothers, I urge you once again to help me realize what I have set out to do for the betterment of our fraternity. Let us carry out this noble task through words and concrete actions. As "a Brotherhood of Men under the Fatherhood of God," we have a duty to spread more of brotherly love, relief and truth to lighten the darkened word of many of our fellowmen.

With these words, I would like to thank you once again for making it possible for me to ascend the position of Grand Master of the Free and Accepted Masons in the Philippines. It has been a rewarding, albeit challenging, personal journey for me since I joined our fraternity in 1991. Today, I ask you to join me in our collective march towards a higher level of Masonic service. Let us remain true to our calling no matter how fast the world turns and no matter how difficult the odds our fellowmen must hurdle. Always, we must be there to lend a helping hand.

Once again, thank you, and may the Great Architect of the Universe bless us all!

Mabuhay and Masonerya sa bansang Pilipinas!



ELECTED and APPOINTED OFFICERS of the MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE of FREE and ACCEPTED MASONS of the PHILIPPINES

In his Circular No. 1, dated April 26, 2010, MW Avelino I. Razon, Jr., Grand Master, informs the brethren on the officers, both elected and appointed, of the M.W. Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines for his year in the Grand East. These are as follows:

Grand Master	MW AVELINO I. RAZON, JR.
Deputy Grand Master	RW JUANITO P. ABERGAS
Senior Grand Warden	RW SANTIAGO T. GABIONZA, JR.
Junior Grand Warden	RW JUANITO G. ESPINO, JR.
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Grand Secretary	MW DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM, GMH
Assistant Grand Treasurer	VW TOMAS G. RENTOY III
Assistant Grand Secretary	VW GODOFREDO V. SEÑIRES, JR
Grand Auditor	VW PERCIVAL T. SALAZAR
Grand Chaplain	VW VICENTE R. HAO CHIN, JR.
Grand Orator	VW JESSE D. ALTO
Grand Marshal	VW DOMINADOR VICTOR R. EUGENIO
Grand Historian	VW ROBERT O. ASUNCION
Senior Grand Deacon	VW LORENZO P. REYES
Junior Grand Deacon	VW STEPHEN L. ONG
Grand Standard Bearer	VW TEOCENCIO T. ABRIGO
Grand Sword Bearer	VW TOMMY C. UYLIAPCO
Grand Bible Bearer	VW WILFREDO CE SING
Senior Grand Lecturer	VW ROLANDO F. ROCHA
Junior Grand Lecturers	
National Capital Region	VW ALEXANDER B. MADAMBA
Northern Luzon	VW EDILBERTO P. CARABBACAN
Central Luzon	VW CHRISTOPHER Y. GOCOCO
Southern Luzon	VW ROLANDO B. DARAO
Western Visayas	VW PABLO S. CHU
Central and Eastern Visayas	VW JOHNSON C. LEE
Northern and Western Mindanao	VW REYNALDO P. MABAYLAN
Southern Mindanao	VW SENEN P. ABING, JR.
Overseas Districts	VW WILFREDO G. CHING
Senior Grand Steward	VW RUDDY C. TAN
Junior Grand Steward	VW FELIX T. NG
Grand Pursuivant	VW RENATO H. DRIZ
Grand Organist	VW ARNEL M. OFENDO REYES
Grand Tyler	VW JESUS L. REGALA

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Vice Chairman	-	MW RUDYARDO V. BUNDA, PGM, GMH
Members	-	MW ROSENDO C. HERRERA, PGM, GMH
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	-	MW PABLO C. KO, JR., PGM
	-	MW DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM, GMH
Secretary	-	RW JUANITO P. ABERGAS, DGM

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS

DISTRICT	LOCATION	NAME
NCR-A	Metro Manila	VW GREGORIO G. ARCANGEL, JR.
NCR-B	Metro Manila	VW ROBERTO MARIA C. GASTARDO
NCR-C	Metro Manila	VW JOSE MARIA P. CARABAÑA
NCR-D	Metro Manila	VW CARLOS R. RUIZ III
NCR-E	Metro Manila	VW RAYNOR L. TAROY
NCR-F	Metro Manila	VW TEODORO ALEJANDRO Y. KALAW IV
NCR-G	Metro Manila	VW SIXTO S. ESQUIVIAS, IV
CAR-A	Bontoc, Kalinga, Mt Province	VW EUGENE F. AFIDCHAO
R I-A	Pangasinan	VW JOSEPH G. LO
R I & CAR-B	Baguio, La Union	VW CARLOS A. TAYAG
R I & CAR-C	Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte Abra	VW FELIPE D. CABANLIG
R II-A	Nueva Viscaya (South)	VW ALFREDO M. DELA CRUZ
R II-B	Isabela (North)	VW OSCAR A. MARTINEZ
R II-C	Cagayan	VW PAULINO Y. LIM
R II-D	Isabela (South), Quirino	VW LOUIE G. GEPILANO
R II-E	Nueva Viscaya (North), Ifugao	VW NARCISO S. SALUNAT
R III-A	Pampanga	VW DANIEL L. LACSON, JR.
R III-B	Bataan	VW ROMEO N. PADRIGON
R III-C	Zambales	VW AGAPITO V. VELASCO
R III-D	Nueva Ecija (South)	VW ALAN L. PURISIMA
R III-E	Bulacan	VW EUGENE ANTHONY F. ARCIAGA
R III-F	Nueva Ecija (North)	VW JOSE A. MATUTINO, JR.
R III-G	Tarlac	VW RESURRECCION R. CORONEL
R IV-A-1	Cavite	VW DANILO M. VILDA
R IV-A-2	Cavite	VW JAIME Q. DILIDILI
R IV-B	Laguna	VW NILO B. GAVIA
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R VII-A	Cebu, Bohol	VW ROBERT E. SAVELLON
R VIII-A	Samar	VW JOSELITO R. YULO
R VIII-B	Leyte	VW CRISOLOGO S. BITAS
R IX-A	Zamboanga del Sur	VW MARIANO C. BITOR
R IX-B & X	Misamis Occ., Zambo.del Norte	VW ANASTACIO L. JUNIO, JR.
R IX-C	Zambo.,Jolo,Basilan,Tawi-Tawi	VW DANILO M. BUCOY
R X-A	Misamis Oriental	VW EDGARDO V. DE VEYRA
R X-B	Misamis Oriental, Camiguin	VW REYNALDO GREPALDEO
R X-C	Misamis Occidental	VW MARCELLAN C. TAPAYAN
R X-D & ARMM	Lanao	VW BUENAVENTURA C. ALIPIO
R X-E	Bukidnon	VW JULIO A. PIZARRO
R X-F	Bukidnon	VW FERDINAND R. ROQUE
R XI-A	Davao City, Davao del Sur	VW JOEL C. LASERNA
R XI-B	Davao Province, Davao Oriental	VW DON F. DONALVO
R XII-A	Cotabato City, North Cotabato	VW PALASIG U. AMPANG
R XII-B	SOCSKSARGEN	VW MODESTO C. SANCHEZ, JR.
R XIII-A	Agusan Surigao	VW HERCULES R. CHANJUECO
OVERSEAS A	Guam	VW ROQUE C. OGO
OVERSEAS B	Okinawa, Japan	VW HIROSHI YAGI
OVERSEAS C	Camp Zama, Japan	VW ZALDEMAR T. RICAMONA
OVERSEAS D	Korea	VW RICHARD W. DICKENS
OVERSEAS E	Northern Marianas Islands	VW GENER C. GARCIA

DISTRICT GRAND LECTURERS

DISTRICT	LOCATION	NAME
NCR-A	Metro Manila	VW HONESTO S. LUBAG VW JANUARIO E. SIA-CUNCO VW REYNALDO M. TOMAMPO
NCR-B	Metro Manila	VW SERVANDO U TOPACIO VW ROMMEL Y. ROXAS VW DAVID U. ONG
NCR-C	Metro Manila	VW FRANCISCO A. DELOS SANTOS, JR. VW KHRISTIANNE S. ALBANO VW JOSEPH N. TAN VW MICHAEL P. ALMEDA
NCR-D	Metro Manila	VW RAYMOND W. LEE VW ROY S. TAN VW REYNATO D. PUNO, JR.
NCR-E	Metro Manila	VW VICTOR ANTONIO T. ESPEJO VW FERNANDO S. TAYAG VW VICTOR C. MONTAÑEZ VW DANIEL E. GUTIERREZ
NCR-F	Metro Manila	VW WILFREDO DS REYES VW MIGUELITO M. CRUZ VW EULALIO D. LORENZO
NCR-G	Metro Manila	VW CARLOS B. DE SAGUN VW AUGUSTO S. AGUILAR VW OLIVER V. YABUT VW JUANITO M. LA ROSA

CAR-A	Bontoc, Kalinga, Mt Prov.	VW LEONARDO A. LAMANGEN
RI-A	Pangasinan	VW MAYER MAX DG ADONG
		VW DOMINADOR R. DELIZO
		VW SIMON B. BROWN
R I & CAR-B	Baguio, La Union	VW GILBERT E. SANCHEZ
R I & CAR-C	Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, Abra	VW ROMEO JOAQUIN C. TALAY
		VW BRIAN M. GONZALES
		VW DIONISIO R. DELIZO
RII-A	Nueva Vizcaya (South)	VW NAPOLEON D. SOLIVEN
		VW REYNALD A. DELOS TRINOS
RII-B	Isabela (North)	VW ROMMEL L. GARCIA
		VW ALFRED ALEX L. CASTILLO
RII-C	Cagayan	VW JOSE U. DELOS SANTOS, JR.
		VW JOSE G. CHUA
RII-D	Isabela (South), Quirino	VW JOVINO F. NAVALTA
		VW ARTEMIO D. CASTRO
		VW RODRIGO F. PASCUA, JR.
RII-E	Nueva Vizcaya (North), Ifugao	VW JOEL G. ABALOS
		VW TOMAS B. AGUSTIN
R III- A	Pampanga	VW CEFERINO L. JIMENEZ
		VW RAYMOND MARCELINO T. RODRIGUEZ
R III- B	Bataan	VW CARLITO C. LAZARTE
R III- C	Zambales	VW RICO E. REYES, JR.
		VW JOSEPH M. LIM, JR.
		VW FELIPE B. BOLINA
		VW LUIS B. RAMIREZ, JR.
R III- D	Nueva Ecija (South)	VW ALFREDO R. GERONIMO
		VW ISAGANI V. GALANG, SR.
		VW DENNIS D. VILLASEÑOR, JR.
		VW ROBERTO L. MORALES
		VW ULYSSES C. LLADO
		VW LAVERNE L. MANANGBAO
		VW GAMALIEL E. SARTE
		VW CRISTINO C. CASTILLO
R III- E Bulacan		VW MANUEL DJ SIAYNGCO
		VW REYNALDO C. CABAUATAN, SR.
		VW PABLO R. OCHOCO
		VW ERIBERTO P. CRISOSTOMO
		VW GREGORIO N. LIM
R III- F Nueva Ecija (North)		VW DIOSDADO B. MATIAS
		VW ROGELIO A. CACHO
		VW THRISTAN B. ESCUDERO
		VW FELOMINO V. MAMUAD
		VW JOEL ALBERT D. VIGILIA
R III- G Tarlac		VW MARCOS D. ALFONSO
		VW REYNALDO D. DAVID

R IV-A-1	Cavite	VW MARIO R. CAJUIGAN VW EDWIN P. COSTES VW LEONARDO A. NOTARIO VW JOSE C. JAVIER VW GIOVANNI G. BERGANTIN
R IV-A-2	Cavite	VW EMMANUEL Y. VELASCO VW ALEJANDRO A. VIDALLO VW MARIO R. CRISOSTOMO VW RUEL L. DITAN
R IV-B	Laguna	VW GERMAN T. JARA VW BEATO R. RELATO, JR. VW VIRGILIO P. CADANG
R IV-C	Quezon	VW MANUEL L. CHUA VW ARTURO P. MIRANDILLA VW ISAGANI P. ABARICIA
R IV -D	Batangas	VW WALTER P. LAGADAN VW RICARDO C. MAÑALAC
R IV -E	Mindoro	VW RUBEN G. GUINTO VW FRANCISCO G. JOPILLO, JR.
R V - A	Cam. Norte/Sur, Catanduanes	VW JOHN C. BUENDIA VW THOMAS ALVIN S. DELAS ALAS
R V- B	Albay, Sorsogon	VW JULIUS D. OVILLA
R VI- A	Panay, Iloilo, Antique, Aklan	VW WESLEY A. BARAYUGA
R VI- B	Negros Or., Negros Occ.	VW LEONARDO C. EUSEBIO, SR. VW GIL JOSEPH F. OCTAVIANO III VW JOSE DS SIPLON
R VII- A	Cebu, Bohol	VW ANDERSON Y, UY VW JIMMY U. TAN
R VIII- A	Samar	VW MATIAS B. CABALITAN VW RIO A. AFABLE
R VIII- B	Leyte	VW NICOLAS C. RISOS VW AGERICO A. AVILA
R IX-A	Zamboanga del Sur	VW SANTIAGO P. TOLENTINO II VW BENECIO L. ADONA VW ROY A. ECHEVERRIA
R IX-B & X	Misamis Occ., Zambo. del Norte	VW ERVIN N. GAWCHUA
R IX - C	Zambo., Jolo, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi	VW NEMESIO M. MANGILA III VW ROGELIO L. IGOT
R X - A	Misamis Oriental	VW JERRY O. BOOC VW JUNE G. ROSQUETA VW NELSON V. CHIO
R X - B	Misamis Oriental, Camiguin	VW JOSEPH R. TIU VW LEO G. LASACAR VW WILLIAM T. WALTER
R X - C	Misamis Occidental	VW DIOSDADO MANOLO Y. DYBONGCO VW EDGAR C. VILLANUEVA

R X-D & ARMM	Lanao	VW HENRY H. OAMINAL VW EDWARD L. BANAWA VW JOSEPH M. SANGUILA, JR.
R X - E	Bukidnon	VW REY S. FERNANDEZ VW ISIDRO B. RAMOS
R X - F	Bukidnon	VW ERNESTO M. MONTAÑEZ VW REYNALDO G. JUAN
R XI- A	Davao City, Davao del Sur	VW JONATHAN EDWARD L. CHUA VW GLENN R. POLINAR
R XI- B	Davao Province, Davao Oriental	VW ARNOLD O. LAO VW EDWARD R. SEVILLA
R XII- A	Cotabato City, North Cotabato	VW REYMOND K. TAN VW RENATO S. YBAÑEZ
R XII- B	SOCOSKARGEN	VW RAMIL O. LIM VW ROLAND P. ASPERGA
R XIII- A	Agusan Surigao	VW REGOR G. ARREZA VW VON RONALD M. OCENAR VW LUIS S. MONTILLA, JR.
OVERSEAS A	Guam	VW FRANCISCO A. VALENCIA
OVERSEAS B	Okinawa, Japan	VW EDWIN E. VENTURA
OVERSEAS C	Camp Zama, Japan	VW MANUEL C. ANGELES, JR.
OVERSEAS D	Korea	VW GEORGE E. STILLWELL, JR.
OVERSEAS E	Northern Marianas Island	VW ISAGANI E. BENOZA

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Leaders of the Craft are always closely united men working together in close harmony toward accomplishing noble and glorious goals. They earnestly endeavor to best work and best agree.

GRAND MASTER'S SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

in May, June 2010

MAY

- 12 - Courtesy Call, VW Resurreccion R. Coronel, DDGM, MD RIII-G, Tarlac
- Courtesy Call, VW Adam Sim, Balanghay Association Inc.
- 14 - Courtesy Call, Mabuhay Shriners, MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., PGM, GLP
- 17 - Meeting with IT Committee Chairman, VW Edward See, GLP
- 18 - District Turn Over Ceremonies, MD NCR-G, Jacobo Zobel
Masonic Temple, Makati City
- 19 - Masonic Funeral Rites for Bro. Raffy Nantes, Lucena City – 5:30 p.m.
- 20 - Meeting with VW Sonny Wang, GBB, AAGM re-Masonic Clock
- Meeting with GS, AGS, VW Victor Yu, AAGM re- Flow Chart
- Philippine Bodies Stated Meeting, Stafford Hall, GLP
- 21 - District Turn-Over Ceremonies, MD RIV-A-1 & RIV-A-2, Gen. Trias
Convention Center, Gen. Trias, Cavite
- 22 - Constitution and Installation, Seven Cardinal Virtues Lodge No. 390,
Cagayan De Oro City
- 24 - Courtesy Call, NCR-A Officers, GLP – 9:00 a.m.
- Courtesy Call, Masonic Charities for Crippled Children, Inc, - 5:00 p.m.
- Courtesy Call, Lodge Perla del Oriente No. 1034, S.C.
- Courtesy Call, Royal Order of Scotland
- Courtesy Call, Capitol Masonic Corporation
- Courtesy Call, Mayon Chapter, Order of Eastern Star
- 25 - Fellowship Dinner with Balanghay Association Inc., Sanly Restaurant,
Blvd. Mansion, Roxas Blvd., Manila
- 26 - Board for General Purposes, GLP. – 5:00 p.m
- 27 - Awarding of ANCOM Raffle Winners, GLP – 10:00 a.m.
- 28 - District Turn-over Ceremonies & Induction of Officers, RIII-D, La Parilla
Hotel & Restaurant, Cabanatuan City – 6:00 p.m.
- 29 - Constitution and Installation, Kadanglaan Lodge No. 392,
Lupao, Nueva Ecija
- Constitution and Installation, Golden Beehive Lodge No. 388,
Muñoz, Nueva Ecija
- 31 - Meeting with SR Ringo Puno and OSM Officers, GLP

JUNE

- 05 - Guest of Honor & Speaker, Constitution, Mt. Tapulao Lodge No. 389
- Guest of Honor & Speaker, Constitution, Justice Alejo Labrador Mem.
Lodge No. 395, GLP
- Guest of Honor, Maginoo Anniversary & Mabuhay Shrine Potentate's

- Ball, MPC, Camp Crame, Quezon City
- 07 - Guest of Honor & Speaker, Constitution and Installation, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Lodge No. 398, Abad Santos Hall, GLP
- 08 - Awarding of ANCOM Raffle Winners, Toyota Altis, GLP
- 09 - Meeting with VW Rex Coronel & Tarlac Kaunlaran Lodge No. 360 and GLP Officers (GS/AGS/SGL)
- Courtesy Call, Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4, - 4:00 p.m.
- Corporate Board Meeting, GLP – 5:00 p.m.
- 10 - Courtesy Call, Silanganan Lodge No. 19 & Cosmos Lodge No. 8
- 11 - Guest of Honor & Speaker, Constitution, Hadji Butu Razul Mem. Lodge No. 393, Abad Santos Hall, GLP
- Meeting on Masonic Library @ GLP – 2:00 p.m.
- Meeting of Youth Funds @ GLP – 4:00 p.m.
- 12 - Independence Day Celebration, Wreath Laying at Rizal Monument, Luneta Park
- Wreath Laying at GLP – 9:00 a.m.
- Courtesy Call, Order of the Amaranth – 11:00 a.m.
- 15 - IT Committee Meeting, GLP – 10:00 a.m.
- 16 - Courtesy Call, Jose Rizal Lodge No. 22 – 10:00 p.m.
- 17 - Meeting with Capitol Masonic Corp. w/ NCR-E & F DDGMs & their WMs
- 18 - Guest of Honor & Speaker, Constitution and Installation, Apayao Lodge No. 396, GLP
- Guest of Honor & Speaker, Constitution and Installation, Magalang Lodge No. 391, GLP - 2:00 p.m.
- Guest of Honor & Speaker, Jose Rizal Lodge No 22's 109th Anniversary Celebration & Past Masters Night @ Heroes Hall, Scottish Rite Temple, Manila
- 19 - Jose Rizal's 145th Birth Annivesary, Wreath Laying Ceremony in Calamba, Laguna
- Dinner, GLP Officers with PGMs and Knights of Rizal Officers @ Manila Hotel – 7:00 p.m.
- 21 - Caucus Meeting with OSM @ GLP
- 22 - Guest of Honor & Speaker, Constitution and Installation, Palo Liberation Lodge No. 397, Tacloban City, Leyte - 9:00 a.m
- 23 - Meeting re-Cavite Recovery w/ RW Santiago T. Gabionza, VW Dominador Eugenio & VW Lito Sacdalan @ GLP
- Guest of Honor & Speaker Constitution and Installation, Tiburcio Hilario Mem. Lodge No. 394, GLP - 2:00 p.m
- 26 - Guest of Honor & Speaker, Potentate's Ball, Cagayan de Oro City
- 28 - Meeting with IT Committee @ GLP – 9:00 a.m.
- Meeting with Arch. Peter So Si Hok & RW Juanito P. Abergas
- Guest of Honor & Speaker, Charter Day & Past Masters' Night, Mencius Lodge No. 93 @ Marriot Manila, 10 Newport Blvd., Pasay City

Schedules of Our Regional, Multi-District and District Conventions

2010 AUGUST

- 07 - District Convention, RIX-A
Host: Salug Valley Lodge No. 216, Molave,
Zamboanga Del Sur
- 13-14 - Bicol Multi-District Convention
Host: Mayon Lodge No. 61, Legaspi City
RV-A Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur & Catanduanes
RV-B Albay, Sorsogon & Masbate
- 19 - District Convention, RIV-C
Host: Tayabas Lodge No. 43, Tayabas City, Quezon

SEPTEMBER

- 18 - District Convention, RIV-D, Batangas
Host: Sixto Lopez lodge No. 129, Balayan, Batangas
- 24-25 - 13th Southern Mindanao Multi-District Convention,
Host: Dadiangas Lodge No. 225, RXII-B, SOCSARGEN,
General Santos City
RXI-A Davao City & Davao Del Sur
RXI-B Davao Del Norte & Davao Oriental
RXII-A Cotabato City
RXII-B SOCSARGEN

OCTOBER

- 01-02 - Northeastern Luzon Convention
Host: RII-A, Nueva Vizcaya (South)
RII-A Nueva Vizcaya (South)
RII-B Isabela & Quirino
RII-C Cagayan Valley
RII-D Isabela & Quirino
RII-E Nueva Vizcaya (North)
CAR-A Mountain Province
- 08-09 - Visayas Regional Convention :
Host: RVII-A, Mactan Lodge No. 30, Cebu City
RVI-A Iloilo, Antique, Capiz & Aklan
RVI-B Negros Occidental
RVII-A Cebu, Negros Oriental & Bohol
RVIII-A Samar
RVIII-B Leyte

NOVEMBER

- 05-06 - Northern Luzon Convention
Host: RI & CAR-B
RI-A Pangasinan
RI & CAR-B Benguet & La Union
RI & CAR-C Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte & Abra
- 12-13 - Western Mindanao Multi-District Convention
Host: RIX & ARMM-C
RIX-A Zamboanga Del Sur
RIX & RX-B Misamis Occidental & Zamboanga Del Norte
RIX & ARMM-C Zamboanga City, Jolo,
Basilan & Tawi-Tawi
RX-C Misamis Occidental
RX & ARMM-D Lanao
- 19-20 - Northern Mindanao Multi-District Convention
Host: RXIII-A, Butuan City
RX-A Misamis Oriental
RX-B Misamis Oriental & Camiguin
RX-E Bukidnon
RX-F Bukidnon
RXIII-A Agusan & Surigao
- 27 - NCR Multi-District Convention
Host: NCR-F, Quezon City
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 Quezon City, Capitol Masonic Temple
NCR-F Quezon City, Capitol Masonic Temple
NCR-G Makati City, Jacobo Zobel Masonic Temple
- 30 - Bi-District Convention
Host: Bagong Ilaw Lodge No. 97, RIV-A-1
Masonic District RIV-A-1
Masonic District RIV-A-2

DECEMBER

- 11 - Central Luzon Multi-District Convention
Host: RIII-F, Nueva Ecija (North)
RIII-A Pampanga
RIII-B Bataan
RIII-C Zambales
RIII-D Nueva Ecija (South)
RIII-E Bulacan

RIII-F Nueva Ecija (North)
RIII-G Tarlac

- 17 - Southern Luzon Multi-District Convention
Host:
RIV-A Cavite
RIV-B Laguna
RIV-C Quezon
RIV-D Batangas
RIV-E Mindoro

2011

FEBRUARY

- 01-05 - District Convention and Overseas Visitation,
Masonic District Overseas-A, Guam and Official Overseas
Visitation, Masonic District Overseas-E, Saipan
- 25-26 - 55th Mindanao Regional Convention
Host: RX-A, Maguindanao Lodge No. 40, CDO
Western Mindanao Region
Northern Mindanao Region
Southern Mindanao Region

APRIL

- 28-30 - 95th Annual Communication, Davao City
Host: RXI-A

LET'S CONVINCING THE NON-MASONIC WORLD, by precept and example, that we work together in close harmony with our leaders toward making our conventions "showcases for Masonry," thereby demonstrating our pride in it as well to one another as to the general public because we believe it is a noble profession and a worthwhile way of life.

The GLP's 94th Annual Communication: A Brief Account

Thursday, April 22, 2010

At 8:00 a.m. RW Avelino I. Razon, Jr., DGM, led other Grand Line Officers in opening the Grand Lodge at the SMX, MOA Convention Center in Pasay City.

An hour later the following were received solemnly into the SMX Convention Center:

MW Peter U Lim Lo Suy, Grand Master;

Past Grand Masters of the GLP;

Visiting Masonic Dignitaries; and

Hon. Jose A.R. Melo, Chairman, Commission on Elections,

Keynote Speaker.

After the presentation of the Philippine Flag, the singing of the National Anthem and the Grand Lodge March, and the Invocation, VW Arnel Ofendo Reyes, the Grand Master's Deputy for host District NCR-A, gave the welcome remarks.

Next Hon. A.R. Melo delivered the Keynote Speech.

After the calling of the rolls of Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, and Subordinate Lodges, Committee on Credentials Chair Danilo D. Angeles, PGM, GMH, announced there was a quorum for the transaction of the business of the GLP's 94th Ancom. He then called the roll of Grand Representatives, in whose behalf Past Grand Master Rudyardo V. Bunda, GMH, gave the response.

VW Simeon A. Daturanong then delivered the Grand Oration.

The proceedings of the 98th Ancom held in Cagayan de Oro City on April 23-25, 2009 having been approved, the Masonic Charities for Crippled Children, Inc. (MCCCI), the Grand Guild of Past Masters of the Philippines (GGPMP), the Financial Relief Assistance Program (FRAP), and the Committee on Charity presented their reports.

As announced by the Committee on Ancom Evaluation, Davao City would be the venue for the 95th (or 2011) Ancom.

The Grand Master's Night was held at the GLP grounds. It was highlighted by the giving out of awards to achieving Lodges, and outstanding individual Masonic leaders, as well as to eminent newsletters.

Outstanding Lodges were Trinity Lodge No. 367, Carmen Valley Lodge No. 250, pagkakaisa Lodge No. 282, and Gen. Llanera Mem. Lodge No. 168. The Worshipful Masters of these Lodges were declared Outstanding Worshipful Masters, namely: WB John Co Tan (#367), WB William T. Walter (#250), WB Jorge A. Manaoag (#282), and WB Juan Jerome T. Malaca (#168). The Secretaries of the same Lodges were adjudged Outstanding Secretaries, to wit: Bro. Nathaniel J. Diesta (#367), Bro. Alfred Lord Tennyson Q. Gaccion, IV (#250), Bro. Jeffrey A. Roxas (#282), and VW Ulysses R. Chan (#168).

VW Nathaniel S. Golla, MD RIV-A, and VW Jose B. Dela Cruz, MD RXII-A, were Outstanding DGLs. Outstanding DDGMs were VW Robert S. Dy, MD RX-A; VW Emmanuel Antonio M. Umali, MD RIII-D; VW Dominador Victor R. Eugenio, MD RIV-A; VW Senen P. Abing, Jr., MD RIX-B; VW Narciso S. Salunat, MD RII-E; VW

Jose A. Lim, III - MD RXI-A; VW Sim A. Cañonero, MD NCR-G; VW Roel S. Palaca, MD RXII-B; VW Dexter Lee Tan, Overseas A; and VW Daniel E. Bañez, Overseas E.

Most Outstanding District Newsletter was "The Craftsman" of MD RIII-D. Most Outstanding Lodge Newsletter was "357 Winding Stairs" of Laoag Lodge No. 71, and Outstanding Lodge Newsletter was "The Trestle Board" of Sarangani Lodge No. 50.

Friday, April 23, 2010

The whole morning was devoted to the giving of reports by the Grand Master, the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Secretary, the Senior Grand Lecturer, and the Chairmen of the different Standing and Special Committees.

After lunch the voting delegates assembled at the convention hall, where the nominees for the position of Junior Grand Warden presented their respective platforms. They were VWB, Edward Y. Chua, Juanito G. Espino, Jr., Samuel P. Fernandez, Edgar D. Lim, Eliseo Renato C. Miranda, and Celso S. Viray. In the end, VWB Juanito G. Espino, Jr. was elevated to the honored position of Junior Grand Warden by the suffrages of the brethren.

At about 7:00 p.m. the fellowship with the Past Grand Masters started.

Saturday, April 24, 2010

At 8:00 a.m. the Installed Past Master's Degree was conferred upon 252 brethren at the Jose Abad Santos Hall, Plaridel Masonic Temple.

At about 9:00 a.m. elected and appointed Grand Lodge Officers held their meeting in the same hall.

The Installation of Grand Lodge Officers started at 3:00 p.m., also at the Jose Abad Santos Hall.

The Grand Master's Gala took place at the Emilio Aguinaldo Hall of the Plaridel Masonic Temple, where the drawing of the Ancom Raffle was held.

The following, as announced in Circular No. 3 (Razon) were raffle winners:

TOYOTA COROLLA ALTIS	- Ticket No. 36682	- Magat No. 68
2 Units TOYOTA VIOS	- Ticket Nos. 28762 19865	- Zambales No. 103 - Dagohoy No. 84
5 Units MOTORCYCLES	- Ticket Nos. 31589 77490 61484 49595 59711	- Factoria No. 311 - Makiling No. 72 - Gilbert Sanchez - Mencius No. 93 - Pinacanauan No. 318

26th NATIONAL CONVENTION OF GRAND GUILD OF PAST MASTERS OF THE PHILIPPINES

by VW Samuel P. Fernandez, PGH
GGPMP Secretary

Reunions are characterized by rejoicing and trekking down memory lane of the glorious dedication given during the time one was sitting on the Oriental Chair.

The April 21st 2010 GGPMP 26th National Convention held at the New Plaridel Masonic Temple, Jose Abad Santos Hall in Manila, was a time of recollection and retrospection of the young and the not so young Past Masters.

It was also a time of acknowledging and appreciating with gratitude the countless blessings brought about by the GGPMP's missionary zeal of reaching out to the widows and orphans, as well as to the weak and weary Past Masters.

SOME TESTIMONIALS FROM BROTHER MASONS

"It is informed that WB Eugenio is now on the period of recovery and in his behalf we would like to extend our gratitude to the Grand Guild of Past Masters of the Philippines for the assistance given him..." Gualfredo C. Martinez, PDDGM, Tumauni Lodge No. 251.

"My family and I would like to express our profound thanks and heartfelt gratitude for the financial assistance. Thanks also to VW Renato M. Guerra, President, DGPM, MD#R10A and R10B." – Joseph R. Tiu, Past Master, Macajalar Lodge No. 184.

"Thank you very much for the help you are extending to us Past Masters. The financial assistance is really appreciated by us especially now that we are in the sunset stage of our life." WB Eduardo M. Vengco, Past Master.

"I wish to further acknowledge

that this is already the second time around that I have been extended assistance by the Guild. My sincerest thanks and gratitude." – Bro. Pablo M. Elauria, PM, Jose Rizal Lodge No. 22.

"Thank you very much for the help and will forever cherish it as I travel to that rough and rugged road as all fellows have done before." – WB Ciriaco R. Ablang, PM, Cordillera Lodge No. 178, Nueva Vizcaya.

The above testimonials from Past Masters make our hearts glad and gratified.

Grand Guild President John L. Choa issued Proclamation No. 1, Series 2009, to DGPMPs, DDGMs, DGLs, WMs and Wardens, thus:

"It is my pleasure to announce that effective May 1st 2009, the hospital benefits will increase from P7,000.00 to P10,000.00 per year, and the gratuity grant for death, from P12,000.00 to

P15,000.00 for all Past Masters of our Masonic fraternity."

The good news is that the Grand Guild of Past Masters of the Philippines is a Masonic entity that extends its concern and care to ailing Past Masters, as well as to widows and orphans whose earthly Dads have crossed the Great Divide.

SOME LETTERS FROM OUR SISTERS

Hereunder are encouraging and inspiring letters sent to us by some sisters:

From Deborah Espinosa Singson: "In behalf of my siblings I would like to extend my gratitude not only for the generous help but more so for the solace and prayers of the brotherhood of Masons extended to our family during our time of bereavement."

From Karen Derecho and Sonia L. Derecho: "There are just no words by which to thank you for the kindness and expression of sympathy you have shown us through the passing of our father, Vicente Allan Derecho."

The many letters of thanks we receive buoy and boost our spirits to dedicate our energies for the glory of God and our honorable and noble Masonic institution.

As MW John L. Choa, Grand Guild President, underscored in his messages: "We have always been very prudent and judicious in managing the funds of the Grand Guild of Past Masters, their widows and orphans. All expenses incurred in our travels to the different districts either to attend meet-

ings or for the induction of the District Guild officers are on personal account of the Grand Guild officers. We do not even charge for reimbursement of gasoline for our travels nor do we collect any honorarium."

GMPMP CONVENTION IN HISTORY ABAD SANTOS HALL

Significantly, the 26th National Convention was held at the Jose Abad Santos Plenary Hall, New Plaridel Masonic Temple.

MW Jose Abad Santos is one Mason Chief Justice we can be proud of and respect.

The other Mason Chief Justices were (1) Chief Justice Gracio Gonzaga under the Revolutionary government of Bro. Gen. Emilio F. Aguinaldo, who founded Minerva Lodge No. 217 in Cagayan; (2) Bro. President Jose P. Laurel of Batangas Lodge No. 35, Acting Chief Justice from 1936-1942; (3) Chief Justice Manuel V. Moran of Pangasinan Lodge No. 56, Chief Justice from 1936 to 1952, a good eleven years of judicial service; and (4) Chief Justice Reynato Serrano Puno, the 22nd Chief Justice of the Philippines, who is the Father of the Grand Guild of Past Masters of the Philippines by issuing Edict No. 84 in 1984, thereby giving birth to the Guild.

Chief Justice Puno obtained his Bachelor of Science in Jurisprudence and Bachelor of Laws from the University of the Philippines in 1962. He obtained his Master of Comparative Laws at the Southern Methodist University of Texas and the Master of Laws at the UC-Berkeley. He finished all the academic requirements of Doctor of Juridical Science at the University of Illinois, Champaign in 1969.

(continued on p. 31)

Installation of Grand Lodge Officers in Photos

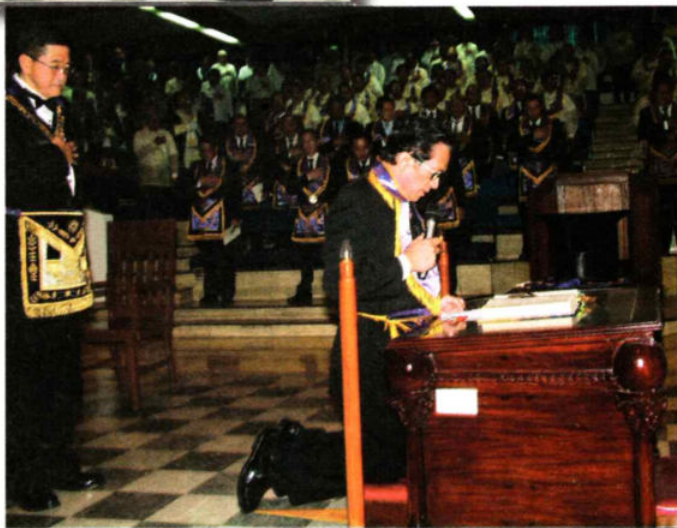
(Note: All photos were taken by VW Charles G. Agar, PDGL)

Grand Master of Ceremonies Pablo C. Ko, Jr. conducts elected Grand Lodge Officers to seats prepared for them.



The reelected Grand Secretary is about to take his seat. The other elected Grand Lodge Officers watch him "march in."

Ad interim Grand Chaplain Rolando F. Rocha invokes God's blessing on the Grand Lodge Officers about to be installed.



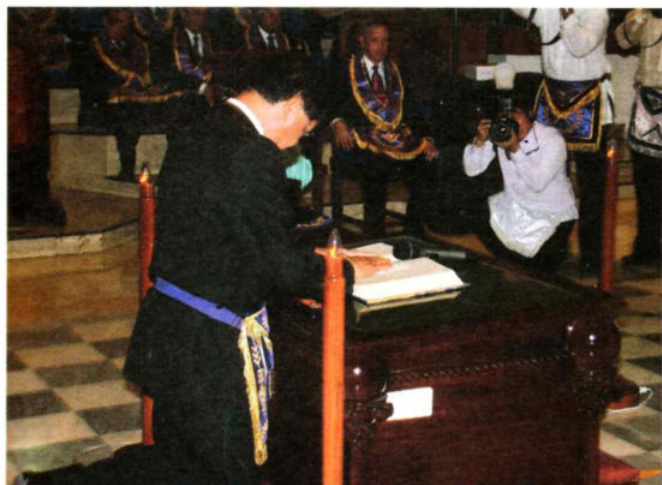


The Grand Wardens-elect, together with the Grand Master of Ceremonies, bow at the Altar.

The Deputy Grand Master-elect is presented to the Grand Installing Officer.



The Grand Master-elect is conducted to the Altar by the Grand Master of Ceremonies.



The Grand Master-elect communes with himself and with his God before taking his solemn vow of office.

Grand Master-elect Avelino I. Razon, Jr. takes his solemn vow of office. The Grand Master of Ceremonies and other brethren pay close attention.



Grand Master of Ceremonies Pablo C. Ko, Jr. invests Grand Master-elect Avelino I. Razon, Jr. with Grand Master's Jewel.



The MW Grand Master of Ceremonies presents hat, symbol of authority, to Grand Master Avelino I. Razon, Jr.



The Grand Master is escorted to his time-honored seat in the Grand East by the MW Grand Master of Ceremonies.



The Grand Installing Officer, MW Rudyardo V. Bunda, PGM, GMH, presents the gavel, symbol of power, to newly installed Grand Master Avelino I. Razon, Jr.



"MW Grand Master, behold your brethren!... Brethren, behold your Grand Master!"

26th GGPMP Convention

(Continued from p. 26)

Chief Justice Puno was recently chosen to receive the prestigious Elise and Walter A. Haas International Award, an award given to an international UC-Berkeley alumnus for "distinguished record of service to his country."

AWARDS

Yearly, the Grand Guild bestows trophies to those attending the Convention. Recipients of this year's awards are:

- WB Edward Ong, Mencius Lodge No. 9, Early Registrant Award
- WB Albert V. Manlulu, Youngest Past Master Award
- MW Leon Angel P. Bañez, Oldest Past Master in Attendance Award
- R2D (Isabela), Largest Delegation Award
- MW Agustin V. Mateo, Keystone Lodge

No. 100, Longest Serving Past Master Award

- VW Reynato "Atong" M. Guerra, Most Outstanding GGPMP President
- VW Bayani Mendoza and PM Aurelio Mendoza II, Father and Son Past Masters Award
- VW Roger Banal, Milton C. Marvin Lodge No. 123, Farthest Place Award

To date, the GGPMP has extended more than P18 million financial assistance to widows and orphans, and death and hospital grants to Past Masters.

GGPMP President John L. Choa reminds each of the District Guilds of Past Masters to establish a strong Sunshine Committee as well as to organize a strong conferral team composed of Past Masters.

Past Masters never die. They continue their labor of love and multiply.

The 26th National Convention of the GGPMP held at the Jose Abad Santos Hall of the New Plaridel Masonic Temple in Manila on April 21, 2010 was a time of recollection and retrospection of the young and not so young Past Masters.

THE MCCI: A SHORT REPORT

by VW Antonio F. Josen, Jr., PDGL
President

WE HAVE LIVED UP to expectations, attained our objectives, and performed the tasks mandated by our organization. The brethren, other Masonic as well as non-Masonic organizations, and our friends continue to extend their usual support.

Our relentless cooperation with the Orthopedic and Otorhinolaryngology Department of the Philippine General Hospital and the SMILE TRAIN, Inc. project at the Mary Johnston Hospital has further enhanced our services to our beneficiaries.

Manila Mount Lebanon Lodge No. 1 continues to assist us with our Juvenile Cataract cases and other eye diseases. Ocular Prostheses are provided by EXE-CARE Associates.

In 2009, we assisted and served 58 patients at the PGH – 31 orthopedic cases and 27 Harelip and/or Cleft Palate Cases; 24 orthopedic, harelip/cleft palate and other crippling diseases at the Mary Johnston Hospital; 22 cases in our Davao Unit; 9 in our Baguio Unit; and 14 in our Bataan Unit. A total of 127 cases.

We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to the following for their generous assistance and support:

Filipino Canadian Cabletow Service Club, Inc. and their ladies; Capitol Masonic Corporation; Philippine Bodies, A.&A.S.R.; Manila Mt. Lebanon Lodge No. 1, F.&A.M.; Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO); VW Peter Phoa Yong Chip; VW Peter Aragon; VW Nelson Yau; VW Victor A. Yu;

WB Michael Lim Chen We; WB Rodolfo Zalameda; WB John C. Tan; et alii.

For providing free medical and surgical services to our patients, Maraming Salamat to VW/Dr. Michael Pescante, VW/Dr. Willie Angbue Te, Dr. Zuriel Tan, Dr. Rene Tuazon, and Dr. Cirilo Tacata.

For their invaluable assistance, our heartfelt thanks to the medical staff and nursing personnel of Mary Johnston Hospital and the Philippine General Hospital.

We extended assistance to the victims of typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng in consonance with the call of Grand Master Peter U. Lim Lo Suy for unified charity efforts of the MW Grand Lodge of F.&A.M. of the Philippines.

We held our traditional Christmas Party at the Emilio Aguinaldo Hall of the Plaridel Masonic Temple. The children beneficiaries and their families had a day of fellowship with the brethren and their ladies.

The other brethren in the MCCI Board are VW Gregorio A. Vicente, Jr., Treasurer; VW Sonny K. Wang, Asst. Treasurer; VW Benito K. Tan, Asst. Auditor; MW Jaime Y. Gonzales, MW Raymundo N. Beltran, and VW Alfred T. Li, members; and Bro. Michael Z. Rivera,

MD, Medical Director.

Those involved in our provincial units are as follows:

VW Chin Bon Te Lu, Davao Unit Representative, and WB Esperidon R. Reyes, Jr., MD, Medical Director.

VW Almeric B. Pua Phee, Baguio Unit Representative, with VW James Paggao, MD and VW Antonio T. Tactay, MD, as Medical Director and Asst. Medical Director, respectively.

VW Tommy Que, Iloilo Unit Representative, with VW Manuel B. De Asis, MD, as Medical Director;

VW Danilo C. Datu, Sr., Bataan Unit Representative, with Bro. Manuel P. Ponce, MD, and Bro. Allan Sanchez as Medical Directors.

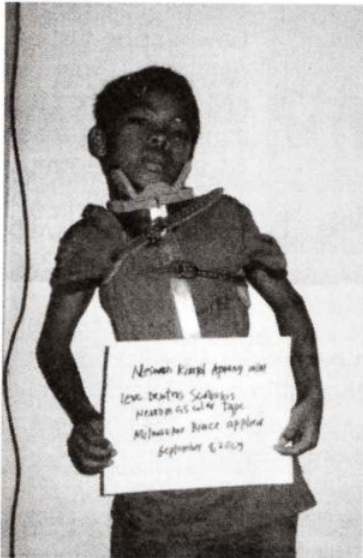
VW Edward O. Joson and WB Wenceslao Trese, Cabanatuan Unit Representatives.



Leg Carve Porthes



Infection Ender Mailing Femur



Levo-Desotros Scoliosis



Infected Tibia
Ilizaerov Application

HE'S NOT AN ORDINARY MAN!

by MW Danilo D. Angeles, PGM, GMH
Grand Secretary

(Delivered at the Jose Abad Santos Hall of the Plaridel Masonic Temple on April 24, 2010)

JUST OUTSIDE THIS TEMPLE, at several spots inside its premises, as well as at the SMX, Mall of Asia (MOA) Convention Center, where we conducted our 94th Annual Communications with much success, we see streamers announcing this loud and clear message, full of sincere gratitude: "Thank you, brethren, for making a difference." With this sentence MW Peter U. Lim Lo Suy conveyed to us that anyone could be a hero. This great man had lived by that concept. His diversified business interests and his civic and Masonic activities in his native city attest to his non-ordinary mettle, to his not being daunted by the enormity of any undertaking. Evidently, he had lived by this maxim: "Any man can make a difference in his own life and in the lives of others." Not surprisingly, then, he adopted "Together, Brethren, We Will Make the Difference" as the thematic focus of our labors during his year in the Grand East.



Very early in his life, he played a major role in his family's business enterprises, systematizing them into business ventures that became viable profit centers or steady, reliable operating entities.

It was only much later that he focused his attention on establishing his personal business outfits, any one of which could be, to an ordinary business-

man, a crowning achievement. But, again, he is not an ordinary man.

How can a multi-award-ed Lions Fellow, a Lions International District Vice-Governor be just an ordinary man? How can one known in the business community as a successful business entrepreneur and as a tried and proven business executive be just an ordinary man?

He cannot be just an ordinary man because as Vice President and Executive Officer of Toyota Cagayan de Oro, Inc., he was the recipient of the following awards:

- The National Dealer of the Year, for his over-all dealer performance;
- The President's Cup for Excellence, in recognition of his outstanding customer

satisfaction performance; and

- The Dealer of the Year for 2009, awarded by no less than the President of Toyota Int'l, for his excellent over-all performance.

He is not just an ordinary Mason, either. He has mastered the art of earning money and giving it away in the spirit of Masonic Charity. Obviously, he has been deeply impressed or imbued with Masonic teachings, precepts, and principles. This we can say because after his raising to the sublime degree of Master Mason, not only did he carry most of the onus of building the family fortune, but he also immersed himself deeply in Masonic endeavors, in each of which he also made a difference.

In 1985, he served as Worshipful Master of Macajalar Lodge No. 184. As such, he became a generating force that spurred Masonic bodies and organizations in Northern Mindanao to attain great heights of achievement. Thus in the Ancom of 1986, the MW Grand Lodge of the Philippines declared him the Most Outstanding Worshipful Master in its entire jurisdiction. In the succeeding Ancoms (1987 and 1988), his Mother Lodge, Macajalar Lodge No. 184, was adjudged Most Outstanding Lodge, thereby earning the distinction of having gained permanent possession of the most coveted MW William Quasha, PGM's Cup – a feat not yet duplicated by any other Lodge in this Jurisdiction.

He is not just an ordinary Masonic leader because up to now he holds the distinction of being awarded by the MW Grand Lodge of the Philippines as the Most Outstanding DDGM in its entire Jurisdiction for three consecutive years (i.e., 1988-1991).

In 1995, when I assumed my place at the Grand East, I appointed him Grand Standard Bearer. At first, he declined my appointment of him. But he later relented because I challenged him with this query: "Why don't you want to be a part of history?"

Yes, MW Peter U. Lim Lo Suy, you are now a part of history. When you presented your Grand Master's Report, you submitted it to the scrutiny of posterity; for, indeed, "History is the final judge of our deeds, and a clean conscience is our only sure reward." The brethren accorded you with a long standing ovation in total approbation of your official acts, all of which you carried out with the purity of your convictions, the sincerity of your intentions, and with the simple, humble, and judicious wielding by you of the powerful gavel.

My dear brethren, friends, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, when MW Peter U. Lim Lo Suy assumed the exalted position of Grand Master, he laid down before us his vision, plans, and programs. He challenged us to help the leadership of the Grand Lodge "restore Freemasonry as the foremost organization in this part of the world that counts for its members persons of integrity and exemplary conduct, who craft positive influences in their respective communities and in the lives of their fellowmen." Yet he was mum on how he would do acts of charity and how he would physically manage the Grand Lodge.

Perhaps it's really providential that he was chosen by us to be our Grand Master for 2009-2010; for, as he always states, "I'm God's favorite son."

When super typhoon Ondoy

devastated the country, we were in Davao del Norte attending a Multi-District Convention. By the stroke of his fingers, he sent text messages – and, to my surprise, relief assistance, both in cash and in kind, poured into the Grand Lodge.

Not long thereafter, another super typhoon, Pepeng by name, again wrought havoc on a bigger area of the country. This prompted this non-ordinary man and Mason to issue a Circular, in which he again appealed for relief assistance to the victims of the natural calamity. Tremendous was the response to his appeal. The much-needed Committee on Calamity was created. In less than two weeks, cash donations amounted to 5.2 million pesos, which was immediately distributed to members of our Masonic Family who were seriously affected. Donations in kind were distributed to indigent non-members.

You and I are now enjoying the comfortable amenities of the newly rehabilitated Grand Lodge buildings and its newly refurbished premises. I dare say these were made possible in a month's time without spending any single centavo taken from the coffers of the Grand Lodge. This solidified his sound financial management of the

Grand Lodge earnings to a whooping P13M revenue over expenses. This revenue is a striking evidence of the unanimity of individual brethren, Lodges, Masonic Districts, and other Masonic Bodies, who have been so cooperative and sympathetic to the objectives of MW Peter U. Lim Lo Suy's kind of life and leadership to make a great difference.

In closing, let me quote the late author Leo Rosten, who said, "The purpose of life is not to be happy, but to matter, to be productive, to be useful, to make it some difference that you have lived at all."

Thank you, MW Peter U. Lim Lo Suy, for inspiring us and all Masons in this Jurisdiction.

In behalf, therefore, of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines and of the exclusive group of PGMs, I take pleasure in presenting to you this Past Grand Master's Jewel – a token of the eternal gift of gratitude of all Masons in the jurisdiction of the Philippines for all you have done for the betterment of Philippine Masonry.

Congratulations!

- MW Peter U. Lim Lo Suy has lived by the maxim "Any man can make a difference in his own life and in the lives of others."
- "History is the final judge of our deeds, and a clean conscience is our only sure reward."
- Let's help the Grand Lodge leadership "restore Freemasonry as the foremost organization in this part of the world that counts for its members persons of integrity and exemplary conduct, who craft positive influences in their respective communities and in the lives of their fellowmen."
- "The purpose of life is not to be happy, but to matter, to be productive, to be useful, to make it some difference that you have lived at all." -- LEO ROSTEN

MW PETER U. LIM LO SUY'S RESPONSE TO THE AWARD TO HIM OF THE PAST GRAND MASTER'S JEWEL

THANK YOU, MW DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM, GMH, for having bestowed on my humble person that very kind and overwhelming accolade. You are someone who has my highest respect in our fraternity. Hence, when you delivered the tribute, you kept me "suspended in the air." I am really deeply moved by your eloquence, and I am gratefully accepting this recognition given to me in behalf of all those who have been part and parcel of all that we have achieved during Masonic year 2009-2010.



Behold how swiftly 12 months has passed away unnoticeably. As the lecture of the Hourglass clearly points out, there is a season for everything. And today is the time for me to step down from the Grand Oriental Chair, a position which I am just beginning to enjoy.

The Masonic year that had just passed was a very busy and trying time for us as a fraternity. I am fortunate, however, to have many brethren who have strongly supported me in running the affairs of the Grand Lodge, such as the Corporate Board; the Board for General Purposes; certain selfless individuals like Executive Assistant to the Grand Master Victor A. Yu, Assistant Grand Secretary Godofredo Señires, Jr.,

Administrative Assistant to the Grand Master Emmanuel J. Diesta, Cabletow Editor-in-Chief Flor Nicolas, and WB Manny A. Sanico; the administrative and office staff of the GLP; and many others.

The global financial meltdown at the start of 2009, the destruction caused by Super Typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng, the breakdown of peace and order in Maguindanao, the power outages throughout the country, and the forthcoming very divisive national and local elections – all these proved to be challenging to us. But we were undaunted as we blazed through the path toward accomplishing all our tasks the best way we could. Not even the blitz of typhoon Ondoy was able to keep us at bay. Through your generosity, we raised over 5 million pesos in aid for our distressed brothers and countrymen, with an excess of over one million pesos, which now forms part of the GLP Calamity Fund. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Today, I bid you to pause with me for a few moments and ask ourselves: "Have we really made a difference during my year in the Grand

East?"

It is best to leave this question unanswered lest we become biased in our opinion. But, certainly, many of us feel good about last year. Throughout the year peace and harmony prevailed. Our Grand Lodge finances were stable and fully accounted for. The Grand Master's three-point program was strongly supported by the Blue Lodges. Membership and Lodge growth have increased significantly. Our supplies store has doubled its revenues. We have outsourced a considerable budget that saw the completion of many flagship projects, including the general renovation of the Grand Lodge and the face-lifting of its perimeter grounds, and many other projects which limited time would not allow me to enumerate today.

In short, we did the best we could! And whether or not our best is good enough to leave a small mark in your hearts and memories, it is up for history to judge. What is of greater importance is, we have become better men and Masons because we gave our best shot!

For, as the provident writer William Penn very appropriately put it, "I shall pass through this world but once; anything therefore, that I can do, and any kindness that I can show, let me not defer it or neglect it. Let me do it now, for I shall not pass this way again."

Again, I humbly accept the Past Grand Master's Jewel on behalf of all those who labored so much for the attainment of our objectives and the implementation of our plans and program. Guided by our slogan, "One for All; All for One, we achieved many gains, all of which are the result of our hard work and dedication, of teamwork.

Allow me to give back all the honor and luster of this prestigious Past Grand Master's Jewel to my one and only Supreme Grand Master, whose never-ending blessing have never made me doubt an instant that I am one of His most favorite sons. He has endowed me with good health, a loving family, and untiringly supportive brethren, who have made all these things possible for me to live through up to this historic moment.

Let me likewise thank the Past Grand Masters for the instructive lessons and advises that guided me to many prudent decisions in the Grand Lodge. The Board for General Purposes, MW Reynato S. Puno, MW Rudyardo V. Bunda, MW Rosendo C. Herrera, MW Raymundo N. Beltran, MW Danilo D. Angeles, MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., and MW Hermodenes E. Ebdane, Jr., Thank you very much MW sirs. To MW Romero A. Yu thank you very much for always being there for me. My great working team, MW Avelino I. Razon, Jr. RW Juanito P. Abergas, RW Santiago T. Gabinoza, Jr., MW Danilo D. Angeles, our Grand Secretary and MW Rudyardo V. Bunda, our grand Treasurer. To all the Grand Line Officers whether elected or appointed, to the various working committee members, let me share this distinct tribute with you, for without you- I would have become a sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. You did all the leg works for me and for the Grand Lodge.

To the unsung heroes of the Grand Lodge - our administrative and office staff whose steadfast devotion to their work have provided us with the support systems vital to keep us going, your contribution to Masonry is truly immeasurable and beyond the remuneration. Thank you so much, I will miss you so dearly.

Let me also share this tribute to a special person whose sacrifices and dedication to the craft has made possible the resolution of many of the age-old conflict in the interpretations of many of our laws and rituals, I am referring to no other than my dedicated and hard working Senior Grand Lecturer – VW Robert O. Asuncion, congratulations for a job well done.

allow me to quote in part President Barack Obama: "My wife has been my closest friend, my closest advisor. And ... she's not somebody who looks to the limelight, or even is wild about me being in this position. And that is a good reality check on me. When I go home, she wants me to be a good father and a good husband. And everything else is secondary to that."

For the exemplary leadership and singular industry exemplified by VW Juanito G. Espino Jr. whose Sagip Kalikasan project was a National Hit, and whose GOLF PROJECT spearheaded by his lodge AG Pedro Gimenez Lodge No. 370 has resulted to a Net P 1.5 Million donation to the Grand Lodge's coffers, to many other generous donors who prefer that their names not to be mentioned my sincerest thanks to you all. To MW Hermogenes E. Ebdane, Jr., MW sir, thank you so much. I salute you and share this tribute to you too.

My MW maam Doris, Sharmaine, Lorraine and Bryan, today I share this honor with you for the boundless understanding and sacrifices you shared with me while I was out serving the fraternity.

Sister Doris, please accept these flowers as a sign of my endless gratitude and unconditional love to you. I love you very very dearly

Nothing now remains for me to be done but to officially step down and wish our newly installed Grand Master MW Avelino I. Razon Jr. and his team the best for the ensuing Masonic Year. As I join the ranks of Past Grand Masters, I renew my pledge to continuously serve the fraternity better until time shall be no more.

To the brethren of my home districts – Masonic Districts No. RX-A and RX-B for sticking out with me through thick and thin, and for the total of P1,408,000 donation made to the Grand Lodge which has made a lot of difference in our efforts to renovate the Grand Lodge building, I will be eternally grateful to you. Please share with me the great compliments of this PGM's jewel. To all whose support, financial and otherwise have made it possible for us to realize many of our plans and programs, this tribute is shared with you as well. Thank you so very very much.

The pleasure and honor of serving you and the fraternity has always been mine. May the Blessings of Heaven rest upon all of us and all regular Masons and their families whithersoever they may be dispersed.

Finally, may I request my beloved wife Sister Doris and my children to come to the Grand Orient.

Thank you and till we meet again. God bless our Grand Master. God bless our beloved fraternity. Mabuhay tayong lahat!

As I pay tribute to my family,

Together Brethren, Let us continue to Make The Difference! Have a pleasant afternoon.

COLUMNS

THE MASONIC LIGHT

by VW Rolando F. Rocha
Senior Grand Lecturer

Our Theme

"By Precept and Example, We Shall Distinguish Our Conduct as Men and as Masons"

That theme was particularly chosen to challenge us to spread Masonic Light not only through words but through concrete actions as well. We are challenged to be living examples both within and without the Craft.

Our institution transmits the Light of its most excellent tenets and virtues through symbols represented by the tools and implements of architecture. While we have common interpretation of such symbols as taught to us in Lodges, we each assimilate the tenets and virtues based on our own respective individual levels of consciousness. Then the manifestation of whether we transmit or fail to transmit such tenets and virtues is done by the way we conduct our affairs within our respective Lodges, families, workplaces and communities.

Masons who only claim glories and do not further such glories shall never experience Masonic Light. Historically, Operative Masons created buildings and temples which withstood time. As Speculative Masons, we have also built character and constructed temples in the hearts of men that have endured all undue passions and prejudices even from the worst of humanity. However, taking into account the present state of membership quality in our Grand Jurisdiction, can we still claim such tenets and virtues distinguish our conduct as men and as Masons?

The existence of our institution is in high risk of disintegration. The survival of our brotherhood now materially depends on how we

can practice out of the Lodge the tenets and virtues which we have been taught in it. The appreciation of our fraternity's tenets and virtues has been greatly lost and has to be recovered if we want our institution to survive.

We have no shortage of words but are in a long drought for nobler deeds and exemplary actions. We must never forget that our actual lives may be the only holy book which other people may read and the only testimony which Freemasonry may offer to the public. We must not forget, either, that non-Masons gauge, if not judge, Masonry by the actions and non-actions of its members - say, in community affairs, and that the indiscreet or improper behavior of just one of us Craftsmen will negate, destroy, or set asunder the noble deeds of a thousand of us. Let us, therefore, be particularly careful in strange and mixed companies never to disgrace the Fraternity, but rather to help preserve unsullied its reputation.

It is hoped that we all pursue our journey in life with the above theme as our perspective, which shall guide us in our travel to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveller ever returns. May we all transmit unimpaired our most excellent tenets and virtues from generation to generation.

This Masonic Year, my beloved Brethren, let us, both individually and collectively, distinguish ourselves as good and true men and as worthy and exemplary Masons. Let us at the same time convince the world, by both precept and example, that good qualities, praiseworthy traits of character, or virtues always distinguish our conduct in our several stations in life.

Plans and Program for Masonic Year 2010-2011

Our Masonic Program for this Masonic Year shall be simplified and focused on the essence of our theme "By Precept and Example, We Shall Distinguish Our Conduct as Men and as Masons." Through our Masonic Education Program we shall impart "precepts" or rules in life that will enlighten our hearts and minds; and then such precepts shall be concretely expressed through our Suggested Monthly Activities and Major Projects.

ROUGH AND RUGGED ROAD

by VW Victor A. Yu, PSGL

LEAVE THEM OUT OF MASONRY

OUR MASONIC FOREBEARS instinctively treated one another with the kindest consideration as they dealt with one another using the sanctum sanctorum of their hearts, which the presence of the Supreme Grand Master pervaded. In those days, the moral duties taught inside Masonic Lodges just naturally flowed over to their lives and conduct. Nowadays, however, we hear – and even see – brethren quarreling even over the pettiest of reasons, including earthly honors, without ever remembering the obligations they took when they became Masons. Indeed, there is confirmation of our observation that, instead of Freemasonry being the conscience of society, we have allowed the vanity and selfishness of the world to sneak into our mystic organization while we arrogantly and self-righteously give moralistic lectures to others.

As our society observed that the abuses of the influential, wealthy and powerful have gone unpunished in the recent gigantic corruption scandals in the Philippines, we may have unconsciously imbibed the tempting desire to do the same with a misplaced confidence. Such scandalous impunity was not limited to the public sectors as we also see investments and educational plans funded by the sweat and tears of the hardworking just disappear in thin air with the owners and executives of the private companies handling such funds freed from grave responsibilities. Such impudent conduct may have caused us to also unconsciously bring into Masonry the increasing insolence we may have against our laws, values and traditionally revered institutions. Hence, we unknowingly bring disharmony to our Lodges, Districts and the Grand Lodge; and instead of allowing Masonry to better enable us to change our ways to become better men, we try to change Masonry to suit our ways in the world.

Whether consciously or uncon-

sciously done, if our decadent thoughts and desires are not divested by our Common Gavel which has been forged by our Basic Tenets and Cardinal Virtues, Masonry will become the means to perpetuate abuse, intolerance and greed among men, instead of promoting a better humanity. While great civilizations fall, true Freemasonry has withstood the test of time. In this part of the world, Masonry survived largely due to the exemplary conduct of humble Masons who labor within and without the Lodge showing us that our Masonic tenets and virtues are universal and have practical applications in real life. Nonetheless, as the less informed brethren become more prominent within our mystic circle and bring with them the disharmony in their own lives, our ancient institution face the risk of being reduced to an ordinary organization of hypocrites who espouse morality to others but glaringly act otherwise in their lives both as Men and as Masons.

If we sincerely detest such horrid evolution and would like to arrest such depravity, every one of us must

act immediately and seriously look at our lives, both as Men and as Masons, to see if we also personally contribute to this disturbing development. Being human beings, we all have sinned and fell short in some time or another in the past. However, no matter what indiscretions we may have in the past and no matter what motivated us most when we petitioned to become members of the Craft, Freemasonry offers us freedom from all unnecessary shackles, particularly of guilt and insecurities. With proper understanding and application of Masonic tenets and virtues, we can be led by our Great Creator to our respective Trestleboards of life where He has laid out our individual destinies.

The first step to unlocking this door to freedom is to divest ourselves of all our wealth and honors, as well as our frustrations in life, upon entering any Lodge. Then let us deal with every brother in all Masonic endeavors on the level without consideration also of such brother's wealth and honors. With such basic first step, the road to freedom to fulfill one's destiny is at hand as we become more genuine not only to others but also to ourselves.

The next step is commence an authentic Masonic travel by taking time to read and reflect upon our Basic Tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth; and our Four Cardinal Virtues of Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice as taught to us when we were initiated; and see how they are applicable in our daily lives. A reflection of our past experiences would then be very good and timely for us. Let us ask ourselves the following questions: Did the tenet of Brotherly Love make us more tolerant of the various shortcomings we experienced in our lives? Did the tenet of Relief assist us in forming perpetual

disinterested friendships? Did the tenet of Truth free us from the unnecessary pressures and stresses in life? Did the virtue of Temperance allow us to gain partners rather than competitors in business and other endeavors? Did the virtue of Fortitude strengthen us to overcome challenges during economic downturns? Did the virtue of Prudence better enable us to acquire risk management skills? Did the virtue of Justice or fairness teach us to continually treat all people on a win-win proposition and have solid long-term relationships with others?

As we pose such life questions according to Masonic perspectives, we can become more conscious of our deeds we have done. As we reflect and experience some feelings of uneasiness, let us not deny them: but simply and consciously experience such feelings with acceptance. With such acceptance, we will start to notice a certain peace coming into our lives and life will appear to be more gracious to us. Interestingly, such peace is also similar to the peace and harmony we experience when we all focus on the ritual, without imposing any judgment on anyone, during the opening and closing of the Lodge. Hence, true peace within ourselves can be achieved: and even enhanced if we seriously observe the solemnity of our rituals in our Stated Meetings; and we further fortify such inner peace in our other Masonic labors and our lives outside Masonry as well.

My dear brethren, the disharmony we bring to our Craft has their origins in the lack of inner peace in our lives outside of Masonry. Hence, let us endeavor to leave more worldly things and less worthy thoughts out of Masonry; so that we may gain more from

the essence of Freemasonry. Instead of bringing our ways in the world into the Craft, let us always reflect on how Masonry teaches us to be better men in the real world and diligently apply such Masonic teachings in our daily lives. Consciously trying to reflect on our lives and act according to our Masonic precepts is a daily challenge and perseverance is essential. Let us constantly be reminded of the words of the noted Chemist and Inventor, Sir Humphry Davy that: "Life is made up, not of great sacrifices or duties, but of little things, in which smiles and kindness and small obligations, given habitually,

are what win and preserve the heart and secure comfort". Let us think less of ourselves and more of the welfare of others. Should we all persist with such seemingly unspectacular efforts, one day we shall be surprised with the huge change in us and the redemption of our fraternity. Therefore, if we value our fraternity, let us all commence to truly distinguish our conduct as Men and as Masons to convince the world of the goodness of our institution.

Together Brethren, let us commence labors using both Precept and Example this Masonic Year.



IN MY OPINION

Godofredo V. Señires, Jr.
Asst. Grand Secretary

IMPLICATIONS OF OUR GRAND MASTER BEING A LAW ENFORCER

We now have a new Grand Master in the person of MW Avelino I. Razon, Jr. He is a retired Director General of the Philippine National Police. He is, therefore, a law enforcer.

Since he is a law enforcer, we can expect him to enforce the provisions of our Masonic Constitution, Edicts, Rules and Regulations concerning our Fraternity. Among these are the Edicts (in relation to Republic Act 8049) pertaining to hazing, the prohibition on allowing petitioners to furnish or pay for refreshment and neglect of one's duty during balloting.

Edict 131 prohibits the mal-

treatment and humiliation of candidates and horse-play during degree conferrals and provides penalties for their violation.

Edict 131-A (Bañez) requires the presence of, at least, the District Deputy Grand Master, the District Grand Lecturers, the Grand Lodge Inspector or a Grand Lodge Officer during degree conferrals.

Edict 131-A (Galvez) declares any member who places any candidate in any degree of some embarrassing or humiliating situations, such as forcing him to do menial, silly, foolish and similar tasks or activities or otherwise sub-



jecting him to physical or psychological suffering or injury and it further requires Lodge Officers to ensure that Edict 131 and 131-A Bañez are strictly complied with and they have full control over Degree Conferrals.

Republic Act No. 8049 (Anti-Hazing Law) also prohibits placing the recruit, neophyte or applicant in some embarrassing or humiliating situations, such as forcing him to do menial, silly, foolish and similar tasks or activities or otherwise subjecting him to physical or psychological suffering or injury.

Violations of the aforementioned Edicts constitute Unmasonic conduct and renders the violator liable for reprimand, suspension or expulsion from the Fraternity of Masons.

Violation of Republic Act 8049 will subject the violator to criminal prosecution and, if convicted, may suffer imprisonment.

The brethren were last reminded about the provisions of the above-mentioned Edicts and Republic Act No. 8049 in Circular No. 9 -Lim Lo Suy, dated July 8, 2009, and Circular No. 21, dated Sept. 18, 2009 – Lim Lo Suy.

Section 33, Article VI of the Ordinances prohibits a Lodge from requesting or permitting a candidate to furnish or pay for refreshments during the period that he is receiving the degrees.

Among the bad practices being done are asking petitioners, Entered Apprentices, Fellowcrafts and newly-obligated Master Masons to spend for the personal needs of members, pecuniary and other mercenary interests, such as personal loans, contracts, favors, etc.,

which they would not give out under regular circumstances

The brethren were last reminded about the prohibitions in Section 33, Article VI of the Ordinances in Circular no. 8-Lim Lo Suy, dated July 8, 2009

In regard to balloting of petitions for degrees of Masonry, the right to participate in the balloting of petitioners for degrees of Masonry is sacred to us Masons.

Masters and Wardens of our Subordinate Lodges are charged with the duty to ensure proper compliance with the requirements before, during and after the balloting and to make the proper report of the results of the balloting.

Some possible violations of the balloting process are:

1. Removal of black cubes from the ballot box;
2. Mis-declaration of the result of the balloting, i.e., declaring a favorable ballot even if the result of the balloting is otherwise;
3. Discussions regarding an unfavorable ballot, after the balloting;
4. Asking a brother to divulge his vote upon a balloting.

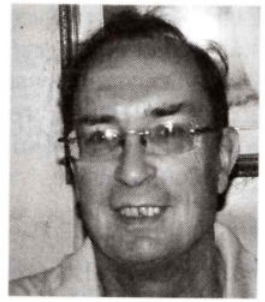
It is a grave Masonic offense to neglect a member's duty to ensure proper compliance with the requirements for balloting or to violate our laws and regulations governing our balloting process.

The brethren were last reminded of the Sanctity of the Ballot in Circular No. 37-Lim Lo Suy, dated February 26, 2010.

VIEWS FROM AN OUTSIDER

by Frank Stevens

The way all Brothers and fellows have gone before....



This is probably the most mis-used phrase in Masonry. It is used to justify the infliction of pain on candidates for degree raisings. But that is not the original purpose of the phrase; it is to show that our rituals and ceremonies have been unchanged for many years and to show the continuity that we have had in Masonry for more than 250 years.

Traditions are important to countries, churches and especially to us as well as other societies. The closeness of family, faith in God, love of country and respect for the National Heroes all help to define the Filipino. There are many festivals that can be traced back to a time long before the Spanish arrived. These are all traditions that are loved and respected and any changes would be resisted by almost everyone.

So many of our members try to justify the infliction of pain as a Masonic tradition but they conveniently forget the progress that the Philippines has made in Human Rights. Allegations of mistreatment of prisoners and captives are investigated and the culprits then have to answer to the law.

How long before a Member complains to the Civil Authorities about mistreatment during initiation, passing or raising?

And when it happens, will the

excuse "But we always do it that way" be accepted by a judge? Even by our own much loved Chief Justice?

Wife beating is a much smaller problem now than it was in the past. Would you argue that it should still be done because of tradition? If it is wrong to inflict pain on a woman, why is it ok to inflict pain on your brother?

Legal avouchment is misunderstood by many members. It is the means by which a visiting brother can be vouched for and so he does not have to undergo being tested by the tyler.

The only way a member can give legal avouchment is if he has sat with the brother in open Lodge.

That means you sat with him during a stated or special meeting of a Lodge. And that means the meeting was tyled. It does not apply to someone you met at an installation. Neither does it apply to someone you met at a Lodge fellowship or a social function. It does not apply to someone you have been introduced to as a brother at a social function or on a golf course.

We should always be on our guard to prevent admission to our Lodges to anyone except a true member of our Grand Lodge or another Grand Lodge that is recognised by the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

Why do so many of our members never visit other lodges? In other jurisdictions, the whole Lodge will visit another Lodge. There are some members who can be found attending Lodges in Manila, Makati and Quezon City but they are a minority. I have even met Worshipful Masters who have never attended another Lodge except at an installation. One of the greatest pleasures of Masonry is fellowship and to be welcomed into a Lodge like a long lost relative is a wonderful experience. We have some wonderful characters in our Lodges and they have so many years experience and can tell you about their memories of many years gone by. If you never visit other Lodges, then you will never meet them and you will be the poorer for it. We also have some great younger members who have the burning ambition to aspire to higher office and I can assure you that it is much more satisfying to meet them in person rather than just read their bio-data in *The Cabletow!*

There is no worse way to start the day than receiving a text telling you that a good and worthy Brother has dropped his working tools. A Brother who always had time for his Mother Lodge as well as Lodges that he visited

regularly but did not join. He even assisted with Medical Missions and gave freely of his time as well as professional services.

Many Lodges are blissfully unaware of their members' activities with other Lodges. Plural memberships they will know. But when he attends just as a visitor, then they are totally in the dark.

He became a much loved Brother in the Lodges he visited and was very good company to have especially during fellowships.

Contacting the family following the loss of their husband and father is difficult and often, there is no other contact number.

We need a list of contact numbers for every Lodge accessible on the Grand Lodge Website. It will need only two numbers; maybe a Member for Communications or Information and Secretary or Worshipful Master.

Then it will be easier for members who wish to attend wakes and/or memorial services to obtain the details.

Congratulations to the following winners of the National Elocution Contest which took place at the Jose Abad Santos Hall of the Plaridel Masonic Temple on April 21, 2010: Bro. Lordan G. Suan, Mindanao Region, RVII-A, 1st prize; WB Thristan B. Escudero, Central Luzon Region, 2nd prize; and Bro. Marcelino SM. Pescante, NCR-D, 3rd prize.

The Committee in charge of the contest would like to thank the Board of Judges for the contributing to the success of the contest.

STIRRINGS IN THE BEEHIVE

by Bro. Gene Calonge, PM;
GLI, Service Lodge No. 95



TRAVELS OF A MASON

I traveled to Uganda for eight days, the last day of May and the first week of June this year. There was a big conference there involving the international community in its fight against transborder crime and we were observers in that meeting. This article is about Uganda, the place.

There are unique aspects of Uganda. It is the origin of the big and long Nile River. If one were to be brought to one edge of Lake Victoria, the underground spring from which the Nile River begins is visible. At least that was what our tour guide told us. The Nile River is perhaps as old as civilization itself. It traverses a number of African countries and ends in Egypt, towards the Mediterranean Sea.

Another unique flavor of Uganda is Entebbe, its airport. Some of us remember the plane that was hijacked and brought to Entebbe in 1976. A daring rescue on July 4 that year by Israeli commandos freed the hostages. The raiding team suffered only one casualty: its commander, Lt. Col. Yoni Netanyahu. The old tower has been preserved, complete with bullet-riddled sides, all the way to the top. For a small sum to pay, one can see the old airport where it all happened. The United Nations has a big presence in the old airport but the reminder will always be there.

Finally, Uganda has a pleasant weather – it is like Tagaytay or Baguio City. One may wear a jacket and tie without being drenched with perspira-

tion. The locals say the pleasant weather is enjoyed year-round.

I admit that I did not know much about Uganda until I saw the place. I know it was a British colony. I knew about the Entebbe incident. Of course, I knew Idi Amin.

There are a number of positive economic signs for this "Pearl of Africa" According to their print media, in 35 tests for the presence of oil, 33 yielded positive results. As we all know, energy self-sufficiency can propel a country to rapid economic growth. They still have problems in the northern part, where there are law and order issues, but a stable economy is a good start. Politically, the authorities seem to be moving in the right direction. To give an example, the army will soon, if it has not yet done it, transfer the responsibility of presidential security to the police. Observers believe that this is a good sign as it will professionalize the Ugandan Army and will demilitarize the presidential palace. There are many infrastructural goals in the country.

Among these is the construction of four-lane highways linking major towns and cities, for example between

Entebbe and Kampala, the country's capital.

country.

I have not seen a Masonic Lodge in Uganda. If they follow the British tradition, Lodges are probably not clearly marked, as they are in the Philippines. I may be wrong but I have a feeling that there must be a lodge there and that there are Masons in the

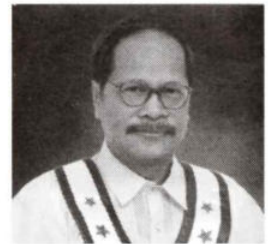
What indelibly got etched in my mind is their national motto of "Pearl of Africa." A pearl is a precious jewel, a unique one. It is not found easily. It is cherished and carefully kept. No wonder, we call our own lovely country the "Pearl of the Orient Seas."



Square cor. Compass Streets

by WB Celso B. Hilbero

And the Greatest of Them Is Charity...



Every year, I celebrate my birthday by going to the asylum run by the Order of Mother Theresa of Calcutta located near the foot of Del Pan Bridge, Tondo, Manila, where, many abandoned and orphaned infants are being fed and taken care of by the Sisters of Charity. This asylum houses children who were rejected by the hospitals because they had no more chances of living or were abandoned by unwanted mothers in the wee hours of the night at the door steps of the asylum. Maybe, through the intercession of the Great Architect of the Universe, these children survived and lived with the Sisters. What makes visiting these children interesting is the fact that once you are there, an insurmountable happiness is felt by the children. They are all crying to be carried by any visitor in his or her arms. These children are longing for motherly and fatherly love. Give them candies and toys, but they will ignore these in exchange for the love one can give them by carrying them in one's arms. These are children in their tender age who understand the meaning of love and shun material happiness like candies and toys over and above love of parents. It is a rewarding experience for me every year to be with the children who are longing for love so easy to do but so hard to forget.

In our life, there are few virtues that make a man worthy of his existence. I would like to enumerate some Masonic virtues I feel one must possess in order to reflect the good character of a person. I would like to start of with

love of our fellowmen. Our Craft has taught us "to regard the whole human species as one family - the high and the low, the rich and the poor, -- who, as created by one Almighty Parent, and inhabitants of the same planet, are to

aid, support, and protect each other." " This principle unites men of every country, sect and opinion, and causes true friendship to exist among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance."

When I was a little boy, I was puzzled by men going to war, killing each other for their political belief and could not be united by their love for one another. There was a time, I started to write a chain letter inviting everyone to throw away hatred and individual interest, greed in power and acquiring unimaginable wealth that destroy unity among men. This letter existed for at least a year proposing unity and love among men. And out of this chain letter, all those who reacted positively were invited to join an organization that would sow love and unity among men. I also dreamed of a musical concert ala-"Woodstock concert" of 1960, in my town Calamba, utilizing an open and idle land at the foot of Mount Makiling, where the youth and music lovers of that era would converge to promote unity and love. All these dreams did not happen as I wanted to, but of a small scale. The chain letter lasted for a year and series of concerts happened inside the campus of my high school Alma Mater.

Second, we should be ready to give "Relief." Our conglomeration teaches us that "to relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent on all men who are supposed to be linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection. To soothe the unhappy, to sympathize with their misfortunes, to compassionate their miseries, and to restore peace to their troubled minds, is the great aim we have in view. On this basis we form our friendships and establish our connections."

Third, we should be truthful to ourselves." Truth is a divine attribute and the foundation of every virtue. To be good and true is the first lesson we are taught in Masonry. On this theme we contemplate; and by its dictates endeavor to regulate our conduct." Hence, while influenced by this principle, hypocrisy and deceit are unknown, supposed to be, to us. "Sincerity and plain dealing should distinguish a good man from others, and with heart and tongue, we should promote every one's welfare and rejoice in each other's prosperity."

Fourth: Temperance. This virtue is "that due restraint upon the affections and passions which render the body tame and governable and frees the mind from the allurements of vice." We should constantly practice this virtue, as we should always "avoid excesses or the contracting of any licentious habits."

Fifth: The Fraternity advises us to have "fortitude." "It is that noble and steady purpose of the mind whereby we are able to undergo any pain, peril or danger when prudentially deemed expedient." This virtue is "equally distant from rashness and cowardice, and like temperance, should be deeply impressed upon the minds of everyone of us, as a safeguard against any unlawful attempt, by force or otherwise, to extort from us our secrets," or take our valuables against our will."

Sixth: Prudence. It teaches us "to regulate our lives and actions agreeable to the dictates of reason and is that faculty by which we wisely judge and prudentially determine on all things, relative to our present, as well as our future happiness." This virtue should be the "peculiar characteristic of every man, not only for the government of his

conduct while in his office and home but also any where in the world."

Seventh: Justice. "It is that standard or boundary of right which enables us to render unto every man his just due, without distinction. This virtue is not only consistent with divine and human laws but is the very cement and support of civil society; and, as justice in a great measure constitutes the really good man, so should it be the invariable practice of every man never to deviate from the minutest principles thereof."

While we are talking of virtues of a good man, I would like also to include some important characters we should possess as a good citizen of this country. President Noynoy Aquino's battle cry last elections was "Kung walang corrupt, walang mahirap." Therefore, those, in the public service should exemplify to be honest to goodness public servants from their hearts not because they await what they could get out of their employment, as a return. It is better, once in our lifetime, we could proudly say that we are part of a government that delivers services because we ought to do it as our duty not because we are being paid for doing it. Our resolve as a citizen should be exemplary in the discharge of our civil duties," by never proposing or countenancing any act which may have a tendency to subvert the peace and good order of society, by paying due diligence to the laws under whose protection we are living; and by never losing sight of the allegiance due to our country. "

As an individual, the Holy Scripture taught us to always expound faith, hope and charity. An old Pilipino adage reminds us that "habang may buhay ay may pag-asa." Hope inspires us to live to reach our goals and dreams. There are

always trials. Sometimes, these tests break our hearts. Forces pushes us to submerge to confusion and problematic situation as if it will be no end. However, if we have faith, it strengthen us to keep that hope clings in our heart. No matter how hard the situation is, our faith makes us afloat still gasping for hope and keeps the light of hope within our reach. All these virtues, and all that I discussed are nothing if we do not appreciate Charity. Among the virtues of man, we, Masons know that Charity is the greatest.

The Christian religion has its essential virtues as we Christian should also possess, i.e. Faith, Hope, and Charity. Of these, we should place Charity at the topmost in our choices. Indeed, Charity constitutes the cementing bond of love of mankind. Christian doctrine interprets Charity in a broader, longer, deeper and higher than mere pecuniary aid to the poor and destitute. It includes such help, but its depth of meaning is love, affection of the heart. Just as Saint Paul defines genuine Christian Love in First Corinthians 13, so we should have love that reaches the same depths and heights.

With these words, my brethren from the Craft, I hope that we will be inspired to give more charity. Just like the crying children in the House of Mother Theresa's Sisters of Charity on Del Pan Bridge, your precious time will never be such precious at all without you engaging in charitable activities that would give you inexplicable happiness. So hard to explain, feelings that cannot be seen, cannot be touched but so rewarding and fulfilling, happiness that can be felt in our hearts. If you want to feel that tremendous joy and have not felt that yet, do charitable activities and your hearts will shout with joy.

INSIGHT

by J. Flor R. Nicolas, PSGL

JOINING DOH-INITIATED MOVES TO CURB SMOKING IN OUR COUNTRY



IHAVE BEEN A CIGARETTE SMOKER for more than half of a century now. Throughout that period I did not lend the attentive ear to any tongue that instructed me to quit smoking because nobody could derive any single benefit from such a malpractice or vice. But late one night in June this year, while I was writing an article for this publication, suddenly I found it difficult for me to breathe. So, members of my immediate family rushed me to the Capitol Masonic Center, where I was confined for several days. I was diagnosed to be suffering from lung and heart ailments.

During my confinement in the hospital, it gradually dawned on me that I had not really loved myself because I had not observed "such a prudent and well-regulated course of discipline as may best conduce to the preservation of your corporeal and mental faculties in their fullest energy; thereby enabling you to exert the talents wherewith God has blest you, as well to His glory as (to) the welfare of your fellow-creatures." I also realized that I should have strictly and diligently observed the four cardinal virtues: temperance, fortitude, prudence, and justice.

The two physicians in charge of my recovery efforts (one for the lungs and the other for the heart), as well as the brethren who visited me in my lonely hospital room, told me in no uncertain terms that I must quit smoking because

it is one of the biggest health threats to humans, including those dearest to me or to anybody else.

I left the hospital highly resolved to join other individuals and groups that had earnestly endeavored to curb smoking in the country.

One such group is the Supreme Council of Darul Ifta of the Philippines, which is based in Cotabato City. Recently, it approved unanimously a religious ruling or fatwa, signed by Grand Mufti Sheikh Omar Pasigan, which states that smoking is "haram" or forbidden. Said the fatwa:

"Smoking is forbidden in the Sharia'h or Islamic Jurisprudence because of it being filthy, containing numerous harmful chemicals. Almighty Al-

lah has permitted only good things for his servants, such as food, drinks, and other lawful ones.

"No Muslim may manufacture, buy, sell, trade or promote tobacco since these actions represent aiding someone in committing a sin.

"The Sharia'h prohibits smoking in all its forms because it does not belong to good things. Muslims should not do anything that causes destruction to their body, and smoking is a form of destruction.

"Allah forbids his servants from wasting money by spending it on cigarettes which are harmful to the body."

The declaration of the Supreme Council of Darul Ifta of the Philippines, I believe, will persuade many Filipinos, Muslims and non-Muslims alike, to quit

smoking forthwith and to carry anti-tobacco messages to their homes, communities, and workplaces.

We Masons, too, must convince our fellowmen, particularly fellow Filipinos, by both precept and example, never to smoke cigarettes or to quit smoking cigarettes before it is too late. Let us forcibly impress upon them that, to quote the Department of Health (DoH), "Quitting smoking cigarettes greatly reduces health risks and produces immediate and long-term health benefits."

Decidedly, health is wealth! Smoking in all its forms, on the other hand, gradually leads not only the smoker but also those who inhale the cigarette smoke to death. Not only Muslims but all other humans should refrain from doing something that causes destruction to their bodies, and smoking, undoubtedly, is a form of destruction.

MABUHAY SHRINERS PHILIPPINES LEADS SHRINERS INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS WEEK CELEBRATION

In his Circular No. 5, dated May 14, 2010, MW Avelino I. Razon, Jr., Grand Master, assigned to the Mabuhay Shriners Philippines the lead role in celebrating June 6-12, 2010 as the Shriners International Awareness Week.

He encouraged the brethren, particularly Nobles, to participate in the various activities lined up by the Mabuhay Shriners Philippines for such a celebration.

EVENTS, DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CRAFT, APPENDANT BODIES, ALLIED ORDERS

MW Razon Visits Nueva Ecija

SINCE OUR GRAND MASTER, MW Avelino I. Razon, Jr., would be traveling to MD III-F (North Nueva Ecija) on May 29, 2010 for the Constitution of Kadanglaan Lodge No. 392 and the Installation of its officers at Lupao in the morning, and the constitution of Golden Beehive Lodge No. 388 and the installation of its officers at the Science City of Muñoz in the afternoon, the Turn-Over Ceremony and the taking by MD III-A Officers of their Oath of Office was set on May 28, 2010.

MW Sonny Razon, together with some brethren from Manila, joined the golf tournament held at the Lakewood Golf and Country Club in Cabanatuan City, which started at 6:00 a.m., and had some fun with the brethren of South Nueva Ecija.

Tournament winners received their awards at about 2:30 p.m.

The Turn Over of Responsibilities from VW Emmanuel M. Umali to VW Alan L.M. Purisima took place at La Parilla Hotel and Restaurant on Zulueta St., Cabanatuan City, at about 5:00 p.m.

Besides MW Razon and his party, the following graced the special event with their presence:

MW Danilo D. Angeles, PGM, GMH, Grand Secretary; Hon. Julius Cesar V. Vergara, Mayor-elect of Cabanatuan City; VW Manuel G. Palomo, PGC & PGO, President of Wesleyan University Philippines; PDDGMs, WMs, Wardens, brethren and sisters of the District.

The registered attendees totaled 165.

MW Danilo D. Angeles delivered his inspirational message so eloquently and sincerely that every one of those present listened attentively in complete silence and wonder. He dwelt on who really are the true Masons.

In his message, MW Sonny Razon congratulated VW Anthony Umali and the brethren of MD III-D for garnering various awards during the last Ancom, such as those of Outstanding DDGM (VW Anthony Umali); Outstanding Lodge (Gen. Llanera Mem. Lodge No. 168); Outstanding Worshipful Master (WB Juan Jerome T. Malaca); Outstanding Lodge Secretary (VW Ulysses R. Chan); and Most Outstanding District Newsletter (The Craftsman).

MW Razon also congratulated VW Alan Purisima and his set of District Officers on their assumption into office. He urged them to continue the tradition of excellence which had been prevailing in the district. Finally, he focused on the

theme for this Masonic year, "By precept and example, we shall distinguish our conduct as men and as Masons."

The turn-over program was made more memorable and lively by the intermission numbers performed by the Job's Daughters and by the per-

formance of the Special Forces Combo from the 7th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army.

The fellowship lasted till almost midnight or low twelve, complete with singing and dancing of the members of the Masonic Family in the district.



VW Umali turns over gavel of power to his successor.



MW Razon delivers his message



District officers take oath of office.

BALANGHAY DONATES PHP100,000 TO GRAND LODGE

LED BY THEIR SULTAN, VW Adam Sim, representative Lakans of the Balanghay Association Inc. paid their fellow Lakan, MW Avelino I. Razon, Jr., Grand Master, a courtesy call in his office on the 2nd floor of the Plaridel Masonic Temple in the afternoon of May 12, 2010.

After exchanging pleasantries and discussing the association's plans and program of activities for 2010-2011, the visitors presented a check for P100,000 to the Grand Master, who right away said that he would use the money for the Brethren's Lounge on the 2nd floor of the Grand Lodge Bldg. This Lounge is now in place.

Here are a couple of photos taken during the said courtesy call.



MW Razon shows
off check from
Balanghay

Grand Master
Sonny Razon
poses with
fellow Lakans
in his office.





Newly Installed Elected Grand Lodge Officers together with Past Grand Masters and Appointed Grand Line Officers



Newly Installed Elected Grand Lodge Officers together with Past Grand Masters and Foreign Dignitaries



Elected and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers together with PGMs, DDGGMs and DGLs