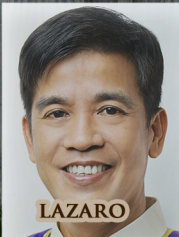




THE *Volume 98, No. 2 - ANCOM 2022 ISSUE* CABLE TOW

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



THE 14 NOMINEES FOR
JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN

Inside this issue...

- 2 TCT Editorial Team 2021-2022
- 3 From the Grand East
- 4 Editorial

Lodge Secretarial 101

- 5 Of Elections, Installation and Reports
by VW Anthony Tan, PDGL (96)

Furthermore

- 13 Fellowships
by Bro Giovanni A. Villegas (202)

Masonry in the time of the Corona Virus

- 17 Age of the Variants
by Bro Giovanni A. Villegas (202)
- 23 Freemasonry and Theosophy
by VW By Vicente R. Hao Chin Jr., PGC, PM

- 28 Grand Oration for the 104th Annual Communication of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines
by VW Julius Thomas A. Esquivias, PGO

Meet the 14 Nominees for Junior Grand Warden

- 32 VW ROMEGILDO B. ALOCELJA, JR.
- 39 VW ALEXANDER M. ANG
- 41 VW ELVIS L. BEDIA

- 46 VW RAUL E. CANON, JR.

On Centerfold

- 48 - 49 MW Rolan C. Paulino is New SBMA Chairman & Administrator
by VW Victorio Verbez G. VIZCOCHO III, PGDL (372), and, WB Victorio Lenin G. VIZCOCHO IV, PGLI (284)

- 54 VW NOMER ABEL P. CANLAS
- 58 VW GERARD A. CEBALLOS
- 63 VW TEODORO KALAW IV
- 78 VW MELANIO V. LAZARO
- 81 VW EMMANUEL R. SACAY
- 83 VW DOUGLAS S. TAN
- 85 VW MAGDALINO Q. GADRINAB
- 89 VW HENRY L. TAN
- 92 VW TRESE D. WENCESLAO
- 94 VW NELSON T. YAU



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FROM *the* GRAND EAST

FOR MERE MORTALS, there is always a beginning and the end. It is part of the grand plan of the Great Architect of the Universe (GAotU).

Thus, soon I shall be stepping down from the exalted position of Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines, probably a new man, honed and seasoned by the experience few are given the opportunity in accordance with His grand design.

It was an arduous journey from the floor to the Grand East, fraught of uncertainties, choices and decisions that could make or unmake a man wanting of better wisdom.

Keeping true to the teachings and lessons of Freemasonry, however, can overcome any challenge that comes our way, and so I now have come to this stage of my Masonic life, happy and fulfilled to have serve my brothers as I should.

Serving as Grand Master during a Pandemic is entirely different from normal or regular times. Movement is restricted, health is compromised, and death lurks all over and just around the corner.

Although humbled by the trust and confidence by suggestions for me to serve another term, I must and I did politely decline as the necessity, to my mind, is not there. Though the conditions may vary, serving is serving, be it during good times or the bad, and I have served as I should, regardless of conditions.

The pandemic is bad. But this very bad situation saw the good in the brotherhood in our ranks prevail, filling in the void in our respected communities, easing the suffering of many in and out of the fraternity, mourning with the victims' relatives despite many among us, ourselves, were victims and have suffered and lost at least a love one or two to the killer virus.

This is life. It's GAotU's will, or else, it shouldn't have happened.

My term ends, but my Masonic life continues. Rest assured, brethren that my presence, support and hard-earned wisdom from the experience of having served from the Grand Oriental Chair will always be with you as long as my mortal body allows.

There is still much to do but we have no shortage of able and willing brethren in line to lead our fraternity. As it was and has been in over a hundred years hence in our beloved country, the future is always a challenge, and the brethren can rise above it all.

Let brotherly love prevail. Peace and harmony be upon each and every brother, their households and communities.

GAotU bless us all!

Fraternally yours,

MW Rolen C. Paulino
Grand Master

LET THE COUNTRY AND THE WORLD HEAL

PLAGUED by afflictions and series of lockdowns due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Masonic activities had to be adjusted and implemented in ways in the past were not thought possible or would be necessary.

But never to buckle down on challenges, the brethren lived up to expectations with the help and guidance of the Great Architect of the Universe (GAOTU).

Many brethren presumed that as in the previous Masonic year's administration, Grand Master Rolén C. Paulino would extend his term for another year. In fact, a Special Communication was called supposedly to vote on an extension of term or otherwise.

However, before any vote can be conducted on the question, MW Paulino already declared that he is not entertaining the idea to serve for another term just to experience being in the Oriental Chair in the

good times as most Grand Masters had.

Being a pandemic Grand Master, like his predecessor MW Agapito S. Suan, MW Paulino had peculiar challenges to hurdle, and hurdle he did with flying colors.

The Cable Tow has not escaped the difficulties brought about by the pandemic, and in consultation with the Grand Master, it was decided to print two issues instead of the customary four, one from April to December 2021 (TCT Vol. 98 2021), the other from January to March 2022 (TCT Vol. 98 2022).

It is an adaptation to the times or prevailing situation, and it is hoped that the brethren will understand, and/or even appreciate.

Hard copies of TCT Vol. 98 2021 have been printed and posted online while TCT Vol. 98 2022 will be posted online with the hard copies to be printed in a week or two later after the Annual Communication (AnCom). Both issues will be sent to the respective Masonic Districts together for distribution to the Blue Lodges via parcel service as soon as ready.

The pandemic, it seems, is almost over and the good times may be just around the corner. Let us hope and pray to the Great Architect of the Universe (GAotU) for the continuing trend, and the healing of our country, and the world. (VVV)

Lodge Secretarial

by V.W. Anthony Tan, PDGL



OF ELECTION, INSTALLATION & REPORTS

“Brethren, we are now about to depart the sacred retreat of friendship and virtue, to again elect our Lodge officers. Amid its concerns and employments, forget not the duties which you have heard so frequently inculcated, and so forcefully recommended in this Lodge. Be diligent, prudent, temperate, and discreet. Remember that, at our altar, you have promised to befriend and relieve every Brother who shall need your assistance. You have been enjoined to remind a Brother in the friendliest manner of his fault, to endeavour to aid his reformation, and to defend his character. These generous principles extend further, for every human being has a claim upon your kind offices. Do good unto all. Finally, my Brethren, be ye all of one mind; live in peace; and may the God of Love and Peace delight to dwell with you and bless you. And now may the blessing of Heaven rest upon us and all regular Masons. May brotherly love prevail, and every moral and social virtue cement us. Amen! So mote it be.”

Quoted from the Washington Monitor and Freemasons Guide, published by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington (Revised 1983)

One of the rights of a Lodge is to elect its Officers.

It is a Landmark of the Order that every Lodge should be governed by a Master and two Wardens; and that the secrecy of its labours should be secured by a Tyler.

It is the inherent right of every Lodge to select its officers for itself which was never

surrendered to the Grand Lodge; and still vested in the Lodges under such regulations as may from time to time be adopted.

The other officers are a creation of the Grand Lodge and may vary in name and function in different countries.

But whatever be the nature of such offices, the power of selecting them is vested in the

Lodges. There is no law which gives the Grand Lodge the power of selecting officers of one of its subordinates.

The Grand Lodge, however, regulates the mode and time and many other circumstances leading to election. This apparent interference had been wisely conceded for strict uniformity in Lodge organization.

One of the most important franchises which the Masonic character offers is THE ELECTION OF MASTER FOR THE ENSUING TWELVE MONTHS. - "The qualifications necessary are, that the candidate should be true and trusty, of good repute, held in high estimation amongst the fraternity, skilled in Masonic knowledge, and moreover a lover of the Craft; he ought to be exemplary in his conduct, courteous in his manner, but, above all, steady and firm in principle."

Unless the Brother who aspires to the Oriental Chair of a Freemason's Lodge can conscientiously feel himself so qualified, he should pause ere he assumes or rather morally usurps it, and by tarrying somewhat, profit by the example of another, by whose conduct he may improve his own unskillfulness, or amend in himself what his observations may have perceived to be defective in his Brother.

The fulfilment of the duties of a Mastership requires much personal inconvenience, and some sacrifice of time. The interests of a lodge, alike with its immediate welfare and ultimate prosperity, depend upon the skill and sagacity of the Master; while the general peace and harmony of its members take their tone from his conciliating courtesy, or suffer from his want of so vital an attribute. Let his actions in the coming Masonic Year be such, that when it terminates, the brethren will feel thankful for his services, and reward him by their approbation.

How different is the effect produced upon Freemasonry by those who merely falter through their official duties, who never show themselves where a personal service is demanded, and, in fact, who, if the charges have ever been read to them, disregard their

importance by a coldness which is alike insulting to decency as to common sense.

Another important duty of the Lodge is the SELECTION OF THE WARDENS - the members of a Lodge exercise their franchise in the election of a Master with a view to serve the interest of the Lodge; and, similarly, the Lodge in its selection of the Wardens ought always to have in view the same interest of the Lodge. They should avoid electing to the offices of Wardens brethren who may not be enabled to qualify for the superior dignity of Master, in order that when the period of election for that office shall approach, the Wardens, by attending carefully to their duties in Lodge and at the public meetings of the Craft, may become so experienced, that the brethren will not feel themselves placed in the difficulty of either wounding the feelings of an otherwise respectable individual by passing him over, or by electing him to an office he is incompetent to sustain - either of these possible cases the Lodge may prevent by timely discretion.

Let us diligently read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the constitutions of the fraternity, remembering that:

"ALL PREFERMENT AMONG MASONS IS GROUNDED UPON REAL WORTH AND PERSONAL MERIT ONLY"

Masonic Laws pertaining to

ELECTION ARTICLE X OFFICERS OF SUBORDINATE LODGES

Sec. 1. The Master, Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, and Auditor of each Lodge shall be elected annually by ballot at the stated meeting in December. A majority of the votes of members present shall be necessary to elect.

Sec. 2. They shall be installed not later than March 31 of each year and hold office until their successors are elected and installed.

Sec. 3. No Master of any Lodge shall be in-

stalled unless he has served as a Warden, and the Grand Lodge Inspector/District Grand Lecturer/District Deputy Grand Master/Junior or Senior Grand Lecturer has certified via writing to the Installing Officer that he is proficient in the work and lectures of the three degrees along with the portions of the Constitution and General Regulations of the Grand Lodge which relate to the government of a Lodge.

Sec. 4. No Senior Warden shall be installed until after he has presented to the Installing Officer the Certificate of Proficiency, signed by the Grand Lodge Inspector/District Grand Lecturer/District Deputy Grand Master, or the Junior/Senior Grand Lecturer, affirming that he has been personally examined by the officer issuing the Certificate and found qualified to give the work and lectures of the First and Second Degrees.

Sec. 5. No Junior Warden shall be installed until after he has presented to the Installing Officer the Certificate of Proficiency signed by the Grand Lodge Inspector or the District Grand Lecturer, certifying that he has been personally examined by the officer issuing the certificate and found qualified to give the work and lecture of the First Degree.

Sec. 6. The Certificates of Proficiency and Certifications of Installation of the above officers shall be sent to the Grand Secretary by the Installing Officer.

Sec. 7. If the elected Master, Senior, or Junior Warden fail to secure the Certification of Proficiency within 60 days, the Secretary shall immediately communicate this fact to the Grand Master and request a dispensation to hold another election on a fixed date.

Sec. 8. If a Lodge fails to hold its election at the specified time, the Secretary shall immediately communicate this fact to the Grand Master and apply a dispensation to hold another election on a fixed date.

Sec. 9. If a vacancy in the position of Master arises attributable to death, absence or

prolonged illness of the incumbent, the Senior Warden shall assume the position. If a vacancy occurs in the position of Senior Warden, the Junior Warden shall assume the position. Either of the positions shall be filled for the unexpired term or until the successor shall have been duly elected, qualified, and installed. In either case, the Secretary shall communicate the fact of vacancy to the Grand Master who may issue a dispensation for the Lodge to hold an election for the said position.

Sec. 10. When a Master or a Warden of a Lodge moves from the jurisdiction of the Lodge but does not resign and does not leave this Grand Jurisdiction, his office cannot be declared vacant by resolution of the Lodge.

Sec. 11. Only members in good standing shall be entitled to vote at an election, and hold office. A plural member may hold an elective office in only one Lodge.

Sec. 12. The Chaplain, Marshal, Senior and Junior Deacons, Senior and Junior Stewards, Almoner, Orator, Lecturer, Organist, and Tyler shall be appointed by the Master-elect and installed at the same time as the elective officers not later than March 31 of the same year.

PART III THE UNIFORM CODE OF BY-LAWS FOR SUBORDINATE LODGES ARTICLE II

Of Elections and Appointments

Sec. 1. The Master, the Senior and Junior Wardens, the Treasurer, the Secretary, and the Auditor shall be elected by ballot on the stated meeting of the Lodge in December. The other officers shall be appointed by the Master, except for the Junior Deacon, who may be appointed by the Senior Warden. Any Master Mason in good standing, whether or not a member of the Lodge, may be appointed by the Tyler.

Sec. 2. No member shall solicit for himself or for other members of any Lodge. Any

elective or appointive office in a Lodge, nor electioneering, canvassing, or soliciting of votes are not allowed. Nominations of candidates for office shall not be made. A violation of this section shall be deemed unmasonic conduct and shall subject the offender to such discipline as the Lodge may determine. This section shall be read by the Master at the stated meetings in October, November, and December of each year.

Secretary's Duties as per Edict 276-MW Rentoy:

To provide a certified list of all the regular members present inside the Lodge that will participate in the balloting of candidate/s, affiliation/s, or election of Lodge Officers, and to make an attestation below the said list, stating that he has verified Tyler's book of the Lodge and the minutes of the previous meetings, and has personally ascertained from other data that all the Brethren listed therein possess all the prescribed qualifications.

To keep and maintain a copy of the certified list of qualified Brethren that will cast ballot upon petitioner/s or affiliation/s, or vote for Lodge Officers to form part of the Lodge record.

To provide the Worshipful Master with a copy of his attested list of qualified Brethren, and personally advise him of the presence of a Brother or Brethren, if any, who do not possess the qualifications as provided under Section 16, Article VI, Part II-Ordinances for his appropriate action.

Another right of a Lodge is to install its officers after being elected.

A Lodge, having been consecrated, dedicated, constituted and its officers installed, assumes at once the ranks and prerogatives of a warranted Lodge.

The first three ceremonies are never repeated, but at every subsequent annual elections, the installation of the officers is renewed.

On these occasions, it is no longer necessary that the Grand Master or his proxy should act as installing officer. This duty is performed by the last Master or by any other Past Master acting in his behalf.

By Warrant of Constitution, the power of installing their successors is given to the officers therein named, and to their successors, so that the prerogative of installation is perpetually vested in the last officers.

This is a right incidental to the grant of perpetual succession contained in the Warrant.

By ancient Masonic law and universal usage, no officer can legally discharge the functions of the office to which he is elected until he has been regularly inducted into it by the ceremony of installation.

It follows that when a grant of a perpetual succession of officers is made, it carries with it the power of investing all succeeding officers with the powers and functions of their predecessors. This investiture is accomplished in our ceremony of Installation.

This power of installation is controlled and directed by certain Grand Lodge regulations which are not in the power of the subordinate Lodges to set aside.

It must take place at a communication immediately before or after the festival of St. John the Evangelist, considered as the commencement of the Masonic Year, and on that day the old officers vacate their seats and are assumed by the new ones.

If by any circumstance the installation has been omitted until after the festival, the law having been violated and there being no other law providing for the installation after that day, the installation can be can only take place by the authority and under Dispensation by the Grand Master.

After election, it is now necessary that the officers chosen should be duly invested with the power to exercise the functions which

have been confided to them. The ceremony by which this investiture is made is called the Installation.

The ceremony of installing the subordinate officers consists simply in the administration of an obligation for the faithful discharge of the duties of the office, with the investment of the appropriate jewel and the delivery of a short charge.

In 1717, the early leaders of the Grand Lodge were men of recent membership in the Craft who had scant knowledge in its history and traditions and an even less seasoning by experience in the Lodge work.

In consequence, they made a number of blunders; one of these was first to belittle and at last ignore the Ceremony of Installation of the Master and Officers of the Lodge.

Older and better-informed Masons began immediately to resent this and to rebel against the innovators.

This resentment became one of the reasons for setting up a New Grand Lodge in 1751; newer in date but older in the Rituals used than the older Grand Lodge of 1717.

They were right; for they knew that no Mason could, in the proper sense of the word, be a Worshipful Master without being installed, and that the ceremony was a Landmark.

It was usual, in case of the absence of one of the officers to be installed, for some other brother to assume his place, and, acting as proxy, to make the usual promises for him, and in his behalf, receive the charge and investiture.

Long and uninterrupted usage would seem alone sufficient to sanction this practice; however objectionable it may be deemed.

This usage derives its authority from the thirty-sixth Regulations of 1721 which prescribes that when the Grand Master-elect is absent from the grand feast (the day of the

installation), the old Grand Master may act as his proxy, perform his duties, and in his name receive the usual homage.

Our Constitution provides, however, that no officer shall be installed by proxy (Art. IV, Sec 2, Letter S)... "...To Install any officer by proxy."

A brother who has been elected to office in a Lodge and installed by proxy cannot serve in the office he was elected.

In the same light, a brother who was elected Senior Warden of a Lodge but was never installed, except by proxy, is not eligible to the office of Master of the Lodge.

It was supposed that a re-elected officer to the same office need not be installed.

This neglect of forms, for an Institution which depends so much on its officers, can be a dangerous tendency. It is, therefore, better for the installation to be repeated. In fact, the omission changes, at least theoretically if not practically, the tenure by which the re-elected officer holds his office for the second year.

At his first election, he was installed. By the law of Freemasonry, an old officer holds on until his successor is installed. If he is his own successor by re-election and does not again pass through the ceremony of installation, it becomes evident that he holds on to the office not by tenure of election but by retention until his successor is installed. He is not, therefore the regularly installed officer for the year having retained the office in trust for his successor.

No officer can resign his office after he has been installed. Every officer is elected for twelve months, and at his installation solemnly promises to perform the duties of that office until the next regular day of election; and hence the Lodge cannot permit him, by a resignation, to violate his obligation of office.

Another rule is that every officer holds on to his office until his successor has been installed. It is the installation, and not the

election, which puts an officer into possession; and the faithful management of the affairs of Masonry requires, that between the election and installation of his successor, the predecessor shall not vacate the office, but continue to discharge its duties.

REQUIREMENTS BEFORE INSTALLATION

As per Article X, Section 3, 4, and 5 of the Ordinances of the Masonic Law Book; No Master-elect shall be installed unless he presents a written certificate to the Installing Officer, signed by the Grand Lodge Inspector/District Grand Lecturer/District Deputy Grand Master/Senior or Junior Grand Lecturer, indicating that he is proficient in the following:

Work and lectures of the three degrees.

In the First and Second Degrees; the case of the Senior Warden-elect.

In the First Degree; the case of the Junior Warden-elect.

d. In the portions of the Constitution and General Regulations of the Grand Lodge which relate to the government of a Lodge.

RULES AND REGULATIONS TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE SUBORDINATE LODGES IN CONDUCTING PUBLIC INSTALLATION

1. Special attention should be given to the preparation of the program. The agenda must not include the reception of the Grand Master or any Masonic Dignitary unless he has accepted the invitation to attend. The program must have the approval of the DDGM, especially, when the Grand Master, or any Grand Lodge officer or Past Grand Officer is involved.

2. The ceremony must start on time as scheduled. The officers and brethren should make every effort to be in the Lodge early enough before the opening of the Lodge. Punctuality and dispatch should characterize the conduct of the ceremony.

3. The officers should be uniformly formal in attire: coat and tie, or Barong Pilipino and black or dark trousers. The members should likewise be in proper attire: Barong Pilipino and dark trousers. Short sleeve shirts or Polo Barong are not proper attire for that auspicious occasion.

4. The regalia, including collars and aprons must be in presentable condition.

5. Care should be taken in the selection of speakers that their remarks be not offensive to any person, class, religion or politics. Whenever the Grand Master is present, he should be the Guest Speaker.

6. The success of a Public Installation depends largely on the Installing officer - his delivery, his diction, his personality. Equally important is the correct floor work as guided by the Master of Ceremonies. Therefore, due attention must be given to these two factors.

7. The officers should be invested with their jewels by either the Installing officer or by the Master of Ceremonies. No Installing Officer will permit any non-Masons to do the investiture.

8. Levity is not proper in any Masonic Lodge hall. The Masonic halls have been consecrated to the Honor and glory of God and dedicated to the purposes of Masonry: Virtue and Universal Benevolence. Therefore, every Masonic Lodge hall is a sacred place, and like the church, it is no place for any kind of levity.

HOW TO GIVE THE SIGN OR BOW

Sign:

In Private Installation, the usual degree sign should be given.

Bow:

a) In Public Installation, when saluting the Master, cross the arms upon the breast; the right hand over the heart, the left arm outermost, hands being open and palms inward, incline the head forward and then make a little bow.

b) In Private or Public Installation, M.C. and Officers installed bow to each other by placing right hand across the body and bow.

HOW TO SALUTE THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER IN DUE AND ANCIENT FORM

a. **Private Installation:** The Master of Ceremonies forms the procession in single file, on the north side of the Lodge, from Senior Warden down to the last officer, followed by the Past Masters and members of the Lodge. Headed first by the Master of Ceremonies, each officer and members of the Lodge will then follow and approach the East, one at a time, and salute the Master by giving the usual signs of the three degrees, successively.

The Master of Ceremonies, depending on the number of members present, may at his discretion, cause the members to salute their Worshipful Master in groups but not more than five at a time. All officers and members return to their seats and remain standing.

b. **Public Installation:** The procedure is the same as in Private Installation, except that each member should cross both arms upon the breast and bows to the Master when saluting him.

IMPORTANT:

Innovation in the work is not allowed. Masonry is no Mason's private property and by the same token no Mason should impose his private notions upon anything pertaining to the adopted work.

This Instruction will no doubt make our Installation Ceremonies more impressive and uniform if correctly followed.

COMMON TERMS RELATED TO ELECTION

Election of Lodge Officers is held at its Stated Meeting in December except this year due to Edict 334- Cancellation of the Annual Election of Lodge Officers sched-

uled in December 2020 and extending the term of office of all incumbent lodge officers until Masonic Year 2021-2022 issued by MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr. 26 October 2020.

ELECTIONEERING – Caucuses, lobbying, making slates or criticism of rivals, and other acts of partisanship generally prevalent in politics are contrary to the principles of Masonry as to subject the offender to a charge of unmasonic conduct.

FORM OF – All elections must be conducted by secret ballot, slips of paper being usually employed for that purpose.

SEPARATE BALLOT – Each officer must be selected by a separate ballot; the majority of the whole number casts are necessary to elect. Majority means more than 1/2 of the members present at a meeting. A fraction shall not be considered in determining the majority. In other words, the majority means to vote plus one.

ELECTIVE POSITION – The Master, the Senior and Junior Wardens, the Treasurer, the Secretary, and the Auditor shall be elected by ballot on the Stated Meeting of the Lodge in December.

ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE – As per Edict 276-MW RENTOY, Section 1, 1.2 (2)

1.2) A VOTE FOR THE ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF SUBORDINATE LODGES

In order to be able to participate in the ELECTION of officers of subordinate Lodges, a Lodge member must possess ALL of the following qualifications:

He must be a member in good standing, i.e., not suspended for non-payment of dues, fees and other assessments payable to the Grand Lodge (Sec. 4.f., Art. XX, Part II-Ordinances, Masonic Law Book); or not suspended for failure to attend at least three Stated Meetings of his Lodge (Sec. 1-g., Art. XI, Part II-Ordinances, Masonic Law Book); or not suspended for other Masonic offenses. He must be a member in good standing not

only in the Lodge conducting the balloting, but in all of the Lodges in which he may be a regular or a plural member of. (Cf. Sec. 7, Art. VI, Part II-Ordinances, Masonic Law Book).

The following exemptions under Edict 276 - A (MW RENTOY) and 276-B (MW RENTOY) shall also apply:

He must have attended an aggregate of at least six Stated Meetings during the year immediately preceding the date of the balloting or election. In determining or counting the number of stated meetings attended, the month when the balloting or election is scheduled shall be excluded; and

He must have passed the proficiency examination for the Third Degree of Masonry.

EDICT 276-C MW SUAN – Further amending the Six Stated Meeting rule to provide credits for attendance outside the Lodge and for other matters issued on 16 January 2020.

SECRETARY (PAST MASTER) - As per Edict 330-MW Suan, effective as of the election of officers of subordinate Lodges in December 2020, only a Past Master can be elected to the position of Lodge Secretary. This is in addition to the other requirements as may be provided under existing Edicts.

AUDITOR (PAST MASTER) – No member can be elected as Auditor unless he is a Past Master. (EDICT No. 165-MW Apotadera)

ABSENTEES – An absentee during election day may be elected to any office in the Lodge provided that he is in good standing. Good standing refers to a member, or a Lodge, who is not suspended for non-payment of dues, fees, and other assessments payable to the Grand Lodge, nor disenfranchised to vote at the annual election of officers, and have not been convicted of any charge for un-masonic conduct.

CHARGES - Charges filed against a broth-

er does not affect his eligibility for office.

FAILURE TO ELECT – Should a Lodge for any reason fail to elect its officers at the prescribed time, no election can be subsequently held without a Dispensation from the DDGM or the Grand Master.

REFUSAL TO ACCEPT – Should an absentee be elected and declines to accept the office to which he has been elected and the regular day of election has passed, a Dispensation should be secured to hold another election.

LIMIT OF OFFICE – A plural member may hold an elective office in only one Lodge.

HONORARY MEMBER- He cannot vote nor hold office.

SERVED AS WARDEN – No Master of any Lodge shall be installed unless he has previously served as Warden.

Sources:

- IMES Lodge Management Manual
- Lodge Secretarial 101, 2005 Edition by VW Lyndel Canda
- Lecture No. 10, Of Election and Installation by VW Antonio C. Zeta and quoted from Mackey's Principles of Masonic Laws, Jurisprudence of Freemasonry and Various Sources
- The Constitution of the MWGLP, Masonic Law Book, 2019 Edition
- Handbook for Lodge Secretaries – The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient F. & A.M. of Colorado, March 2009

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FURTHERMORE

MASONRY BEYOND THE CRAFT

Giovanni A. Villegas

FELLOWSHIPS

AFTER A LODGE MEETING, Masons are already free to go home. But most of them still find time to get together afterwards to partake in an informal meal or drinks colloquially referred to as a "Fellowship."

The word "fellowship" is synonymous with "companionship." It is defined as a friendly association or gathering of people who mutually share common interests, activities, and experiences. In the context of local Masonic customs, the word came to refer to any occasion or assembly involving the fostering of camaraderie between and among Masons – whether a formal banquet, a casual dinner, or some after-hours drinks. It is, however, more commonly used to refer to the refreshment that follows a lodge meeting.

Many Masons in the Philippines have had their first lodge experience in the *Fellowship* that came after the official meetings. When they were still petitioners for membership and not yet entitled entry inside the lodge, the *Fellowship* was the perfect opportunity for them to mingle with the lodge members. Such also gave the lodge members the opportunity to get to know their petitioners – to bond with them, exchange stories with them, share food and drinks, and basically just have fun under a warm and friendly atmosphere.

In other Masonic jurisdictions, the *Fellowship* meal or *Banquet* forms part and parcel of the lodge meeting, complete with formal ceremonial toasts. Such lodge meeting could never be considered over until the last toast is drunk. Modern Freemasonry itself was supposedly borne out of a drinking tavern – the *Goose and Gridiron Ale-House* in London – thus explaining the retention of such a custom to this day, calling it a *Festive Board*.

Festive Boards

Fellowships, as we have come to be familiar with in our Masonic jurisdiction, differ slightly from *Festive Boards*. As mentioned above, the *Festive Board* of other jurisdictions is still part of the lodge meeting itself, while our *Fellowship* is not.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, refreshments in English lodges were done during the sessions of the lodge and in the lodge room. Rigid rules existed for their government and for the regulation of the forms in which they should be partaken. This system, however, had long grown obsolete, yet part of the tradition still exists in today's *Banquets* or *Festive Boards*.

The *Festive Board* is actually the formal dinner of the lodge. It may be conducted while the lodge is called from labor to refreshment, or after the lodge has been closed. In some occasions,



a *Festive Board* may also be held on a night when no lodge has been opened. In such case, it may be held outside the premises of the lodge such as in a private dining room of a local restaurant or hotel, or even in someone's home.

Different jurisdictions also have different names for these post-lodge and extra-lodge banquets. For instance, in *Lodge Perla del Oriente No. 1034* – the only Scottish Constitution lodge that exists in the Philippines and therefore of a different Masonic jurisdiction from that of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines – the dinner that follows their monthly meetings is called a *Harmony*. There they altogether share in a common banquet and conduct ceremonial toasts in between in specific order. Such is concluded only after the *Tyler's Toast* has been proposed and recited.

In Singapore, there are lodges of English, Irish, and Scottish Constitutions, and each call their respective banquets differently. The English call them a *Festive Board*; the Irish call them *Refreshment Board*; and the Scottish call them a *Harmony*. These are all formal dinners with toasts. Gavels are used to control the proceedings, and decorum is always observed as they are still part of the lodge meeting. Sometimes, if the occasion is a black-tie event, usually following the *Installation of office bearers*, the term *Banquet* is



used, especially if ladies and non-Masons are in attendance. The term *Fellowship* or *Afterboard* is also sometimes used, but primarily for informal occasions outside the lodge or after the formal dinner, where there are no formal toasts and no gavels are used. *Fellowship* is also a term used in the US, although recent rulings from most of their Grand Lodges forbade drinking alcoholic beverages within lodge buildings or inside the premises.

In some lodges in Australia, *The South* is the term used to refer to their *Fellowships* or *Festive Boards*. In France and in other lodges of French origin all over the world, the term *Agape* is used. The Greek word “*agape*,” in Scripture, refers to the highest form of love and, as such, Church fathers have used term to designate both a rite – using bread and wine – and a meal of *fellowship* to which the poor were invited, it being in imitation of the gatherings attended by Jesus and his disciples. It was even believed to be a form of the *Last Supper* and the *Eucharist*. Masonic *Agapes*, thus adopt the same principle of a shared banquet among brethren. And then there is also another form of lodge feast called a *Loge de Table*, or a *Table Lodge*.

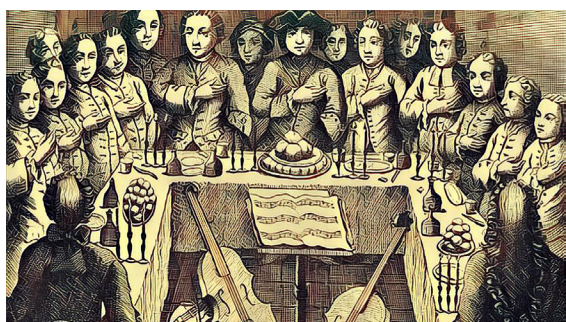


Table Lodges

A *Table Lodge*, sometimes called *Dinner Lodge*, has a few similarities with a *Festive Board*. For instance, the Master and Wardens preside over both; a meal is served; and the members and other visiting Masons are seated around a large U-shaped table with the Master at the head.

However, a *Table Lodge* differs from that ancient custom of it being a post-lodge repast. Whereas a *Festive Board* is conducted after the labors

of a lodge have been completed, and therefore “at refreshment” during its continuance, a *Table Lodge*, on the other hand, is a lodge in itself “at labor” on one of the three degrees of Masonry, commonly on the first. It is conducted in a room or place where it is authorized to meet and members are required to wear their aprons and regalia. There is also a charter displayed and that a Tyler is posted outside the door to ensure that only Masons should be in attendance. In fact, the designated waiters should likewise be Masons, preferably those who have only so far taken the first degree. There are 7 toasts, called *Santes d’Obligation* or *Toasts of Obligation*, proposed in specific sequence as prescribed by the ritual. Sometimes, the articles on the table, such as plates and knives, take on different names as *working tools*. A Masonic speaker is almost always invited to deliver a speech or Masonic education, thus becoming one of the central objectives of the *Table Lodge*.

To dispel any confusion, a *Table Lodge* is not a separately chartered type of lodge that is given its own name and number by the Grand Lodge. It is actually the form of the meeting – like a *Lodge of Remembrance* or a *Lodge of Instruction* – that any chartered lodge may choose to assume at any time, given the dispensation to do so by the Grand Lodge.

Some Masonic rites and orders make use of *Table Lodge*– or Agape-like elements in their rituals and ceremonies – such as in the *Adonhiramite Rite*, the *Allied Masonic Degrees*, the *Lodge of Perfection*, and the *Chapter of Rose Croix* whose annual Feast Day is conducted with libations and the breaking of bread around a table, using strict ritual protocols.

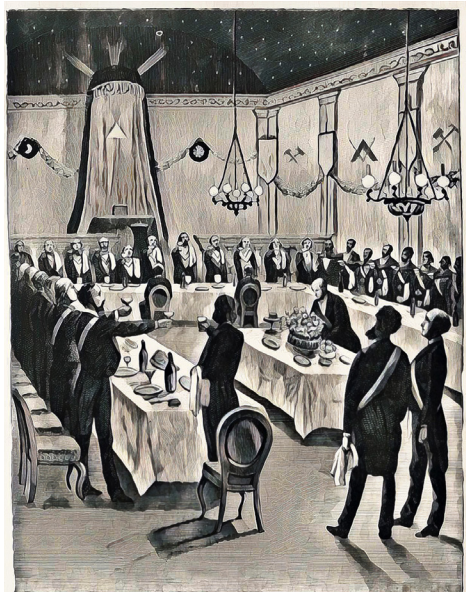
And then there are some Masonic jurisdictions that have used the term *Table Lodge* a little loosely – mostly to refer to any of the informal banquets they organize that happen to have ceremonial toasts. Often, they would charge admission through ticket sales for the purpose of raising funds. Such kinds of so-called “*Table Lodges*” have no ritual, no official opening and closing of Masonic labors, and are in no way as strict in decorum as traditional *Table Lodges*. Their goal is merely to drink and have fun. They are far removed from English *Festive Boards* and have little or no resemblance to a

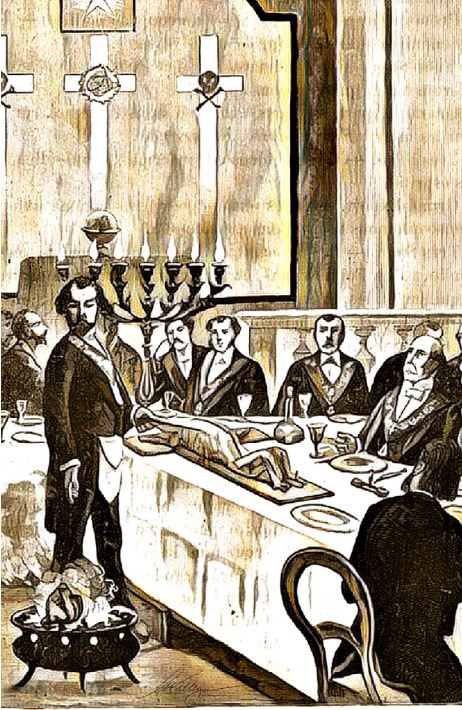
Scottish *Harmony*. Sans the ceremonial toasts, they do, however, have many of the characteristics of the *Fellowship* we have come to know in the Philippines.

“Knife-and-Fork Degree”

A *Fellowship* is supposed to be a good thing. It fosters friendship, creates lasting bonds, and offers a few moments of respite from daily routine. There, a Mason can relax and recharge his spirit in order to return to the world stronger and refreshed. Sometimes, it can be a place of repose from troubles, grief, or other negative emotions, enabling the mind to refocus back to tranquility and clarity of thought. Such are perhaps the reasons why a Mason always looks forward to a *Fellowship* – so that he could be with fellow Masons who have become close friends, and whom he knows will support him through whatever hardships he may be experiencing. It is a powerful and rejuvenating feeling that eventually gives him the ability, the confidence, and the determination to go on and function in the outside world despite difficulties. He then feels strong, safe, and secure, and eventually becomes happy.

There are those, however, who seemed to have forgotten this noble and benevolent intent, and have become what some may call “*Fellowship*”





Masons” – those who rarely or no longer attend lodge meetings and just show up during *Fellowships*, seemingly in order to take advantage of the hospitality of free food and drinks. It is for this reason that a derogatory term was even used to describe their penchant – the “*knife-and-fork degree*.” A popular limerick of the same name was even written to seemingly mock their disdain of doing or learning lodge works yet surely and almost always are present for the feasts. As many Masons find their knife-and-fork brethren inequitable, exploitative, and even unworthy, they nonetheless still welcome them with open arms, as the concept of *Fellowship* entails that hospitality towards all brothers is the measure of a good lodge culture.

At any rate, we have to be careful not use the term *knife-and-fork degree* as an insult or in a derogatory manner, for there are some places that actually use the term to casually refer to their *Fellowship* right before the start of their lodge meeting. They actually came up with the term to honor those Masons who volunteer to cook and feed their brethren.

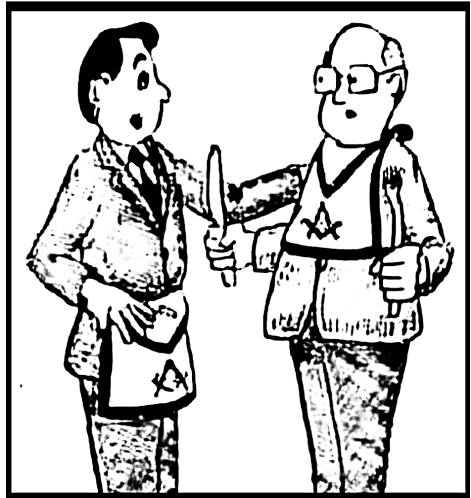
A Masonic Heritage

Whatever form it takes, and whatever name we have chosen to call it – whether *Fellowship*, *Festive Board*, *Table Lodge*, etc. – the sharing of

meals and drinks is part of our Masonic tradition and history. It has always been a central part of Freemasonry.

The first Grand Feast held at the *Goose and Gridiron Ale-House* in London, supposedly in 1717 when the Modern Grand Lodge was born, was followed every year during the feast days of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, complete with dining, drinking, smoking, and singing. Surviving lodge minutes from the 18th century even recorded how much alcohol was consumed, revealing large alcohol bills and reprimands for intoxication. There were also an array of toast lists and Masonic songs at the time, paving the creation of an eclectic mix of ritual and feasting. Dining, feasting, and drinking, therefore, became integral elements in the fostering of Masonic bonds among Masons.

Today, let us enjoin our early brethren and be one with them whenever we attend our *Fellowship* sessions. Let us remember that we observe this Masonic custom, not to get drunk or to take advantage of the free food, but rather to build lasting friendships amongst each other under the spirit of camaraderie and sharing. This is our heritage, and we must never defile it by attributing it to a false perception of Freemasonry.



DON'T GET ME WRONG, BROTHER I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE. JUST TRY NOT TO BE SO OBVIOUS AS TO WHY YOU ARE HERE.

MASONRY IN THE TIME OF THE CORONAVIRUS AGE OF THE VARIANTS

By Bro. Giovanni A. Villegas (202)

IN FEBRUARY OF 2003, AN OUTBREAK emerged in China involving what we now call Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome or SARS. Though it spread to four other countries, the contagion was quickly contained. The virus responsible for the disease was a Coronavirus called SARS-COV. Sixteen years later, China again saw the emergence of another Coronavirus strain – SARS-COV2 – only this time, containment had failed, and the entire world quickly fell victim to a global pandemic, calling the new disease COVID-19.

Masonic activities were suspended during the first few months of the pandemic. As the number of daily infections rose and subsided erratically in every country, Masonic meetings were likewise resumed, only to be suspended again and again. During those times, however, people have already learned to live with the disease – learning how to avoid it, how to survive it, and how to accept it.

It has been more than a year now

since the beginning of the pandemic. We have come a long way from quarantines and *social distancing*. In the article, “*COVID: The countries that nailed it and what we can learn from them,*” a sort of survival guide was pieced together – gleaned from the successes of other countries, such as efficiency in carrying out vaccinations. However, as we have all generally learned to adapt, so too did the disease. COVID-19 kept evolving into new and more contagious variants – testing the limits of humanity’s adaptability to the changing landscape where COVID-19 always lurks like a hunter and we the prey.

Variants versus Vaccines

The year 2021 and the early part of 2022 can easily be considered as the age of the COVID variants – developing into lethal vaccine-resistant mutations.

Reaction to the new threat varies from country to country. Taipei, for instance, had strict lockdowns, and everyone stayed at home without complaint. That is because their general public could still afford to do so. Third world nations like India and the Philippines, however, do not have such luxury, as the typical household needed to work daily in order to survive. On the other hand, even developed countries like Japan had strict lockdowns, yet still experienced running out of hospital beds and ventilators due to the influx of COVID patients.²

As some COVID variants become vaccine-resistant, vaccine hesitancy among certain individuals remains high. Many wanted



to wait another year for their job in order to see if there would be any major side effect experienced by those who already had theirs. Many are saying that they are the “*new guinea pigs*” for yet untested vaccines. Despite these, the worldwide COVID vaccination drive – a task unparalleled in human history – continues, and has been proven to reduce the number of severe COVID cases the world over. In a report by the Washington Post, it was found that Coronavirus infections dropped in places where people are vaccinated, and rising in places where they are not. It was also found that States with lower vaccination had significantly higher hospitalization rates. A report in Forbes also confirmed that 99% of people killed by COVID-19 were unvaccinated.³

As the world struggles to reach herd immunity, it becomes more and more likely that COVID won't be over until it is all over the world. That may or may not necessary be a good thing, especially when *anti-vaxxers* may have a point with regards to the safety and efficacy of certain vaccine brands. In Indonesia, for instance, *breakthrough infections* occurred as hundreds of doctors and health workers still fell ill to COVID-19 despite being administered with the Sinovac vaccine. The WHO thus urged fully vaccinated people to continue wearing facemasks in public places. Ironically, in the US, the CDC said that fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear facemasks.

Masonry's attempt to reopen

Sometime in May 2021, the Grand Lodge of France issued a statement regarding the people arrested by French authorities in a thwarted attack on a Masonic lodge in eastern Moselle. This happened amidst the ongoing pandemic in the region. In other countries, slight improvement occurred ever so often that Masonic activities were attempted to be resumed. For instance, the Grand Lodge of Scotland and the heads of the different Masonic orders announced a phased return to Masonic meetings on June 9, 2021, after the easing on their local lockdowns. In the US, the annual meeting of Texas AMD was held, consisting of 88 attendees, constituting one of the largest Masonic gatherings at the time since 2020. Here in Philippines, mandatory Rapid Diagnostic Tests were required for lodges already allowed

to conduct face-to-face stated meetings.⁴ There were unfortunate reports, however, that in one local lodge which opened its labor for degree works, infection occurred among the members who attended, hinting of a possible local transmission of one of the most virulent and dangerous variants seen so far.

The Delta Variant

By July 2021, as the world surpassed a total of more than 4 million recorded deaths, the WHO sounded the alarm for the rapid spread of the Delta variant (B.1.617.2, also called the India variant) to more than 100 countries,⁵ eventually becoming the most dominant variant. In the UK, the Delta variant had accounted for over 90% of reported cases. It is so *hypertransmissible*, much like chicken pox, that one does not need long exposure to the virus to get infected, as in the case of other variants. It was reported that, with Delta, even a person passing by an infected person could get infected.

Delta was also reported to produce more severe symptoms, posing a grave threat to nations with low vaccination rates, thus forcing many of them to impose back their lockdowns and restrictions. Indonesia already reported more daily cases than hard-hit India, making it the new epicenter for the pandemic in Asia.

Amidst rising COVID cases that threatened the scheduled Olympic games in Japan, the country approved the Ronapreve antibody treatment for mild to moderate COVID-19 cases. Those with more severe symptoms were the unvaccinated. As found in most other cases around the world, the pandemic had just become “*the pandemic of the unvaccinated.*”

Beware the Conspiracy Theorists

On July 5, 2021, Bro. Michael Poll posted on social media that, for the past two weeks, he knew six people diagnosed with COVID-19, one of whom was in the hospital and not doing well. He said, “*None of them wore mask; none of them were vaccinated; and none of them believed COVID was real.*”⁶

There seems to be a proliferation of *anti-vaxxers* and *anti-maskers* especially in the US, attributed in large part to partisan politics, fake news, and conspiracy-infused mentally



against pharmaceutical companies and medical establishments. For instance, there was a *meme* circulating around the Internet claiming that the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) does not recommend facemasks. Such is not true and a blatant misuse of its article. The NEJM later posted a clarification that there is indeed something called the *Great Reset Theory* that used false vaccine claims. According to said baseless theory, a group of world leaders orchestrated the pandemic to take control of the global economy. The conspiracy theory had its origins in a genuine plan entitled “*The Great Reset*,” drawn up by the World Economic Forum (WEF) and explored how countries might recover from the economic damage caused by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Facemasks and vaccines have quickly become symbols of repression even in other countries. Those who have chosen not to have them do so under the banner of individual freedom and choice. In the US, a question is now asked: Do American values of liberty of choice take precedence and priority over public health? For many, the answer is clear, and both sides stand firm on their opposing answers. Thus, the *antivax* and *antimask* advocates who happened to fall ill due to COVID-19 still remained adamant that they did not have the disease, with some even taking their denial all the way to the ICU and to their graves. What’s worse is that their refusal to wear facemasks in public puts other

people at risk. There isn’t any other time in history where such a collective self-deception threatens the health of the entire world. One doctor even remarked that he couldn’t believe he would see the time when vaccines are ridiculed.

Crisis in the Time of Delta

Philippine healthcare workers started feeling burned out yet again. Ironically, many of them have yet to receive benefits from the Department of Health (DOH). The Department recently came under scrutiny by the Commission on Audit, and PhilHealth itself faced corruption scandals, giving many hospitals a hard time collecting much needed payments. Because of these, local nurses are already considering mass resignation. It is under this economic and political landscape when Delta came crashing at our doors.

According to the Octa Research Group – an independent Philippine research initiative – a “*go early go hard*” lockdown strategy was needed. Studies have shown that hard lockdowns implemented early when cases are still low and still on the rise tend to be shorter and less costly for the economy.

On August 6, 2021, the Grand Lodge of the Philippines (GLP) again suspended all Masonic activities in the jurisdiction.⁷ Local community alert levels have likewise been raised.

The local FDA, at this time, announced that less than 1% of vaccinated people got COVID infections, proving that vaccines actually work. The problem is that majority of the population have yet to be vaccinated. As Delta became the dominant variant in the Philippines, and alert levels continued to be ignored, the number of new cases per day soared to record highs every few days. On August 20, 2021, the same day the government decided to ease quarantine restrictions, the country recorded its highest number of daily cases since the beginning of the pandemic, reaching 17,231 in a single day. That record was broken three days later with 18,332 new cases; again in August 28 with 19,441 new cases; in August 30 with 22,366 new cases, in September 6 with 22,415 new cases, in September 9 with 22,820 new cases, and in September 11 with 26,303 new cases.

During this time, horror stories abound of how friends and family members could not find hospitals anymore to accommodate them. The surge created shortages in rooms, oxygen tanks, and tocilizumab – a drug used for severe COVID patients. Again, the Masons stepped up and looked after each other, sending each other much needed relief as more and more of their ranks fell victim to the Delta variant. Some have exhibited mild symptoms – thanks to vaccines. The efficacy of vaccines in preventing severe cases was reiterated by the CDC when it reported that unvaccinated people are 17 times more likely to be hospitalized. That probably explains why more children were hospitalized during this period.

There were also warnings of something called “Long COVID” – a phenomenon when infected patients develop long term problems after recovering, including chronic fatigue syndrome and constant shortness of breath.

Meanwhile, other COVID variants have started being reported. These include the Theta variant (P.3, also called Philippine variant), the Mu variant (B.1.621, also called the Columbia variant), and the Lambda variant (C.37, also called Peru variant). Both Mu and Lambda have initially been feared by virology experts to be vaccine-resistant. Researchers have also identified a new variant in South Africa called C.1.2. All these are additions to the previous variants Alpha (B.1.1.7, also called the UK variant), Beta (B.1.351, also called the South

Africa 2020 variant), Gamma (P.1, also called the Brazil variant), and the aggressive Delta.

On October 9, 2021, the Philippine Commissioner on Human Rights, Bro. Jose Luis Martin “Chito” Gascon, succumbed to COVID-19.

Hope Amidst the Crisis

In early September 2021, the Philippine government changed its community quarantine strategy. Instead of lowering the quarantine levels for entire regions and cities, it instead implemented curfews and *granular lockdowns* in smaller select places, sparing the rest of the greater regions that have lower community transmissions, thus enabling commerce to resume. It eventually proved effective as COVID cases started to drop dramatically in the following weeks, enabling further relaxing of quarantine measures. Those with “*pandemic fatigue*” were given a window of opportunity to go out and enjoy the outdoors with their families.

Back in June, Bloomberg reported that the Philippines ranked second to the last in a COVID resilience ranking among 53 countries. In late September, it followed up with an article claiming that the country was the worst place to be during the pandemic due to the “*perfect storm*” that combined the Delta surge with inadequate mass testing.⁸ Things took a turn for the better



in the country, however, as COVID cases began to drop – whether due to herd immunity or to the effective implementation of the local *granular lockdown* strategy.

Good things started to happen in other countries as well. A new drug called Molnupiravir showed promising results on COVID patients. Lodge Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076 – the world’s premier Lodge of Research – reconvened in early September after a 17-month hiatus. Lodge Scoon & Perth No. 3 of the Grand Lodge of Scotland carried out health and safety risk assessments in late October to allow safe reopening after 18 months of lockdown. The United Grand Lodge of Victoria was able to conduct meetings face-to-face, even delivering special eulogies to Past Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines who passed away during the year.

Here in the Philippines, the Grand Lodge already issued the provisions on the resumption of lodge stated meetings, degree works, election of officers, and other activities in places already permitted to conduct face-to-face gatherings⁹, however obliged to abide by the health and safety protocols such as wearing of facemasks, presentation of vaccine cards, and mandatory testing.

Other Masonic news may not be as hopeful. For instance, the Masonic Service Association (MSA) of North America published a data revealing that, for the first since the 19th century, the number of regular Masons in the US dropped to less than 900,000. MW Michael Duane Smith – the Past Grand Master who was unjustly expelled for conducting Zoom meetings for Masons in South Carolina early this year (but eventually restored) – succumbed to the ravages of COVID-19. Such negative news, however, only fueled further the Masons’ dire need to hope.

The Omicron Variant

During the first week of December 2021, local hospitals in the Philippines have started reporting zero COVID-19 cases, for the first time in months. Just as things started to get better, a new COVID-19 *variant of concern* was again detected in South Africa, allegedly having the capacity to elude testing and to resist vaccines, prompting travel bans in many



countries. It is called the Omicron variant (B.1.1.529). Senior scientists described it as the worst variant they had seen since the start of the pandemic, as it makes it harder for immune cells to protect against it.¹⁰ It is also about 2 to 4 times more contagious than Delta. Such immune evasion and enhanced transmissibility could easily make Omicron the new pandemic.

In the days that followed, Omicron easily became the dominant variant in many countries. Indeed, it is an extraordinarily contagious variant – the most contagious by far – with cases doubling in just 1.5 to 3 days. By December 19, 2021, the world hit a new record of 6.51 million+ reported cases in a single week.¹¹ Yet, the number of severe cases did not increase as proportionally. A lab study in South Africa later speculated that Omicron might actually help defend against Delta and could displace it out of existence.¹²

During the last week of December 2021, COVID cases reached record high in the US and globally over a 7-day period. The WHO even remarked that Omicron is leading a “tsunami” of cases worldwide. Surprisingly, on December 21, 2021, the Philippines reported its lowest number of cases in months, at only 168 cases in a single day – possibly because Omicron has yet to rear its head in the country.

By the end of the year 2021, the Philippines recorded a total of 2,843,979 cases and 51,504 deaths, while global records already reached 288.7+ million cases and 5.4+

million deaths.¹³ With Omicron's remarkable speed, these figures are expected to grow exponentially in the coming months. Octa Research forecasted that Omicron will indeed surpass the peak of Delta in the coming days of the New Year. True enough, on January 8, 2022, the Philippines again recorded its highest number of daily cases since the beginning of the pandemic, reaching 26,458 in a single day, 92% of which, however are mild. That record was broken the following day with 28,707 new cases; again the next day with 33,169 new cases; in January 13 with 34,012 new cases; in January 14 with 37,207 new cases; and in January 15 with 39,004 new cases.

Elsewhere, the US set the global daily record of over 1-million new COVID cases on January 4, 2022 – nearly double compared to four days prior. Global cases are likewise surging to levels higher than at any previous point of the pandemic, with an average of nearly 1.5-million new cases a day. It appeared, however, that people infected with Omicron are less likely to be hospitalized than those infected with Delta. Some are even saying that Omicron somehow acts like a “*natural vaccine*.”

Could Omicron be the beginning of the end of the Coronavirus pandemic? Experts are beginning to say that Omicron could accelerate the pandemic's transition towards becoming an endemic disease that the world can manage more easily and learn to live with. We can only hope that they are right.

Entering the Third Year of the Pandemic

As the New Year arrived, the Freemasons' Hall of the Grand Lodge of Ireland was raged by fire due to a suspected arson attack. A few days later, *antivax* graffiti was found on the pavement just outside the Grand Lodge of Ireland in Dublin. Grand Secretary Philip Daley commented that one probable reason for the arson was the erroneous belief of some conspiracy theorists that Masons created COVID-19; that they are “*part of the new world order and have to be stopped*.”¹⁴ Priceless books and paintings have suffered smoke damage, but a plan is already in place to protect and restore them.

Similarly, a few days later in Zanesville, Ohio, a Masonic Temple was engulfed in flames. Although the 100-year old edifice was

completely destroyed, and everything inside was lost to the fire, there is still hope for what lies below. A time capsule was buried there before, under the cornerstone of the building, and an attempt to recover it is underway.¹⁵ It is still unknown if the cause of the fire was arson and if it was motivated by *antivax* and *antimask* sentiments.

One thing is for sure: people are already getting restless and have already resorted to blaming. The Masons became an easy target among conspiracy theorists, along with governments and pharmaceutical companies. It remains to be seen what the future holds for a world already turning on itself.

Notes:

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3. Jemima McEvoy, “99 percent of people killed by COVID last month were unvaccinated, analysis finds,” *Forbes* (Forbes Media LLC, June 24, 2021).
4. Rolan Paulino, *Circular No. 7: “Mandatory COVID-19 Rapid Diagnostic Testing”* (Grand Lodge of the Philippines, June 9, 2021).
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6. Michael Poll's Facebook post, dated July 5, 2021, accessed July 30, 2021, www.facebook.com/10159730756089515.
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8. “Why the Philippines Became the Worst Place to Be in Covid,” *Bloomberg* (Bloomberg LP, Sept. 29, 2021), www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-09-29/why-the-philippines-just-became-the-worst-place-to-be-in-covid.
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FREEMASONRY AND THEOSOPHY

By Vicente R. Hao Chin Jr., PGC, PM, 33°

Masons who begin to study the inner meaning of Freemasonry inevitably encounter theosophy. The word “theosophy” is extensively found in classic works of Freemasonry, such as Albert Mackey’s Encyclopedia of Freemasonry, where the author defined theosophists as people “who supposed that they were possessed of a knowledge of the Divinity and His works by supernatural inspiration, or who regarded the foundation of their mystical tenets as resting on a sort of divine intuition.” (Mackey 1916). In the entry on the “Philosophic Degrees” of the Scottish Rite, he wrote:

All the Degrees of the ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite above the Eighteenth and below the Thirty-third are called Philosophic Degrees, because, abandoning the symbolism based on the Temple, they seek to develop a system of pure theosophy. (Albert Mackey, Encyclopedia of Freemasonry, “Philosophic Degrees”)

Some Masonic degrees have been called “theosophic,” such as the “Theosophic Apprentice” which was the first degree of the Swedenborgian Rite. In 1767, a Masonic Rite called Rite of Pernetty with nine degrees was introduced in London by a group of Masons called Illuminated Theosophists.

In Albert Pike’s magnum opus, *Morals and Dogma*, the author referred to Masonry as the “successor of the Mysteries” of Ancient Greece; he also states that “Masonry is identical with the Mysteries . . . [but] that it presents but an imperfect image of their brilliancy.” The Mysteries were the sacred institutions of the ancient times that prepared its initiates.

Pike wrote: "The Mysteries embraced the three great doctrines of Ancient Theosophy. They treated of God, Man and Nature."

What is Theosophy?

Theosophy is a body of wisdom based on the insights and realizations of the great sages of humanity about human life and nature, for which reason it is sometimes referred to as the Ageless Wisdom or the Perennial Philosophy. Such a wisdom has been called by other names, such as the Mysteries, Brahmagyda and the Gnosis in the ancient times, and Freemasonry, Hermeticism and Theosophy in later periods. This wisdom is at the heart of all the great religions, even if it appears to contradict the outer tenets or practices of such religions.

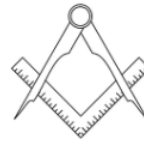
The Ageless Wisdom has been at times openly taught, and at other times secretly transmitted, depending upon the political, cultural and religious milieu. When exoteric religions become powerful and oppressive, the Ageless Wisdom is temporarily suppressed. When genuine freedom of thought prevails in society, then the Wisdom surfaces.

Freemasonry was formed at a time when the religious, political and cultural climates were intolerant and oppressive in Europe. This compelled Freemasonry to be secretive and symbolic. The Scientific Revolution that started in the 16th century and the Age of Enlightenment of the 18th century transformed the culture of the western world, allowing Freemasonry to come out in the open and become known to the world. However, its teachings and its mode of transmission were still secret and symbolic, resulting in an institution that often became unsure of the true inner meaning of its symbolisms, rituals and allegories.

Towards the last quarter of the 19th century, a group of sages decided to launch a worldwide movement that would reintroduce the tenets of the Ageless Wisdom in a more explicit manner. This was the Theosophical Society that was founded in 1875. The wisdom became known under Theosophy, although the name has been used since the fifth century of our era. Its teachings resonated with the principles gleaned in Freemasonry; but what is more important is

that it used symbols parallel to those of Masonry.

Parallel Emblems



Freemasonry's most basic symbol is the Square and the Compasses. The emblem of the Theosophical Society contains the six-pointed star consisting of two interlaced triangles.

The meanings of these two symbols are similar. The lower square is identical with the lower triangle, which represents the lower personality of a human being. The compass is identical with the higher triangle, which represents the inner individuality — reason, moral intuition, and spirit.

The interpretation and significance of these two symbols are also strikingly similar. In Freemasonry, the compasses are intended to "circumscribe our desires and keep our passions within due bounds." Albert Pike wrote:

"The COMPASS, therefore, as the Symbol of the Heavens, represents the spiritual, intellectual, and moral portion of this double nature of Humanity; and the SQUARE, as the Symbol of the Earth, its material, sensual, and baser portion." (Morals and Dogma, p. 851)

Thus he gives a definition which he considers as "the truest and most significant" among the definitions of Masonry:

"FREEMASONRY is the subjugation of the Human that is in man by the Divine; the Conquest of the Appetites and Passions by the Moral Sense and the Reason; a continual effort, struggle, and warfare of the Spiritual against the Material and Sensual" (Morals and Dogma, p. 854)

This definition is identical with the distinction in theosophy between the Higher Self and the Lower Self, or between the immortal Individuality and the moral Personality.

H. P. Blavatsky, the primary co-founder of the Theosophical Society, wrote:

“The essence of Theosophy is the perfect harmonizing of the divine with the human in man, the adjustment of his god-like qualities and aspirations, and their sway over the terrestrial or animal passions in him. Kindness, absence of every ill feeling or selfishness, charity, good-will to all beings, and perfect justice to others as to one's self, are its chief features. He who teaches Theosophy preaches the gospel of good-will; and the converse of this is true also he who preaches the gospel of good-will, teaches Theosophy. [Blavatsky Collected Writings, I, 244-5]

This Higher Self consists of the Spirit, the Spiritual Soul, and the Higher Mind — a triad, whereas the lower self is composed of the Lower Mind, the Desire Body and the Physical Body. In answer to the question “And what may be the duty of a Theosophist to himself?” Blavatsky gave the reply:

“To control and conquer, through the Higher, the lower self. To purify himself inwardly and morally; to fear no one, and naught, save the tribunal of his own conscience.” (Key to Theosophy, p. 137)

We thus see the similarity in the central goals of the Freemasonic and the Theosophic life: the subjugation of the lower self by the higher nature. All other efforts are subsidiary or supportive of this core objective. The role of the higher nature is all-important, without it there is no Masonic and Theosophic life.

Parallel Teachings

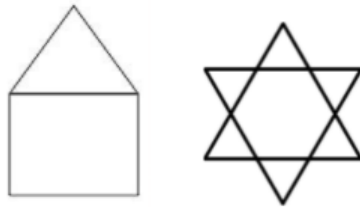
The parallelism between Masonry and Theosophy doesn't stop with their main emblems. Their core teachings are remarkably similar.

For example, a basic tenet in Theosophy is the constitution of a human being composed of principles or bodies found in the different levels of consciousness or planes of reality.

Below is a popular theosophical classification of these human principles (there are other classifications with slight variations):

1. True Self (Atma)
2. Spiritual Soul (Buddhi)
3. Higher Mind (Arupa Manas)
4. Lower Mind (Rupa Manas)
5. Desire (Kama)
6. Etheric Double (Linga Sarira)
7. Physical Body (Sthula Sarira)

The sixth and the seventh belong to the physical world, and hence are sometimes treated as one principle with two major divisions. The third and fourth are also both mental, hence one principle, but with a critical division between its higher and lower portions. The higher mind belongs to the higher self consisting of a triad, while the lower mind belongs to the lower self or personality, which is at times symbolized by a triangle (three parts) and at times as a square (four parts). These principles are thus symbolized in two ways:



In Freemasonry, we find these human principles symbolized by the officers of the lodge, and square and compasses, and the apron.

A classic book on the inner significance of Freemasonry is *The Meaning of Masonry* by Walter Wilmshurst, an English Mason, published in 1922. Wilmshurst draws the following table:

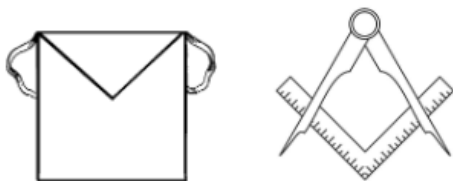
The seven Officers typify the following seven-fold parts of the human mechanism:

- W.M. [Worshipful Master] - Spirit (Pneuma).
- S.W. [Senior Warden]. - Soul (Psyche).
- J.W. [Junior Warden]. - Mind (Nous, Intellect).
- S.D. [Senior Deacon]. - The link between Spirit and Soul.
- J.D. [Junior Deacon]. - The link between Soul and Mind.
- I.G. [Inner Guard]. - The inner sense-nature (astral).
- O.G. [Outer Guard]. - The outer sense-nature (physical)

English Masonry has an Inner Guard and an Outer Guard, whereas American Masonry has only one Tyler, the Inner Guard being equivalent to the Marshall.

While there are notable differences between the classification of Wilmshurst and that of Theosophical literature, one will see the unmistakable identity of the core ideas of the two systems. The lodge and its officers are symbolic of the human constitution, consisting of six, or alternatively, seven, principles. Like the writings in Theosophy, Masonry also symbolizes these through the apron and the Square and Compasses:

Freemasonry, like Theosophy, gives supreme importance to the awakening of the higher triad of human consciousness. Thus, when none of the first three officers (W.M, S.W., and J.W.) are present, then no Masonic lodge can be opened, symbolizing the fact that true Masonic life and work can only happen when one is engaged in higher mental or spiritual activity.



Universal Brotherhood

Another example of the parallelism in their teachings is Universal Brotherhood. Masonry was one of the earliest organizations that espoused human unity of without distinction race, nationality or religion. This was a radical departure from the centuries-old stance of the Catholic Church that intolerance was a virtue, that is, it was a virtue not to be tolerant of non-Christian religions because they were supposed to be in error. “Outside the Church there is no salvation” was a basic tenet of the Catholic Church (although it does not hold this view anymore today). Masonry had the boldness to declare that unity of mankind was more important than theological differences.

How about the discrimination against women? It did not admit women due to cultural reasons (women were not active in civic movements in the 17th or 18th century) but it created parallel organizations for women and daughters. Today, however, there are Masonic organizations that initiate women among their ranks.

The Theosophical Society’s first objective is “To form a nucleus of the Universal Brotherhood of Humanity without distinction of creed, sex, race, caste or color.” It is a recognition of the unity of mankind regardless of cultural, religious or biological differences. They are more compassionate and humanistic than theology-centered.

The Mystical Quest

Masonry speaks of the Lost Word, and that Masons are only able to use a substitute word to represent that Word. This term “Word” is an English translation of the Greek word “Logos,” which represents Divinity, and not just a word that can be spelled or found in a dictionary. This is the meaning in the Gospel of John and when it starts with “In the beginning was the Word,” which is a translation of the gospel in original Greek, “In the beginning was the Logos.”

The highest aim of Masonry is a mystical one — the finding of the Lost Word or the lost divinity or Logos within a human being.

This is also the aim in Theosophy: the realization of the highest divinity in us, the Atma. The term Logos is similarly used in Theosophy but in two senses — the cosmic sense and the human sense. In the universe, Logos represents the highest divinity in its three phases: the unmanifested state (first Logos), the transition stage (second Logos), and the manifested state (the third Logos). On the human level, the Logos is the divinity present in human beings, the Spirit or the Atman.

The Mystical Death

An important prerequisite in the attainment of the mystical goal is through the death of the ego or the lower self (equivalent to the lower square), composed of the three levels: the body, the desires and the lower mind. In the thirds egret ritual, these are the three ruffians who murdered Hiram Abiff. They must lose their dominance through purification and by becoming the passive instrument of the higher self or Compasses. The ego must therefore undergo a mystical death. Wilmshurst expresses it thus:

The path of true initiation into fullness of life

by way of a figurative death to one's lower self is the path called in the Scriptures the narrow way, of which it is also said that few there be who find it. . . .

The death to which Masonry alludes, using the analogy of bodily death and under the veil of a reference to it, is that death-in-life to a man's own lower self which St. Paul referred to when he protested "I die daily." . . .

This necessity of self-dying – not, we repeat, the physical death of the body but a mystical death-in-life of everything except the body – is the first and fundamental fact to be grasped before one may hope to realize or even to understand the mystery of the Royal Arch Degree. "Mors janua vitae"; death to self is the portal to true life. There is no other way. It is the unescapable law and condition of the soul's progress. (The Meaning of Masonry)

Theosophy and all the mystical traditions in the world affirm the same thing. Referring to the lower self as the personality, the theosophical classic *Light on the Path* states:

But not till the whole personality of the man is dissolved and melted—not until it is held by the divine fragment which has created it, as a mere subject for grave experiment and experience—not until the whole nature has yielded and become subject unto its higher Self, can the bloom open.

The Quest for Perfection

The above tenets shared by Masonry and Theosophy lead to a common goal: the attainment of human perfection. Albert Pike, one of the greatest Masons who ever lived, wrote:

The Mason must first attain a solid conviction, founded upon reason, that he hath within him a spiritual nature, a soul that is not to die when the body is dissolved, but is to continue to exist and to advance toward perfection through all the ages of eternity. . . . (Morals and Dogma, 855)

Step by step men must advance toward Perfection; and each Masonic Degree is meant to be one of those steps. Each is a development of a particular duty. (Morals and Dogma, 136)

Theosophy has always assumed that the goal of human life is perfection, that is, the attainment of the highest potential of a human being. Having attained the summit, such beings

are called Mahatmas, Adepts, or Masters of the Wisdom. The Theosophical Society itself was founded by two such Mahatmas in 1875, through their two pupils, Helena Blavatsky and Henry Steel Olcott.

Summary

Freemasonry and Theosophy are two modern expressions of the Ageless Wisdom. The former uses veiled symbolisms and allegories, the latter is more direct and explicit in its teachings. The two systems parallel each other in their core tenets, such as the following:

The crucial distinction between the higher and the lower self, symbolized by the square and compasses in Masonry and the six-pointed star in Theosophy.

The aim of the Masonic life is the conquest of the lower by the higher self, a principle that is similarly central among the duties of theosophists.

The levels of human consciousness enumerated in theosophical literature are symbolized by the officers of the Masonic lodge who are active during the opening and closing of the lodge.

Both Masonry and Theosophy are mystical quests. Masonry symbolizes the goal as finding the Lost Word or the Divine Logos, whereas in Theosophy it is the realization of the Divine Principle in man which is the Atman.

The prerequisite of such realization in both traditions is mystical death or the death of the lower self or ego.

The aim of both Masonry and Theosophy, like the ancient Mystery Schools, is human perfection, the attainment of the highest potential of a human being.

Due to the explicit nature of theosophical explanations, the Masonic student will find that familiarity with Theosophy is a highly useful aid in understanding the symbolisms of Masonry. Supplemented by a study of the mystical tenets and practices of various mystical traditions, the symbols and rituals of Masonry will become clearer.

Grand Oration for the 104th Annual Communication of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines VW Julius Thomas A. Esquivias, Grand Orator MY 2019 -2021

Most Worshipful Bro. Agapito S. Suan Jr., Grand Master of all Philippine Freemasons, Most Worshipful Past Grand Masters, Right Worshipful sirs, Very Worshipful Sirs, Worshipful Sirs, Brethren, friends of masons, good morning. It is with great honor and pleasure that I share with you this Grand Oration,

“Brotherly Love Knows No Crisis”.

Our country and its citizens are grizzled veterans when it comes to natural calamities. Every now and then, we experience typhoons, floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, droughts, and other misfortunes. But like the proverbial bamboo, we bend with each mighty blow, collect ourselves, rise up, and stand tall to face life after each tragedy has passed.

However strong we’ve been throughout the years, no change has felt so catastrophic and all-encompassing as the great pandemic that is currently running its course throughout the world. Covid-19 arrived at our doorsteps and brought with it a silent, massive, and deadly virus so unlike any disaster we have faced before. The world’s drive for commerce and consumption has been curbed, as industries and economies have stalled and faltered. Machineries were stopped, schools were closed, places of

worship were shut down, and businesses all over the world were effectively shuttered.

In just over a year, the world we are living in suddenly seems unrecognizable. All the gains and achievements we have worked so hard for within our personal sphere; whether in our professions or jobs, in our masonic works, and all those unfinished businesses we thought were so very crucial then, now do not seem to matter as much. Suddenly, there are no schedules to meet, no deadlines to beat, or appointments to be made. In the face of a real and present danger to life, we’ve come to realize that what matters most, is to survive. Thus, for the most part, we have all been forced to retreat to the safety and protection of our homes.

Freemasonry has withstood all great challenges in its centuries of existence. It has seen calamities, devastations, and wars, and has survived. It has suffered persecution from hands of men in the most powerful positions, and yet, prevailed. But in the face of Covid-19, it had to close its doors for months on end, as well as abandon many age-old and esoteric traditions and rituals; at least, for the time being. No more handshakes, hearty embraces of friendship, or partaking in large gatherings and fellowships; and the prevailing new normal can now be summed up in one phrase – “avoiding people”. This is complete anathema to masonry, but a sad necessity which we have had to accept for the sake of our loved ones.

This terrible virus has brought forth an undeniable truth- that in the toilsome progress of humanity, nothing is more important than the welfare, safety, and protection of our family. As Freemasons, we are taught that the concept of our “family” extends to our brethren in the Craft, as well as to our countrymen. As heads of our individual families, we act to protect and defend our homes. As masons, we look outward to render relief to those in need. In a sincere, albeit morbid

sense, the pandemic reinforced a basic principle of Freemasonry—brotherly love among men—and this principle continues to exhort us to “aid, assist, and support” one another.

For all intents and purposes, Covid-19 has done what climate change, calamities, wars, famine, and disease, have not. It made all the citizens of the world reflect on our mortality. It does not matter whether we are rich or poor, whether we were young or old, or from what country we come from, because this silent and deadly enemy, hits indiscriminately.

Our country is currently going through a tough crisis. The virus has undertaken different mutations and is now infecting tens of thousands of citizens every day. As many of the country’s hospitals are full, and our healthcare system continues to struggle, our government continues to look to the private sector and socio-civic organizations for help.

From the very beginning, one of the first groups to step forward and volunteer were masons from all over the Philippines. Even before formal calls for assistance were made, brethren from different districts set up their own initiatives to supplement governmental efforts. It did not matter that many of our lodges were closed. Through our internal networks, we were the first to know of hospitals lacking in provisions, and we rushed to provide the supplies they needed. Knowing what things are crucial, many lodges initiated fundraisers to procure Personal Protective Equipment such as face shields, face masks, gloves, medical suits, and devices. In their respective communities, masons set up feeding programs for people who lost their livelihood; built triage tents, provided health-worker dormitories, and transported medical workers to their frontline areas, among many other initiatives.

We do not know the true extent of these masonic charitable activities, because the brethren invariably provide help in

their own quiet and unassuming ways. There is little fanfare, no loud placards, or advertisements – and usually, a simple square and compass emblem suffices as their muted calling card.

There are many brothers who willingly serve in the frontlines. We have brothers who work as doctors, nurses, technicians and such -- brothers who bravely attend to the infected no matter the great risk of direct personal exposure to the virus. (some of whom, sadly, have already succumbed to it).

There are masons elected as political leaders who oversee the quarantine measures to keep our citizens safe. There are masons in the police, military and in other uniformed services, who go out in the field to enforce the rules but who cannot themselves go home to their families for fear of infecting them. There are brothers who work in various essential utility services who keep our water flowing, our power supply running, those who ensure the steady flow of food supplies, and those who keep us fed.

These are among the many silent brethren who toil in their own ways to help fight the pandemic, yet people do not know them as masons. We ourselves may not personally know these good-hearted masons in our midst, but in the intricate system of the fraternity, we know them to be of our kind.

For the rest of us, now is not the time to rest on our laurels. We should not look back to how much we have already contributed. Instead, we should continue to look forward to how much more we can do. I submit to you brethren; that where the demand for help is too staggering, masons should not simply cower in the safety and comfort of their homes and do nothing. If we cannot physically go out there, our charity should nevertheless reach those in need.

It is through words and concrete actions that brethren from all over the country

can continue to show that Charity & Humility, truly are the Foundations of a True Mason. Through them, Masonic values of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth will act as beacons to the rest of the country, that even during our darkest times, men of good character and morality will always step forward when needed.

At one point in our masonic journey, we came across the ultimate lesson about the significance of Charity and Love in our Craft. Part of the perambulation in the conferral of the Second Degree, were the words:

“...Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly.

Seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”

After reading these lines in 1Corinthian from the lens of the many stories of sacrifice and acts of heroism we have witnessed, we can clearly see why Charity and Love are deemed interchangeable in this masonic context.

Moving forward, we understand why people are angry and terrified of this terrible illness. Ironically, Covid-19 also brought about a change within us. This worldwide disaster made us more aware of our humanity. We are forced to reflect

on our vulnerability as a species, and how dependent we are of one another. We've come to realize that earth really doesn't have borders and that ultimately, our lives are interconnected.

As we reflect on the days that have gone by, we have learned to appreciate the safety of our homes, the value of time, the importance of family, the purity of generosity, the significance of human touch, and all the blessings we have in our lives.

Lest we forget, one of the most important ways of extending our compassion is by giving comfort and consolation to our bereaved brethren. No less than our MW Grand Master displayed this act of kindness when he initiated and maintained the Dr. Gregorio Macasaet fund in order to aid and assist the widows and orphans of our fallen brethren.

That in itself, speaks of the Masonic Love that we aspire to share with one another.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once asked, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'"

For hundreds of years, Masons have always been able to answer similar questions in earnest. We practice Masonic Charity by extending our cable tows.

Here lies the greatness of our Fraternity: Masons help not because we are obligated to; we do so because we can.

With this, I thank each one of you for your time and patience. May the Great Architect of the Universe continue to protect and bless us all.



MEET THE 14 NOMINEES FOR JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN





VW ROMEGILDO B. ALOCELJA, JR.
Junior Grand Warden Nominee

VW ROMEGILDO B. ALOCELJA, JR.

*“A Peacemaker, a Legal Luminary, an Advocate, a Public Servant,
a Boy Scout, a Rotarian, a Master Mason”*

Leadership Philosophy.

“Every person must, in the exercise of his rights and in the performance of his duties, act with justice, give everyone his due and observe honesty and good faith.”

As masonry has been founded upon the principal tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, master masons must aspire not for fame, nor for eternal renown. He must however do the possible that which is within his power, that which is most necessary. The craft must not be used to decorate one's ego but instead be likened with a stone that is not scattered in the fields but a part of the masonic edifice.

Vision and Mission

With all the challenges confronting the fraternity, masonry withstood the test of time.

Master masons, in harmony with nature, should be one to whom the burdened heart may pour out its sorrows, one to whom distressed shall prefer its suit, one whose hand is guided by justice, and one whose heart is expanded by benevolence.

Guiding Principles/Core Values

JGW Nominee shall be guided by these principles.

1. Competence, Independence, Probity and Integrity
2. Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth
3. Love, Faith, and Hope

All within the ambit, and under the core values, of ***Makadiyos, Makatao, Makalikasan at Makabansa.***

Leadership Journey

The journey to a thousand miles always begins with a single step.

Being the seventh sibling of eight, JGW Nominee, even in his early days, had seen how difficult life would be. To meet the requisites of living, he managed to somehow cross the line of poverty, at 6 years old, he started as a market **jamboler, a pandesal boy, a news boy, a shine boy, an ice drop seller then an electrician and a kargador**. He entered his college days as an academic scholar and humbly graduated, both his pre law course and Bachelor of Laws with flying colors. He took and passed the 1995 Bar Examinations and went into the practice of law by establishing his law firm on 1996.

After more than five years in the practice of law, he entered, by stroke of fate, into the government service sometime on December 2002 to date. Herein-below is his personal and professional history, viz.

Personal profile

Age : 52
Date of Birth : April 3, 1970
Place of Birth : Carmen, North Cotabato
Civil Status : Married (Separated-in-Fact)
Gender : Male
Height : 1.67 m
Weight : 73kgs.
Mobile No : 09163546994
Religion : UCCP
Citizenship : Filipino
Mother's Name : Aurora Blancaver Balico (deceased)
Father's Name : Romegildo Catague Alocelja, Sr. (deceased)

Educational background

- In the year 1983, JGW Nominee finished his elementary education at Kidapawan Pilot Elementary School with honors;
- In the year 1987, he was able to graduate with honors at Kidapawan National High School;
- Thereafter, he took up Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in the University of Mindanao, Davao City and graduated as a silver medalist.
- In the year 1990, he took up Bachelor of Laws from the University of Mindanao and finished it in the year 1994 and a recipient an Academic Excellence Award;
- To upgrade his educational capabilities, he took up a Master's Degree in Public Administration at Mindanao State University on 2013;
- On 2017, he was also the recipient of *Ph.D.Honoris Causa* in Public Administration major in Good Governance;
- And on 2020, he was a recipient of a scholarship program in the Master in Public Safety Administration (MPSA) at the Philippine Public Safety College

here he was a recipient of the Jose Rizal Academic Excellence Award and 2nd Best in Policy Paper Award.

Work Experiences

Right after his graduation in law course in 1994, JGW nominee started as a teacher in an educational institution. Upon becoming a lawyer, he established a reputable law firm on 1996 catering the needs of the community, particularly the farmers, the poor and the needy. He became a known pro-bono lawyer for the less fortunate people of North Cotabato. He entered the government service sometime on 2002 and was designated as the Chief of the Legal Affairs Division, PNP Regional Internal Affairs Service 12. In 2009, in addition to his present designation, he was further designated as the Acting Regional Director the Philippine National Police, Regional Internal Affairs Service 12 (PNP RIAS 12). On 2019 however, he was re-assigned in RIAS 11, Davao City and on 2020, as the Acting Regional Director for PNP RIAS Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (BAR). Today, he was already reassigned with PNP RIAS 12 and performing duties in accordance with the permanent appointment attested to by the Civil Service Commission.

Relationship with the Brethren, i.e. Superiors and Subordinates; Workload and Time Management; Strategies on utilization of Available Resources; and Delegation of Task, organization of group ideas, management of people and resources.

In his masonic intercourse with the brethren of the craft, nominee is always guided by the rules on human relations. To be a lion with a loving heart, to act as fair as it could be and always looking at the matter at hand as positive as it should be, are always his yard stick. He has to always re-assess his position so that, in all honesty and good faith, he could give everyone his due.

On workload and time management, nominee always see to it that the goods are delivered on time and that each day of service is as fruitful as it should be. Remedial steps are forthwith taken to address matters confronting the day-to-day concerns.

On the utilization of available resources, it is always his view that same must be maximized, so that, and as long as the resources could still be used, the use and tear of these tools must always be properly upgraded to achieve more with less.

The brethren are the backbone and the work horse of every fraternity/organization. As such, their rights and privileges have to be properly defined. The exercise of power must likewise be canalized within banks so that justice in its rational and objectively secular conception be at least approximated and be accordingly shared for the common good.

Extra and Co-Curricular Activities

As a leader, the life of the nominee does not necessarily mean to be confined in the four corners of the office. His professional affiliations enhanced his leadership skills, for these made him interact with different persona and character and helped him understand more the value of effective communication and unity. He is inclined to realistically do what is good for good men to be better, if not the best.

Moreover, the teachings of freemasonry on brotherly love, relief and truth, the light of charity, faith and hope and the cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance, fortified his personality and skills.

To quote some of his affiliations, are as follows:

- Past President, Integrated Bar of the Philippines, North Cotabato Chapter; 2009-2011;
- Former Member of the Board, Integrated Bar of the Philippines, North Cotabato Chapter; 2001 to 2009, 20011 to 2015;
- Luminary, PNP Regional Training School XII General Santos City/Davao City, 2005 - present
- Former Professor (Criminal Law) Sultan Kudarat State University College of Law, Tacurong City; 2007 to 2016;
- Reviewer for Criminology Licensure Examination (Criminal Jurisprudence) Criminology Review Center, Kidapawan City, 2007 - present
- Board Member, Boy Scout of the Philippines North Cotabato Council; 2015 - present
- Member of the Rotary Club Kidapawan East, District 3870, 2000 - present; Past Assistant Governor, Rotary Intl., Zone 3, District 3870
- Member, Kidapawan Lodge # 170, F & A, having been raised as a Master Mason on 2008, elected JW on 2010, SW on 2011, Worshipful Master on 2012, Grand Lodge Inspector on 2013, District Grand Lecturer on 2014 and District Deputy Grand Master on 2016;
- Member, Aguila Shriners Intl. 2010; President, North Cotabato Shriners Club 2019 -2021; Executive Aide to the Potentate, Aguila Shriners Intl. 2019 – present;
- Member, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Cotabato Bodies (MRS);
- Chairman, Advisory Council, BA Sabulao Order of De Molay #43, 2012 - present,
- Member, Supreme Council Order of De Molay;
- Senior Partner/Consultant at Alocelja Law Office and Associates, Kidapawan City; 1996 - present

Awards and Commendations

In all humility, undersigned have been a recipient of various awards and commendations, some of which are as follows:

- A recipient of Award of excellence as Outstanding Regional Director for the Year 2010 by the PNP INTERNAL AFFAIRS SERVICE, Camp Crame, Quezon City;

- A recipient of Award of excellence as Outstanding Regional Director for the Year 2012 by the PNP INTERNAL AFFAIRS SERVICE, Camp Crame, Quezon City;
- A recipient of a Special Award for excellence for the Year 2013 by the PNP INTERNAL AFFAIRS SERVICE, Camp Crame, Quezon City;
- A recipient of Award of excellence as Outstanding Regional Director for the Year 2014 by the PNP INTERNAL AFFAIRS SERVICE, Camp Crame, Quezon City;
- A recipient of Award of excellence as Outstanding Regional Director for the Year 2016 by the PNP INTERNAL AFFAIRS SERVICE, Camp Crame, Quezon City;
- A recipient Ph.D. Honoris Causa and Asia Pacific Excellence Award in the year 2017;
- A recipient of the Jose Rizal Academic Excellence Award and Best Policy Paper Award (Silver) in the Master in Public Safety Administration (MPSA), Public Safety College

Reflection on own leadership Style

The JGW Nominee believes that every master mason has the power to do, achieve and be something different beyond what we can imagine. It may sound amazing that as time unfolds the human potential, every day is always a new day for learning.

While the journey towards understanding to its fullness how a mason could be an effective leader may take decades, yet, it is fulfilling to be learning it every day, for nothing is constant in this world bit change. As long as, the master masons are guided by the **three C's**, the **Chance**, the **Choice** and the **Change**, nothing is impossible to be able to share the goodness and guiding principles of masonry not only to the members but for the society.

Personally, it must commence with one's masonic educational journey as a person. Learning brings along uncertainties but self-perseverance, resilience and determination to paddle one's own canoe shall and made him who he shall be today.

As we are taught to treat everyone on the level, the leadership style of the undersigned nominee is described to be with humility, justice, respect for fellow master masons and as always in accordance with what is right aligned with honesty and good faith. In addressing the problems confronting the fraternity, it is always made to be a point that well done is always better than well said. Thus, remedially, and in all humility, problems are addressed with candor noting that, when there is harmony, every problem has its solution.

Without setting aside the rule of law and principal tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, JGW Nominee considers the practicality, necessity and beneficality as the guiding principles in reaching a decision on delicate and critical matters. We should always be confronted with the questions, viz;

1. Is it practical?
2. Is it necessary?
3. Is it beneficial?

Moreover, each problem is likewise approached noting the "DAPAT" rule as Define the problem; Approach the problem as defined; Participate in solving the problem; Act now; and Time frame.

On strength and weaknesses

Admittedly, and as shown, master masons may have its ups and downs. Courage, Humility, Integrity and independence, the knowledge to identify them and the Serenity to utilize them are among the strengths to consider. On the other hand, it is humbly admitted that as a master mason, we, too have our own weaknesses but aptly manage them in such a way that the weaknesses should not overcome the strength. It is being seen to it that in every decision, ***the spirit must be given life and not the letter that killeth.***

On future plans for the fraternity

"Masonically educating the mind without the heart is no masonry at all."

As masonry evolves, the challenges it confronts in the changing fortunes of time must be addressed with objectivity. It has to survive as it survive for centuries. Let the foundation of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, the light of Charity, Faith and Hope and the cardinal virtues of Fortitude, Prudence, Justice and Temperance be the fortress in effectively putting into action the working tools of our craft to transform good men better.

On future programs for the fraternity

In effectively guarding the west gate, the foundation of masonry must be appropriately revisited. Focus must be given towards masonic education ***before, during and after*** one good man becomes a master mason.

In like manner, the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies as well as the continuing masonic education must be maintained.

Romegildo B. Alocejja, Jr.



VW ALEXANDER M. ANG

Junior Grand Warden Nominee

VW ALEXANDER M. ANG

Personal Data

Nationality : Filipino

Birthday : August 9, 1954

Religion : Roman Catholic

Spoken Language : English, Chinese, Filipino

Married to: Celia Valerio Ang

Children:

1. Tiffany V. Ang married to Marco Antonio Ongchi

Grand Children:

1. Mason Alexandre Ongchi

2. Lucas Alexandre Ongchi

3. Luna Cassandra Ongchi

2. Alexander V. Ang II married to Maria Margaret Thatcher Langit

Grand Child:

1. Alexander Ang III

Business

- ALCEL Construction
- Alex Construction and Supply
- CVA Agrifarms

Education

- Primary - Alaminos Central School in 1961 – 1967
- Secondary - Devine Word Academy of Daguapan in 1967-1971
- Tertiary - Bachelor of Science in Electronics and Communication Engineering in 1971-1976 at the University of Sto. Tomas

Masonic Affiliation

- Member: Hundred Island Lodge #201 Masonic District R1-Pangasinan
- Initiated: August 17, 1996
- Passed: November 16, 1996
- Raised: January 18, 1997
- Appointed Secretary: 1998
- Elected worshipful Master: 1999-2000 & 2008-2009
- Appointed DGL: 2001-2002 Masonic District R1-Pangasinan
- Appointed Acting DDGM: 2001-2002 Masonic District R1-Pangasinan
- Appointed DDGM: 2011-2012 Masonic District R1-Pangasinan

Other Membership and Affiliation

- President – Western Pangasinan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in 2015-2016
- Regional Governor Region I (Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry) in 2017-2021
- President – Hundred Islands Lions Club in 1990-1992
- District Governor- District 301-C Lions Clubs International in 2015-2016
- Vice President and Member of the Board of Directors – Alaminos Doctors Hospital
- Vice President – Pangasinan Contractors Association
- President – Hundred Islands Practical Shooting Association
- President – Pangasinan Teblong Scuba Divers Association



VW ELVIS L. BEDIA

Junior Grand Warden Nominee

VW ELVIS L. BEDIA

ELVIS L. BEDIA MD, MBA, PhD

- Diplomate- Philippine Board of Surgery
- Fellow- Philippine College of Surgeon
- Charter Fellow- Philippine Society of General Surgeons
- Fellow – Philippine Association of Endoscopic and Laparoscopic Surgeons
- Fellow- American College of Surgeon
- Commander- Aero Medical Support Phil Coast Guard Auxiliary

Known to be an achiever in the medical profession, a mason and a doctorpreneur, I have encountered various situations and have met people that have influenced my views in the practice of medicine and hospital management. The present pandemic has challenged me to do further. I have seen patients, a number of them were fraternal brothers or their relatives, who suffered much due to Covid -19. Many times, while in the Covid ward, I have uttered to myself "that I will aid and assist all distressed worthy brother Master Masons, their widows and orphans, whithersoever dispersed, so far as I can do so, without serious injury to myself and Family". Known for having treated the first patient to survive Covid -19, our hospital became the center for covid disease treatment and because of this, many patients who came to us have to be transferred to other hospitals due to unavailability of rooms. The dilemma of observing my obligation was crucial in my decision making whether to prioritize admitting a brother mason or other patients not known to me.

Covid-19 has claimed many lives of my colleagues and some of them were fraternal brothers. Notwithstanding the risks, I have led the frontline warriors to face the challenge of this pandemic. This is selfless and our entire hospital organization did work best under selfless leadership. In the midst of this crisis, I have

found great opportunity to lead and serve. As such, I wish to work on the following in the Grand Lodge of the Philippines:

HEALTH

Consolidation and inventory of masons in terms of their work/profession. This is to facilitate referral to various members when assistance is needed, specially during emergency. Accreditation of all masonic lodges and its members to various hospitals to avail much needed medical attendance and ambulance services.

Establishment of Masonic Homes with recreations for the senior masons. This is to create a masonic environment for those masons who are physically limited to attend regular stated meetings.

Modification of Medical financial assistance based on the severity of illness. Various illnesses entails cost according to treatment protocols. Medical subsidy will be based on the Case rate proportionate to the available funds.

Establishment of Virtual Medical Clinic at The Grand Lodge for Tele- consult and various medical inquiry

EDUCATION

Strengthening of Masonic Education through recruitment/workshops of additional good lecturers in IMES. Hybrid platforms may be used, with good internet services, to cut costs such as travel expenses, etc.

Scholarship grant to deserving orphans of masons. This is to assure a better future to children of our departed brethren.

Strengthening of Masonic Library by establishing scheduled virtual Masonic Education. Archiving of documents and images will be implemented specially for those lodges without their own temples.

Continuity of Leadership Training and Organizational Planning.

Strategic planning/ leadership seminars

Each lodge will identify the strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Action plans are based on converting the weaknesses and threats to Strength and opportunities.

Formulation and submission of the proposed annual activities, with corresponding budgets and post implementation evaluation to determine effectivity of projects

Strengthening of relationship with the community by having 50% of the project to be community based

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT:

- Elementary / Binan Elementary School / 1968-1974
- Secondary School / Lake Shore Educational Institution / 1974-1978
- College
- BS. Biology / University of Santo Tomas / 1978-1982
- BS. Nursing / Perpetual Help College of Laguna / 2002-2003
- Postgraduate
- Doctor of Medicine / Perpetual Help College of Medicine / 1983-1987
- Postgraduate Medical Intern / Perpetual Help Medical Center / 1987-1988
- Residency in Surgery / Perpetual Help Medical Center / 1989-1994
- Master in Business Administration / UP-HDJGTMC Binan / 2014- 2016
- PhD in Business Management / UPH-DJGTMC Binan / 2016-2019
- Master in Public Administration / Laguna College of Business and Arts / 2019-present

EXAMINATION TAKEN AND PASSED:

- Philippine Board of Medicine
- Philippine Board of Surgery
- Philippine Nursing Licensure Examination
- National Council Licensing Examination – Sacramento, California USA

HOSPITAL AND UNIVERSITY AFFILIATION:

- University of Perpetual Help Medical DJGTMC - July 1994 – present
- Calamba Doctors Hospital - July 1994 - present
- Sta. Rosa Community Hospital - July 1994 – June 1997 & June 2004 – present
- Sta. Rosa Hospital and Medical Center - April 2008 – present
- Tagaytay Hospital and Medical Center - May 2010 – present
- Unihealth Southwoods Hospital and Medical Center - June 2016- present
- University of Perpetual Help Medical JGTMU - July 1994 – present
- Binan Doctors Hospital - July 1994 to present

KEY HOSPITAL POSITIONS HELD:

- Chief of Hospital / Ospital ng Binan / April 2004- June 2007
- Sta Rosa Hospital and Medical Center
- Hospital Administrator / April 2008 – Mar 2010
- Medical Director / April 2010 – Mar 2011, April 2013 - Mar 2014 & April 2016 – Mar 2017
- President and CEO / April 2006 - Mar 2007 & April 2014 – Mar 2015
- Chairman of the Board / April 2015 – Mar 2016
- Management Consultant / 2017 - present
- Unihealth Southwoods Hosp and Medical Center
- Medical Director / June 2015 - June 2016
- Hospital Admin / June 2020 - June 2021
- President and CEO / 2013, 2017, 2019, present
- Chairman of the Board / 2014
- Management Consultant / 2016, 2018

- Sta. Rosa Community Hospital
- Chairman / 1994-1997
- Department of Surgery / 2015
- Perpetual Help Medical Center
- Overall Training Officer / 1997-2001 / Department of Surgery Consortium
- St. James Hospital
- Active Staff / Department of Surgery / 1994 – 2004
- Asian Hospital and Medical Center
- Medical Staff / Department of Surgery / 2006-2008
- Tagaytay Hospital and Medical Center
- Chairman / Department of Surgery / 2010-2012
- Sta. Rosa Community Hospital / Chairman / Department of Surgery / July 1994- 1997
- Global Medical Center of Laguna / Chairman of the Board / 2015
- Christ the King Unihealth Las Pinas Hospital / Management Consultant / 2020 to present

ACADEMIC POSITION:

- Assistant Professor / Department of Surgery / University of Perpetual Help DJGTMC / June 1994- present

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP:

FOUNDER

- Sta. Rosa Hospital and Medical Center in Sta. Rosa City, Laguna
- Tagaytay Hospital and Medical Center in Tagaytay City, Tagaytay
- Unihealth Valenzuela Hosp Inc. in Mc Arthur Avenue Valenzuela City
- Unihealth Southwoods Hosp and Medical Center in Ecocentrum, Brgy San Francisco, Binan Laguna
- Global Hospital of Laguna in Brgy Banlic, Cabuyao Laguna
- Unihealth Paranaque Hosp and Medical Center in Sucat Road, Paranaque City
- Christ the King – Unihealth Las Pinas

Hospital and Medical Center in Las Pinas City

- Unihealth Quezon Hospital and Medical Center in Tayabas Quezon
- Unihealth Joint Venture Corps in Binan City, Laguna
- Unimed Vitacare Hospital and Medical Center in Daang Hari Bacoor, Cavite
- Unihealth Batangas Hospital and Medical Center in Batangas City, Batangas
- Unihealth Palawan Hospital and Medical Center in Coron, Palawan

MEMBERSHIP AND POSITION IN ORGANIZATIONS:

- Diplomate – Philippine Board of Surgery
- Fellow - Philippine College of Surgeons
- Fellow - Philippine Society of General Surgeons
- Fellow - Philippine Association of Laparoscopic and Endoscopic Surgeons
- Fellow - American College of Surgeons
- League of Binan Leader - member / 1999
- Binan Medical Society
- President / 1999-2000
- Vice President / 1998-1999
- Laguna Medical Society
- Vice President / 2001-2002
- Editor in Chief LMS Newsletter / 2000-2002
- Auditor / 2000-2001
- Philippine College of Surgeon - Southern Tagalog Chapter
- Governor / 2008-2009
- Chapter President / 2005-2006
- Vice President / 2004-2005
- Secretary / 2003-2004
- Board of Director/ 2000-2003
- Chairman -Research Committee / 2001-2002
- Philippine Society of Gen. Surgeon- Southern Tagalog Chapter
- Governor - 2002-2003
- President - 2006-2007
- Vice President - 2005-2006
- Secretary/ Treasurer - 2004-2005
- Board of Director - 2002-2003
- Philippine College of Surgeons - Committee Membership
- Committee on External Affairs / 2008-2010

- Committee on Finance 2012,2014,2016
- Committee on Patient Safety 2015
- Los Maduros Club of Binan
- Maagap Sorteo Eagles Club- Philippines Eagles
- Charter Member – Board of Director / 2020
- Aeromedical Air Services Support Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary M a y 2021
- Head of Unit with Rank of Commander (Lt. Col)
- / University of Perpetual Help Laguna / December 5, 2016
- Master of the Knife for Exemplary Surgeons / Philippine College of Surgeons STC / January 10, 2016
- University of Perpetual Help Jonelta Graduate School
- Plaque of Recognition Best Thesis / April 11, 2016
- Plaque of Recognition as 1st Chief of Hospital 2004-2007 / Ospital ng Binan / March 15, 2017
- Plaque of Recognition as one of 10 Outstanding Master Mason in the Field of Medicine / Grand Lodge of the Philippines / May 2021
- Plaque of Recognition / Most Outstanding Mason / June 2021 Masonic District R4 Laguna
- Certificate of Recognition - Achiever Award / Unihealth Southwoods Hospital and Medical Center /July 2021

RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS:

- Scholar for the Training of General Surgery / Phil. College of Surgeon / 1989-1990
- First Place- Surgery Residents Research Paper Contest / Department of Surgery / Perpetual Help College Center / June 1993
- First Place- Eight Interdepartmental Research Paper Contest / Perpetual Help Medical Center / September 1994
- Plaque of Appreciation As Guest Lecturer / Calamba Doctors Hospital / March 24, 1999
- Recognition of Accomplishment as Binan Medical Society President / University of Perpetual Help System Laguna / September 7, 1999
- LMS Presidential Award as Binan Medical Society President / Laguna Medical Society / May 30, 2001
- Testimonial Plaque and Recognition / Laguna Medical Society / May 31, 2002
- The Outstanding Physician in Community Service / By Auxiliary to the Laguna Medical Society / August 2003
- Plaque of Recognition as Chapter President for Southern Tagalog / Philippine College of Surgeon / December 12, 2005
- Natatanging Kaklase Award / Lake Shore Educational Institution / March 31, 2007
- Plaques of Commendation for Most Number of Patients Sta Rosa Hospital and Medical Center
 - March 19, 2010
 - March 18, 2011
 - March 16, 2012
 - March 21, 2014
- Presidential Award for Academic Services

MASONIC POSITIONS

- Raised at Master Mason on September 15, 2007
- Past Master and Past Treasurer- Dr Jose P Rizal Lodge No. 270
- Charter Master Perpetual Masonic Lodge No 426
- Charter Senior Warden - Carmona Sorteo Masonic Lodge
- Member- York Rite - Manila Bodies

MASONIC CLUBS

- Past Chapter King Cobra - Grand and Glorious Order of the Knight of Creeping Serpent
- Member- Laguna Shriners

CDR ELVIS L. BEDIA MD, DPBS, FPCS, FPSGS, FPALES, PACS, MBA, PhD BM, RN, PCGA



VW RAUL E. CANON, JR.
Junior Grand Warden Nominee

VW RAUL E. CANON, JR.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
Diliman, Quezon City
Master of Laws (LL.M.)
September 2021 – present
- NATIONAL DEFENSE COLLEGE OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Master in National Security Administration (MNSA)
October 2014 – September 2015
- SAN BEDA UNIVERSITY - COLLEGE OF LAW
Mendiola, City of Manila
Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)
June 2004 – March 2010
- UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
Diliman, Quezon City
Bachelor of Arts in English Studies (Language)
June 1995 – October 2000
- PASIG CATHOLIC COLLEGE
Malinao, Pasig City
Secondary Education (High School)
June 1991 – March 1995
Primary Education (Elementary)
June 1985 – March 1991

WORK EXPERIENCE

- NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Deputy Administrator
January 28, 2021 – present

Special Assistant to the Administrator
June 20, 2019 – January 27, 2021
- VERGEL DE DIOS MARITIME LAW OFFICES
Partner
January 16, 2018 – January 27, 2021
- DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Assistant Secretary
December 12, 2016 – January 15, 2018
Maritime – Legal Concerns
Procurement
Vice-Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
Alternate Member, Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB)
Alternate Member, Inter-Agency Technical Working Group (IATWG) of GPPB
Alternate Member, GPPB Review Committee (GRC)

Director III
September 28, 2016 – December 11, 2016

OIC-Director
July 4, 2016 – September 27, 2016
Legal Service
- Regular Member, interim Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
- Chairman, Site Acquisition and Right-Of-Way (ROW)

Attorney V
March 26, 2013 – July 3, 2016
Chief – Contract Review and Documentation Division (CRDD)
Office of the Undersecretary for Legal Affairs

[March 2013 – March 2016]
Legal Service
[March 2016 – July 3, 2016]

Attorney III
March 16, 2012 – March 25, 2013
Office of the Undersecretary for Legal Affairs

- YASAY REGALADO ATIENZA MENDOZA LAW OFFICES
Legal Associate
October 15, 2010 – March 15, 2012
- PHILIPPINE EXPORT-IMPORT CREDIT AGENCY
Agenda/Minutes Officer
March 1, 2008 – February 28, 2010
Office of the Corporate Secretary

Legal Researcher
February 16, 2007 – February 29, 2008
Office of the Chief Legal Counsel
- PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD GOVERNMENT
Legal Researcher
January 11, 2006 – May 31, 2006
Legal Department
- OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Executive Assistant V
December 19, 2003 – November 30, 2005
Ombudsman Proper

Executive Assistant IV
October 24, 2002 – December 18, 2003
Ombudsman Proper
- OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL
Executive Assistant IV
August 13, 2001 – October 16, 2002
OSG Secretariat
- MANILA JOCKEY CLUB, INC.
Legal Assistant
April 2001 – June 2001
Legal and Administrative Departments

Marketing Assistant
March 2001 – June 2001
Marketing Department

SEMINARS AND TRAININGS ATTENDED

- The New Philippine Bidding Documents on Procurement of Infrastructure by Center for Global Best Practices
December 9, 2020
- The New Philippine Bidding Documents on Procurement of Goods by Center for Global Best Practices
December 4, 2020
- Corporate Governance Orientation Program for GOCCs by Institute of Corporate Directors
November 26, 2020 – November 27, 2020
- Unleashing the Strategic Leader: The Move from Operational to Strategic and Innovative Leader by Guthrie-Jensen Consultants, Inc.
August 6, 7, 13, and 14, 2020
- Fundamentals of Strategic Planning by Business Coach, Inc.



Former Chairman and Administrator Wilma T. Eisma (right) hands over the SBMA flag to former Grand Master Rolan C. Paulino, Sr. during the turnover ceremony of the top leadership post of the agency. "Since I'm about to finish my term (as Grand Master) already, I accepted the position to be of service to my fellow Olongapeños in particular, and the Filipino people, in general," he said.

MW Rolan C. Paulino is New SBMA Chairman & Administrator

By **VW Victorio Verbez G. VIZCOCHO III, PGDL (372), and, WB Victorio Lenin G. VIZCOCHO IV, PGLI (284)**

PRESIDENT Rodrigo R. Duterte has appointed Most Worshipful Rolan C. Paulino, Grand Master of all masons under the jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines, as Chairman & Administrator of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA).

"I thank the president for the trust and confidence he has in me to head SBMA that runs the Subic Bay Freeport," MW Paulino said, "it is an opportunity to bring the Freeport and Olongapo City much closer together, after all, the Freeport is supposed to serve and benefit

it's outlying communities."

MW Paulino was sworn into office in Malacañang by Executive Secretary Salvador C. Medialdea on March 1, 2022, a development welcomed by residents of Olongapo City where he was Mayor before his son Bro. Rolan "Lenj" C. Paulino, Jr. took over by winning in the 2019 elections.

"As in most parts of the country, the Covid-19 pandemic wreaked havoc on business and productivity in this Freeport, so a lot of corrective measures need to be in place," he said, "therefore, we need to chart a new course for Subic post-pandemic."

The appointment came as a surprise since MW Paulino, despite the pandemic, has been very busy attending to masonic matters being the incumbent Grand Master.

"I let my capable lawyer-son Bro. Lenj run for mayor in my place in 2019 so I can concentrate

on being Grand Master,” MW Paulino told The Cable Tow, “but since I’m about to finish my term already, I accepted the position to be of service to my fellow Olongapeños in particular, and the Filipino people, in general.”

He said that he would pursue an inclusive policy so that SBMA programs and facilities would benefit more residents in nearby communities.

“I intend to tap the cooperation and support of all stakeholders in the Freeport and in the surrounding communities so that we can attract more businesses, employ more people, and make full economic recovery as soon as possible,” he added.

Various sectors and personalities in the Freeport have expressed their support to MW Paulino’s appointment.

“He is the right man for the job,” former SBMA Chairman & Administrator Roberto V. Garcia said in a text message, “his experience and performance as Olongapo City Mayor is more than enough to prepare him.”

WB Benjamin C. Antonio III, PGLI (361),

President of the Subic Bay Freeport Chamber of Commerce (SBFCC), said MW Paulino’s appointment as SBMA and Subic Freeport top man is timely and appropriate. “He represents and fully understands both the interests of the Subic Freeport and Olongapo City, thus, he can strike a good balance to protect both, as well as those of other communities surrounding the Freeport.

The position of SBMA Chairman and Administrator of the Subic Bay Freeport became vacant after erstwhile head Wilma T. Eisma resigned “for health reasons,” and was appointed to the board of directors of the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP).

“This job is not for the faint-hearted, and it really takes a village. I know Kuya Rolan has the chops to make it, but with your help, he can do so much more,” Eisma told SBMA employees at the turn-over ceremonies in front of the Admin Building, adding that “regardless of who the chairman is, the love for Subic Freeport should always prevail.”

GRAND MASTER Rolan C. Paulino delivers his acceptance speech as the new Chairman and Administrator of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA). “Since I’m about to finish my term (as Grand Master) already, I accepted the position to be of service to my fellow Olongapeños in particular, and the Filipino people, in general,” he said.



- June 23, 2020
Effective Conflict Management by Business Coach, Inc.
- June 22, 2020
Creative Problem Solving and Decision Making by Business Coach, Inc.
- June 17, 2020
Effective Change Management by Business Coach, Inc.
- June 16, 2020
Crisis Leadership Module Series by Asian Institute of Management
May 12, 14, 19, 21, and 26, 2020
- Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) for the 7th Compliance Period
by Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Office
Compliance Period: April 15, 2019 – April 14, 2022; valid until April 14, 2025
- Leadership and Management Training: Manager's Role in Capacity Building by Civil Service Commission
November 28, 2019 – November 29, 2019
Sulo Riviera Hotel, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
- CSI Leadership Series: Disruptive Leadership by Civil Service Commission
November 20, 2019
CSC Auditorium, 4/F CSC Resource Center
CSC-CO, IBP Road, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, Philippines
- Leadership and Management Training: Ethical Leadership by Civil Service Commission
November 6, 2019 – November 8, 2019
Sulo Riviera Hotel, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
- The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Government Leaders by Civil Service Commission
October 28, 2019 – October 30, 2019
CSI Training Room, 4/F CSC Building, CSC-CO, IBP Road, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, Philippines
- Mentoring and Coaching for Leaders by Civil Service Commission
October 24, 2019 – October 25, 2019
CSI Training Room, 4/F CSC Building, CSC-CO, IBP Road, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, Philippines
- NDCP Talks on Women: Ending Violence against Women by National Defense College of the Philippines
NDCP Auditorium, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
December 5, 2018
- Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) for the 6th Compliance Period
by Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Office
Compliance Period: April 15, 2016 – April 14, 2019; valid until April 14, 2022
- 2nd Philippine Airport Modernization and Expansion Summit
by Asia Pacific Security Magazine
May 24, 2017 – May 25, 2017
Solaire Grand Ballroom, Solaire Hotel, Manila, Philippines
- Career Executive Service Board (CESB) Accredited Training Program on Managerial Leadership
by HURIS, Inc.
May 11, 2017 – May 12, 2017
Astoria Plaza Hotel, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City, Philippines
- Best Practices Guide on How to Prepare Your Bidding Documents Seminar
by Center for Global Best Practices
April 20, 2017 – April 21, 2017
Manila Marriott Hotel, Pasay City, Philippines
- Government Procurement Act (R.A. 9184) and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations and Updates Seminar
by Department of Transportation (DOTr) and Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA)
March 7, 2017 – March 8, 2017
Astoria Plaza, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City, Philippines
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Guidelines for Environmental and Social Considerations Seminar
by Japan International Cooperation Agency
February 23, 2017
New World Makati Hotel, Makati City, Philippines
- Development, Financing and Post-Contract Management of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Projects Training
by PPP Center, Asian Development Bank in partnership with
DLA Piper Australia and Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & Delos Angeles
November 22, 2016 – November 23, 2016
Discovery Suites, 25 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Philippines
- Capacity Building / Training – Workshop on Contract Price Escalation Determination Pursuant to Republic Act No. 9184 or the "Government Procurement Reform Act"
by National Economic and Development Authority
November 10, 2016 – November 11, 2016
Subic Holiday Villas, Subic, Zambales City, Philippines
- 2015 Training Program for International Railway Officials
by Seoul Metropolitan Government
October 14, 2015 – October 21, 2015
Seoul Metropolitan Infrastructure Headquarters, Seoul, Korea
- Security Congress APAC 2015 Conference
by National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP) and NDCP Alumni Association, Inc.
July 28, 2015 – July 29, 2015
Softel Philippine Plaza, Manila, Philippines
- Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) for the 5th Compliance Period
by Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Office
Compliance Period: April 15, 2013 – April 14, 2016; valid until April 14, 2019
- DBRF International Conference
by Dispute Resolution Board Foundation
May 16, 2014 – May 17, 2014
Singapore
- Dispute Resolution Board Foundation (DRBF Training Workshop)
by Dispute Resolution Board Foundation
May 15, 2014
Singapore
- The FIDIC Contracts – Practical Guide to Using and Understanding the International Conditions of Contract
by Cornerstone Seminars
April 10, 2014 – April 11, 2014
Cornerstone Seminars, 2 Claremont Road, Teddington
Prague, Czech Republic
- Building Leadership and Practitioners' Capabilities to Implement Public-Private Partnership Transactions for the Government of the Philippines Workshop
by TEMASEK Foundation Singapore
February 17, 2014 – February 21, 2014
Singapore
- ASEAN Australia New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) Investigation Skills Training Course
by ASEAN Australia New Zealand Free Trade Area
February 6, 2014 – February 7, 2014 and
February 10, 2014 – February 11, 2014
Manila, Philippines
- Effective Leadership Program
by Department of Transportation and Communications
October 24, 2013 – October 25, 2013
Development Academy of the Philippines, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines
- TEMASEK Foundation Centre for Trade and Negotiations (TFCTN) Workshop on Trade Facilitation
by TEMASEK Foundation Singapore
October 16, 2013 – October 19, 2013
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies – Graduate School of Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- Orientation of Personal Policies
by Department of Transportation and Communications
August 15, 2013
DOTC Training Room, 15th Floor, Unit 156 Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
- 1st National Conference on Business / Organizational Performance for the Public Sector
by Academy's Center for Quality and Competitiveness
November 16, 2012
Heritage Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Philippines
- Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) for the 4th Compliance Period
by Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Office
Compliance Period: April 15, 2010 – April 14, 2013; valid until April 14, 2016
- Seminar on Completed Staff Work (CSW)
by Department of Transportation and Communications

- October 10, 2012 – October 12, 2012
Richville Hotel, EDSA, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
- 2012 UP National College of Public Administration and Governance: Tradition and Transformation International Conference by UP National College of Public Administration and Governance
- June 27, 2012 – June 29, 2012
EDSA Shangri-la Hotel, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
- Republic Act 6713 (Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees Training by CSC Head of Office for Legal Affairs and Director IV Atty. Ariel G. Ronquillo
- May 13, 2009 – May 14, 2009
PhilEXIM Multi-Purpose Hall, 3rd Floor, Citibank Center, Makati City, Philippines
- Personal Finance Workshop by the Colayco Foundation for Education, Inc.
- October 28, 2008
PhilEXIM Multi-Purpose Hall, 3rd Floor, Citibank Center Makati City, Philippines
- PhilEXIM Charter and Related Laws Seminar by Risk Management Office and Office of the Chief Legal Counsel
- October 20, 2008 – October 24, 2008
PhilEXIM Multi-Purpose Hall, 3rd Floor, Citibank Center, Makati City, Philippines
- Risk Identification in Trade and Letters of Credit Transactions Training by PhilEXIM President and CEO Francisco S. Magsajo
- September 02, 2008
PhilEXIM Multi-Purpose Hall, 3rd Floor, Citibank Center, Makati City, Philippines
- Anti-Money Laundering Seminar by Anti-Money Laundering Secretariat
- July 25, 2008
PhilEXIM Multi-Purpose Hall, 3rd Floor, Citibank Center, Makati City, Philippines
- Corporate Compliance Program by Risk Management Office, PhilEXIM
- March 25, 2008
PhilEXIM Multi-Purpose Hall, 3rd Floor, Citibank Center, Makati City, Philippines

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

- Born in Quezon City on December 2, 1978
- Civil Service Eligible (Professional) and Bar Passer (2011 Bar Examinations)
- Gold Medalist (Leadership Award) recipient and Class President of MNSA Regular Class 50
- Member, Philippine Council for Foreign Relations (PCFR), December 2017
- Member, Knights of Rizal: Bagumbayan Chapter, May 27, 2019
- Member, Fraternal Order of Eagles: Carmona Sorteo Eagles Club, February 22, 2021
- Commissioner, Commission on Bar Discipline, Integrated Bar of the Philippines, March 2018-July 2021
- Board of Directors, Tarlac Chapter, Integrated Bar of the Philippines, July 2021-present
- Special Projects Officer, Tarlac Chapter, Integrated Bar of the Philippines, July 2019-July 2021

MASONIC HISTORY

PRIMERA LUZ FILIPINA LODGE NO. 69
Binakayan Masonic Temple, Congbalay Street, Kawit, Cavite

- Raised - April 03, 2004
- Passed - March 20, 2004
- Initiated - March 06, 2004

DUAL/PLURAL/HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

- TAGAYTAY MASONIC LODGE NO. 165
August 15, 2012
Dual Member

- ISAAC I. PUNO MASONIC LODGE NO. 401
2012
Charter Member/Plural Member
- BAGONG ILAW MASONIC LODGE NO. 97
September 2013
Honorary Member
- N.S. AMORANTO MASONIC LODGE NO. 358
October 27, 2015
Honorary Member
- PANGARAP MASONIC LODGE NO. 448
Instituted last September 03, 2018
Charter Worshipful Master
Constituted last June 3, 2019

MASONIC POSITIONS HELD

- WORSHIPFUL MASTER
Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69
MY 2011-2012
- GRAND LODGE INSPECTOR
Tagaytay Lodge No. 165
MY 2012-2013
- DISTRICT GRAND LECTURER
Masonic District Region IV-A1 (Cavite EAST)
MY 2013-2014
Was awarded the Most Outstanding District Grand Lecturer in the entire jurisdiction of the MWGLP
- JUNIOR GRAND LECTURER
Southern Luzon --- CAVITE
MY 2014-2015
- GRAND AUDITOR
MY 2015-2016
Also rendered the Grand Oration in ANCOM 2016 as GRAND ORATOR
- DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
Masonic District Region IV CAVITE EAST
MY 2018-2019
- CHARTER WORSHIPFUL MASTER
Pangarap Masonic Lodge No. 448
MY 2019-2020

APPENDANT BODIES/ SOCIAL CLUBS

- SCOTTISH RITE
Member since 2004, QUEZON CITY BODIES
- YORK RITE
Member since 2010, LUZON BODIES
- MABUHAY SHRINERS
Member since October 2009, PRIMERA CLASS

Dual Member, CAVITE SHRINE CLUB, 2010
Dual Member, SAIGON SHRINE CLUB, 2012
Charter Member, KABUKIRAN SHRINE CLUB, 2012
Club President, MAHARLIKA SHRINE CLUB, 2015

- GRAND AND GLORIOUS ORDER OF THE KNIGHTS OF THE CREEPING SERPENT
Member since May 2010, XI CLASS
- PAGONG AKO KUYANG
Member since 2010, LAGUNA POND
- ORDER OF THE SECRET MONITOR
Member since 2011, PEARL OF THE ORIENT CONCLAVE NO. 496

Charter Member, PILLARS OF THE WEST CONCLAVE No. 10
 CHARTER SUPREME RULER, CAVITE CONCLAVE No. 20
 Member, AZURE CONCLAVE No. 21
 Charter Member, BULACAN CONCLAVE No. 22
 Honorary Member, THE CONCLAVE OF NUEVA ECIJA No. 23
 Charter Member, IBALONG CONCLAVE No. 24
 Charter Member, BATANGAS CONCLAVE No. 25
 Charter Member, LAGUNA CONCLAVE No. 26
 Past Grand Steward, Grand Conclave of South East Asia (appointed March 2019)
 Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Provincial Grand Conclave of Southern Luzon (installed August 2021)

PLANS AND PROGRAMS

PLANS AND PROGRAMS FOR THE CRAFT

OTHER MASONIC POSITIONS HELD

- DISTRICT SECRETARY
 Masonic District Region IV-A1 (Cavite EAST)
 MY 2012-2013
- DISTRICT GUILD OF PAST MASTERS
 Vice-President, Masonic District Region IV-A1 (Cavite EAST)
 MY 2012-2015

GLP COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

MY 2013-2014

- Committee on Masonic Temples and Buildings, Member
- Committee on Credentials, Member
- Committee on Cavite Affairs, Member
- Committee on Public Relations, Member
- Committee on Environment and Disaster Preparedness, Member

MY 2014-2015

- Committee on Ways and Means, Member
- Committee on Cavite Affairs, Member
- Committee on Credentials, Member
- Committee on Charity, Member
- Committee on Necrology, Member
- Committee on Environment and Disaster Preparedness, Member

MY 2015-2016

- Committee on Accounts, Chairman

MY 2018-2019

- Committee on Cavite Affairs, Member

OTHERS

- MY 2013-2014 & 2014-2015
 Temple Editor, Mabuhay Shriners
- MY 2018-2019
 Outer Guard, Mabuhay Shriners
- MY 2019-2020
 Member, Organizing Committee of Mabuhay Shriners
- HIRAM AWARD
 Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69 (M.Y. 6019 A.L.)

Over-all plan is to support and continuously build on the efforts and accomplishments of the leaders of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, who have steered the Fraternity for the past years (the Past Grand Masters, as well as the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior and Junior Grand Wardens) and to serve as the bridge or connecting link of both the traditional and contemporary members of our Fraternity. One brick at a time to the splendid edifice of our esteemed Fraternity will definitely go a long way as a personal contribution in the development and the eventual history of Freemasonry.

As a famous author once said: "There are a lot of great inventors and improvers in the world. But those who hack world-class success tend to be the ones who can focus relentlessly on a tiny number of things. In other words, to soar, we need to simplify." Hereunder are the simplified programs proposed:

Masonic Education

Formal Studies:

IMES is suggested to be made as two-tier: basic and advance learnings. The first-tier or "basic" will be purely voluntary and open to all Master Masons and will cover the general topics of Masonic education. The second-tier or "advanced" is more comprehensive and will be mandatory for brethren who have been duly-elected as one of the three (3) Lights of their respective Lodges, and thus emphasizes on leadership and proper governance. While the first-tier is optional, the second-tier is obligatory. It addresses both the need for the requisite formal Masonic knowledge among the brethren, while at the same time maintaining harmony in Blue Lodges by upholding the sanctity of the will of the brethren during Lodge elections.

In line with this, **electronic learning (IMES online) can be further enhanced** so that brethren can afford to learn much more and with better facility. The pattern of success by online educational courses offered in universities and learning institutions can be imitated, in order to ensure that there is flexibility of schedule and a more comfortable learning environment for the brethren. While attendance in person have always been welcome as it provides an opportunity for brethren to meet and greet, the benefits of information technology can also be harnessed to facilitate the main reason why said brethren congregate: for Masonic Education.

Uniform Masonic lectures is a must, but **with open discourse** in Blue Lodges. It is earnestly suggested that the lectures of all Grand Lecturers be made uniform and easily understandable, but never

losing the esoteric teachings of Freemasonry.

Providing **Courses for Lecturers (Lecturer's Academy):** a highly knowledgeable lecturer is a well-respected dignitary, which all brethren can emulate and learn from. Aspiring to become a lecturer should have this pre-requisite, in order for a Masonic dignitary to be worthy of his title of Very Worshipful, as one is considered learned inasmuch as he is honorable.

Encourage more write-ups in Cabletow Publication, so that more Masonic teachings and updates can be readily made available in Lodges and our Masonic library.

Mentoring:

Mentoring has always been the secret of the greatest achievers throughout history. **Informal mentoring** is the colloquial term used for a relationship where one gains insight, knowledge, wisdom, friendship and support from the other. It has been proven to have a broader and more significant influence in a person's journey than *formal mentoring*, which is mostly structured, based on a specific objective and primarily exists on the basis of compatibility.

Sharing more personal time together with the newly-raised brethren, and even those who are still candidates for the degrees, helps in assimilating the best example of a Master Mason. From the Masonic rituals and Lodge learnings, they can also learn from and about each other in their daily grind, which leads to **a journey-focused mentorship** and not just a mere focus on the Lodge's best practices.

Membership

Periodic updating of Masonic records, both in Lodges and in synchronization with the Grand Lodge has been a so-near-yet-so-far aspiration of every leader of our Grand Lodge. Continuing the previous initiatives made by the GLP (i.e. GLP website, GLP app), in order to successfully apprise the Grand Lodge of the new status or updates regarding its members, is another good initiative we may embark upon.

Further enhancing the initiatives of having **e-communication and information technology in the reportorial requirements** submitted from Lodges to the Grand Lodge, and **also Grand Lodge issuances** to the various Lodges (thru Lodge Secretaries) and directly to individual brethren. Also, with further increase in communication, and for every GLP issuance published or every article written and disseminated, we increase our access to the great examples in our Craft worthy of emulation. It therefore allows the brethren to study the proper moves that make traditional Master Masons highly-distinguished, which is a great start for the contemporary brethren.

Continuous payment of annual dues in Lodges and timely settlement of degree fees, so there is more finan-

cial sustainability for each Lodge.

Health insurance for the brethren, aside from providing easier access to medical consultations and better facilitation of blood transfusions for the brethren and their respective immediate families.

Fair and gentlemanly treatment of petitioners, so Masonry and its members can continually be seen as most decent and respected members of the society. This allows the petitioners or candidates to fully comprehend the lessons and core concepts of Freemasonry. After all, Masonry is and should always be a safe haven for good men who seek to become better men.

Governance

Convene with the Past Grand Masters and the incumbent leaders of our Craft and come up with **a common plan geared towards the same direction** for the next ten (10) years as a long-term plan, the next five (5) years as the medium-term plan, and the year of incumbency as the short-term plan. This is in order to have both strategic and tactical plans for the GLP, and **to streamline Masonic efforts and resources into activities that are commonly agreed upon.** Renewing said common plan during the medium term can also be had to either add or make the common plan attuned to the times is likewise very much welcome.

Emphasize the importance of each Lodge's term plan in order to provide direction for Lodge expenditures and thus rationalize Lodge solicitations or fundraising activities. A timely and well-thought of Lodge Term Plan, both by the Worshipful Master and the brethren of a Lodge, will maximize the efforts of its members in their projects and conveniently allocate the resources needed to fund all its endeavors.

ESSENCE

To sum up the proposed plans and programs, all the aspects presented actually direct our attention to the perennial need for each Master Mason, EMPOWERING THE BLUE LODGES, especially its leaders, to ensure the welfare of each brother in the Craft. The proposed plans and programs are all doable and are easily measurable by the brethren during its eventual implementation. And I not only humbly propose these measures for the time-being, but also commit myself to implement them, as well as the other doable and easily measurable propositions by my co-candidates for the Junior Grand Warden position.

An esteemed Past Grand Master used to tell me: *"The universe has its own great plan for things."* May the GAOTU's plans unfold for each and every one of us. May his wise and grand plan for the Craft be laid out through each and every one of you. Maraming salamat po sa pagkakataon na mapaglinkuran ang ating Kapatiran. Mabuhay ang Masonerya!



VW NOMER ABEL P. CANLAS

Junior Grand Warden Nominee

VW NOMER ABEL P. CANLAS

CURRICULUM VITAE

NOMER ABEL P. CANLAS

Regional Director
DPWH-National Capital Region
2nd St., Port Area, Manila



PERSONAL BACKGROUND

Birt Date	:	December 7, 1967	Ateng:	Marie Antonette M. Canlas
Birth Place	:	Angeles City	Daughters:	
Civil Status	:	Married		Raphaella M. Canlas Gabriela M. Canlas

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Elementary	:	Sto. Rosario Elementary School	-	1975 - 1981
Secondary	:	Holy Angel University	-	1981 - 1985
College	:	Holy Angel University	-	1992 - 1996
		Bachelor of Arts in Industrial Psychology		
		Republic Central Colleges University	-	2006 - 2013
		Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering		
Graduate Studies:		University of the Philippines		
		Master of Arts in Public Management	-	1996 - 2000

ELIGIBILITIES

MATB/CEO	-	December 4, 2016
Civil Engineer (RA 1080)	-	May 5-6, 2013
Civil Service Professional	-	October 13, 2003
Civil Service Sub-Professional	-	August 20, 1994

POSITION HELD

Regional Director
Assistant Regional Director
District Engineer (OIC Assistant Regional Director)
District Engineer
Engineer V (OIC District Engineer)
Engineer V
Engineer IV (OIC Assistant District Engineer)
Engineer IV
Administrative Officer V
Administrative Officer III
Administrative Officer II
HRM Aide
Data Encoder I (Casual)
Messenger I (Casual)

INCLUSIVE DATES

November 23, 2021 - to date
January 22, 2018 - November 22, 2021
March 13, 2017 - January 21, 2018
January 2, 2016 - March 12, 2017
August 20, 2015 - January 1, 2016
August 17, 2015 - August 19, 2015
May 29, 2015 - August 16, 2015
September 10, 2014 - May 28, 2015
August 30, 2012 - September 9, 2014
January 2, 2007 - August 29, 2012
March 24, 2004 - January 1, 2007
November 16, 2003 - March 23, 2004
July 1, 1997 - November 15, 2003
January 1, 1995 - June 30, 1997

PLANS & PROGRAMS

Should I be fortunate enough to be elected as Junior Grand Warden in our upcoming Annual Communication, I have four (4) major programs which I intend to implement and enforce during my term of office as Grand Master and I have categorized the same in the following manner, to wit:

1. Technology;
2. Education;
3. Environment; and,
4. Brotherly Love.

TECHNOLOGY

Under "Technology", I intend to institutionalize the usage of day-to-day information technology, social media and/or other technological platforms so as to improve and better serve the brethren without compromising our ancient landmarks and traditions.

I wish for all of the Blue Lodges to be entitled to the submission and approval of all of their monthly lodge reports online or thru other electronic means available. With the advent of COVID19 and considering that variants thereof still persist, we must capitalize on the usage of such technology so as to limit the physical exposure of our staff and personnel at the Grand Lodge and, altogether, lessen the travel, exposure and/or expense of the Brethren just for the submission of the said reports.

In the same light, and while payments due to the Grand Lodge may already be made electronically, I wish to adopt and include other online payment methods on top of those that we are currently using so as further "ease of doing business" with the Grand Lodge may be achieved. It is my desire that the Brethren may have more options on how to pay the Grand Lodge of any and all dues or charges that may be owing them.

More importantly, I also wish to adopt methods whereby applications and approval of dispensations are made online or thru electronic means as well. All of which are with the aim and view of simplifying existing procedures so as to make the Grand Lodge as open and accessible to the Brethren as possible.

EDUCATION

Under "Education", I wish to make the attendance to the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies (IMES) Course mandatory as I want all the brethren to know and grasp our Masonic History; Masonic Philosophy; Masonic Governance and Jurisprudence; Decorum and Protocols;

Rituals and Ceremonies; Lodge Administration; and, Mediation in the Settlement of Disputes. I believe that as Master Masons, we ought to be educated on all these things so that we may have a better grasp of what is expected of us and what we have to do for the betterment of the lodge and of the fraternity in its entirety.

I also wish for our Senior Grand Lec-

turer, Junior Grand Lecturers and District Grand Lecturers to improve and enhance the Masonic teachings that they impart to the brethren and having these lectures available and accessible online as well.

The continued education and learning of the Brethren should be of our paramount concern as we have to live up to our obligation of making good men better.

ENVIRONMENT

Under "Environment", it is my plan to have and require the Brethren plant ONE MILLION TREES with me during my term. With this, I aim to add to and uplift current programs on the restoration, protection and preservation of our natural environment. As Masons, we must take an active part in the increase of our nation's bio-diversity, the reduction of erosion, the improvement of our water and air quality, the mitigation of the impacts of climate change and the creation of awareness regarding the value of panting trees for the next generations to come.

BROTHERLY LOVE

Lastly, under "Brotherly Love", I want to strengthen and further empower the duties and responsibilities of our Lodge Harmony Officers as I want them to have an active role in the prevention and/or settlement of disputes between and amongst the Brethren. The goal is for the "prevention" of disputes from happening

or escalating further thereby decreasing or eliminating cases for un-Masonic conduct reaching the Grand Lodge.

It is also my aim during my term that any and all pending cases with the Grand Lodge should be resolved immediately because their protracted existence prolong the disharmony and rifts between or among the Brethren involved in such cases.

As such, I want for the parties involved to undergo mediation or arbitration under the leadership of the Harmony Officer along with the Officers of the Lodge and should such alternative dispute resolutions fail, the Grand Lodge must immediately rule on such matters. I truly believe that with the immediate action and decision of the Grand Lodge, the same may finally put closure to such cases and disputes; and, that harmony may begin to be restored.

I believe that these four programs are feasible and achievable and that their accomplishments shall have lasting and profound effects to the Brethren and to the Fraternity as a whole.

With these, I formally submit myself to a committed service to the brethren and the Fraternity. I remain.

Fraternally yours,

VW NOMER ABEL P. CANLAS



VW GERARD A. CEBALLOS

Junior Grand Warden Nominee

VW GERARD A. CEBALLOS

EDUCATION

- 2002 – 2003 **ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT**
Masters in Management
- 1992 – 1995 **DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY**
Bachelor of Arts in Management
Major in Human Resource Management, December 1995
- 1989 – 1992 **INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MANILA**
Dean's List (Second Honor) 2nd Term, 1991 – 1992
- 1988 – 1989 **GEORGE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL**
Dean's List (Second Honor) 1st Term, 1988 – 1989
(First Honor) 2nd Term, 1988 – 1989

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2009 – 2016 **PRESIDENT, 88 BEL-AIR RESIDENCES, INC.**
Property Development Company
- 2009 – Present **PRESIDENT, NORTH BEL-AIR RESIDENCES, INC.**
Property Development Company
- 2006 – Present **MANAGING DIRECTOR, SOLLABEC HOLDINGS CORP.**
Engage in property rentals and development.
- 1998 – Present **COO, GENERAL MERCANTILE CO. INC.**
Engage in government (Philippines) biddings for the supply and delivery of goods.
- 2001 – 2003 **MANAGING DIRECTOR, JG VERTEX COMPANY, INC.**
Leads the company into trading marketing collaterals and services.
- 2000 – 2000 **STOCKBROKER, UNICAPITAL SECURITIES**
Generated new accounts and expanded transaction volumes.
- 1999 – 2001 **PRESIDENT, GAC II VENTURES**
Engaged in the distribution of alcoholic beverages in restaurant, bars and hotels in Metro Manila. Traded marketing collaterals.

- 1997 – 1998 ASSISTANT MANAGER, INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE BANK
In-charged of expanding deposit volumes. Assisted in the day-to-day operations of the head office.
- 1996 – 1997 SALES OFFICER, BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
Generated new accounts and established multi-product relationships. Expanded deposit / loan volumes.
- 1996 June – Oct. SALES OFFICER, CITY TRUST BANKING CORPORATION
Generated and expanded relationships within the distribution center’s target market.

MASONIC BACKGROUND

- 2021 – Grand Chaplain
2017 – 2018 District Deputy Grand Master for NCR-F
2016 – 2017 District Grand Lecturer for NCR-F
2015 – 2016 Worshipful Master Pinaglabanan Lodge No. 374 (District NCR-F)
2013 – 2015 Senior Warden Pinaglabanan Lodge No. 374 (District NCR-F)
2012 – 2013 Junior Warden Pinaglabanan Lodge No. 374 (District NCR-F)
2011 – 2012 Assistant Treasurer & Assistant Secretary Pinaglabanan Lodge No. 374 (District NCR-F)
2011 – 2012 Senior Deacon Pinaglabanan Lodge No. 374 (District NCR-F)

Grand Glorious Order of the Knights of the Creeping Serpent (GGOKCS)

2018 – Present: Vice-President, CHI Class

Order of the Secret Monitor – Pearl of the Orient Conclave No. 496

2016 – Present: Member

Mabuhay Shriner’s International (Maharlika)

2017 – Present: President, Makasaysayan 284 Class

Pagong Ako Kuyang Pilipinas, Inc (TURTLES)

2016 – Present: President, 3rd Eye Turtles Class

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite (A. & A.S. R.) Quezon City Bodies:

2012 - Master of the Royal Secret of the 32nd Degree

Graduate of IMES Class no. 2012-12

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

- 2018 – Most Outstanding District Deputy Grand Master for Masonic Year 2017 - 2018
2017 – Outstanding District Grand Lecturer for Masonic Year 2016 - 2017
2016 – Grand Lodge of the Philippines “Best Publication for MY 2015-2016”

- 2016 – Most Outstanding Lodge in NCR-F for MY 2015-2016
- 2016 – Most Outstanding Worshipful Master in NCR-F for MY 2015-2016
- 2013 – Outstanding Club in Rotary District 3780 for RY 2012-2013
- 2013 – Outstanding President in Rotary District 3780 for RY 2012-2013

EXTRA – CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- 2015 – 2016 Assistant Governor, **Rotary District 3780**
- 2011 – Present Member, **ROTARY CLUB OF COMMONWEALTH, D3780**
President, RY 2012-2013
- 1998 – 2002 **CFC – Singles For Christ**
Household Head
Makati Chapter

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

Born on August 09, 1974 in Quezon City, Philippines. Married to Dr. Liezl M. Ceballos (Dentist), with two boys: Freddie II (16) and Giancarlo Rafael (13).



7 April 2022

**THE PAST GRAND MASTERS
GRAND LODGE FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES**
Manila, Philippines

RE: PROGRAM OF GOVERNMENT

Dear Most Worshipful Sirs:

In compliance with the request dated 5 April 2022, the undersigned respectfully submits this Program of Government, viz:

“Pagtulong at Pagdamay: Pangunahing adhikain ng ating kapatiran”

Vital to our brotherhood’s survival is stretching a helping hand, more so to our brethren in need and with the aim of focusing in supporting the brotherhood even further especially with the Grand Lodge will open its doors not just for charity but to aid and assist the brethren withersoever dispersed.

Listed below are my **Programs of Governance**, should destiny guide me to the Grand East.

- **Leadership by consensus** - making use of the wisdom of our Past Grand Masters and at the same time visiting the numerous districts in the jurisdiction to find out from the brethren the kind of governance and platforms that they would prefer.
- **Increase the coffers of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines (GLP) Temple Fund**
- **Highlighting the importance of the IMES and adding the Masonic Values to its curriculum.**
- **Enhancing the corporate system of governance of the GLP**, particularly, by computerizing the documents submitted, so that it is easily tracked by the concerned member and/or the staff and employees of the GLP.
- **Opening up the database of the members of the GLP** to its members and classifying the same by profession. This gives our brethren a chance to assist others in their respective livelihood; thus, giving each one a chance for a brighter future for their respective families.
- **Focusing on a stronger Blue Lodge**; instilling in its members that we need to become better men; that each brethren needs to have diplomacy and order during Masonic functions. Learning these traits and programs from the Administrations of our Past Grand Masters.

Thank you, Most Worshipful Sirs for this opportunity.

Fraternally yours,

Bro. Gerard A. Ceballos
Pinaglabanan Masonic Lodge 374
Masonic District NCR-F



VW TEODORO KALAW IV
Junior Grand Warden Nominee

VW TEODORO KALAW IV

ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS

- 2015 - **Master of Studies in Sustainability Leadership [MSt.]**, Wolfson College, University of Cambridge
- 2012 - **Master of Business Administration [MBA]**, Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University & the Hong Kong University of Science & Technology Business School (joint program)
- 2010 - **Master in Public Administration [MPA]** / Dean's Medal for Academic Excellence, National College of Public Administration and Governance, University of the Philippines
- 2001 - **Master of Laws [LL.M.]**, Harvard Law School, Harvard University
- 1997 - **Juris Doctor [JD]** with 2nd Honors, Ateneo Law School, Ateneo de Manila University
- 1993 - **Bachelor of Science in Management [BS Mgt.]**, Major in Legal Management, College of Arts & Sciences, Ateneo de Manila University

Professional Diplomas & Certificates

- 2021 - Family Business Advising [Advanced Certificate], Family Firm Institute
- 2021 - Family Wealth Advising [Advanced Certificate], Family Firm Institute
- 2017 - Mediation [Diploma], Chartered Institute of Arbitrators of the United Kingdom
- 2010 - Company Direction [Diploma], Australian Institute of Company Directors
- 2006 - International Commercial Arbitration [Diploma], Chartered Institute of Arbitrators of the United Kingdom

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- **Chartered Arbitrator & Accredited Mediator** (First and only Philippine National) UK Chartered Institute of Arbitrators [CIArb]
- **Dispute Resolution Administrator**, Wholesale Electricity Spot Market [WESM], regulated by the Energy Regulation Commission, Republic of the Philip-

pines [since 1 Nov. 2020]

- Official Representative for the Arbitration Discipline, Advisory Council, Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution, Republic of the Philippines [Pro Bono appointment since 2 Dec. 2020]
- **Program Director, CARD**
LPU-PIArb Center for the Amicable Resolution of Disputes (Joint Graduate Program in Professional Dispute Resolution Initiative, Lyceum of the Philippines University & the Philippine Institute of Arbitrators) [since 2017; graduate program projected to be launched once CoVid pandemic is adequately addressed by national and international health authorities]
- **Deputy Secretary-General for Accreditation, Education, & Development**, Philippine International Center for Conflict Resolution [PICCR] (since 2019)

Attorney-at-Law

- Partner, Kalaw Prasad & Hofilena Law Firm (Since 1 September 2021)
- Partner, Kalaw Sy Selva & Associates Law Firm (2005-2019)
- Seconded Associate, Tokyo Aoyama Law Firm (Baker & McKenzie Tokyo) [2002]
- Senior Associate, Quisumbing Torres Law Firm (Baker & McKenzie Manila) [1998-2005]
- Chief Judicial Staff Officer / Law Clerk, Chambers of Justice Vicente V. Mendoza [1997-1998]

Corporate Secretary

- Center for Excellence in Governance [since 2014]
- Institute of Corporate Directors [since 2019]
- Institute for Solidarity in Asia [since 2014]
- VKD Holdings, Inc. [since 2016]

Vice-President for Legal & Regulatory Affairs, First Orient Securities, Inc. [Since 2003]

Independent Director, Gothong Southern

Shipping Lines, Inc.
[2016-Present]

Treasurer & Board Director, Kalfam Enterprises, Inc [since 1994]

Member, Board of Trustees

- Since 2017 – Philippine Dispute Resolution Center [PDRC]
- Since 2018 – Philippine Historical Association [PHA]

INDUSTRY OR LEGAL EXPERTISE

- **Member of the following Legal Bars**
 - 2011, United States Supreme Court
 - 2003, New York State, United States of America
 - 1998, Republic of the Philippines
- **Chartered Inst. of Arbitrators [CIArb]** of the United Kingdom
 - 2017 – Accredited Mediator [Accred. Med.]
 - 2015 – Chartered Arbitrator [C.Arb.]
 - 2010 – Certified Business Counselor [CBC], Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Secretariat
- **Licensed Real Estate Service Practitioner, Rep. of the Phil.**
 - 2015 – Professional Real Estate Consultant [PREC]
 - 2007 – Professional Real Estate Appraiser [PREA]
 - 1999 – Professional Real Estate Broker [PREB]
- 2011 – **Project Management Professional [PMP]**, Project Management Institute of the United States
- 2015 – **Certified Compliance and Ethics Professional – International [CCEP-I]**, Society for Corporate Compliance and Ethics of the United States
- 2020 – **First Filipino Certified Sustainability Professional**, Global Reporting Initiative

Professional Certifications, Institute of Certified Sustainability Practitioners

- 2019 – Certified Sustainability Reporting Assurer [CSPA]
- 2018 – Certified Sustainability Practitioner [CSP]

Professional Trainor Certifications

- 2018 – GRI Sustainability Reporting Standards (Global Reporting Initiative)
- 2017 – Balanced Scorecard Performance Management (Kaplan & Norton/ Palladium)

Fellow of the following Learned Societies

- 2018 – Asian Institute of Alternative Dispute Resolution
- 2018 – Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain & Ireland
- 2016 – CIArb [Mediation]
- 2010 – Singapore Institute of Arbitrators
- 2009 – Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators
- 2007 – CIArb [International Commercial Arbitration]
- 2007 – Philippine Institute of Arbitrators
- 2005 – Institute of Corporate Directors, Philippines

Other Current Professional Memberships

- 2010 – Graduate Member [GAICD], Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD)
- 2007 – Professional Member [IPA], Institute of Philippine Real Estate Appraisers (IPREA)
- 1998 – Career Service Executive Eligibility [CSEE], Career Executive Service Board, Republic of the Philippines

International Academic Honor Societies

- 2019 – Life Member, Pi Gamma Mu (Social Sciences)
- 2018 – Life Member, Phi Kappa Phi (Interdisciplinary Studies)

Masonic Roles & Experience

Craft Lodges

- Past Master (MY 2009-2010), Teodoro M. Kalaw Masonic Lodge No. 136 [GL Philippines]
- Plural Member, Mabini-Kalaw Masonic Lodge No. 195 [GL Philippines]
- Member & Lodge Ambassador for Asia-Pacific, Internet Lodge No. 9659 [UGL England]
- Member, The Harvard Lodge [GL Massachusetts] & Grand Representative near the Grand Lodge of the Philippines of the

Grand Lodge of Massachusetts since MY 2012-2013

- Charter & Regular Member, Maynilad Lodge No. 1521 [GL District of Columbia]

Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines

- MY 2019-2021 - Senior Grand Lecturer (Extended Term)
- MY 2017-2018 - Grand Orator
- MY 2013-2014 - President, Institute of Masonic Education & Studies [IMES]
- MY 2012-2013 - Centennial Senior Grand Lecturer
- MY 2010-2011 - District Deputy Grand Master, MD NCR-F (Eastern Metro Manila & Rizal)

Honorary & Charter Craft Lodge Memberships, Grand Lodge of the Philippines

- Silanganan Masonic Lodge No. 19
- Emon Masonic Lodge No. 179
- Mindoro Masonic Lodge No. 157
- La Paz Masonic Lodge No. 413
- Lumang Bayan Masonic Lodge No. 433
- Generoso Madrigal Masonic Lodge No. 368
- Katarungan Masonic Lodge No. 450
- Batasan Masonic Lodge No. 381 [Charter]

Appendant Bodies & Masonic Clubs, Philippine Constitution

- Member & IGH 33°, Manila Bodies, Scottish Rite
- Member, Plaridel Bodies, York Rite
- Member, Royal Order of Scotland
- Member, Pillars of the West Conclave No. 10, Order of the Secret Monitor
- Frank S. Land Centennial Fellow, Order of DeMolay
- Member, Metro Manila Shrine Club, Mabuhay Shriners
- Honorary Member, BIR Travellers Haven

Illustrative Special Masonic Initiatives

- Class President, Muling Pagsilang IGH 33° Class [2021-2022], Scottish Rite
- Chairman, MY 2019-2021 Grand Lodge Committee on Works (updated Cent. Monitor / produced Handbook on Masonic Etiquette & Protocol and Manual on Public

Liturgy)

- Chairman, MY 2019-2021 Grand Lodge Special Committee on the Masonic Law Book
- Lead Lecturer, MY 2019-2021 “Third Wednesdays in the West Webinar Series”
- Project Coordinator, MY 2019-2021 WB Greg Macasaet Memorial Fund
- Chairman, MY 2012-2013 Grand Lodge Committee on Works (produced Cent. Monitor)
- Executive Editor, “Heritage, Heraldry, & Heart: Philippine Blue Lodges” GLP Book
- Exec. Editor & Primary Contributor, “One Hundred Years of Craftsmanship” GLP Book Convention Chairman, MY 2010-2011 NCR Multi-District Convention

International Masonic Research Societies

- Local Secretary for Phil., Corr. Circle, Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076 [UGLE]
- Life Member, Philaethes Society
- Life Member, Scottish Rite Research Society
- Member, Masonic Society

Other Related Organizations

- Knight Commander, Knights of Rizal
- President & Chief Executive Officer (2020-Present), Mabini Society for Nationhood

TEACHING EXPERIENCE / REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

Teaching Experience

- 2012-Present: Ateneo Law School, Ateneo de Manila University: Intellectual Property Management & Enforcement
- 2010-Present: Ateneo Law School, Ateneo de Manila University: Corporate Governance
- 2010-2012 - National College of Public Administration and Governance, University of the Philippines: Philippine Judicial System: Negotiation & Dispute Resolution in the Public Sector
- 2010-2012 - National College of Public Administration and Governance, University of the Philippines: Philippine Judicial System

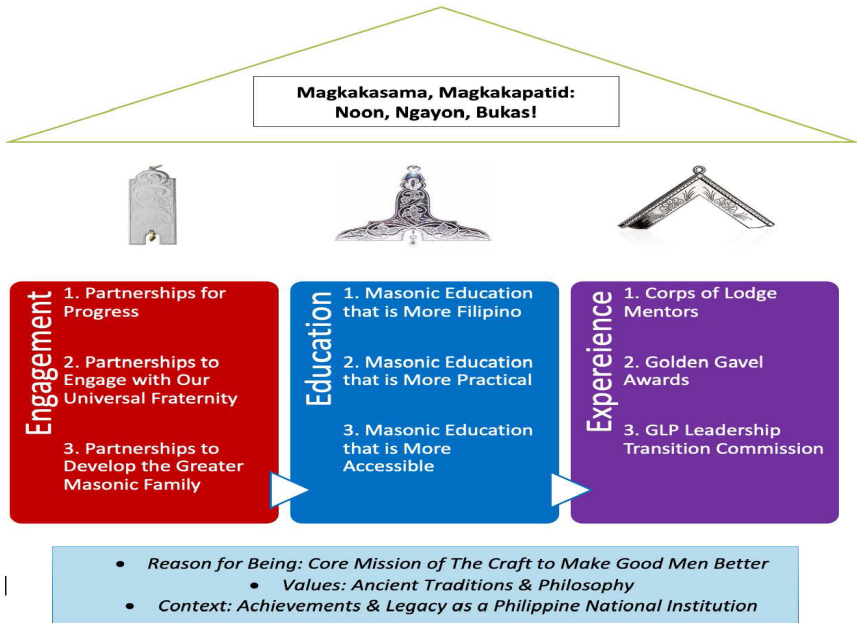
- 1998-2003 – Graduate School of Business, De La Salle University: Corporate Legal Management
- 2015 – “Commercial Arbitration Handbook” of the Philippine Institute of Arbitrators [co-editor & contributor]
- 2013 – “The Philippine Party-List System A Case Study in Judicial Legislation”, University of the Philippines Forum, January-February 2013, pp. 3-5
- 2008 – “The Public Administrator in the Eyes of Private Business: Perspectives on Perceptions, Expectations, and Public Leadership”, Philippine Journal of Public Administration, Vol. 52, Nos. 2-4, pp. 319-332

Representative Publications

- 2016 - “Integrating Sustainability Into Corporate Strategy and Governance in the Philippine Setting: A Comparative Study of Best Practices of Publicly-Listed Corporations Recognized for their Sustainability Leadership”, Institute of Corporate Directors of the Philippines Monograph [based on MSt. Dissertation]

**VW Teodoro Kalaw IV
Proposed Program & Plans**

My proposed program can be visually summarized as follows:



Projected Masonic Term Theme

The proposed Theme for the Masonic Term is:

Magkakasama, Magkakapatid: Noon, Ngayon, Bukas!
[Together in the Craft Brethren: Before, Now, and Tomorrow]

The theme will be primarily promoted in Filipino to highlight the Craft's role in the development of the national identity of Filipinos, which is the foundation for further leveraging our past to be the best we can be today and facilitate our future sustainably.

- **“Noon” (Before)** – The Masonic Term will commemorate building on what we have already accomplished, starting particularly from the programs of recent Past Grand Masters, and best leveraging this going forward.
- **“Ngayon” (Now)** - As will be explained below, we best move forward by focusing on three strategic pillars: Engagement, Education, and Experience.
- **“Bukas” (Tomorrow)** – If we build these strategic pillars properly, we best assure a sustainable future for the Craft in the Philippines in terms of providing an authentic membership experience that is truly Filipino in creed and in deed.



Engagement: Serbisyo na Nauunawaan ng Lipunan *(Service that Creates Credible Value for Society)*

At our best, we have an opportunity to increase how we create value in Philippine Society, the regular Craft around the world, and greater Masonic family through more focused uniform messaging and proper stewardship of our strategic partnerships. **The symbol for these three strategic initiatives is the Junior Warden's jewel – the Plumb – to emphasize the importance of both our outlook and actions as individuals and institutions to all stakeholders both within and outside the Craft.**

The First Plumb: Partnerships for Progress

We need to more greatly leverage our historical role as a national institution unique in its contributions to our national identity in creating even more impact in Society. This can only come about thru the planning and provision for a Uniform Stakeholder Communications Program that concentrates on building value where we traditionally devote our attention to:

- **Our Fundamental Historical Role – Promoting Reasoned Dialogue & Religious Tolerance:** A permanent special committee shall be formed to gradually increase dialogue with churches and religious groups to more substantially address long-circulated misperceptions and fake news about the Craft, promote inter-faith dialogue and religious tolerance, and develop more harmonious relations between the Grand Lodge and all forms of monotheistic faiths.

- **Our Core Charity – Enhancing Public Education & Nation-Building:** The traditional lodge duty to support the public school system as provided in our Ordinances and Edict 305 (MW Tolentino) must be further institutionalized with a uniform template, suggested lodge support activities, and recognition programs for implementing lodges.
- **Our Strategic Partners – Institutionalizing External Outreach:** An advisory council in the form of a “Fellowship of Strategic Partners” shall be introduced to better coordinate relations between the Grand Lodge and external stakeholders, particularly by providing uniform templates for memoranda of agreement at the grand lodge, district, and Craft lodge level; identifying opportunities for cooperation and dialogue; and facilitating the implementation of joint initiatives.

The Second Plumb: Partnerships to Engage With Our Universal Fraternity

Our stature as the most senior sovereign Masonic jurisdiction in Asia and apparently the fastest growing Craft constitution in the regular Masonic universe allows us the unique opportunity to increase linkages and activities with foreign constitutions and Brethren abroad. Such initiatives will include

- Reviving the **East Asian Grand Lodge Executive (EAGLE)** forum between the Grand Lodges of the Philippines, China, and Japan launched during the Centennial term of MW Gabionza.
- Ensuring the regular and continuing participation (including the delivery and performance of papers from our Constitution) in **international Masonic events** such as the annual meetings of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America, the World Conference Regular Grand Lodges, and the International Conference on Freemasonry of the University of California in Los Angeles.
- Encourage and support the growth of **square & compass clubs and Filipino-oriented craft Lodges in foreign constitutions** particularly thru the international Filipino Masonic diaspora, such as that introduced in the Grand Lodge of Victoria, Australia (Plaridel 1893) during the extended term of MW Suan.
- Reconceptualize the roles and functions of **Masonic diplomatic representatives** near and from the Grand Lodge of the Philippines particularly to leverage the above.

The Third Plumb: Partnerships to Develop the Greater Masonic Family

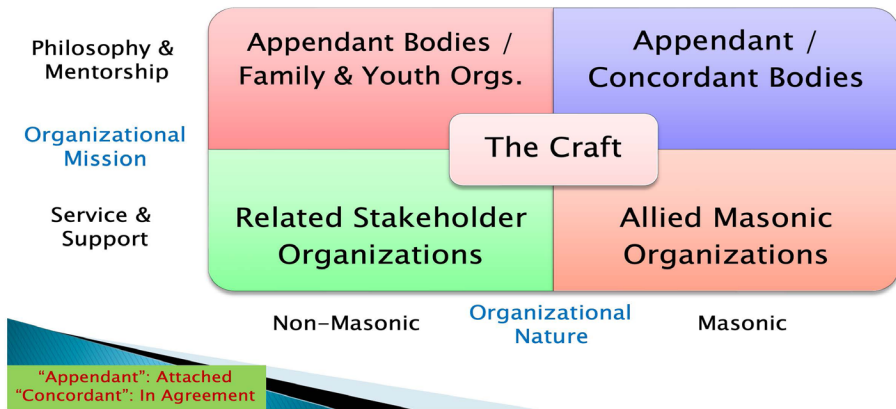
Rationalize and reform the Masonic Coordinating Council introduced by Edict 138 (MW Guerrero) to better serve the Greater Masonic Family, beginning with the

reclassification, inclusion, and stronger liason with organizations related to the Craft in all of the following domains:

Typology of Organizations Related to the Craft

Key Questions to Ask:

- **Organizational Nature:** Does the organization (1) admit only Freemasons, (2) observe Masonic protocol and (optionally) its own liturgy, **AND** (3) manifest Masonic allegiance to the Grand Lodge? (if all 3 – organization is Masonic in nature)
- **Organizational Mission:** Does the organization primarily seek to extend the application of the teachings of the Craft **OR** serve and/or support stakeholders of the Fraternity?



Education: Edukasyon na Maunawan Natin

(Masonic education we can readily understand and apply)

For us to be able to implement the above, we must be able to literally “walk our talk”. More importantly, therefore, we must embark on a multi-year initiative beginning prior to the term to redevelop and redesign our Masonic education materials in three major ways. **The symbol for these three strategic initiatives is the Senior Warden’s jewel – the Level – to highlight the significance of uniform deliberate practice of our practical philosophy as the foundation for measurable progress in our primary mission of making good men better.**

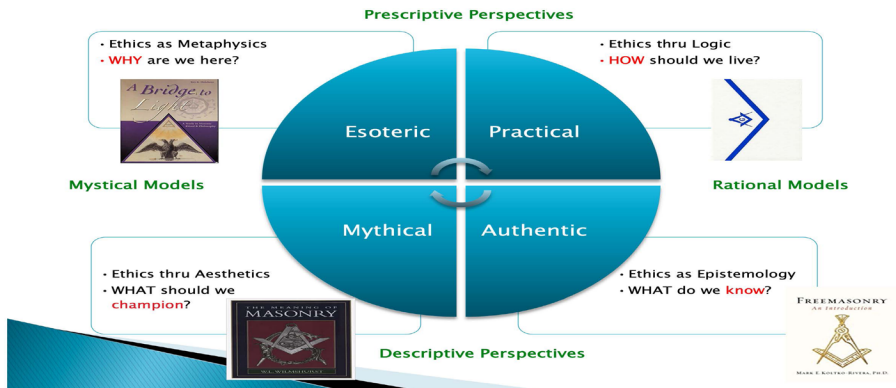
The First Level: Masonic Education That is MORE FILIPINO

Much of our standard educational material such as the “Tried and Proven” system is from the United States. We need to produce new content that much better applies



education in the Craft in our own context by using Filipino examples and highlighting local values and traits. We also need to balance presentation of such new material within each of the four major schools of thought described below.

4 Primary Schools of Masonic Thought






How Facts Are Credibly Presented by the 4 Schools of Masonic Thought [Caveat: Proponents among the *mystical* and the *rational models* often borrow from each other!]

	Mythical	Esoteric	Practical	Authentic
Perspective on Facts	Highlighting meaning over details necessitates that facts should really foremost be channels for symbolism and allegory	Making the most of being human means the ultimate question should be what really is MOST true?	Emphasize the facts that make your point	Rely on the facts you can prove
Favored Setting of Study	The Crusades– Best Commemorates Traditional Chivalry	Jewish Thought / Greek & Roman Myths: Roots of Religious & Classical Thought	One's own locality: The Craft in YOUR Context [Philippines]	England / USA (American York Rite) = Genesis and growth of Regular Freemasonry



Illustrations of such proposed practical contextualization is provided in these next two graphics describing the totality of Masonic philosophy as a practical system of ethics and its relationship with one's religious faith.

Our Masonic Obligations as **THE** Practical Foundation for the Aim of the Craft: Becoming Better Men After Initiation, Passing, & Raising

	Plumb	Level	Square
Depiction			
Symbol of	Upright Behavior	Equality & Equity	Virtue & Morality
Worn By	Junior Warden	Senior Warden	Worshipful Master
Traditional Role	Mentors & Addresses Welfare of the Brethren (Empathy)	Supervises the Craft (Competence)	Governs the Lodge (Wisdom)
Core Query	What must WE truly DO ?	What is truly RIGHT ?	What is truly GOOD ?
Primary Focus	Mentorship & Love (to guide course of action & provide rationale for choice or non-choice)	Competence & Excellence (to define & measure context as well as parameters of conduct & progress)	Purpose & Value (to determine & align priorities so as to create value, based on one's core principles)

This is meant to be a COMPLETE system of ethics (as founded on your faith)!

Practiced correctly, one can never violate one's faith by being a member of the Craft



TRUE Masonic Practice: A Practical System of Secular Ethics Worked Within One's Dogmatic, Total Perspective of Faith



FALSE Image of the Craft Promoted by ALL Its Religious Persecutors: The Philosophy As a Source and Foundation for Governing One's Faith

The Second Level: Masonic Education That is MORE PRACTICAL

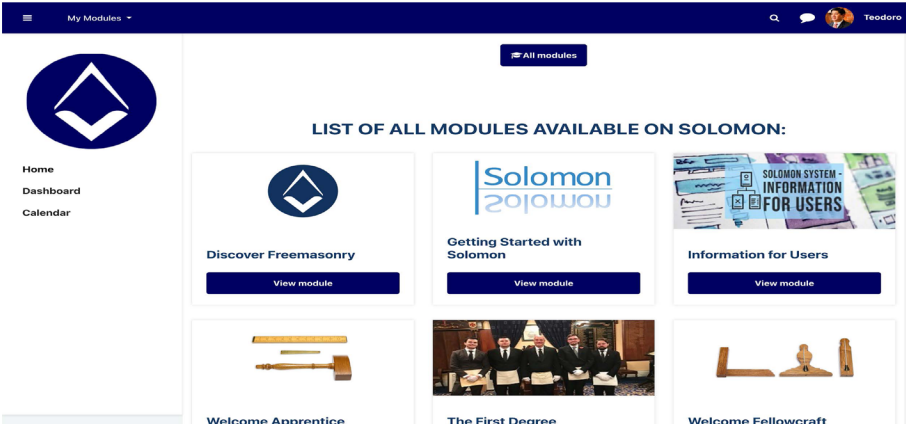
Distinct from the diploma course of the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies and to facilitate the implementation the redeveloped and redesigned content of Masonic education to be launched during the Masonic Term, a one-day or two-afternoon course entitled “Grand Lecturer’s Academy” shall be required of all grand lecturers during their term. Furthermore, junior grand lecturers shall be required to attain certification in delivering the course during their term in office. Completion of the course will entitle the grand lecturer to be credited “AML” (Accredited Masonic Lecturer) or “ASML” (Accredited Supervising Masonic Lecturer) as the case may be.

The course will be supported by the following:

- A Grand Lecturer’s Handbook as accompanying text;
- Online resources at the Grand Lodge websites for grand lecturers; and
- A lecturer’s Bureau of volunteer incumbent and past grand lecturers as prospective resource persons and lodge speakers.

The Third Level: Masonic Education That is MORE ACCESSIBLE

Other than esoteric work, which must necessarily be taught in person, a substantial part of Masonic education can be uploaded online. There is no need to re-invent the wheel in this regard as other grand lodges can serve as benchmarks in creating the Grand Lodge’s own Masonic online portal, such as the Solomon of the United Grand Lodge of England (a screengrab of the internal site is shown below). Such a user-friendly website will be introduced with the new Masonic Education materials produced during the Masonic Term as initial resources.



The screenshot displays a user interface for the Solomon system. At the top, there is a dark blue navigation bar with "My Modules" on the left and search, chat, and user profile icons on the right. Below the navigation bar, a large blue circle with a white Masonic symbol is on the left, with a sidebar menu containing "Home", "Dashboard", and "Calendar". A button labeled "All modules" is positioned above the main content area. The main content area is titled "LIST OF ALL MODULES AVAILABLE ON SOLOMON:" and features a grid of six module cards. Each card includes an icon, a title, and a "View module" button. The modules are: "Discover Freemasonry" (Masonic symbol icon), "Getting Started with Solomon" (Solomon logo icon), "Information for Users" (document icon), "Welcome Apprentice" (Masonic tools icon), "The First Degree" (group of men icon), and "Welcome Fellowcraft" (Masonic tools icon).



Experience: Tunay na Kapatiran sa Pagtrabaho ng Masonariya
 (Developing an Authentic Filipino Experience in the Craft)

Most importantly, beyond the production and dissemination of Masonic education, the fundamental mission of the Craft is to ensure that such is regularly applied by its disciples. The real highlight of the Masonic Term will therefore be the exemplification of best practices that most facilitate good men to become even better throughout their lives with the Craft as their conceptual toolbox. **The symbol for these three most significant strategic initiatives is the Worshipful Master’s jewel – the Square – to demonstrate that true craftsmanship in Freemasonry is when its adherents mentor each other every day to be better not just for themselves and their families but also to advance the common good.**

The First Square: Revive the Corps of Lodge Mentors

The Corps of Lodge Mentors first introduced during the Centennial Term of MW Gabionza will be revived as a separate subordinate body of the Grand Lodge distinct from the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies. The Corps will focus on coaching and disseminating practical applications of Masonic Philosophy every day in the Craft lodge setting. For reference, the curriculum for the two-day certification course of the Corps is provided below.

<i>Module & Sessions</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Learning Mode</i>
<p>A. Nature of Philippine Freemasonry</p> <p>A1. Freemasonry is Being Filipino A2. The Masonic Initiatic Experience A3. Fostering Lodge Harmony A4. Seeking Further Masonic Light</p>	<p>[3:00]</p> <p>1:30 0:30 0:30 0:30</p>	<p>Presentations w/ Q&A</p>
<p>B. Mentorship Process</p> <p>B1. Lodge Mentor Concept B2. 7 Steps to Masonic Light Scheme B3. Ritualist Proficiency Scheme B4. Integrating Mentorship and Masonic Education</p>	<p>[2:00]</p> <p>0:30 0:50 0:20 0:20</p>	<p>Lecturette</p>

<p>C. Craft Degree Exercises</p> <p>C1. Petitioner Investigation Exercise C2. EA Walkabout Exercise C3. FC Liberal Arts Exercise C4. MM Masterpiece Exercise</p>	<p>[8:00]</p> <p>2:00 2:00 2:00 2:00</p>	<p>Lecturettes, then class exercises</p>
<p>D. Mentor-Guided Questions Forum</p> <p>D1. Entered Apprentice D2. Fellow Craft D3. Master Mason</p>	<p>[3:00]</p> <p>1:00 1:00 1:00</p>	<p>Multiple-choice exams, then Q&A</p>
<p>E. Workshop Capstone</p> <p>E1. Workshop Orientation E2. Pinning Ceremony</p>	<p>[1:00]</p> <p>0:15 0:45</p>	<p>Program briefing & graduation ceremony</p>

Each certification course will aim to produce a dedicated class of 16-24 Brethren certified to be capable of the following knowledge, skills, and abilities, which will form their “Seven Charges”:

- Facilitating **petitioner orientation and investigation**;
- Guiding new brethren through the “**7 Steps to Masonic Light**” **guidance scheme**;
- Implementing the program’s “**Ritualist Proficiency**” **Scheme**, specifically by fostering camaraderie and proactively resolving lodge disputes among Brethren;
- Ensuring **lodge harmony**;
- Assisting the Corps of Grand Lecturers in providing for a **lodge education program**;
- Be available to the Worshipful Master of their lodge, particularly with regard to **liaising with the external public** about the Fraternity; and
- Assist in further developing the **GLP Corps of Lodge Mentors**.

To continue to be certified in good standing with the IMES Corps of Lodge Mentors, alumni of the workshop must continue to maintain the following:

- Pass the **certification requirements** during the workshop (i.e. full attendance, satisfactory participation, and submission of mentor’s masterpiece);
- Submit an **annual summary report** of the conduct of their duties and their further development in Freemasonry

- Assist in developing or implementing, or at least re-attending a **certification course every 3 years**;
- Continue to adhere to the **4 Vows** of the Corps in the conduct of their role as certified Lodge Mentors.

The 4 Vows are the specific commitments that each workshop class makes, individually and collectively, during the “Pinning Ceremony” that will conclude each workshop:

- **Mentorship** to New Brethren;
- **Obedience** to their Worshipful Master;
- **Service** to the Lodge; and
- **Trusteeship** of the Ancient Traditions of the Craft.

The Second Square: Launch the Golden Gavel Awards

A new recognition system to reward outstanding achievements in 12 specific classes of Masonic activities will be introduced, with awarding ceremonies at the end of the Masonic Term. The focus of recognition will not be a specific member or even lodge but an defined activity that best exemplifies the application of Masonic Philosophy in everyday life. The award is a “golden gavel” to emphasize the appropriate use of Masonic authority to build trust and confidence in the Craft.

The initial 7 proposed activity categories are as follows:

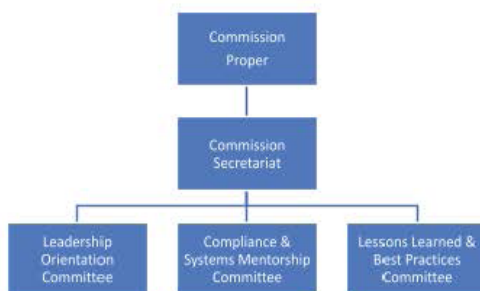
- Best Masonic Education Program
- Best Lodge Masonic Education Lecture
- Best Lodge of Instruction
- Best Petitioner Orientation
- Best Brethren Engagement Initiative
- Best Masonic Service Project
- Best Family Involvement Initiative

The Third Square: Introduce the GLP Leadership Transition Commission

To provide future leaders of the Grand Oriental Chair with objective and autonomous staff support to assist them as they plan their respective Masonic terms and orient their respective prospective leadership teams, a permanent subordinate body of the Grand Lodge to be known of the GLP Leadership Transition Commission shall be introduced and institutionalized. Prospective elected grand line officers in line for the Grand Oriental Chair are free to adapt or disregard the advice of the commission, which will provide for them with the following proposed annual work agenda for their respective leadership teams.

	<i>Junior Grand Warden's Leadership Team / Term</i>	<i>Senior Grand Warden's Leadership Team / Term</i>	<i>Deputy Grand Master's Leadership Team / Term</i>
Program Component	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 to 3 afternoon Grand Lodge Leadership Orientation Seminars - Up to 1 per quarter, beginning 3rd quarter of each calendar year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two 1-Day Grand Lodge Governance Workshops in 3rd & 1st quarter of each calendar year - Quarterly mentoring caucuses as appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual 1-Day masonic term plan assessment workshop in 2nd Quarter of each calendar year - Quarterly coaching caucuses as appropriate
Component Objectives & Parameters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Orient incoming team on nature and appropriate performance of their leadership roles - 2 to 3 sessions each year gradually provided as more team members are recruited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coach incoming team with grand lodge systems, processes, and usual compliance concerns - Assistance with term planning when necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guide and empower each incoming team to ensure that they have done complete staff work as to their Masonic term plan - LL assessments & documentation during subsequent term
Implementing Arm of GLP LTC	Leadership Orientation Committee	Compliance & Systems Mentorship Committee	Lessons Learned & Best Practices Committee

The commission shall be governed by three (3) Past Grand Masters as commissioners, who shall supervise the work of not more than nine (9) Leadership Fellows selected from among the Senior Brethren of the Craft, with three (3) appointed every year by the supervising PGMs for renewable terms of three (3) years subject to the condition that Fellowship shall disqualify the holder from being appointed to the Grand Line or a corporate office of the Grand Lodge during his term of office or the Masonic Term immediately after. It will be organized to work with a secretariat and three committees with about three (3) Fellows each:



A Renewed Fraternity Ensured With Attaining A Sustainable Future

Thru each of these nine strategic initiatives, it is the aim and hope during the Masonic Term that Brethren of the Philippine Constitution can best assure themselves of a sustainable future in service to both the Craft and their Nation.



VW MELANIO V. LAZARO
Junior Grand Warden Nominee

VW MELANIO V. LAZARO

The youngest of seven, he was born on October 30, 1971, in San Mateo, Isabela. His late parents were both migrants in the province, Isidro H. Lazaro from Ilocos Norte, and Loreta Villarta, from Tarlac, and were both teachers, working as government employee and housewife, respectively.

He spent his elementary and secondary education at San Mateo East Central School and Eveland Junior College respectively, of the same town, as an ordinary child with no noticeable distinction after each course (1984 and 1988).

He studied BS Med Technology (graduated 1992, a registered med tech) and Medicine at FEU-Dr Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation (grad 1998) in Manila.

Bro Mel left the city in 1999, after acquiring his license and only equipped with the basic skills and with a kind heart to practice medicine with indigenous people of Eastern Ifugao and Quirino province. He did not enrich himself but rather chose to stay with the government, serving only the indigents for 16 years. However, he left the LGU due to political pressures and manipulations to his practice. He now manages his own infirmary health facility in his hometown.

He is a religious Methodist and happily married to his lifetime friend Ateng Leah Delos Trinos, a psychologist. They are blessed with 3 children, Lowenstein Julian 19, Athena Louise Viktoria 15, and Jean Morris Lovenski, 11 years old.

He petitioned to the Craft on June 2001 at San Mateo Masonic Lodge no.319 MDr02 Isabela South and Quirino (former MD52 and R02-D), and after a year of waiting, he was finally initiated on June 29, 2002, passed on July 27, 2002 and raised to sublime degree on August 17, 2002, and was initially tasked to study and deliver lectures.

On 2006 he was installed as Junior Warden, Senior Warden in 2013, and Worshipful Master in 2014. His dedication to masonic studies and its application, and his medical outreach never ceased, even after his term as WM. His Masonic wisdom was noticed by the District, appointing him as DGL in 2020 but due to Pandemic, he was only installed on the 23rd of April 2021.

As DGL during the lowest moment of the lodges within the district and the whole jurisdiction, he was able to write 180 lectures shared on various Masonic Facebook groups, having the pen name -bromVlazaroMD. His masterpieces reached outside boundaries as far as

Grand lodges of California, New York, Australia, Canada and Middle East, winning praises from foreign brethren.

*Membership to Appendant bodies/
Club

1. Plaridel York rite
2. AASR, MRS 32nd deg Northeast Luzon Bodies
3. Mabuhay Shrine, Sierra Madre
4. TTI (golf class)

*. Program of governance

Bro Mel aims 1) to bring the Grand ambiance of GLP in every doorstep of all lodges in the jurisdiction by putting great emphasis on the promotion of happiness, for he believes that a happy and contented mason can bring out the best in him no matter how worst the situation maybe, easily attaining peace and harmony among the brethren. Every success of masonic endeavor shall be celebrated with a fun filled FELLOWSHIP with participation of all family members of masons, regardless of the magnitude of the activity accomplished.

He aims 2) to scaffold the continuity of masonic teachings upon every brother regardless of masonic status inside the lodge thru regular masonic education. Aside from the formal education allotted during stated meetings, a day in a month shall be chosen by each lodges to conduct a special session for lecture purposes. Lecturers shall come from lodge's members, preferably past masters and past grand line officers to cover various fields of interest- technical, legal, moral and spiritual aspects of Freema-

sonry. It shall then necessitate the presence of permanent DGL in every lodge to strictly supervise the activity, which shall be a continuing process. The indicators of success shall be the a) diminishing number of cases being handled by the harmony officers, b) increase in stated meeting's attendance, c) increase participation in any lodge endeavor d) increase in membership, and e) increase appreciation of public on the presence of masons in the community.

He plans 3) to institutionalize every lodge, not only the GLP, to adopt a health facility/facilities, within the locality where a lodge is situated, a public health facility in particular, to augment immediate health care needs like medicines, supplies and unpaid bills.

Bro mel 4) wishes every past master, regardless of age and social status, be given an annual insurance, as a token for the honorable services rendered to the lodge with great sacrifices of endangering their lives from multiple travels using roads.

Bro Mel pledges to maintain and support the existing laws, the constitution, edicts, rules and regulations of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, it having been perfected by great and honorable brethren ahead of us. He only wants to impress upon every mind of every brother the understanding of every minute detail in it, thus, truly knows where to find eternal happiness, internal or external, expressive through his words and actions as a humble man and as a simple mason.



VW EMMANUEL R. SACAY
Junior Grand Warden Nominee

VW EMMANUEL R. SACAY

EDUCATION

- Post Graduate / Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Leadership & Development Management Course
- University of the Philippines (UP) / National College of Public Administration and Governance
- College / Philippine College of Criminology B.S. Criminology
- Secondary / Marcelo H. Del Pilar High School
- Primary / Malolos Central School

MASONIC CAREER

...squaring our actions throughout our life

- Raised: May 31, 2003
Malolos Lodge # 46
- Worshipful Master 2006 - 2007
- District Deputy Grandmaster 2008
Orchestrated Mindanao Caravan of MW Pacifico B. Aniang
- 2008 Asia Pacific Grandmaster's Meeting
Part of MW Pacifico B. Aniang's Entourage
- Member / Bulacan Bodies of Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite / 2007
- Hiram Awardee - 2019

POLITICAL CAREER

Destined to be a leader

- Barangay Captain / 3 Terms 1989 -1998
- Chairman Kabataan Barangay / 1975 - 1982
- City Councilor / City of Malolos / 1998 – 2004 / 2016 - Present
- Barangay Kagawad / 1982-89
- Vice Mayor / City of Malolos / 2 Terms 2004-2010

AWARDS

- Outstanding Barangay Captain / 1982 – 1989
- Outstanding City Councilor (Provincial) / 2000

- Outstanding City Vice Mayor (Provincial) / 2010
- Outstanding City Vice Mayor (National) / 2010

OTHER POSITIONS HELD

- Member / People's Law Enforcement Board (PLEB) / 2001-2010
- Board of Director / Vice Mayor's League of the Philippines / 2007-2010
- Director / Philippine Councilor's League / 1998-2004
- Chairman / Vice Mayor's League of the Philippines / 2007-2010
- Secretary General / Vice Mayor's League of the Philippines / 2004-2007

PLANS AND PROGRAMS

Harmony: The Strength and Support of Philippine Freemasonry

Three (3) Point Agenda as Grand Master

For the Grand Lodge

Relocation of Plaridel Masonic Temple to a provincial place for lesser taxes, leasing out current lot for income and use the old GLP as a Museum

For the Brethren

Health Care Benefits for all Masons under the Jurisdiction of the MWGLP

For Freemasonry in General

Establishment of a Lodge of Research in the Philippine Jurisdiction



VW DOUGLAS S. TAN
Junior Grand Warden Nominee

VW DOUGLAS S. TAN

MASONIC RECORD

- WORSHIPFUL MASTER - 2010
- DISTRICT GRAND LECTURER - 2014
- DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER - 2016

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2010 OUTSTANDING WORSHIPFUL MASTER
- 2010 OUTSTANDING LODGE
- 2016 OUTSTANDING DDGM
- 2016 OUTSTANDING DISTRICT

AFFILIATIONS

- PRESIDENT – PHILIPPINE CHRISTIAN GOSPEL SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSN
- ASSOCIATE MEMBER–BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE TRAVELER'S HAVEN
- PAST CHARTER PRESIDENT – FILIPINAS SHRINE CLUB
- MEMBER- ADVISORY COUNCIL-REGIONAL HIGHWAY PATROL GROUP
- MEMBER- ADVISORY COUNCIL-REGIONAL INTERNAL AFFAIRS-PNP

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

- Fine Arts - UP Cebu
- High School - Philippine Christian Gospel School

OCCUPATION

- PRESIDENT, VISAYAN EDUCATIONAL SUPPLY CORP.
- PRESIDENT, TSC PROPERTY HOLDINGS, INC.
- PRESIDENT, VESCORP INTERNATIONAL TRADING, INC.
- PARTNER, AA BARBEQUE (CHAIN OF RESTAURANTS)

PLANS & PROGRAMS

- **CREATION OF "MASONS CARE" PROGRAM FOR AILING, SICK AND AGED BROTHERS.** Masons have helped a lot of people outside of the fraternity through its various charitable activities. This is the mark of a Mason. But it cannot be denied that there are brother Masons who need charity as well. Some, perhaps embarrassed to tell his brothers, are even

compelled to seek help elsewhere. In this regard, may I suggest that we focus our charity inward to help ease the burden of these brethren and their families. Charity, after all, begins at home.

• INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS FOR GIFTED CHILDREN AND ORPHANS OF MASONS.

In line with this principle of focusing charity inward, may I also suggest that we create an educational scholarship fund to allow our Masonic nieces and nephews, especially those orphaned and those needing relief, an opportunity to pursue brighter futures. The idea is to not just better the man but to better his children as well. Our brothers' orphans will no longer worry as we will give them equal footing to pursue good education through our scholarship fund.

• FORMATION OF MORE PROFESSIONAL GUILDS.

Still in furtherance of inward charity, I propose that we encourage the formation of more Masonic clubs and associations composed of professionals within our ranks: a league of lawyers, an alliance of doctors and other health care specialists, a union of engineers, architects and contractors and a confederation of business leaders and practitioners. This will allow brethren to easier tap professional services and businesses and, in turn, aid Masons in earning a living in their respective crafts, the better to enable them to help other Masons, their widows and orphans.

• MODERNIZATION OF MASONIC TRANSACTIONS.

Finally, we will upgrade all systems in the Grand Lodge to allow modern and more convenient means of performing financial and other transactions. This will be done through the creation of a virtual bank for masons, the issuance of one national identification card using QR codes for easy updating of dues, the serializing and tracking of Masonic emblems, stickers and other paraphernalia using QR codes and other similar modernization projects.



VW MAGDALINO Q. GADRINAB
Junior Grand Warden Nominee

VW MAGDALINO Q. GADRINAB

DATE OF BIRTH

July 12, 1963

PLACE OF BIRTH

Cagayan de Oro City

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering
Xavier University - Ateneo de Cagayan
Cagayan de Oro City
March 1986

Licensure Exam
Civil Engineer
PRC License No. 50396

RAISED

June 24, 1995
Zosimo Montemayor Masonic Lodge No. 212
Life Member – by longevity

DUAL MEMBER

Seven Cardinal Virtues Masonic Lodge No. 390

HONORARY MEMBER

Muntinlupa City Masonic Lodge No. 414

Masonic Positions

- 2020 – Present
President - Guild of Past Masters
Masonic District RX Bukidnon South
- 2019 – 2021
Potentates Aid
Aguila Shriners
- 2016
Past District Deputy Grand Master (PD-DGM) Masonic DISTRICT RX Bukidnon South
- 2013
Past Master
Zosimo Montemayor Mas. Lodge No. 212

AWARDS

- HIRAM AWARD – Recipient
Zosimo Montemayor Mas. Lodge No. 212
2019
- ORDER OF DEMOLAY
 - Legion of Honor
 - Chevalier
 - Cross of Honor

MEMBERSHIPS

- Yorkrite Commandery
- Royal and Selected Masters
- Royal Arch Mason
- Allied Masonic Degrees
- AAOMS – Aguila Shriners
- Order of DeMolay
- DeMolay Alumni Ass of the Philippines

CAREER HISTORY

2009 to Present
President and Chief Executive Officer
Advance Production, Inc.

A manpower placement agency, sending Filipino workers to anywhere in the world with favorable working condition and better salary

2002 to Present

Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
MMS Development Training Center (Main)

A TESDA accredited technical vocational school. We offer courses that are in need our country as well as abroad. Pursues assessment and certification of the competencies of middle level skilled workers. This ensures the productivity, quality and global competitiveness of the middle level workers. We have accredited competency assessors who conduct competency assessment process for persons applying for certification. We operate in six (6) different areas in Luzon and Mindanao, Las Piñas, Metro Manila Baguio City, Benguet, San Fernando City, La

Union, Urdaneta City, Pangasinan, Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental & Valencia City, Bukidnon

2019 – Present

Consultant

Georen Construction and Supply
Cagayan de Oro City

2004 – 2009

President

MMS International Training Institute in Covina, California USA. A California, United States of America license vocational school. It was located in Covina, California. Trainings are comprehensive in healthcare fields and enhanced marketability and future professional potential. The healthcare skills prepare students for future success. Blending education with practical skills that can be used in the workplace. Vocational training is becoming more and more prevalent in the USA, as post secondary education qualifications increase. Healthcare training program offering courses in:

- Vocational Nursing
- Nursing Assistance
- Homecare Attendant

Trainings in this field works as a means for an immediate career opportunities for career growth

2004 – 2009

Vice President

BPS Construction Inc.
San Diego, California

A construction company operating in Southern California. Serving the veterans affairs hospital. Our company also services the United States Navy housing facilities and infrastructure in Southern California

Owner

GMV Contractors
San Diego, California
Home improvement Company

PROFESSIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- Life Member

Philippine Institute of Civil Engineer (PICE)

- Member
Kiwanis International
- Life Member
Gideon international
- Member
Philippine Association of Service Exporters Inc. (PASEI)
- Member
Organization of Placement Agency of the Philippines (OPAP)
- Member
Japan Employment Providers of the Philippines and Consultants Association (JEPPCA)
- Member
Association of License Recruitment Agencies for Singapore (ALRAS)

MOTTO

**WE INSPIRE, COMMIT,
PROTECT HEALTH AND
LEGACY WE LEAVE.**

PLANS AND PROGRAMS

Deep understanding of Free Masonry is great opportunity to success. Cement our Brotherhood to protect the health of those who are in need. We expand our lines, we build bridges to work together in this profound challenges, to combat deceases. Balance our responsibilities to live our lives with our Family and to one another. Using all the implements of Masonry to weave all the threads of Brotherhood fellowship into one mystic cord of friendship. Holding the race in UNITY and bonds of PEACE, as in the will of God. Let us therefore leave behind us, in other men the conviction and will to carry on. Plans and programs as a Junior Grand Warden: To report to the Grand Master and signify the desire to follow all His orders.

Plans and programs as a Grand Master

"We inspire, commit protect health and family; Legacy we leave"

Proposed plans and programs of Very Worshipful MAGDALINO QUINZON GADRINAB for

his nomination as candidate for the position of Junior grand warden for ANCOM 2022 – Manila Philippines:

- To organize activities and plan programs to strengthen relationships with families, Brethrens and friends of Masons. To reconnect and brought them together after the Pandemic. To create a greater sense of Brotherhood and family solidarity.
- to take measures of caution in all our activities in order to safeguard the well being of our Families, Brethrens, volunteers, visitors , staff and friends of Masons.
- To update and put additional measures that are important to further enhance Lodges network stability and electronic communication facilities. Expand the broadband communication services of the Grand lodge and regional Lodges since the increase of 60% of internet traffic compared to before the COVID-19 pandemic.
- To continue and strengthen the relief to the distress programs of the grand lodge of the Philippines. Exception from annual dues given to Brethrens who unable to provide for themselves and family due to health issues specially this time of COVID-19 pandemic. Further enhancements of these plans and programs will be added and modified.
- To inspires and demand the Lodges to improve the Masonic Temple's and lodges physical facilities and additional structures. Proposals for repair works, building upgrades and maintenance. Security gates, civil works services, painting, roof repairs and maintenance and Masonic Lodges site cleaning and clearing.
- To strategies on regionalization of instruction of the Institute of Masonic education and studies (IMES). In this manner, there will be quick and easy assessment and facilitation of the Institute educational programs. It will be beneficial in this time of pandemic to conduct the learnings in small groups. In a way to protect the health and safety of our Brethrens as our foremost concern.
- To design, organize and facilitate Retreats. After years apart due to COVID-19 Pandemic. Brethrens we position ourselves for

brighter and fruitful years ahead of us. For our Brethrens to step back from day to day activities. To give time for concentrated discussions, Dialogues, devotions and reflections. It is a change to get practical advices on issues facing our Lodge today. Share knowledge, build connections, and get inspired to lead in the future.

Specialize sessions on:

- Envision Change
 - Learning About Our Fraternity Plans
 - Fraternity Updates
 - Hear From Experts Advices
 - Exchange Information
 - Bench Marking and Hear Best Practices
 - In a Weekend of FUN and FRIENDSHIPS.
- To Create a Masonic Outreach Services (CALL CENTER).
 - To link and connect with Local Government Units (LGU) and Non Government Organizations (NGO) Services. For our Brother Masons, Families, Friends of Masons, Volunteers and Staff who SEEK HELP. Can easily contact our Outreach Services to speak to our incharge to facilitate access, need resources and the like in their local areas. To stay healthy and safe at home during Calamities, Typhoons and other emergency situations.
 - Enhance the Support Group Programs. Creating a committee that can focus on different needs like:
 - Visiting sick or Ill Brothers Connecting Brethrens, identify and contact members who don't attend Lodge regularly or those who are Old. Assign committee members to Set number of Brethrens to Call or visit and establish quarterly call schedule. It is an opportunity that can nurture relationships as a means to reconnect Elder Masons with His Lodge.



VW HENRY L. TAN

Junior Grand Warden Nominee

VW HENRY L. TAN

"Purity of Intention In All Our Action as a Freemason"

The said banner shall be our direction if favored and given the opportunity to serve as Junior Grand Warden. This journey implies to revisit the important teaching in the first step of our order as each one of us is prepared in our hearts. This is fundamental, that our labors should not be tainted with cloudy aspirations but rather emulations towards making actions for the craft with purity of intention. It is absolutely a requisite to all who aspire to partake of the sublime honors and advantages of our order; to those who are duly initiated into the mysteries, and instructed in the art of freemasonry.

In our initiatory degree we are charge to be prudent and to regulate the course of discipline as may bring about to the preservation of our physical faculties in their fullest energy; thereby enabling us to exert the talents with which the Supreme Being has blessed us to his glory as the welfare for our brethren and to the community. Each one of us we're first prepared in our heart and we only need to decide to keep our hearts and intentions pure, open our hearts and minds to corrections, and prepare to move forward in humility. This has helped us establish the perfect ground to build the value of purity; hopeful in working out a better version of ourselves. Pure intents and thoughts does not always equate to the purest courses of action. We may have pure intentions, but there are times that our expression is not necessarily right or sometimes, it can be misunderstood by others. The standards will always vary since misunderstandings are subjective and people have different opinions. We can never please everyone and it is not our goal to let everyone conclude that we are pure. Similar to the mosaic pavement in the King Solomon's Temple which is emblematic of human life checkered with good and evil; cloudy and clear thoughts.

We only need to decide to keep our hearts and intentions pure, open our hearts and minds to corrections and prepare to move forward. This shall be reinvested to the brethren on such important lesson as have been taught in our craft, and be always the blanket to cover for those who will knock at our pearly gates. In the midst of all the misunderstanding of our surroundings including the accusations that may be hurdled against us, this mentality can keep our inner peace and positively convince the world that through our action with purity of intention we have, indeed, become a better man.

Let purity be our best armor and with the grace of the GAOTU, we will do our best to keep our hands unblended. We are not pure people by nature, however, striving for purity is worth the effort for the benefit of the craft. Though, we can never be perfect in this life, but we can grow. In this quest, we can surely find joy in the fight for purity through little and big victories. This shall be our direction in coming up with our plans and programs if given the opportunity to be of service to our ancient organization.

VW HENRY LUY TAN, PDDGM, PJGL

Nominee Multi District Level

Western Mindanao Region

Born on April 16, 1960

Married to: **Kim Lian Mohaddam Tan**

Children:

- Kevin John T. Tan - Businessman
- Miko Philip T. Tan - Architect (Demolay)
- Kimberly Mae T. Tan - Entrepreneur (International Order of the Rainbow for Girls)
- Sheina Lim Tan - Businesswoman

Masonic Profile

Initiated: March 27, 1997

Passed: April 16, 1997

Raised: May 17, 1997

IMES: Class 2016-01-73

- Elected as Worshipful Master for the Year 2016, 2017 & 2018. Under my humble incumbency, it started and completed the Two Storey Building HKT Masonic Temple with a total area of 600 square meters.
- Appointed District Deputy Grand Master in 2019
- Appointed Junior Grand Lecturer in 2021

Award/Title Received

2015 Most Outstanding ZamboSurian in the field of Entrepreneurship

Educational and Work Experience

- After completing the primary and secondary education in Pagadian City, joins the Philippine Constabulary in 1978 as a trainee and was enlisted as constable in 1981.
- Applied for an optional retirement in the service in 2005.
- After retirement, start up a business on fish products and vegetables in Zamboanga and in then expanded to Caraga Region.
- Currently, managing a family owned Restaurant, Hotel and Resort Business in Mindanao.

Affiliation To Other Masonic Organization/Other Fraternal Organization:

- Shiners International (Agila Shriners No. 195)
- Order of the Easter Star
- The Fraternal Order of Eagles - Philippine Eagles



VW TRESE D. WENCESLAO

Junior Grand Warden Nominee

VW TRESE D. WENCESLAO

Presiding Judge of Branch 28
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
Cabanatuan City

- Born on October 13, 1965 in Ma. Aurora, Aurora.
- Married to Emerita Cruz of Quezon, Nueva Ecija.
- Roll No. 40660

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT:

- 1997 – Clerk of Court, RTC Branch 29, Cabanatuan City.
- 2000 – Legal Officer, City Government, Cabanatuan City.
- 2002 – Provincial Adjudicator, DAR.
- 2005 – Presiding Judge Municipal Trial Court, Cabanatuan City.
- Acting Presiding Judge, Municipal Trial Court, Province of Aurora.
- Law Professor at Araullo University & Wesleyan University-Philippines.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT:

ELEMENTARY:
Cabanatuan East Central School

SECONDARY:
Nueva Ecija High School

COLLEGE:

- Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Political Science
- Bachelor of Laws- Araullo University

ORGANIZATIONS:

- Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines – Past District Deputy Grand Master
- Kabukiran Shrine Club – President
- Cabanatuan Bodies Scottish Rite – SGIG, Nueva Ecija Aurora Valley
- Phil. Judges Association, Nueva Ecija Chapter – President
- Traveler's of Nueva Ecija Shooting Association – Past President
- Alpha Phi Omega – Pampanga Alumni Association – member

MASONIC PROFILE:

- Member Nueva Ecija Lodge No. 73 - 1997
- Worshipful Master Nueva Ecija Lodge No. 73 - 2001
- Grand Lodge Inspector - 2002
- District Grand Lecturer Masonic R-III-D - 2003
- District Deputy Grandmaster - 2004
- Venerable Master of Cabanatuan Bodies A.S.S.R. - 2005
- Member of Aloha Temple, Maharlika Shrine - 2006
- Senior Grand Steward - 2014



VW NELSON T. YAU
Junior Grand Warden Nominee

VW NELSON T. YAU

PERSONAL DATA

Date of Birth: June 09, 1965

Place of Birth: Caloocan City

- Victory Lodge # 116
- Island Luzminerva Lodge # 5

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

- Tertiary: BS in Marketing at San Beda College in 1986
- Secondary: Chiang Kai Shek College in 1982
- Elementary: Chiang Kai Shek College 1978

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- President - Triumph 89 Philippines Trading Inc.
- President - Redmaroon Construction Inc.
- Chairman - Masagana Marketing and Consultancy Inc.

MASONIC RECORD

- Assistant Grand Treasurer - 2009
- District Deputy Grand Master (NCR-B) - 2006
- DDGM Host Chairman of 2006 NCR Multi district convention
- District Grand Lecturer (NCR-B) - 2005
- Grand Lodge Inspector - 2004
- Worshipful Master - 2003
- Master Mason - 1998 Labong Lodge # 59
- Honorary Member
 - Service Lodge # 95

APPENDANT BODIES & OTHER RELATED MASONIC ORGANIZATION

- Member – Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of the Philippines (Luzon Bodies)
- Past Potentate – Mabuhay Shriners Philippines Inc. 2019
- Executive Director – Mabuhay Shriners Patients and Hospital Board
- High Shereef – Bamboo Shrine Club 2014
- Past President – Kamanava Travelers Club Inc. 2004
- Member – Quezon City Trowel Club Inc.
- Honorary Member – Bureau of Internal Revenue Travelers Haven Inc. (BIRTH)

CIVIC ORGANIZATION & AFFLIATION

- Vice President - Federation of Philippine Volunteer Fire Brigade Inc. 1991 - 1994
- Fire Chief - Hometown Volunteer Fire Brigade Inc. 1989 - 1991
- Deputy Fire Chief - Hometown Volunteer Fire Brigade Inc. 1983 - 1989

COMMITMENT

If the Great Architect of the Universe gives me the opportunity to serve in the Grand Oriental Chair, I Commit:

- To sustain the growth and relevance of the Craft in our Grand Jurisdiction throughout the generations;
- To serve our brethren by sincere governance and administration of our Grand Lodge;
- To encourage exemplary lives within the Craft, and amongst our respective families, workplaces and communities;
- To engage in endeavors that leave lasting impacts of Masonic values to both young and senior Masons

PROPOSED THEME

“Uniting in the grand design of promoting happiness”

My theme would emphasize the value of unity and harmony in attaining the objectives of my proposed plans and programs. Using such mindset, I hope to cascade this theme down to our subordinate Lodges with the intent of revitalizing and inspiring solidarity and cooperation among the brethren. We would endeavor to make our maxim “...who best can work and best agree” a reality in all Masonic undertakings.

PROPOSED FOUR POINT PROGRAM TO ACTUALIZE THE THEME

- I. PROMOTE SUSTAINED GROWTH IN MEMBERSHIP – FOR NEW PETITIONERS AND ENGAGEMENT OF INACTIVE MEMBERS
- II. EFFECTIVE LODGE GOVERNANCE – THRU ORIENTATIONS, LECTURES AND TRAINING
- III. CONTINUING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – TO FOSTER GOOD WILL IN OUR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES AND THE SOCIETY.
- IV. PROMOTING A HEIGHTENED AWARENESS OF THE CRAFT – UTILIZING SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS TO INTRODUCE FREEMASONRY TO THE PUBLIC.

It is my firm belief that Freemasonry remains relevant today as it was throughout the ages.

It remains our important duty to be exemplary in all our undertakings be it within or without the mystic circle. So that our concrete deeds rather than our words will be the basis for judging the goodness of our institution.



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