

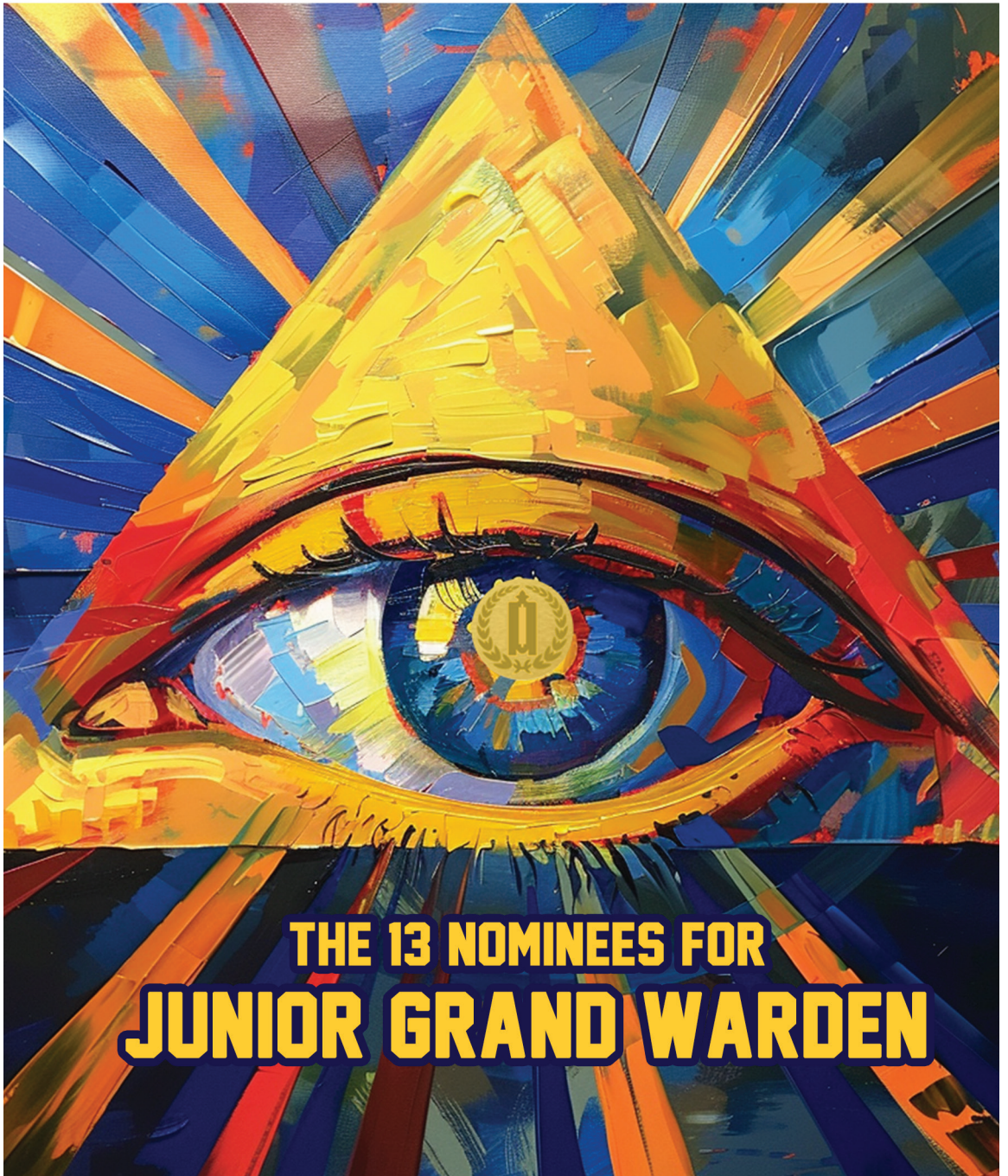


THE

centennial volume, issue no.3

CABLE TOW

The Official Publication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of
Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines



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JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN**

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The Cabletow

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Moral Law

In investing the jewel of the Worshipful Master, the Square, the Installing Master invokes thus: "The Square, my Brother, is an emblem of morality; and as it is the special badge of the Master's office, it should constantly remind you that not only by precept, but by example, you should promote good morals among the Brethren, and thus endeavor to avert the shadow of any scandal or reproach against the Fraternity. Your former life has given evidence that jewel will not be an unmeaning symbol on your hands, and I solemnly charge you to take good care that its lustre be not dimmed through any act of yours."

Goodness, righteousness, uprightness, are Masonic values and principles.

As Masons, we are admonished to take good care that the emblem of morality be not dimmed through any act of reproach against the Craft.

Freemasons are charged to practice out of the Lodge our moral



duties so that by amiable, discreet, and virtuous conduct, mankind will be convinced of the goodness of our Institution.

The moral design of Freemasonry is based upon its social character, to make men better, to cultivate Brotherly love, and to inculcate these virtues which is essential to the Brotherhood. Freemasonry obeys the moral law. This is based on the Divine precept to do unto others as they should do unto us.

MW Clifford C. Bennett, Grand Master, 1950, wrote that Masonry's aim is: "... to make of its members men who will always subdue their passions to the dictates of their reason; fearless men of conviction, who will fight evil wherever it may be found; men who, with faith in God and a firm belief in those self evident truths taught within our lodges, will go forth and preach them outside, in words as well as in deed."

So mote it be!

In Due Form

by VW Jonathan R. Amoroso

The Seven Last Words (and some garbage thoughts of a traveler one Good Friday)

1. Father, forgive them for they know not what they do. Forgiveness is among the plain and important messages of the Lenten Season. Catholicism preaches “that right up to his final hours on earth, Jesus of Nazareth asked His Father to forgive but it is His very sacrifice on the Cross that mankind is able to be forgiven.” It gains more meaning even if the supposedly errant person does not recognize his fault. How do we fix a purportedly crooked situation when someone sees that it is verily a straight line yet who is bold enough to claim as the sole jury of righteousness? The truth is, diversity of cultures or beliefs which is a classic asset of Freemasonry is sometimes its worst nightmare. A “holy cow” is the core of faith in specific religions but it is just a street idiom of the Boy Wonder in Gotham City and a delicacy in the menu of Ambrosia and Elar.

But on the boiling point of conflicts, shall we flash the dirty finger and fold the eager fists? Never in the Craft. In the Scottish Rite, and even dur-



ing the days when “intolerance, bigotry, and oppression” walk on the face of earth without their shirts on, we humbly hold on to the faith “that the hand of God shall strike at the heart of spiritual tyranny and oppression” and whisper the magic word “Nokum Adonai” or “Vengeance is Thine, Oh Lord”. Lest in fighting intolerance, bigotry, and oppression, we ourselves become the intolerant, the bigots, and the oppressors whom we strive very hard to exorcise. After all, the roughest squabble also troubles the smoothest mansion but the good news is that nothing is beyond forgiveness among members of a family, and nothing is beyond redemption within the unimaginable possibilities of a lifetime.

2. I assure you, on this day, you are with me in paradise. Faith can move mountains. Faith can heal sore eyes. And faith can take us to paradise. But at first glance, these “last words” are like explicating man’s faith as a sheer hunch. Who could, after all, have a nice, first impression on the Son of God wearing a crown of thorns, bleeding profusely, and nailed on a cross between two felons. But that is how it works. Faith is nothing less

than a gut whispered by heaven. The promise of paradise may sound out of this world, way beyond algebra, extremely ahead of one's time, or too under-dressed for the occasion but it is the reason for humanity itself.

In a fraternity, we just close our eyes and take heart that even if we eject ourselves out of a canon, a hand would catch us in mid-air and that even if we are way too drunk to swig a Tequila shot for the road, someone would take the challenge for us and turn the jigger bottoms up. We can trivialize some of life's deepest mysteries but the basic reality in the midst of these hullabaloo is that believing in something or someone has made man survived his life. In today's e-age, it is the only app explaining how he is able to brave the storms and how he still sees a rainbow after each of them. And I doubt if a time would ever come when this widget would need an update.

3. Mother, behold thy son. Son, behold thy mother. Freemasons' reverence for women, particularly for the mother, wife, and daughter/s are unprecedented. In the Craft and its Symbols, it is written that as early as Phytagoras, "women are considered equal with men." From a beermate in Sessions, it is the only organization where a member cares less if he would go to heaven or hell after his death because he is sure that his widow and orphan/s are in the caring hands of his Brethren.

From another perspective, this scene is the point where a son stands face to

face with his Mother Lodge to know her dearly and more. But we have long history of hearing the well-meaning phrases "for the lodge", "for the good of the lodge" or "for the love of the lodge" but saw catastrophic results when these formulas were removed from the test tube. The commonality of good intentions and the variances in the ways to concretize them do not at all add up to refine the Lodge. But notwithstanding these clashes, it is still a good reckoning point. It is a realization that we are different but still the same, that we are worlds apart but still sitting together, and that we may not see eye to eye but still looking at each other. As in every home, all that a Mother wants is respect for each other's person, dignity, beliefs, and hairstyle. Divergence is unavoidable. Disagreement is inevitable. But harmony is not impossible so long as nobody insists that Meteor Garden is better than Casa Blanca. A mother's genuine smile knowing that her children got each other's back is the Eighth Wonder of the World with which every son deserves a selfie.

4. Father, why have you forsaken me? While at the outset, these words picket a man's strongest protest of abandonment, they nonetheless speak of a recognition that he is not at all the alpha and omega of the pack, that there is a cause bigger than the self and ego, and that there is a Grand Designer whose handsome plans are just shrouded by the mess of every day's dregs and thrashes.

It also invites an introspective moment when man searches for the

slightest hint why the problems from Joppa found their way to his doorstep, and for the wisdom that perhaps empower him to understand them. And more, it reveals his social nature to invite person/s of his confidence to carry out a complex blueprint or just to be with him during trying times. As they say, it takes two to tango. For the Catholics, it takes the collaboration of the Holy Trinity to save the world. To the Masons, it takes at least three Master Masons to compose a Lodge of their kind.

5. I thirst. This is about sensing the weaknesses, frailties, and imperfections of being human, and the acceptance of the desirability of fulfilling one's needs. At times though, the same could only be gratified through the intervention of another. Easily, someone's congenial deed in relation to someone else's longings quenches an abiding thirst and offsets an imminent distress. These happen on fellowships when a Brother immerses with the others, opens up his life, and allows himself to be known by them and the process just circles among the rest. A Brotherhood in action is the positive outcome where he offers his hand to those who need them and he is likewise aided at such point when he makes a call. In himself, he gains strength and with the others, he gains more.

But sometimes, we ask for water and we get vinegar. We received anchovies when we ordered for marlins. Yet difficulties are just parts of a level in any game. Removing challenges in a play is to register boredom as a team-

mate. Every Brother looks forward with excitement to a fellowship as much as, or probably more than, he does to a stated meeting. After a grueling month of fatiguing work in the office or torturous boredom at home, the 2nd Saturday night has finally touched down for a light, relaxing, and pleasant get-together with the Brethren. The long excitement for a fellowship is not really to get drunk with the over-supply of beers but to give, receive, pass around and enjoy the abundance of friendship and Brotherly love.

6. It is finished. Christ knew His mission and in His dying seconds, He knew that it was about to be fulfilled. In a man's life, this is the time when he goes to the top of the hill, views the landscape, and rates his doings: Did I make the forest a tree greener? Did I sweep the gutter a cigarette butt cleaner? Or did I make a beggar's tummy a lugaw fuller?

Aside from these pious projects to advance a green environment and charity, Christ's final words also tell of an unconditional obedience to a certain command. Masonry has a string of tenets, principles and teachings which are meant to refine an "ashlar" and every ritual labors to process, improve, and purify both the initiates and the members beyond the earned degrees. The sublimity, beauty, and significance of these rites slice the Craft apart from the rest but the questions still nag: Do I follow them to the letter or are they, through a deliberate callousness to their meanings, got lost in

translation? If I cannot answer these in a positive context, then I am not duly and truly prepared to live and breathe its sum and substance, then I should be ashamed – not proud – that I am part of its legion, and that the best way to give honor to its incorruptible name is by stepping out of its western door. As the visible and tangible face of Freemasonry, I just dismally portray it to be merely one of the clubs, to be more of the same, and one that is totally ill-equipped to make the difference that its charter has envisioned to bring about.

To be a better man is not a shirt imprint, a commercial slogan, or a homework sworn to be done by a snap of a pinky finger but a command that a Mason has obliged himself to do in a rite witnessed by God. It may be a work in progress and every process has a beginning. A person may have a bad start, a cursed middle game yet nothing prevents him from starting anew, from correcting his own wrongs, and from having an honorable finale. “Finished” is the time when, through a devoted knowledge and application of the rituals, the mission is met in making man a conscience clearer.

7. Father, into your hands, I commend my Spirit. This is the ultimate point where man puts his guards down and free flows his will in unison with the scheme of the one manning the control center and holding the master plan. For the faithful, nobody casts a doubt as to what may be inside the thoughts of the Supreme Being but rather, they completely trust that eve-

ry happenstance is in the agenda of the world’s salvation. That Christ’s suffering would be seconded by his ascension to heaven has been held as gospel truth since time immemorial because stones turned to bread and water into wine, Jonix graduated from Senior High School with honors, Fiona found herself a boyfriend, and some big dreams do come true courtesy of a little word – believe. While Freemasonry shares a parallelism in her belief in the Great Architect of the Universe, one feature stands out in her books and that is its compelling charge that man’s purification starts with his avowal to clean his own mess and “improve himself in Masonry.” The aim is to raise his body from the emblematical grave sans the superfluities of hatred, anger, fear, and all excess baggage of life that only tend to pull him down.

Changing a man into the mold of Freemasonry’s ideals may take a while but yes, Azariah, there is now a cure for eczema. Nothing is too far nowadays. Man has reached the moon that is 384,000 kilometers away. Space X intends to land 2 Big Falcon Rockets (BFR) with human passengers on Mars which is 54.6 million kilometers from Earth. More recently, on September 25, 2017, Cassini Spacecraft made its final approach to Saturn which has a distance of 1.2 billion kilometers. Yet who needs rocket technologies to go to somewhere heavenly and significant. Man can reach the goodness in a heart that he can touch by just squaring his arm.

Happy Easter, Brethren! ❖

VR MURRAY BARTLETT, D.D.

FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES

By VR Samuel P. Fernandez, HA, PGC

A Priest? A Mason? An American? Hardly can you find such titles attached to a person. Only on the first President of the University of the Philippines, Dr. Murray Bartlett, born in Poughkeepsie, New York, on March 29, 1871.

Recipient of Master of Arts degree from Harvard University and a graduate of the General Theological Seminary in 1896, the Very Rev. Fr. Murray Bartlett was ordained priest and Rector of St. Paul's Church in Rochester, New York. Dr. Bartlett came to the Philippines in 1908 at the age of 37 to assume the deanship of the Cathedral of St. Mary and St. John in

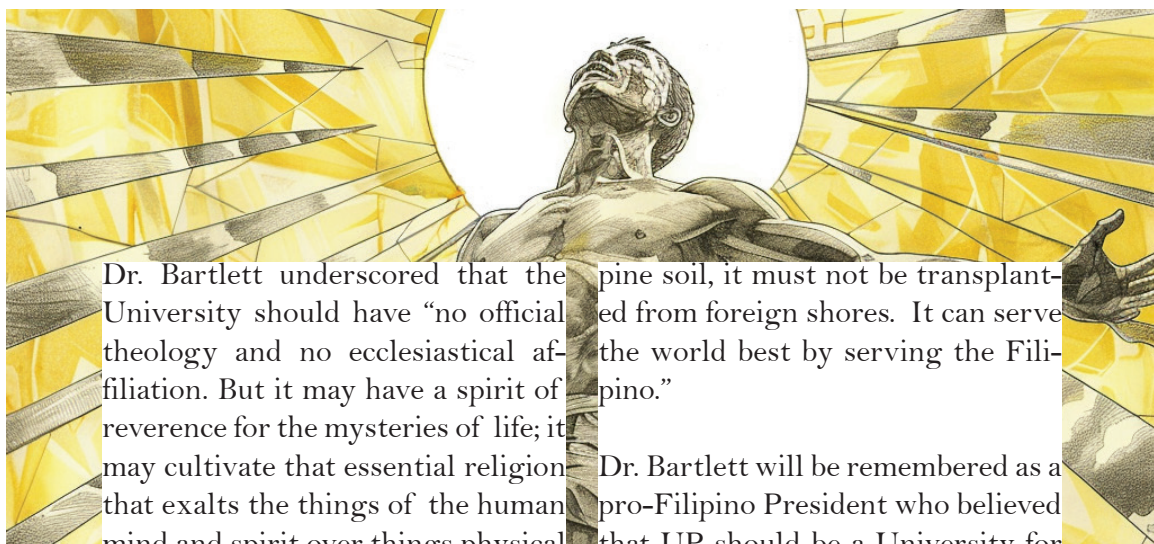
Manila. When World War I broke out, he served in the US Army and attained the rank of Lt. Colonel. He was awarded the D.S.C. (U.S.) and Croix de Guerre and Chevalier Legion of Honor (France).

As a Mason, Ill. Bartlett was a member of the Rochester Consistory in New York under the Northern Jurisdiction. He joined the newly organized Lyceum of the Philippines and was elected Prior, the second highest position in the Lyceum. When Mt. Arayat Lodge of Perfection, Manu Chapter of Rose Croix, Confucius Preceptory and Gautama Consistory of the Philippines Bodies, which are existing up to now, were established, Bro. Bartlett participated in many of its conferrals. As a member of the Northern Ma-

sonic Jurisdiction, Bro. Bartlett limited his membership to the Lyceum. Ill. Bartlett was crowned 33rd Mason by the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, which he considered his greatest honor, he being the first of three great Philippine Masonic Educators thus honored – followed by Dr. Conrado Benitez and Dr. Camilo Osias.

Act No. 1870, which was enacted into law, ordained the establishment of the University of the Philippines. This development was without parallel in the Philippine history, for existing colleges then were missionary schools, heavy on religious orientation.

Sworn as the first University of the Philippines President in 1911,



Dr. Bartlett underscored that the University should have “no official theology and no ecclesiastical affiliation. But it may have a spirit of reverence for the mysteries of life; it may cultivate that essential religion that exalts the things of the human mind and spirit over things physical and which reads back of the material world a purpose and destiny.”

“This then should be our watchword in developing the University of the Filipino – efficiency, founded upon scholarship and inspired by character.”

Dr. Bartlett further said: “It is my conviction that if we have before us this ideal, our university will measure up to world standards, thereby carrying out the manifest provision of our Charter, but it must never be forgotten that this is and shall always be a University of the Philippines. It has been truly said that there can be no greatness without nationality. The world centers of knowledge are essentially national. With students from all parts of the world, Berlin is essentially German and Oxford essentially English. This University should not be a reproduction of the American university. If it is to blossom into real fruit, it must grow in Philip-

pine soil, it must not be transplanted from foreign shores. It can serve the world best by serving the Filipino.”

Dr. Bartlett will be remembered as a pro-Filipino President who believed that UP should be a University for Filipinos. He founded the Graduate School of Tropical Medicine and Public Health; organized Medicine, Fine Arts, Agriculture (Los Banos), Veterinary Science, Engineering, Liberal Arts, and Law.

Dr. Bartlett served as UP President up to 1915, turning over the presidency to Dr. Ignacio Villamor, which was part of Dr. Bartlett’s plan for the university: “A University by and for the Filipino.”

In 1919, he was elected President of Hobart and William Smith College of Geneva, New York, serving the college until he retired in 1936.

The first President of the University of the Philippines was a Priest, a Mason, and an American rolled into one. Strange it may be but truth oftentimes is stranger than fiction. ❖

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VR Samuel P. Fernandez, HA, PGC

INDOMITABLY BENEVOLENT

by VW Victor A. Yu, PSGL

It was during the first Annual Communications held outside the City of Manila in 1987 when I first met VR Samuel P. Fernandez, PGC. He was one of our guests during a lunch hosted by our family for a Grand Lodge delegation led by MW John L. Choa, PGM. My late father, VW Raymundo L. Yu, Sr., PSGD introduced me to VR Sam whose name and face I was already familiar with because of *The Cable Tow* and *Far Eastern Freemason* issues that our parents

regularly placed on our reading table. Being awed by his stature, I was pleasantly astonished when VR Sam spoke on the level with me, then just a 21-year-old kid with 7 months of Masonic life. Even if we only conversed briefly, he left a lasting impression upon me that awakened my interest to pursue more light in Masonry. Such encounter convinced me that indomitable benevolence undoubtedly resides within worthy Masons and from thereon I looked forward to meeting more of such brethren. Afterwards, I often ran into VR Sam's frequent presence at the old Plaridel Masonic Temple whenever I attended the meetings of my mother lodge, Service Lodge No. 95. Even until now, instilled in my mind is a vivid picture of a robust VR Sam in his early 50s with a small portable camera tucked on his belt ever ready to take pictures of any precious Masonic moments

worthy of publication, and write about them.

However, it was not until 14 years later during the term of MW Napoleon A. Soriano, PGM in 2001 that I was able to work and serve the Grand Lodge with VR Sam. Once again, I was amazed seeing how he would work with the brethren in a collaborative and constructive manner. He immensely contributed to our planning discussions and would always accept with an open mind other ideas and concepts even when it meant his initiatives would take a backseat. After decisions were made, he fully supported the team decision and harmoniously labored. Indeed, an excellent actualization of our unifying principle of “who best can work and best agree.”

After such term, masonic service again brought us together in 2005 when we actively implemented the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies (IMES). There I saw how he provided the necessary educational standards as we exerted efforts to formulate and implement a unified Masonic education system for our grand jurisdiction. Through the decades, I was also a witness to the dedicated service of VR Sam as he always answered the call of masonic service and served the brethren as: Grand Lodge Officer in numerous and different capacities, part of the various Grand Lodge Committees, active key Lodge Officer, lecturer, resource person, installing officer and guest speaker for lodge, district, multi-district and Grand Lodge affairs.

To narrate the achievements of VR Sam as a Freemason as well as the at-

tainments in his vocations as an educator, historian, journalist, theologian and ordained minister would likely fill up a large portion of this Cable Tow issue. Suffice it to say that VR Sam is an icon at Noli Me Tangere No. 42, our Grand Lodge, Blue Lodge Masonry and Scottish Rite Masonry. His significant and meaningful contributions to our official publication, The Cable Tow, and that of the Philippine Scottish Rite Masons, the Far Eastern Freemasons, is likewise so well-known among the brethren. But most appreciably, whatever VR Sam achieved without the Lodge, Freemasonry in our grand jurisdiction enormously benefitted. He brought to our Masonic Education system and IMES the standards befitting of an adult learning institution and provided depth in our research on the role of Freemasonry in Philippine history and nationhood. He broadened our minds with the insightful contents in the published issues of the Cable Tow where he continues to contribute articles up to now. He shared his deep study and understanding of religious faiths and enriched our understanding of masonic rituals and symbolisms. He redeemed the public image of our fraternity through his published letters by national dailies whenever misinformation tarnished it. He mentored both young and older Masons: and is still ever ready to answer their calls for assistance in Masonic service.

Despite his stature within and without Masonry, his character never changed through the years. In an annual communication during the early 2010s, he was unable to make prior hotel arrangements with his Lodge and joined our

Lodge delegation. I did not attend such communication and all in our contingent then were younger Masons, except for one honorary member. The honorary member was the only one among them who personally knew VR Sam. When they returned from such travel, I received nothing but praises on the exemplary conduct of VR Sam from all of them. They informed me that our esteemed brother displayed the discretion, virtue and dignity of an exemplary Mason and they deeply felt his sincere gratitude for allowing him to billet with them. A month thereafter, VR Sam also attended our Stated Meeting, and when I asked him if we oldies at Service Lodge No. 95 have taught our lodge successors well, he gave me a heartfelt smile that expressed a strong confirmation, and which gave us much delight.

As with any human institutions, misunderstandings and conflicts also beset the masonic journeys of VR Sam. Nevertheless, his fervent faith in our Supreme Grand Master and his genuine love for his brothers always prevailed. I saw his melancholic self when he attended the funeral rites of a departed brother who had unfairly offended him in the past. When our present Cable Tow Editor-in-Chief, VW Rolando F. Rocha, GSchb, asked VR Sam his secret for being a happy and healthy 88-year-old, he answered: "I do not harbor ill feelings against others because it only burdens me." His words and actions constantly remind me of our shared principle that on matters pertaining to the dynamics in our mystic circle, "we serve the brethren and our Grand Lodge, and that masonic personalities come and go." Those "secrets" were very instrumental in

making our masonic travels worthwhile and joyful.

As we touched on the exemplary service of VR Sam in our Craft, it is unjust to not acknowledge the sacrifices of the family of VR Sam which enabled him to serve our Fraternity so well. Sis. Erlinda Asedillo Fernandez (Sis. Linda) and daughters, Ethel and the late Eileen, permitted the brethren to occupy much of VR Sam's time when he could have spent such moments with them. But with equal benevolence as VR Sam, they readily shared him with the brethren and even supported his service to our Craft. At present, Sis. Linda continues with her steadfast support to VR Sam in his masonic labors – a testament to her unconditional love for VR Sam and deep affection also for our Masonic Family. As evidence of their love and dedication for Freemasonry, such couple even chose for the location of their family abode a house that is both easily accessible to VR Sam's workplace and also the Grand Lodge. Masonic benevolence certainly prevails in VR Sam's family.

If I were asked if there is a phrase more than other phrases that best describes our worthy and exemplary brother, I would say that there is none more fitting than that he is and has always been an indomitable benevolent brother to all and for all seasons and those brethren who knew and served with VR Samuel P. Fernandez, PGC, will surely all fully agree with me. ❖



”MW Don T. Ramas-Uypitching and the Brethren of Overseas”

by Bro. JC Delos Santos

The Annual Multi-District Convention of the Masonic Districts of Overseas, of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines, took place on February 17, 2024, at the Holiday Plaza Hotel in Guam, USA.

The distinguished gathering was graced by the presence of the Most Worshipful Grand Master Don Terng Ramas-Uypitching with VW Joseph Boboy Cua, Grand Lodge Sword Bearer & Governor of Catanduanes, along with VW Erick Butch Roldan Jr., Grand Lecturer for South Luzon and Bicol. The convention was also attended by notable dignitaries and brethren, including VW Roger Dianco, DDGM for Okinawa, Japan; VW Ramil De Mesa, DDGM for Camp Zama, Japan; VW Robert Pua Phee, DDGM for CAR Benguet and La Un-

ion; VW Jun Bella, DDGM for Cavite West; WB Joaquin Ostrea Jr and WM Gerard Ostrea of Francisco Isabelo Ortega Masonic Lodge No. 452; Bro. Rodrigo Joven, Junior Warden of Union Masonic Lodge No. 70; Bro. Alex De Guzman of Jose Yuchongtian No. 354; and RW Clifton Claybrooks, Deputy Grand Master for District 8 of MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington. Brethren from Saipan and other districts were also warmly welcomed by VW Jose Carlo Delos Santos, Junior Grand Lecturer for Guam and Saipan, alongside VW Roland Gogue, DDGM for Guam, VW Robert Gopez, DGL and the district



officers. The Micronesia Masonic Lodge No. 173, led by its Worshipful Master Jose Graciano Sevilla, officially commenced the proceedings. The lodge warmly received VW Roland Gogue, the presiding officer of the convention, who then welcomed all dignitaries, with the MW Grand Master Don T. Ramas-Uypitching being the last to be received. The event commenced with an invocation, the presentation of the flag, and a tribute to the United States flag by VW Jose Carlo Delos Santos. The Grand Lodge hymn was sung, followed by the presiding officer's welcome address. VW Greg Blas, CJGL, presented and gained approval for the minutes of the previous convention, and a roll call of lodges, determination of quorum, and approval of resolutions were conducted. Masonic Education was provided by VW Roberto Gopez, and the venue for the next convention in Guam was announced.

The Guest of Honor and Speaker, MW Grand Master Don T. Ramas Uypitching, delivered a significant message following his introduction by the Junior Grand Lecturer for Overseas. Tokens and appreciations were exchanged, and the convention was formally closed by the presiding officer, leading to the installation ceremony.

Before the convention, MW Don T. Ramas-Uypitching attended the 32nd Annual Installation of Officers for Emon Masonic Lodge No. 179 in Saipan. The event saw the installation of WM Fernando Enano, SW Carlos Eslaban Jr., and JW Raul Abordona-

do, with VW Elmer Balbin, PDDGM, serving as the Installing Officer. VW Wilfredo Boy Ching and VW Daniel Banez, Master of Ceremonies and Assistant Master of Ceremonies respectively. Following his speech, MW Don T. Ramas-Uypitching expressed gratitude for the prevailing harmony and unity.

Subsequent to the Multi-District Convention, the 61st Installation of Micronesia Masonic Lodge No. 173 unfolded. Worshipful Master Arthur Zantua and the lodge officers were installed, with VW Jose Carlo Delos Santos as the Installing Officer WB Arnel Zantua as Master of Ceremonies and WB James Padilla as Assistant Master of Ceremonies. The installed Master delivered his acceptance speech, followed by the introduction and message of MW Don T. Ramas Uypitching. Tokens and appreciations were exchanged during the fellowship dinner.

The Lodge was ceremoniously closed by VW Roland Gogue, emphasizing the harmony and unity prevailing among Freemasons, who, together, continue to build temples within the hearts of men. Around the island tour was done and fellowship lunch and dinner was also held in honor of MW Grand Master Don T. Ramas-Uypitching at the Guam Scottish Rite temple. The experience of brethren dwelling together in unity and concord was indeed a pleasant and enriching one. ❖

ON FERTILE GROUND

by VW Rolando F. Rocha, GScr

Just as King Solomon reflected with regret in his older years, I am also reminded of the missed opportunities to better myself in Freemasonry and now seek redemption for the errors and omissions of my youth within the Craft.

From the Volume of the Sacred Law of my faith, it is written that: On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear."(Matthew 13:1-9 NRSV)

I remember the times my heart and mind were distracted by the numerous activities in Masonry, persistent responsibilities as lodge/grand lodge officer and the vivacious camaraderie of our fellowships. During such times, I failed to recognize the noble purpose of the existence of our ancient and honorable institution. Thus, our moral teachings became wasted like seeds that fell on the path that were devoured by my inner ruffians that tempt me with mercenary motives and interests.

I recollect my days of youthful eagerness to attend as much lodge meetings and fellowships as I can. During those days, the maze of fanatical beliefs and prejudiced opinions that tend to be discordant overwhelmed me. Thence, the potential to enable me to subdue my passions, dispel intrigues and promote harmony in my own lodge became like seeds that fell on stony ground that sprung up swiftly but withered away as my masonic cornerstone was devoid of our deeply-rooted tenets and virtues.

I call to mind the periods when association with brethren eminent in masonic knowledge and conferred with influence in our grand lodge occurred naturally with me. During those periods, the spectacle of ceremonies and authority over the brethren blinded me. Consequently, I became like seeds that fell on

thorns and were chocked by my arrogance and misplaced entitlement.

I thereafter reminisce the moments where exemplary masons manifested to me the true essence of our Craft – that of “improving myself in masonry.” Being illuminated by them and having failed in my attempts to better myself, I feel remorse for the eras when I fell on the path, on rocky ground and on thorns. With such realization, my spirit was renewed to continually examine my ways and persistently

endeavor to pursue light in Masonry. I shall now endeavor to remember our Supreme Creator no longer “in the days of my youth while evil days come not” but shall ever contemplate that “the dust shall return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return to God who gave it.” May He create within me a fertile ground where I can faithfully plough to bring forth grains of goodness, a hundredfold, sixtyfold or thirtyfold in accordance to His will. ❖



FELIPE BUENCAMINO, SR.

FIRST HONORARY PAST GRAND MASTER OF THE GRAND LODGE OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

by VR Samuel P. Fernandez, HA, PGC

MW Felipe Buencamino, Sr., first Grand Master of the post Philippine-American war, looms large in the masonic horizon for serving as Grand Master for four terms (1907, 1908, 1913 and 1914) under the Gran Consejo Regional, Gran Oriente Espanol. After the 1917 Philippine Masonry's unification, MW Buencamino served the Grand Lodge in various capacities until his election as Honorary Past Grand Master in 1925, at 76 years old. MW Buencamino, Sr. enjoyed his title until four years later, on February 6, 1929, to be exact, when he was summoned to the Celestial Lodge.

Early Life

Felipe Buencamino, Sr. was born on August 28, 1848, in San Miguel de Mayumo, Bulacan, to Victor Buencamino and Petrona Siojo. He was only 11 years old when his family moved to Manila in 1859. After completing high school, he took up a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Santo Tomas, graduating with honors. MW Buencamino stud-

ied canonical and Roman laws under Fr. B. Corominas and Jose Arrieta.

Civic Career

Bro. Buencamino Sr. earned his law degree at the University of Santo Tomas in 1884. He went to work for the Manila Audencia (court) and was eventually promoted fiscal. He served as a registrar of property in Ilocos Sur in 1891. Then was appointed ad interim judge of the Court of First Instance of Tayabas (1888) and Batanes (1896).



Spanish Military Career

At the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution in 1896, Buencamino, Sr. was still working with Spanish government. Gov. Gen. Primo de Rivera appointed Buencamino Sr. as honorary lieutenant in Pampanga. On October 16, 1897, he was decorated with the Cross of Carlos III after he prominently figured in the battles of Kamansansi and Mount Arayat. Gov. General Agustin appointed Buencamino Sr. as lieutenant colonel of the Voluntary Force which was composed of 800 soldiers. Buencamino made remarkable and notable

engagements in San Antonio Abad, in Zapote Bridge and in Muntinglupa.

Filipino Revolutionist

Accused by the colonial authorities of being a Filipino spy, Buencamino was thrown into prison on Osorio, Kawit. Governor General Agustin later freed him, but Buencamino found the experience so repugnant and revolting that he decided to cast his lot with the Filipino revolutionist.

On June 12, 1898, Buencamino actively participated in the proclamation of Philippine independence in Kawit, Cavite as a new comrade-in-arms.

General Aguinaldo appointed Buencamino as a Secretario de Fomento (Secretary of Public Development) on September 26, 1898. He was one of the members that drafted the constitution of the Malolos Republic.

Upon order of Gen. Aguinaldo, Buencamino investigated the killing of a Filipino corporal in Sta. Mesa and put the blame squarely on the American forces. Buencamino became the director of the military tribunal with the rank of Colonel during the outbreak of the Philippine-American War. He resigned from this post in June 1899. On November 17, 1899, Buencamino Sr. was captured by American troops.

American Regime


United State Secretary of State John Hay had sent a telegram to the Schurman Commission offering the Filipinos autonomy under American authority. Buencamino was among those who lobbied for the acceptance of American

control and domination of the Philippines. While the Philippine-American War was still raging, Buencamino and Pedro A. Paterno formed a group known as the Pacificados. They organized what was called Asociacion de Paz (League for Peace). The goal was to aid General Elwell Otis' pacification campaign. Among its prominent members were known members of the Craft: Trinidad Pardo de Tevera, Leon M. Guerrero, Rafael Palma, Justo Lucban, Pascual H. Poblete, and Cayetano Arellano. In December 1900, the league changed its name to Partido Federal dominated politics until 1907 when Nacionalistas advocated independence.

In 1901, Buencamino became a member of the Civil Service Board. In 1902, he visited the United States of America.

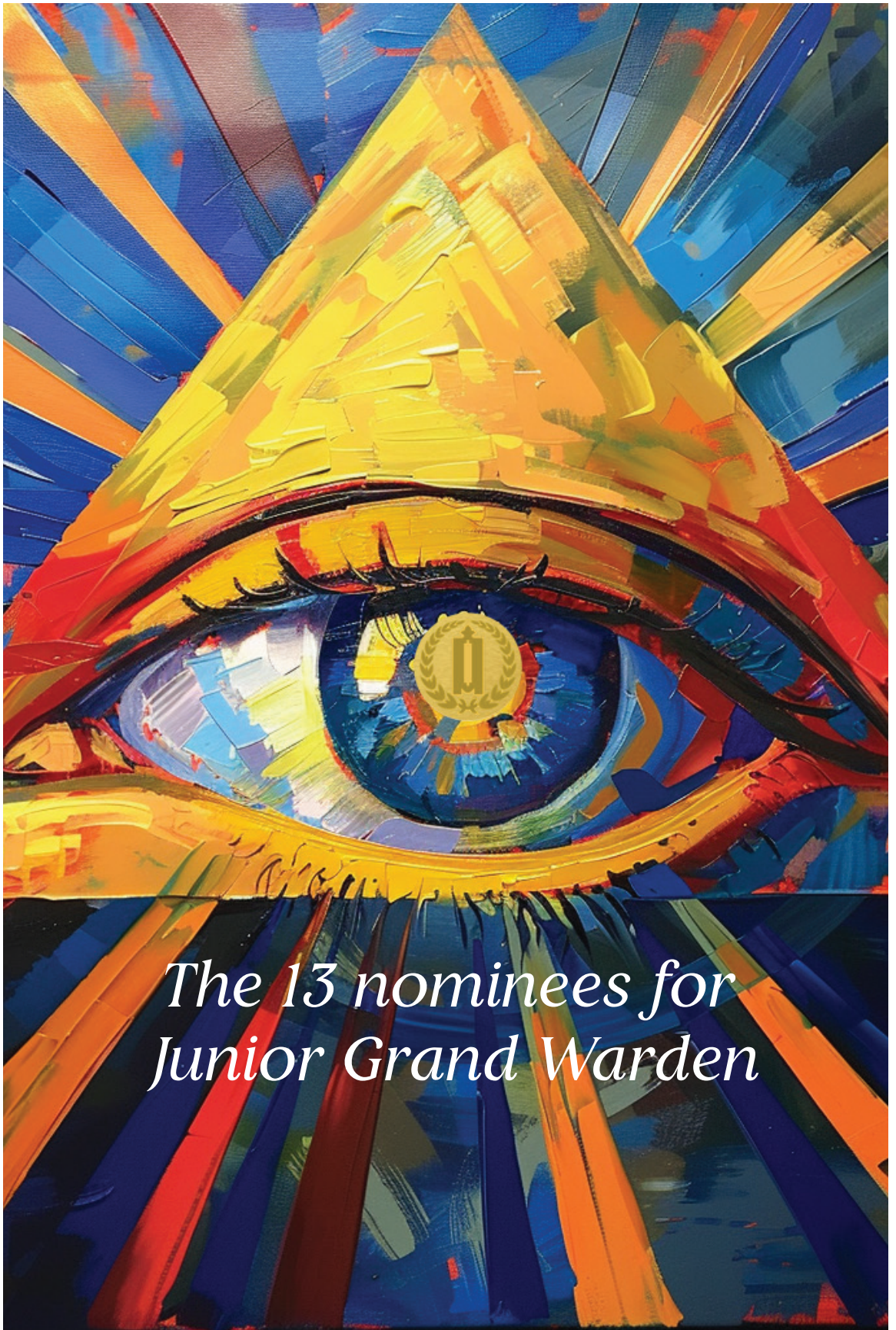
Legacy

MW Felipe Buencamino, Sr. led a colorful life. He was one of the founders of the Philippine Independent Church. He became president of the Presbyterian congregation of Tondo. MW Buencamino is the only Grand Master who served four terms under the Gran Consejo Regional, Gran Oriente Espanol.

Granted an Honorary Past Grand Master in 1925, his dedication to Freemasonry is without equal. At age 76, he was an epitome of dedication and devotion when he received the honor of Honorary Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands. 

References:

- Kinship to Greatness, Rosendo C. Herrera, Publisher
- Filipinos in History, Vol. III, National Historical Institute, 1992



*The 13 nominees for
Junior Grand Warden*



HOSSAIN S. VOSTAKALAEI

”Masonry will always be our way of Life”

My Plans and programs for our beloved craft consist of providing a solid foundation towards the Advancement of Freemasonry in the Philippines through strong leadership, enhanced Masonic education and a strong emphasis on the welfare of Lodges and its members.

LEADERSHIP

The beauty and uniqueness of Freemasonry is that we are both democratic and autocratic thus the opinion and vote of every brother in good standing are important and every voice should be heard. I will make sure that our democratic way of life is diligently observed in the Grand Lodge and subordinate Lodges at the same time to strictly implement the laws and regulations of our institution. I will also endeavor to continue the work started by the past Grand Masters of proper governance with the same transparency and integrity.

EDUCATION

Masonic Education is the key to making good men better. Nourishment of the mind through sustained and well-

planned learning programs are but important in holistically developing the Brother to be better. We do believe that the journey of life will be challenging if we are not prepared to face its adversities and tests. We will endeavor to roll out continuous learning programs that will help develop the intellectual capabilities of each Brother in support of the Lodge, of the Grand Lodge and that of the community where we belong.

TECHNOLOGY

To continuously improve our current digital platform by introducing an app that would enable us to identify current members and their membership status including a digital version of their dues card which can be further enhanced to provide other services in the future to protect and secure the west gate.

LODGES AND MEMBERS

The Lodge and its members can be considered the backbone of our fraternity; therefore, I would like to emphasize more on extending our Masonic charity to our Masonic families, widows, and orphans by adding more charitable programs focusing on educational and medical assistance. As Freemasons we are encouraged not only to practice charity in its cerebral or spiritual sense but also to engage in a practical one.

HOSSAIN S. VOSTAKALAEI



MASONIC PROFILE

Lodge Memberships:

- Charter and Dual Member
San Leonardo Masonic Lodge No. 386
2010
- Dual Member
General Llanera Masonic Lodge No. 168
2012

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

- Pantabangan Bonari Lodge No. 203
- Allium Cepa Lodge No. 453

APPENDANT BODIES

- Order of the Secret Monitor
- Grand and Glorious Order of the Knights of the Creeping Serpent (ETA Class 2004)
- Mabuhay Shriners International
 - Saigon Shrine Club
 - Kabukiran Shrine Club
President
2020-2021/2021-2022
- Mabuhay Shriners Ambassador
 - Oriental Guide 2022
 - High Priest and Prophet 2023
 - Assistant Rabban 2024
- Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association Philippines
2023

WORK EXPERIENCES

- President
Royal Crest Hotel and Restaurant
Cabanatuan City
- President
M-GEN Power 168 Construction
Corporation
- President / CEO
JHAM Power 168 Industrial
Corporation

ORGANIZATIONS

- Board Director
Philippine Red cross
Nueva Ecija
2019 – Present

MASONIC PROFILE


- Mother Lodge - Talavera Masonic
No. 273
- Initiated Enter Apprentice Mason
August 16, 2023
- Fellowcraft Mason
September 20, 2023
- Master Mason
October 18, 2023
- General Llanera Masonic Lodge
No. 168
 - Junior Warden 2013 -2014
 - Senior Warden 2014 - 2015
 - Worshipful Master 2015 –
2016

GRAND LODGE APPOINTMENTS

- Masonic District R3-D Nueva
Ecija South and Aurora
Past District Grand Lecturer
2018-2019
- Masonic District R3-D Nueva
Ecija East and Aurora
Past District Deputy Grand Master
Outstanding District Deputy
Grand Master
2021-2022

EDUCATION

- Doctor of Philosophy
Araullo University
2009
- Master of Arts in Educational
Management
Dr. Gloria D. Lacson Foundation
Colleges, Inc.
2003

- 
- Master of Hospital Administration
St. Bernadette College of Lourdes
2021
 - Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Dr. Gloria D. Lacson Foundation
Colleges. Inc.
2006
 - Bachelor of Arts major
in Mathematics
Dr. Gloria D. Lacson Foundation
Colleges. Inc.
2001
 - Secondary High School
Divina Pastora College
Gapan City
1996
 - Primary Elementary
Divina Pastora College
Gapan City
1992

WORK EXPERIENCES

- President / Board of Trustees
Dr. Gloria D. Lacson Foundation
Colleges, Inc.
Castellano, San Leonardo, Nueva
Ecija
June 2021 – Present
- President / Board of trustees
Dr. Gloria D. Lacson Foundation
Colleges, of Cabanatuan City, Inc.
Cabanatuan City
June 2021 – Present
- President / Board of Trustees
Dr. Gloria D. Lacson Foundation
Colleges, Inc.
Castellano, San Leon
Present



NOEL E. ROSAL

PERSONAL AND EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

A Bicolano, he was born on January 2, 1964 and married to Carmen Geraldine Barrameda. They have two children, Gerald Noel and Gillian Noelle. He took up the degree of Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering at Adamson University and finished the course in 1985. He completed his degree in Master in Business Administration (1997-1998) at Aquinas University Legazpi City wherein he also took up some units in Bachelor of Laws. He is an enthusiast of scuba diving and aikido martial arts, and plays basketball and golf.

WORK EXPERIENCES

With utmost sincerity and full commitment, he started his political career as Barangay Captain of the place where he grew up that is, Barangay Gogon, Legazpi City, and served for two terms (1989-1995). He became a City Councillor of Legazpi from May 1995 to June 2001, wherein he became the Chairman of the Sangguniang Panlungsod Committee on Public Works and Highways and the Committee on Utilities and Communication.

At present, he is on his fifth term as Mayor of the said City, one of the more prominent local government units in the Albay Province as well as in Bicol Region.

He also became the President and General Manager of ASAPHIL CORPORATION, which is famous for mining operation of perlite materials. Before he was promoted to his position, he started as Checker/ Foremen and consequently occupied the position of Operation Manager.

BUSINESS AND AFFILIATIONS

He has performed key function in various associations as follows:

- Chairperson
Regional Development Council
- Chairperson
Regional Peace and Order Council
- Regional President
Road Engineering Association of the Philippines (REAP) – Bicol Chapter
- Senator
Junior Chamber International
- Council Chairman
Legazpi City Council Boy Scout of the Philippines
- District Auxiliary Director
Coast Guard Auxiliary District Bicol
- Junior Grand Lecturer
The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Free and Accepted Mason
- Past Master
Mayon Lodge No. 61
- Chairman
Bicol Region League of Cities of

NOEL E. ROSAL



- the Philippines
- Region V Representative
League Cities of the Philippines
- Past President
Rotary Club of Legazpi West
- Post National Vice President
Philippine Jaycees, Inc
1995
- Past President
Legazpi Jaycees, Inc.
1994
- Director
Provincial Mining Regulatory
Board
- Director
Philjury
- Director
Albay Chamber of Commerce
& Industry
- Director
Philippine Tuberculosis Society
Albay chapter

AWARD RECEIVED

- Presidential Lingkod Bayan
Regional
Civil Service Com
Oct 2016
- Awardee 2016 Search for
Outstanding Public Official
& Employee (2016)
- Civil Service Pagasa awardee
Civil Service Com
Aug 2008
- National Awardee for
Peace & Order
DILG
June 2008
- Outstanding Performance Award
DOH – Bicol
Jan. 25, 08
- National Kabalikat Awardee -
LGU Category
TESDA
Aug. 22, 2007
- Regional Kabalikat Awardee
TESDA
Aug. 22, 2007
- 3rd Best City Peace & Order
council
NPC/NPOC
Sept. 21, 2007
- 2nd Fastest Growing Small City
Asian Institute of Mgt. (AIM)
2006
- 2006 Huwarang Palengke
Dept. of Agriculture
2006
- Most Outstanding Peace & Order
DILG – PNP
2005
- Most Outstanding Police Station
DILG – PNP
2005
- Most Outstanding PESO
in Region V
DOLE – Region V
2005
- One of the ten Most Competitive
Growing Cities in the Philippines
Asian Institute of Mgt.
2005
- Most Outstanding Police Com-
munity
DILG – PNP
2005
- 4th Fastest Growing City
in the Philippines
Asian Institute of Mgt.
2004
- National Literacy Award
(Regional Winner)
DepEd
2003
- The CAPIU award
Diocese of Legazpi
Dec. 14, 2002

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOP

ATTENDED

- Joint Migration and Dev't Initiative Academy (UNWTO) - Turin Italy/ Madrid Spain
- Local Education Policy Workshop (ULAP)
- Climate Change Leadership Academy on Urban Climate
- Adaptation in Jakarta Indonesia
- United Nations LCP Philippine Representative New York
- Drug Summit Guest Speaker Aquinas University (Jan 30, 2008)
- 08 YP Workshop on Keynote Speaker DENR (Jan. 24, 2008) Social Housing

RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCES PASSED AS CITY COUNCILOR

When he was a City Councilor, he passed a number of resolutions and ordinances which have become ultimately advantageous to the people of the City, the Legazpeños. Some of the most significant are the following:

Amendment of Traffic Ordinance No. 09-86

- New Bus and Jeepney Route
- No Parking street
- One way street

- Resolution re: opening of new city roads – Brgy. Oro Site linking to Brgy. Capantawan
- Ordinance 01-96- An Ordinance using the burned Legazpi Supermarket as temporary parking area for fee.

- Ordinance 07-95- Opening of additional 160 units franchise for tricycle operations in the City as a mean of Livelihood.
- Draft ordinance on designated parking area for a fee.

As a Chief Executive of LGU – Legazpi, his first and foremost concern for the City and its people is Peace, Progress and Prosperity – ultimately and continuously.

MY PLANS AND PROGRAMS

My being a Mason for more than 10 years has helped me to be a better person especially in the essence of brotherhood and service to humanity. It has also contributed to my success as a public servant because of the many lessons learned from the Craft. I noticed also that in the last two decades, Freemasonry seems to have flourished in the Philippines and it is no coincidence that despite the many unfair criticisms, still a lot of men want to gain personal improvement and contribute for the betterment of the society. In order to live the expectation of these men who want to join us and those already members of the craft, here are my proposed plans and programs:

1. Improvement of the knowledge of the Brethren regarding the purpose and objectives of our Craft not only for personal but for the betterment of the world. The lectures in every stated meet-

ings should not only be about the rituals but more so about the history of nations and governments wherein Freemasonry has been a part of. We have to impress upon them the dignity and importance of Masonry. Admonished them never to disgrace it and practice out of the Lodge those great moral duties which they have been taught. Of course, reminding them always that harmony is the strength of our Noble Brotherhood.

2. More tangible projects to the community where they belong meaning the Lodges should be active not only inside the Lodge but also in community-related programs like feeding program, medical missions, scholarships and other noble programs like blood-letting and environmental protection program.

3. Other tangible projects like Obelisk, Markers, directional signs, parks, to showcase the presence of Masonry and its contribution to the community.

4. The Lodges, if given the chance, should be partners of the Local Government Unit where they belong meaning they can be accredited as members of the Local Development Council as part of the decision makers in the community.

5. Will give rewards and incentives to those Lodges performing good and noble programs to the community. In this way they will be inspired to implement such programs.

6. The Laws and Edicts are already for me good enough and effective. It is just a matter now of properly cascading it to the Brethren.

7. Those provinces with big population and with many districts but has only one Lodge should be encouraged to expand or open Lodges at least one per District to better contribute to the community and give opportunities to those who want to join the Craft.

I am hoping that this plan and programs of mine will be given the chance if ever elected in this year's ANCOM 2024. Again, I would like to express my gratitude to you all Past Grand Masters for giving me this opportunity to meet you and explain my plans and programs.



AUGUST C. ROXAS

PERSONAL PROFILE

Date of Birth: August 15, 1976

Spouse: Ma. Carmela G. Roxas

Children:

- Ma. Sofia Michaella G. Roxas (23)
B.S Accountancy Graduate
- Samantha Isabel G. Roxas (19) B.S.
Mechanical Engineering Student
- Sabella Franchezca G. Roxas (9)

EDUCATION

B.S. Mechanical Engineering
University of the East Caloocan
April 2000

OCCUPATION

- Land Banking Developer
- Contractor/Fabricator, Power
Generation Companies
- Supplier, Philippine Navy and
Philippine Coast Guard

BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS/ AFFILIATIONS

- President, We Fab Corporation
- President, Visionary Builders Incorporated
- Vice President, Visionary Reality Development Corporation Vice President For Operations, Thermpower Incorporation
- Director, Jadeco Manpower Trading Corporation
- Consultant, Konstrutek Engineering Services Corporation Consultant, Siongci Bihon Manufacturing Corporation

MASONIC PROFILE

- Mother Lodge
St. John The Baptist Masonic
Lodge No. 362, MD Rill Bulacan
West
- Petitioned, March 2009
- Initiated, November 6, 2009
- Passed, January 8, 2010
- Raised, June 4, 2010
- Junior Warden, MY 2015-2016
- Senior Warden, MY 2016-2017
- Worshipful Master, MY 2017-
2018 (Significant Accomplish-
ment: Started and finished the
construction of the St. John The
Baptist Masonic Temple located in
Brgy. Batia, Bocaue, Bulacan)
- Hiram Awardee - 2024

DUAL MEMBERSHIP

- Kakarong Masonic Lodge No. 327
MD Rill Bulacan East
- Unang Sigaw Masonic Lodge No.
430 MD NCR-F (Charter Mem-
ber)

GRAND LODGE POSITIONS

- Grand Lodge Inspector
Kakarong Masonic Lodge No.
327, MY 2019-2021
- District Grand Lecturer
MD Rill Bulacan East
MY 2021-2022
- Grand Lodge Inspector
Silanganan Lodge No. 19
MY 2022-2023



APPENDANT BODIES MEMBERSHIP

- SCOTTISH RITE
Luzon Bodies, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, 320 Master of the Royal Secret
- YORK RITE
Plaridel York Rite Bodies
 - High Priest, 2015
 - Illustrious Master, 2016
 - Eminent Commander, 2016
 - Charter Member, Bulacan York Rite Bodies
 - Member, Allied Masonic Degrees Philippines
 - ORDER OF SECRET MONITOR
 - Member, Pillar of the East Conclave No.8
 - Charter Member, Bulacan Conclave No. 22
 - Charter Member, Capitol Conclave No. 30
 - Member, Iskandariah Court No. 149 (Malaysia)

MASONIC CLUB AFFILIATION

- Member
Saigon Shrine Club
(2018 to present)
- President, Square & Compass We-Connect
(2022 to present)
- President
SCWC Dugong Mason
(2022 to present)
- Past President
KAMANAVA Travelers Club Inc.
(2015)
- Member
Quezon City Trowel Club
(2015 to present)

"Exemplify Masonic Values by Building Unity and Charity"

Kung ang "Bawat Isang Mason Ay Mahalaga", ang "Bawat Isang Mason Ay Dapat Pahalagaan ang Kanyang PagkaMason". For masons, there are two (2) important values in his life UNITY AND CHARITY. When initiated, UNITY was Mason's first step as he was guided to walk around "how good and how pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity", and when raised to the sublime degree of Masonry, he was taught to make good use of the instrument of unity "as masons have done in all ages before him". Masonry brings people together irrespective of color (race and political affiliation), religion and differences that can divide us.

CHARITY, among Masons, is the greatest. It is imbued in every heart of Masons which is manifested by the several Masonic clubs doing their respective Masonic charities in the community. Among others, one of the duties of their Lodge to the community is "to assist and participate in worthwhile commu-

nity projects". Within its Masonic organization, it has a structure of Masonic relief to their brethren in need as taught in the three (3) degrees of Masonry.

PLANS AND PROGRAMS

As before, I am adopting my Plans and Programs which was submitted when I was first nominated for the elective position of JGW.

Masonic Unity. We should admit that the disunity on several reasons has divided the brethren, even in the Grand Lodge. To name some, we are hearing fraternity within the fraternity, the anarchy of the few, the abuse of the majority and the discontent of the unsatisfied which were unattended and, despite violations of our Masonic laws, they were disposed in the guise of "harmony" leaving the disputes unresolved. Divisiveness is a manifestation of immaturity in our Craft. "Masonry builds good people" for better, and it "provides the common foundation for friendships between members". "Being a Freemason means something different to each person who joins, but whether looking to make acquaintances or develop their own potential, all members share a sense of togetherness that strengthens their ability to suc-

ceed and grow" in unison.

In this regard, one of my proposals is to revisit the policies on the handling of complaints and rendering its decisions from the Lodge and the harmony officer to the trial commission, the Committee on Grievance, the Grand Master and appeal to the Grand Lodge during ANCOM, thereby amending the provisions of the Masonic Law Book on these matters.

Masonic Relief. Being taught deeply in every Mason's heart, one of the most important tenets of Masonry is RELIEF, thus, "kindness and charitable giving are deeply ingrained within the principles of Freemasonry". AID AND RELIEF activities of the several Masonic clubs and organization will be consolidated to serve our community "through mission-driven charitable programs and services that exemplify Masonic Values".

For the Brethren, an improved Masonic Health Care Benefit of the existing FRAP and PM monetary benefit, establish a Home Care for the Elderly and Distressed Masons, which may include health and medical care through accredited health care institutions, and revisit our policies on, and protect

and establish more Masonic cemeteries, especially in our Districts.

Masonic Hospital. While a more comprehensive health care system would make a great and positive impact to our Brethren and their immediate families, this would still be dependent on the availability of health care institutions that can provide quality service at an affordable rate. I propose the establishment of a system of a Masonic Hospitals, starting with a prototype, hopefully during the four (4)-year journey to the Grand Oriental Chair. This hospital system shall be patterned after a certain "Medical Center" business model and will be built on the network of our Brethren-Doctors, who will function both as owners and medical practitioners, and also our Friends of Masons-Doctors who would be interested to invest in this Grand Project. Having our Brethren as owners, we are therefore assured of a sustainable supply of medical professionals and facilities available to them and their families, and we may also be able to allocate a portion of its functions to charity.

In addition, a Revisit of the Functions of the Committee on the Administration of Lodges, Char-

ter and Return. Many cases of unMasonic conduct over the past few years are of the nature of violations of Edict 328, whereby unfortunately, some of our brethren have taken advantage of their several positions by abusing their authority over the aspirants to our Craft. Although we have a robust system which is already in place for its prevention, I believe that this can still be improved. I therefore propose the initial establishment of a Sub-Committee on Membership Development under such Committee. Among others, its function is to act as an Oversight Committee on the progress of petitions and conferrals of subordinate Lodges, and also to receive and give preliminary assessment to complaints filed in relation to alleged violations of Edict 328, and institutionalize the mentoring of newly obligated brethren towards Masonic maturity. In addition, this Sub-Committee will serve as Technical Working Group to come up with an instructional program for candidates and new members which may be called as "Mentoring and Education Program".



CORNELIO F. SAMANIEGO III

*”Ang pagsisilbi
sa Masonerya
ay gawing isang
Bisyo.”*

GENERAL PLANS IF ELECTED

To continue performing my duties and responsibilities as Junior Grand Warden by way of expressing support to the sitting Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, and the other Grand Line Officers;

To extend financial assistance to subordinate Lodges of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines by way of spearheading fundraising programs purposely to help and build Lodge Temples. Fundraising programs such as Golf tournaments, Fun Shoot, Bowling, etc.;

To fast-track the resolution of pending and unresolved cases for Unmasonic Conduct without sacrificing due process of law; and

To give more powers to the Committee on Preliminary Investigation to resolve cases for Unmasonic Conduct.

PERSONAL PROFILE

- Civil Status: Married
- Age: 53
- Date of Birth: December 5, 1970
- Place of Birth: Bahada, Davao City
- Occupation: Lawyer/ Businessman
- Name of Spouse: Marjorie R. Samaniego
- Child: Cornelio R. Samaniego, IV

MASONIC PROFILE

- Date Raised: February 6, 2010
- Date Passed: December 12, 2009
- Date Initiated: October 17, 2009
- Mother Lodge: Silanganan Lodge No. 19
- Worshipful Master: 2014-2015
- Senior Warden: 2013-2014
- Junior Warden: 2012-2013
- District Deputy Grand Master MD NCR-F MY 2022-2023
- Nominated during the Masonic Year 2023 NCR Multi-District Convention held last November 4, 2023, at the Abad Santos Hall, Grand Lodge of the Philippines, City of Manila.

MASONIC DISTRICT POSITIONS

- Grand Lodge Inspector Silanganan Lodge No. 19 Masonic Year 2022-2023
- District Deputy Grand Master Masonic Year 2021-2022
- Grand Lodge Inspector Mandaluyong City Masonic

CORNELIO F. SAMANIEGO III



Lodge No. 277
Masonic Year 2015-2016

- District Grand Lecturer - MD
NCR-F

MASONIC LODGE MEMBERSHIPS

- Honorary Member
Solidarity Masonic Lodge No. 421
- Honorary Member
Pinaglabanan Masonic Lodge No. 374
- Honorary Member
Batasan Masonic Lodge No. 381
- Honorary Member
Commonwealth Masonic Lodge
No. 460
- Honorary Member
Unang Sigaw Masonic Lodge No. 430
- Honorary Member
Lakan Masonic Lodge No. 483
- Honorary Member
Teodoro M, Kalaw Masonic Lodge
No. 136
- Honorary Member
Pasig City Masonic Lodge No. 409
- Honorary Member
Mandaluyong City Masonic
Lodge No. 277
- Charter Worshipful, UD
Danilo Delapuz Lim Masonic
Lodge, UD
- Charter and Dual Member
Katipunan Masonic Lodge No. 489

GLP COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

- Committee on Preliminary
Investigation
Masonic Year 2022-2023
- Committee on Grievance
Masonic Year 2019
- Committee on Grievance
Masonic Year 2018
- Committee on Jurisprudence

Masonic Year June 2023-Novem-
ber 4, 2023

APPENDANT BODIES

- Mabuhay Shriners International
- Scottish Rite
Quezon City Bodies Chapter
CMT, QC
- York Rite
Capitol City Chapter
CMT, QC
- Order of the Secret Monitor
Pearl of the Orient No. 409 -
CMT, QC

CLUBS


- Luzon Shrine Club
Past President 2018
- Metro Manila Shrine Club
- Maharlika Shrine Club
- QC Trowel Club

OTHER MASONIC MEMBERSHIPS

- Advisory Council
Member 2023 to Present
Pasig City Chapter No. 113 Order
of DeMolay (Capitol Masonic
Temple)
- Advisory Council
Member 2023 to Present
Jacques DeMoIay Priory No. 13
Order of DeMoIay Knighthood
(Capitol Masonic Temple)

EDUCATION

- Elementary
- Carmay Elementary School
(1976-1982) Rosales, Pangasinan
- Secondary
- Rosales National High School
(1983-1987)
- Rosales, Pangasinan
- College
- University of the East (1988-

- 
- 1990)
 - Trinity College of Quezon City (1991-1992)
 - AB Political Science
 - Post-Graduate Studies
 - University of the East (1992-1996) Bachelor of Laws LIB.
 - Eligibility
 - RA 1080
 - 2004 Bar Examination
 - Admitted to the Philippine Bar (May 2, 2005)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Private Practitioner
- Litigator
- Practicing Lawyer
- 2005 to Present 19 Years in Practice
- Legal Consultant to the Chairman of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA)
- 2010
- Legal Assistant I Researcher
- Oscar A. Inocentes and Associates Law Office
- 1998 to 2003



EDWARD S. BALANGA

Preserving the old virtues of Masonry, our window to a bright future for Masonry

SPECIFIC PROGRAMS

We will focus on our main areas of concern: Our constitution, edicts, rules, and regulation must be maintained, supported, and enforced at all times.

Focus on strict compliance in handling petitioners and candidates. That is the sole purpose of our fraternity. To inspire the younger Freemasons to preserve the values and the discipline that our forefathers have passed down to us. We must look back, appreciate, and review the guidelines, especially the edicts that have been previously made by our PGMs. We don't need to revise and amend a new one, everything is already there. We just need discipline, a strong will, and the resolve to commit to those guidelines. By strict implementation, we can uphold the dignity and honor of our

fraternity by making a positive impact on all members of the Craft and outside Masonry. Transparency and constant communication with subordinate Lodges are important and will foster harmony among Brethren to truly maintain an honest and genuine Brotherhood.

Other programs that can be enhanced that have been laid down to mention a few.

- Continuous improvement of Lodge management
- Mental health and welfare of Brethren especially the elders
- Our technology, digital platform, and archives roadmap
- Continuous education and training
- Update and assessment in governance structures... Etc...

A strict mandate to participate in the labors of the Blue Lodge during the first two years before joining any appendant body or social clubs. These are the formative years and should be spent learning the different roles of elected and appointed officers in the Lodge to prepare them for more responsibilities.

EDWARD S. BALANGA



We only need simple and dedicated workmen to work with us not for self-interest and self-serving motives. Working and contributing quietly with love and compassion for the benefit of all, Masons and not.

PERSONAL PROFILE

Civil Status: Married

Age: 44

Date of Birth: April 18, 1979

Profession: Dentist

Name of Spouse:

Dr. Daisylene A. Balanga

Children:

- Edward Jacob A. Balanga
- Edward Gabrielle A. Balanga
- Daecylle Vhia Priscilla A. Balanga

MASONIC PROFILE

- Mother Lodge: Victory Masonic Lodge No.116
Initiated: May 16, 2009
- Passed: August 15, 2009
- Raising: July 17, 2010

- Proficiency: September 10, 2010
- Worshipful Master
Victory Masonic Lodge No.116
2013-2014
- Treasurer
2010
- Junior Warden 2011
- Senior Warden 2012
- Grand Lodge Inspector
Isagani 2014
- Grand Lodge Inspector
CPAML 339 2015
- Grand Lodge Inspector
TKL 360
2016
- Grand Lodge Inspector
ARC 402
2017
- District Grand Lecturer
2019

LODGE MEMBERSHIPS

- Dual Member
Cosmo P. Antonio Masonic Lodge
339
- Honorary Member
Ang Rehenerasyon ng Concepcion
Masonic Lodge 402
- Honorary Member
Enrique M. Cojuangco Masonic
Lodge 472

CLUBS/IMES

- GGOKCS Chi Class
- IMES Alab Class 2013



GERARD A. CEBALLOS

"Mason muna bago iba"

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 Building Fund and the creation of an educational fund for orphans of Masons.

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 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.

PERSONAL PROFILE

Born on August 09, 1974, in Quezon City, Philippines. Married to Dr. Liezl M. Ceballos

(Dentist), with two boys; Freddie II (18) and Giancarlo Rafael (15).

EDUCATION

- 2002 – 2003
ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT
Master in Management
- 1992- 1995

GERARD A. CEBALLOS



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

- 2023 – Present
DIRECTOR, OCTOPUS ENTERPRISES INC.
- Operator of a Bar and Lounge in Makati City
- 2022 – Present
PRESIDENT, TAAL DEVELOPMENT CORP, Property Development Co.
- 2022 – Present
DIRECTOR, PADRINO'S BARBERSHOP
- 2022 – Present
DIRECTOR, JGJ374 APPLIANCES MARKETING
- Distributor of BEKO Appliances
- 2019 – Present
DIRECTOR, TAGAYTAY COCKPIT ARENA
- 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, SOL-LABEC HOLDING CORP.
Engage in property rentals and development.
- 1998 – Present
CHAIRMAN & PRESIDENT, GENERAL MERCHANTILE 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-charges of expanding deposit volumes. Assisted in the day-to-day operations of the head office.
- 1996 – 1997
SALES OFFICER, BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES ISLANDS
Generated new accounts and established multi-product relationships. Expanded deposit / loan volumes.

- 1996 June – Oct.
SALES OFFICER, CITYTRUST BANKING CORPORATION
Generated and expanded relationship 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
- Mabuhay Shriner's International (Maharlika)
 - 2017 — Present: President, Makasaysayan 284 Class
- Order of the Secret Monitor — Pearl of the Orient Conclave No. 496
 - 2016 — Present: Member
- 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
- RY 2012-2013
President
ROTARY CLUB OF COMMON-WEALTH, D3780
- 1998 - 2002
CFC — Singles for Christ
Household Head
Makati Chapter



JEFFRE W. ACEBIDO

”One succeeds when he remains focused on his goal no matter what the obstacles are. Duty first before pleasure.”

GENERAL PLAN IF ELECTED

If favored and chosen to become the Junior Grand Warden, I will support the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Senior Warden by performing my tasks as Junior Grand Warden. The Grand Lodge of the Philippines has been led and steered by a great number of Grand Masters whose leadership qualities are worth emulating. Should I become the Grand Master, I shall continue to support their programs and hope to build on what they had accomplished for Freemasonry in our jurisdiction.

PERSONAL PROFILE

Civil Status: Married

Age: 62

Spouse: Marilou Caincol Acebido

Children:

- Krista Marie C, Acebido-Gonzales
- Krisel Shaira C. Acebido

MASONIC PROFILE

- Raising - October 14, 2000
- Mother Lodge: Misamis Oriental Masonic Lodge
- Senior Warden: 2003
- Worshipful Master: 2004
- Grand Lodge Inspector: 2005
- District Grand Lecturer: 2006
- District Deputy Grand Master: 2012
- Junior Grand Lecturer: 2015
- Chapter King Cobra
Grand and Glorious Order of the Knights of the Creeping Serpent 2018 – 2019
- Wise Master
Mindanao Bodies
Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Republic of the Philippines 2020
- Venerable Master
Mindanao Bodies
Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Republic of the Philippines 2021

MEMBERSHIP IN MASONIC APPENDANT BODIES

- Grand and Glorious Order of the Knights of the Creeping Serpent
- Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Republic of the Philippines

JEOFFRE W. ACEBIDO



EDUCATION

- Law:
- Silliman University
- Inclusive Period: (1983 - 1986)
- Degree/Units Earned: Ll. B
-
- College:
- Xavier University — Ateneo de Cagayan
- Inclusive Period: (1978 - 1982)
- Degree/Units Earned: BS Agriculture
- Secondary:
-
- Xavier University — Ateneo de Cagayan
- Inclusive Period: (1974 - 1978)
- Degree/Units Earned: High School Graduate
-
- Elementary:
- West City Central School inclusive Period: (1968 - 1974)
- Degree/Units Earned: Elementary Graduate
-
- Eligibility
- Career Service Executive Eligibility (October 1998)
- Bar Examination (November 1986)
- 1987 (Year admitted to the Bar)
- Civil Service Professional Examination (July 1982)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Presiding Judge, RTC Branch 41, Cagayan de Oro
2006 - Present
- Acting Presiding Judge, RTC Branch 40, Cagayan de Oro
2002 - Present
- Acting Presiding Judge, RTC Branch 28, Mambajao, Camiguin-

July 2013

- Acting Presiding Judge, RTC-Branch 44, Initao, Misamis Oriental
October 2011- February 2012
- Vice Executive Judge
July 2011 - 2013
- Acting Presiding Judge, RTC Branch 22 — Family Court, Cagayan de Oro
February 2010-May 2011
- Acting Presiding Judge, RTC Branch 39, Cagayan de Oro
January 2009-February 2010
- Pros. Il, 3 r Asst. Prosecutor
2004-2006
- Asst. City Prosecutor I
Dept. of Justice
1998-2004
- Public Attorney II
Dept. of Justice
1995-1998
- Senior Legal Officer
Dept. of Justice
1991-1995
- Partner/Law Practice
CHR
1987-1991
- Quimpo, Willkom, Del Castillo, Acebido, De la Serna, Reyes & Borja Law Offices

NATURE OF CURRENT PRACTICE:

- Presiding Judge, RTC Branch 41, Cagayan de Oro City; Acting Presiding Judge, RTC Branch 40, Cagayan de Oro City.

AWARDS AND CITATIONS

- Recognition/Achievement Award in Government Endeavor and Masonry, Manila, September 16, 2015
- Most Outstanding Junior Grand Lecturer Award, 100th Annual



Communication Taal Vista Hotel,
Tagaytay City, April 28, 2016

- The Sovereign Grand Commander Award — Scottish Rite Masonry of the Philippines, 65th Annual Session Supreme Council 330 A & A.S.R., March 13, 2015
- Outstanding Alumnus in the Field of Government Service — Judiciary, Silliman University law Association, August 24, 2014
- 2013 Outstanding Sillimian Awardee in the Field of Judicial Service — Silliman University, August 28, 2013
- Outstanding Master Mason Award in the Field of Judiciary, 96th Annual Communication, Camarines Sur Convention Center, April 26, 2012
- 2011 Chief Justice Cayetano Arellano Award as Outstanding RTC Judge Supreme
- Court/ Society for Judicial Excellence, September 19, 2011
- Finalist in the 2010 Awards for Judicial Excellence for Outstanding RTC Judge
- Finalist in the 2009 Awards for Judicial Excellence for Outstanding RTC Judge, Best Decision in Civil Cases, best Decision in Criminal Cases
- 10, Outstanding Alumnus Professional Award — Xavier University — Ateneo de Cagayan, December 3, 2010



MANASES R. CARPIO

PERSONAL PROFILE

Age: 48

Date of Birth: February 8, 1976

Place of Birth: Davao City

Profession: Attorney-At-Law

Carpio Lawyers Office

*(Formerly Carpio & Duterte Lawyers
Davao — Manila - Cebu — Ortigas)*

Name of Spouse: Sara Zimmerman

Duterte-Carpio

Children

- Mateo Lucas "Stingray" Marko "Stonefish"
- Mikhaila Maria "Sharkie"

MASONIC PROFILE

- Raised - October 3, 2012
- Mother Lodge: Madayaw Masonic Lodge No. 403, Davao City
- Worshipful Master
Madayaw Masonic Lodge No. 403
(MY 2018)

GRAND LODGE APPOINTMENTS

- District Deputy Grand Master
MD RXI Davao City & Davao del Sur
Awarded Most Outstanding
M.Y. 2019-2021
- District Deputy Grand Master
- Junior Grand Lecturer for Southern Mindanao
M.Y. 2021-2022
- Senior Grand Deacon
M.Y. 2022-2023

ADDITIONAL MASONIC PROFILE

- Honorary Member
Katarungan Masonic Lodge No. 450 MD NCR-C
- Honorary Member
MD Kapatiran Rill - Nueva Masonic Ecija Lodge South No. 228
- Honorary Member
Bureau of Internal Revenue
Traveler's Haven (BIRTH)
Member Royal Arch Masons of the Philippines
Manobo Chapter No. 31
- Member Masons Order of Law (MOLA)
- Royal & Select Masters
Member
Haribon Council No. 20
Rajah Knights Templar
- Member
Commandery No. 20 Knights Templar
- Charter Member
Kaamulan Commandery
- Allied Masonic Degrees
Charter Member
Mindanao Council
- Founder & Worshipful Master
Masonic Order of Athelsan
Primus Mindanao Court No. 175
- Knights of Alfred the Great
Member
Ancient Masonic Order of Alfred the Great
- Noble Director

MANASES R. CARPIO



- Agila Shrine Club
- Mindanao Shrine Club
- President No. 195
Davao Chapter, Agila Temple
- Mindanao Shrine Club
Class President
- Davao Chapter, Agila Temple No.
195 "Kadayawan Class" Batch 5,
2012
- Auditor
Mindanao Shrine Club
Davao Chapter
- Honorary Member
Luzon Shrine Club
- Mabuhay Shriners Philippines
- President
Pagong Ako Kuyang Pilipinas, Inc.
TURTLES)
Davao Pond (Duturles)
- Member & Trustee
Widows Sons Masonic Riders
Association

WORK PROFILE

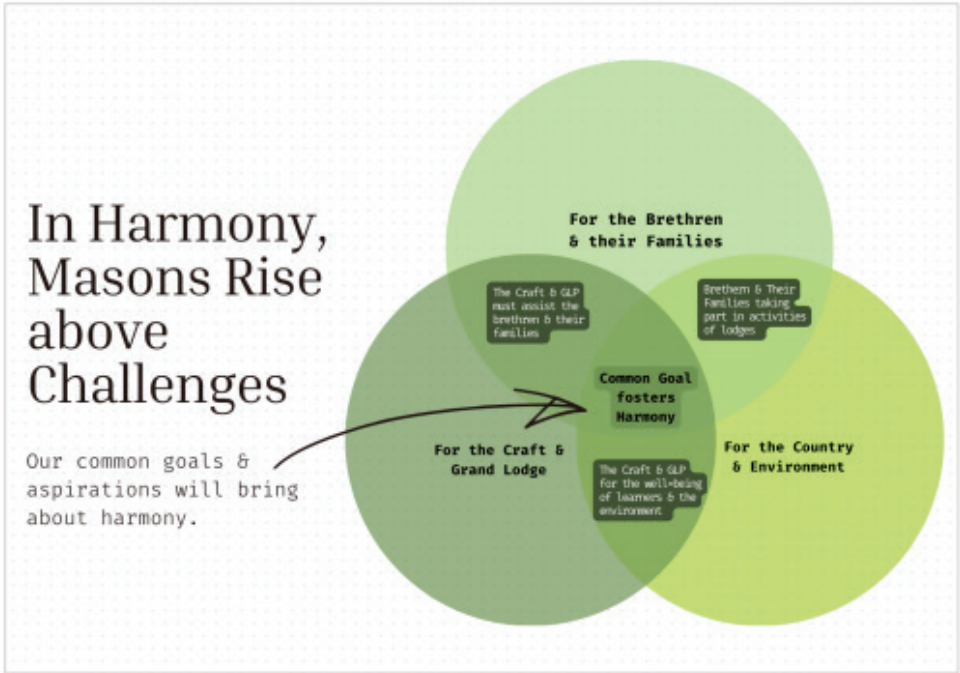
- Occupation: Lawyer
- Managing Partner
Carpio Lawyers (Formerly Carpio
& Duterte Lawyers)
2009 - Present
- Member of the Board of Trustees
University of Southeastern
Philippines
Davao City
2019 - Present
- Private Practice
2006 to 2007
- Legal Officer IV
Paranaque City
- Law Professor
University of Mindanao College
of Law
2008 - 2012
- Licensed Real Estate Broker
2018

EDUCATION

- Juris Doctor
San Sebastian College
College of Law - Manila
- BA Political Science
De La Salle University Taft,
Manila
- Grade School & High School
Colegio de San Agustin- Makati

MEMBERSHIP TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

- De La Salle University Men's
Basketball Team
- Integrated Bar of the Philippines
- Real Estate Brokers of
the Philippines
- PNPA Sandigan Class 1994
Adopted Member
- PNPA Tanglaw-Lahi Class 1999
Adopted Member
- Philippine Coast Guard
Auxiliary Commodore
- Three-Legged Travelers Club
- Triskelion Order of Law
- Tau Gamma Phi
De La Salle University - Manila
- Manager
- Team Management Group
2019 - Present



PLANS & PROGRAMS

”In Harmony, Masons Rise above Challenges”

The diagram of proposed programs intersects and is centered on the principle of Harmony and cooperation among brethren. The commonalities harnessed by the power of member's collective common goals should be the driving force to achieve programs for the continuing relevance of freemasonry in the Philippines.

The Craft & GLP for the well – being Of learners & the environment.

Our common goals aspirations will bring about harmony.

Plans and Programs for the Fraternity.

For the Craft & Grand Lodge of the Philippines

A.I Mother Lodge Prioritization

Members must be fully committed to their Mother Lodges to ensure vitality and vigor. Brethren must at all times give priority to their Mother Lodges over appendant bodies, clubs or Masonic clubs they belong to.

In case of conflict in schedules between the Mother Lodge and appendant body or club, the Mother Lodge schedule must take precedence. Equitable share of the Mother Lodge in the petition fees, donations and the like to an appendant body or club by the Brethren is also recommended.

A.2 Further Improvement of Masonic Legal Processes

The growing number of cases filed between Brothers must be properly managed. The Grand Lodge must focus on the cases with clear probable causes for un-masonic conduct/ s or complaints. Verified complaints, that are clearly actionable must be prioritized. All baseless complaints must be discouraged or dismissed outright without prejudice to anonymous complaints if from verifiable sources supported by evidence.

Harmony is the goal. Brethren must exert and exhaust all efforts to mediate/ arbitrate issues between Brethren before they become full blown cases. This will be the exact task of Harmony Officers of Lodges with the support of elders in the Lodge or district possessing impeccable Masonic moral ascendancy.

The Grand Lodge shall continue to address and resolve cases filed with utmost scrutiny and dispatch. Legal processes must be streamlined and enhanced to prevent clogging of cases. Field Investigators may be appointed from a separate district who may even be given the authority to conduct investigation of anonymous verifiable complaints against erring Brethren of another district.

The use of modern technology shall also be the standard means in the submission and service of complaints, affidavits and the like including submission of Lodge reports.

For the Brethren and their Families

B.1 District Masonic Aid Centers

Brethren with legitimate concerns need guidance or assistance. Districts and Lodges must be involved in the well-being and health conditions of Brethren, Immediate Family, Widows and Orphans in dire need.

Every subordinate lodge, thru the Worshipful Master as the overseer of his brethren, must at all times give priority to the needs, health and well-being of the members before any charitable activity for the community.

B.2 District Rescue Brigade


Brethren, Immediate Family, Widows and Orphans must have sense of health security especially in the immediate transport needs of those with illness. It is suggested that Masonic Districts must have medical transport vehicles for the needs of Brethren or even the communities in the district.

The same transport vehicle may also be used during natural calamities to assist the Brethren or their families or even the community to alleviate the suffering of those in distress.

For the Country and Environment

C.1 Adoption of Schools Districts by Masonic Districts

The public school system is one of the most important sectors of the society. Freemasons must do what it can to help the children thereby ensuring the future of our society. The institutionalization of the adoption of schools is the goal to ensure the continuity of as-

The background is a vibrant, abstract composition of thick, expressive brushstrokes in shades of blue, orange, red, and yellow. In the center, there is a circular emblem featuring a golden shield with a vertical symbol, surrounded by a laurel wreath and a red ribbon-like border. The overall style is dynamic and colorful.

sistance programs for students in the public school system. Regular participation of Lodges in "Brigada Eskwela" is likewise recommended. Thus, every subordinate lodge must adopt at least one (1) public school within their masonic district. This will also ensure that indigent learners will have opportunities similar to those in private schools. After school programs for public schools is needed to prevent children from being influenced by the underworld or by negativity of thought or belief. Masons can help public schools through programs and activities in and outside the schools.

C.2 "One -100" Program (1 Lodge, 100 trees, 1 Masonic Year)

We are all part of a society that needs to lead and take part in helping the environment. Mason's greatest strength is the power of "common goal". Projects and programs for the greater good can be implemented seamlessly and effectively by the sheer number and dedication of Brethren working together towards the same objective or aspiration.

The minimum number of frees every subordinate Lodge must plant shall be based on the number of active members submitted by the lodge Secretary in its Annual Report to the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

This power must be harnessed properly for the greater good of the environment. The concrete jungle of the city has become more and more unbearable for the people especially the children. 'Harmony being our strength and the

fundamentals of Masonic Teachings being our guide, we fervently hope that all these plans and programs may come to fruition for the benefit of the Brethren, their Families, the Community, and the Environment, in particular, and the Blue Lodges, Appendant Bodies/Masonic Clubs and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines, in general.



MELANIO V. LAZARO

PERSONAL PROFILE

- Date of Birth: October 30, 1971
Age: 52)
- Place of Birth: San Mateo, Isabela
- Civil Status: Married
- Name of Spouse: Leah DT Lazaro
- Children: Lowenstein Julian (21), Athena Louisse Viktoria (17), Jean Morris Lovenski (12)

COLLEGE EDUCATION

- BS Medical Technology, (Registered Med Tech) - FEU Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation School of Med Tech, Manila, 1992
- Doctor of Medicine - FEU Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation College of Medicine, Manila, 1998

PROFESSIONAL/OCCUPATION/WORK PROFILE

- Profession/Occupation: Physician/ Farmer
- Office: Juvelo Family Clinic
- Office Address: Barangay 3, San Mateo, Isabela
- Work History:
- October 2011 to present - Medical Director Juvelo Family Clinic (Medical/ Surgical Infirmary);
- December 2002 to October 2009 - Medical Officer 4, Maddela District Hospital, Maddela Quirino;
- October 2009 to October 2015 - Chief of Hospital, Maddela Dis-

- trict Hospital, Maddela, Quirino;
- December 2000 to November 2002 - DOH Representative/Outbreak investigator/Medical
- Officer 4, Cordillera Administrative Region;
- October 1999 to December 2000 - Medical Officer 3, Potia District Hospital, Aifonso List
- Ifugao.

MASONIC PROFILE

- Date Raised: August 17, 2002
- Mother Lodge: San Mateo Masonic Lodge #319
Masonic District: R02 Isabela South and Quirino
- Worshipful Master: San Mateo Masonic Lodge No. 319, 2015
- Grand Lodge Appointments:
 - DGL Masonic District R02 Isabela South and Quirino MY 2020-22
 - JGL Northeast Luzon C May 2023 to November 2023;
 - Nominated number one for JGW representing Northern Luzon during March 2022 Multidistrict Convention in Pangasinan;
 - Nominated number one for JGW representing Northern Luzon during November 2023 Multidistrict Convention in Baguio City
- Junior Warden 2006-2007

MELANIO V. LAZARO



- Senior Warden 2013-2014;
- Worshipful Master 2015;
- Lodge Lecturer from 2003 to present;

APPENDANT BODIES MEMBERSHIP:

- Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite/Northern Luzon Bodies MRS 32deg; York Rite/Plaridel;

MASONIC CLUB AFFILIATION:

Sierra Madre Shrine Club
2005 to present.

MASONIC/PROFESSIONAL HUMANITARIAN WORKS:

- March 2015 to present - Doctor Bombo - DZNC AM radio, a one (1) hour radio program giving advice and insights on health related problems of the people of provinces of Isabela, Quirino, Cagayan, Vizcaya and Ifugao;
- 2019 to present - Relief giving to indigent indigenous men, women and children, of Quirino and Vizcaya;
- 2018 to present - Scholarship to selected Methodist youths who wish to pursue a career in Christian Ministry;
- 2013 to present - Guest preacher to local Methodist Churches;
- 2023 to 2024 - Ambassador for Peace CHed Region 02

PLANS & PROGRAMS

”Bridging Gaps in Archipelagic Masonry through Healthy, Happy and Caring Freemasons.”

Philippines has a great number of cultures, traditions and beliefs, dividing its citizens including masons. These diversities in cultures, traditions and beliefs are real and cannot just be ignored and brushed aside as they cause misunderstandings, confusions, struggles and serious conflicts within organizations, fraternities and even in communities and countries. On the other hand, such diversities, when properly understood, bridged, and linked can bring about -a broader display of insights, concepts, designs, and creativity,

leading to teamwork, inclusiveness, unity, and greater accomplishment. In our beloved fraternity, despite our diversities and differences and despite living in the different parts of our country with different cultures, languages, and dialects, we always find ways to bridge and fill those gaps of diversities. In this regard, I do believe that a genuinely Healthy, Happy and Caring brotherhood of Freemasons is the key to understanding and bridging said diversities or differences akin to archipelago which is an "island group" or "a chain, cluster or collection of islands". Although the islands comprising the archipelago are separate, they are, nevertheless, considered as one group or chain of islands linked together forming the archipelago. In masonry, the chains or bridges that connect the brethren of different cultures, faith and ethnicity are the three (3) core principles of Freemasonry: Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. The practice in our everyday life of

the said core principles or tenets of Freemasonry makes each and all masons healthy, happy, and caring to all masons and non-masons alike. Truly, one becomes a healthy, happy and caring mason, who makes other masons as healthy, happy and caring as him, if he truly practices the core tenets of the craft applying them in his everyday life.

For the deeper understanding of the said core tenets of our beloved fraternity and to put them into practice, here are my plans and programs:

To bring the Grand ambiance of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines (GLP) in every doorstep of all Blue Lodges in the jurisdiction by putting great emphasis on the promotion of happiness, for I believe 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.

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 lodge to conduct a special session for lecture purposes. Lecturers shall come from lodge's members, preferably Past Masters and Past Grand Line Officers or IMES graduates to cover various fields of interest: technical, legal, moral and spiritual aspects of Freemasonry. It shall then necessitate the presence of a permanent District Grand Lecturer in every lodge to strictly supervise masonic activities 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;

To institutionalize every lodge, not only the GLP, to adopt 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, medical supplies and unpaid medical bills. His vision for the erection of GLP Level 2 Hospital, a long term goal, but a multi generation length legacy, is coming to reality after doing a thorough feasibility study on its possibility. All sick masons regardless of GLP standing and all Phil-health accredited Filipino citizens shall be accommodated free of charge;

To give every Master Mason, regardless of age and social status, an annual insurance, as a token for the honorable services he rendered to the lodge with great sacrifices of endangering his life from multiple travels using roads and other health hazards while performing masonic related works or activities;

To instill in every Mason's heart and mind that he has the duty and obligation of maintaining and supporting 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 those existing laws, the constitution, edicts, rules and regulations. In so understanding, thus a mason truly knows where to find eternal happiness, internal or external, expressive through his words and actions as a humble man and a mason.



NELSON T. YAU

PERSONAL PROFILE

Birthday: June 9, 1965

Place Of Birth: Caloocan City

Married To Sis Cherry L. Yau

Children:

- Neil Alexander L. Yau - Chef, Singapore
- Carl Nicholson L. Yau - Civil Engineer Practitioner, Trader (Master Mason)
- Nicki Cherrilyn L. Yau - Medical Student, Ust Med Proper 4th Year
- Charlizze Nicole L. Yau - Student, Up College Of Architecture

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

- Tertiary: Bs Marketing San Beda College 1986
- Secondary: Chiang Kai Shek College 1982
- Elementary: Chiang Kai Shek College 1978

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- President: Triumph 89 Phils. Trading Inc.
- President: Red Maroon Construction Inc.
- Chairman: Masagana Marketing And Consultancy Inc.

MASONIC RECORD

- Asst. Grand Treasurer - 2009
- District Deputy Grand Master NCR-B - 2006
- Chairman, NCR Multi District

Convention 2006

- District Grand Lecturer NCR-B 2005
- GLI Service Lodge - 2004
- Worshipful Master - 2003 Labong Lodge No.59
- Honorary Member:
 - Island Luz Minerva Lodge 59
 - Service Lodge 95
 - Isagani Lodge 96
 - Victory Lodge 116
 - Intramuros Lodge 363
 - San Leonardo Lodge 386
 - Golden Beehive Lodge 388
- Life Member by Longevity Since 2023 Labong Lodge No. 59

APPENDANT BODIES

- Member -Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite Of The Philippines (Luzon Bodies)
- Past Potentate - Mabuhay Shriners Philippines 2019
- High Shereef - Bamboo Shrine Club 2014
- Past President - Kamanava Travelers Inc.
- Member-Quezon City Trowel Inc.
- Honorary Member - Bureau Of Internal Revenue Travellers Haven Inc. (Birth) Vice President For External - Aphsc Purple Serpent Inc.

CIVIC ORGANIZATION

- Vice President - Federation Of

NELSON T. YAU



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 the 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 THREE POINT PROGRAM TO ACTUALIZE THE THEME

PROMOTE SUSTAINED GROWTH IN MEMBERSHIP

Strategies:

In our quest for worthy potential applicants, projects that improve the public perception about Masonry would be implemented. The projects would include among others the use of social media platforms like YouTube, Vimeo, Tik Tok etc. in disseminating information on role of Freemasonry in the formation of our nation and its contribution in world history as well as its relevance in the present day. An additional benefit from these projects is the possible generation of funds for the Grand Lodge through partnership programs with such social media companies or through their incentive's programs. Our contents in our Grand Lodge website would also be further designed to stir up interests in Masonic subjects and their continuing applicability in modern time.

With the continuing influx of petitioners in our Grand Jurisdiction, the process of investigation by the investigation Committee would be strictly implemented and the important role

of Grand Lodge Inspectors in seeing them duty implemented reinforced, Lodges would be reoriented on this concern.

To better enable us to educate our new members on the basics of Lodge Etiquette and Protocol, Masonic tenets, and virtues, as well as the basics of our Masonic law, a realistic mentoring program would be formulated and implemented for Lodges

Part of the membership growth drive would also be the establishment of an effective program to bring back inactive and brethren suspended for non-payment of dues.

EFFECTIVE LODGE GOVERNANCE

Strategies:

For capability-building, elected and appointed officers would regularly be provided with relevant orientations, lectures, trainings on their duties and responsibilities with regards to their Lodges and the Grand Lodge to better empower them to resolve frequent concerns encountered by Subordinate Lodges.

To strengthening financial and fiscal vitality, the established practices for safeguarding the funds of the Craft at all levels would be strictly implemented. A sound financial management at all levels of the Craft would result in the greater motivation for the brethren to get actively involved in Masonic endeavors.

To ensure effective implementation of our standard system for Lodge re-

porting and communication. the strict adherence would be required to all related edicts and circulars pertaining to the correct and timely submission of monthly and annual reports including the Lodge budget for the ensuing Masonic Year.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Strategies:

Worthy community projects would be initiated and implemented to foster goodwill in our respective communities and remain relevant in the present day,

Present and pass Grand Lodge projects that promote environmental awareness and protection would be continued and revisited for sustainability

The Scholarship Program of our Grand Lodge would be enhanced and expanded if sustainable.

The Grand Lodge Library and Museum would be made available for visitations by non-Masons, particularly those engaged in research on Philippine History and Freemasonry.



OLIVER C. KO

PLANS & PROGRAMS

I envision Freemasonry advancing towards the future while returning to its roots, reviving timeless principles and traditions, respecting the wisdom and voices of our elders, and valuing above all the essence of brotherhood.

LEADERSHIP PHILOSOPHY

My leadership philosophy centers on an unwavering commitment to transparency and inclusive decision-making. I believe in cultivating a culture of openness, building trust, shared responsibility, and actively involving individuals at all levels.

MODERNIZATION OF OUR ANCIENT BROTHERHOOD

Embracing the demands of modern times, our vision involves leveraging technology through a comprehensive "OneStop Online App" that streamlines some of our Masonic operations. The app facilitates online transactions, enabling seamless submission of reports and requests, and easy payment of fees and annual dues. The app also enables concerned officers to review reports, handle requests, and confirm payments.

The Constitution, Laws, Edicts, Circulars are digitized for effortless browsing and searching, ensuring a wealth of Masonic knowledge at one's fingertips through the app or portal.

Connectivity among lodges and brethren is modernized by providing easy access to information on other lodges and facilitating direct communication between any lodges through their secretaries.

This digital transformation ensures efficiency, accessibility, and transparency in our Masonic practices, adapting to the evolving needs of our members in the digital age.

MEMBERSHIP AND PRE-MEMBERSHIP

In our Fraternity, the West Gate has always been jealously guarded. The unique practice of circulating petitioner names and profiles to all lodges must, therefore, be reinforced. Using the "OneStop Online App," the notices are published and made easily accessible to every lodge and every brother Mason.

Every candidate and petitioner, as they are given a peek at what Masonry is all about, must be sufficiently oriented and educated not only on their own conduct and decorum but, equally importantly, on how a Mason treats and handles

OLIVER C. KO



petitioners. A guide for such orientation should be unified in our jurisdiction, accommodating the traditions of lodges but keeping in line with what is proper and acceptable in these modern times.

Every new Mason must be educated not only of the precepts and teachings of Masonry. He must also be informed both written and unwritten traditions in our jurisdiction. Thereby ensuring the preservation of the essence of our Fraternity.

FORMATION OF NEW LODGES

The formation of new lodges in recent years has facilitated the growth of Masonry in our jurisdiction. This growth, however, must be kept in check and maintained at a sustainable pace.

Hence, at the initial stages of forming a new lodge, a proposal accompanied by a recommendation from the all of the lodges within the District must first be presented to the DDGM prior to its endorsement.

The recommendation from all the Lodges within the District is obtained through a majority vote during the Lodge's Regular Stated Meeting and this petition should have been circularized for at least 3 months prior to voting.

PERSONAL PROFILE

Born: November 25, 1974

Father: Pablo C. Ko, Jr.

Mother: Elizabeth C. Ko

Spouse: Anna Theresa Saldana Ko

Children:

Inara Elise S. Ko, 1 1 years old

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Japanese Language Institute (JLI)
SOPHIA UNIVERSITY
Tokyo, Japan
1995 - 1997
- BS Management
ATENEO DE MANILA
UNIVERSITY
Quezon City
1991 - 1995
- Secondary Education (High School)
SACRED HEART SCHOOL
FOR BOYS
Cebu City
1987 - 1991
- Primary Education (Elementary)
1981 - 1987

WORK EXPERIENCE

- PALMAX SOLUTIONS, INC.
Chief Executive Officer
2003 - Present
- Customized Modular Fit-Out
Contractor 2015 - Present
- Customized Furniture Manufacturing & Importer
2008 - Present
- Wooden Pallet Manufacturing
2000 - Present
- PKS SHIPPING CO., INC.
Port Operations Manager January
2003 - June 2012
- GH CLOTHING, INC.
Factory Manager
January 2000 - December 2002
- TAMIYA PHILIPPINES, INC.
General Control Purchasing &
Warehouse Supervisor
January 1998 - December 1999

ORGANIZATIONS & AFFILIATIONS

CASINO ESPANOL DE CEBU

- Board of Directors, Treasurer
2020 - Present
- Member
1995 _ Present

MARIA LUISA PARK ASSOCIATION, INC.

- Board of Directors
2017 - Present
- Chairman, Building
and Construction 2023 - Present
- Member, Grievance Committee
2017, 2023 - Present
- Chairman, Community Activities
2017 - 2018
- Chairman, Security 2018 - 2022

SACRED HEART SCHOOL - ATENELO DE CEBU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

- Board of Trustee, 2011

COUPLES FOR CHRIST

- 2003 - 2009
Strategic Chapter

MASONIC HISTORY

CEBU LODGE NO. 128, MDR-7

- Initiated: March 27, 2010
- Passed: May 1, 2010
- Raised: May 21, 2010

DUAL / PLURAL MEMBERSHIP

- Leon Kilat Masonic Lodge No. 437
- Chocolate Hills Masonic Lodge
No. 477
- Panglao Masonic Lodge No. 486

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

- Sun Lodge No. 6,
Grand Lodge of China

MASONIC POSITIONS HELD

- Worshipful Master
Cebu Lodge No. 128
MY 2017
- District Grand Lecturer
MDR7 - Cebu, Bohol, Siquijor
MY 2018
- District Deputy Grand Master
MDR7 - Cebu, Bohol, Siquijor
- Junior Grand Lecturer
Central Visayas
MY 2022

MASONIC APPENDANT BODIES

- **MABUHAY SHRINERS**
 - Potentate's Aide, 2011 - 2012
Ambassador, 2019 - 2022
 - Filipinas Shrine Club
President
2020 - Present
- **ORDER OF THE SECRET
MONITOR**
 - Grand Guide
Grand Conclave of South East
Asia 2023
 - Deputy Grand Director of
Ceremonies
Grand Conclave of South
East Asia
2021 - 2022
 - Grand Visitor
Grand Conclave of South
East Asia
2020 - 2021
 - Deputy Provincial Grand
Supreme Ruler
Habagatan Provincial Grand
Conclave
2021 - Present
 - Director of Ceremonies
Pillars of the South No. 18
2018 - 2022



PAUL FRANCIS T. CO

PERSONAL PROFILE

Wife: Vicky Lo Co
Occupation: Architect / Businessman
Education: B.S Architecture,
University of Santo Tomas
Name of Children:

- Stefan Patrick L. Co
- Paul Francis L. Co Jr.
- Victor Paulo L. Co

OFFICER POSITIONS

- Initiated: April 14, 1999
- Passed: June 09, 1999
- Raised: July 01, 1999
- Junior Warden 2001
- Senior Warden 2002
- Worshipful Master 2003
- GLI 2004
- JGL 2006
- DDGM 2007
- Secretary 2009
- Treasurer 2010

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

- Pangasinan Masonic Lodge No. 56
- Moises De Guzman Masonic Lodge No. 161
- 100 Islands Masonic Lodge No. 201

MEMBERSHIP IN

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

- Dagupan 'Bangus' Jaycees – Past President 1998
- Philippine Jaycee Senate – No.

44934

- Pangasinan Filipino – Chinese Chamber of Commerce (Pangasinan Chapter) – Director
- Pangasinan Universal Institute – Director
- Panda Volunteer Fire Brigade – Member
- United Architect of the Philippines – Pangasinan – Dagupan Chapter

PLANS AND PROGRAMS

*”Isang Gran Lohiya
na bukas, lumalapit-
malalapitan, at
partisipatibo.”*

An effective feedback mechanism should be devised that the blue lodges will have effective means of evaluating the programs and affairs of the Grand Lodge. A sense of co-ownership by the blue lodges in the thrust of the Grand Lodge will augur well in enlisting the support and active participation of the Brethren.

Towards this goal, the Grand Lodge Inspectors, should be aptly prepared and empowered to receive feedback by the respective lodges on the thrust of the Grand Lodge as part from the reports regularly submitted.



Regular area or cluster meetings among the different Masonic Districts, apart from the Multi-District Conventions should likewise be encouraged and institutionalized, particularly those outside of the National Capital Region where the different districts are separated by territorial and geographical boundaries.

The remote/ online communication and financial facilities of the Grand Lodge should be kept abreast to give the Brethren real-time access, including payments reflected in real time.

A support plan for the different Masonic youth organizations should be devised. The Masonic Districts and the lodges should be instructed to appoint a Designate for Demolay chapters and other Masonic youth organizations housed in their lodge temple or within the District. It should be the duty of the lodges to help and sustain the chapters in their area and provide valuable support and endless supply of role-models for the youth.

LUMILIKHA, LUMILINANG.

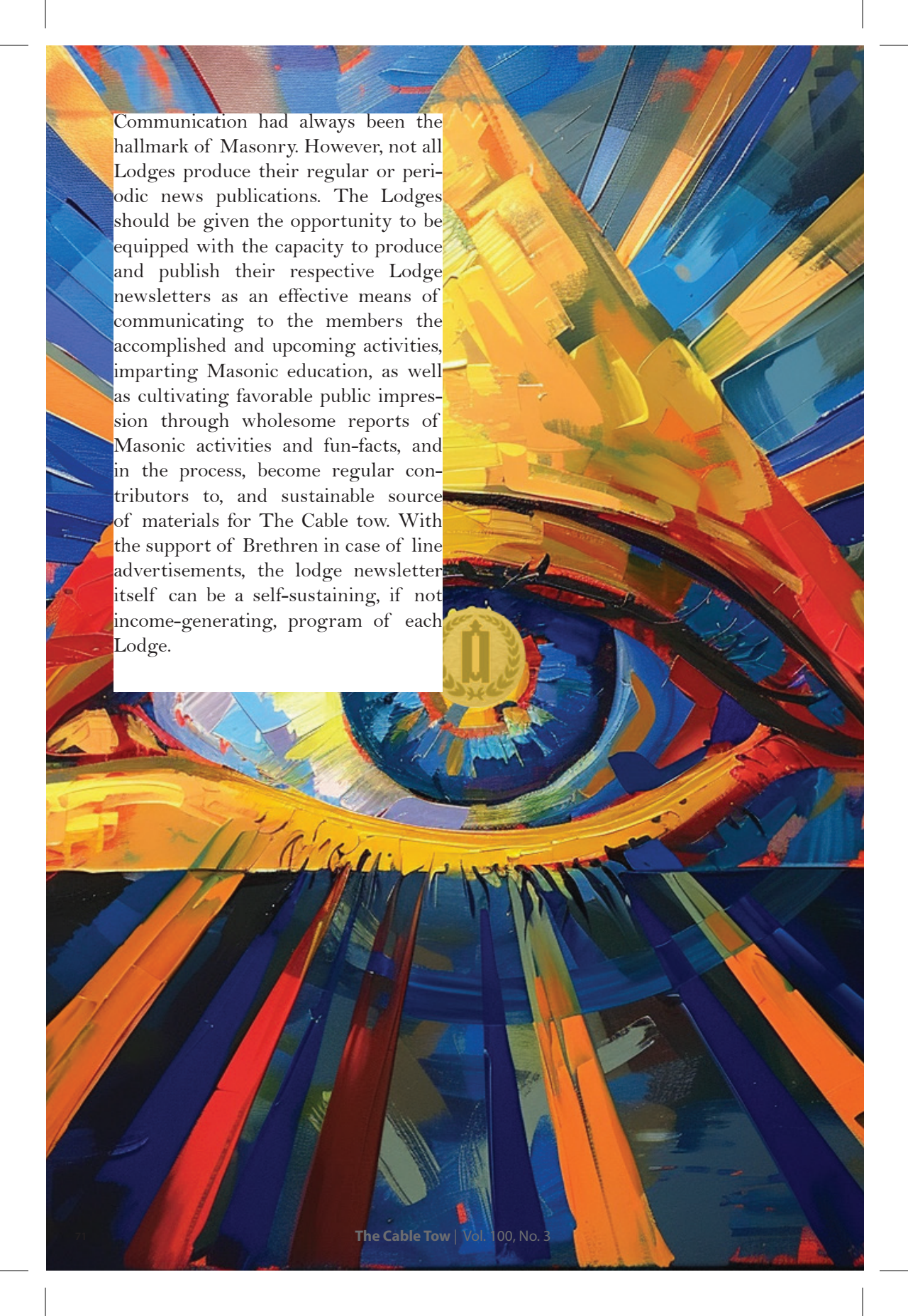
It cannot be emphasized enough that there should be a premium on quality over quantity in the admission of candidates, as well as in the creation of new Lodges. There must be regular Lodge Certification examination, not just during turnover between the present and newly elected set of officers, on each lodge to be conducted by the Grand Lodge through its representative to ensure that the lodges are proficient in the rituals and lectures. Should the lodge fail anent the standard set, all

its officers and members should undergo refresher course on the rituals and lectures.

Towards building character, Masonic Education should also give emphasis on Humility, Charity, and especially, Tolerance/ Toleration.

In nurturing the youngest members of the Lodge, the newly raised Brethren should be given all the opportunity to be heard on what they learned during their immersion in the trestle board and in the quarry, and of their expectations of the Lodge and of the Craft. Admittedly, the rituals by themselves will not make good men better; the proficiency examination is limited to the catechism. There must be equally faithful attention on the carefully constructed after-ritual explanations apart from the structured lecture on the degree, as well as constant and positive interaction with the older members of the Lodge and proper guidance by the officers, at least for the next year or two following their raising to the sublime degree, as way of reinforcing the positive character of the youngest Brother of the Lodge.

A form of Masonic Skills Record should be considered for use in evaluating the skills, talent and interests of Lodge members, whether seasoned or newly raised. The information so obtained will be a valuable resource in tapping previously unknown talents and skills of the Brethren which the lodge can utilize for its labors, and corresponding membership development programs developed.



Communication had always been the hallmark of Masonry. However, not all Lodges produce their regular or periodic news publications. The Lodges should be given the opportunity to be equipped with the capacity to produce and publish their respective Lodge newsletters as an effective means of communicating to the members the accomplished and upcoming activities, imparting Masonic education, as well as cultivating favorable public impression through wholesome reports of Masonic activities and fun-facts, and in the process, become regular contributors to, and sustainable source of materials for The Cable Tow. With the support of Brethren in case of line advertisements, the lodge newsletter itself can be a self-sustaining, if not income-generating, program of each Lodge.



RUEL S. RIVERA

PERSONAL PROFILE

Civil Status: Married
Citizenship: Filipino
Age: 54
Date of Birth: January 5, 1970
Place of Birth:
Lipa City, Batangas
Address:
Adya, Lipa City, Batangas
Name of Spouse:
Emmilynne A. Rivera
Children:
Austin Reiss A. Rivera
Aaron Reiss A. Rivera
Alexa A. Rivera

MASONIC PROFILE

- Date Raised: July 4, 2009
- Mother Lodge: Mendez-Nunez Masonic Lodge No. 316
- Masonic District: R-IV Cavite (West)
- Worshipful Master: San Jose Masonic Lodge No. 429, R-IV Batangas (MY 2018)

GRAND LODGE APPOINTMENTS:

- Grand Lodge Inspector:
MY 2019-2020
- District Grand Lecturer:
MY 2020-2021
- District Deputy Grand Master:
R-IV Batangas, MY 2022

NOTABLE GLP RECOGNITION/ RECEIVED:

- Outstanding Mason
in Government Service, MY 2015

- Outstanding Mason
in Government Service, MY 2018
- Outstanding Mason
in Government Service, MY 2022
- Outstanding District Deputy
Grand Master, MY 2022
- Nominated as a Junior Grand
Warden candidate during the
Southern Luzon Multi-District
Convention held last October 14,
2023, at the Avenue Plaza Hotel,
Naga City, Camarines Sur.

ADDITIONAL MASONIC PROFILE

OTHER LODGE MEMBERSHIPS

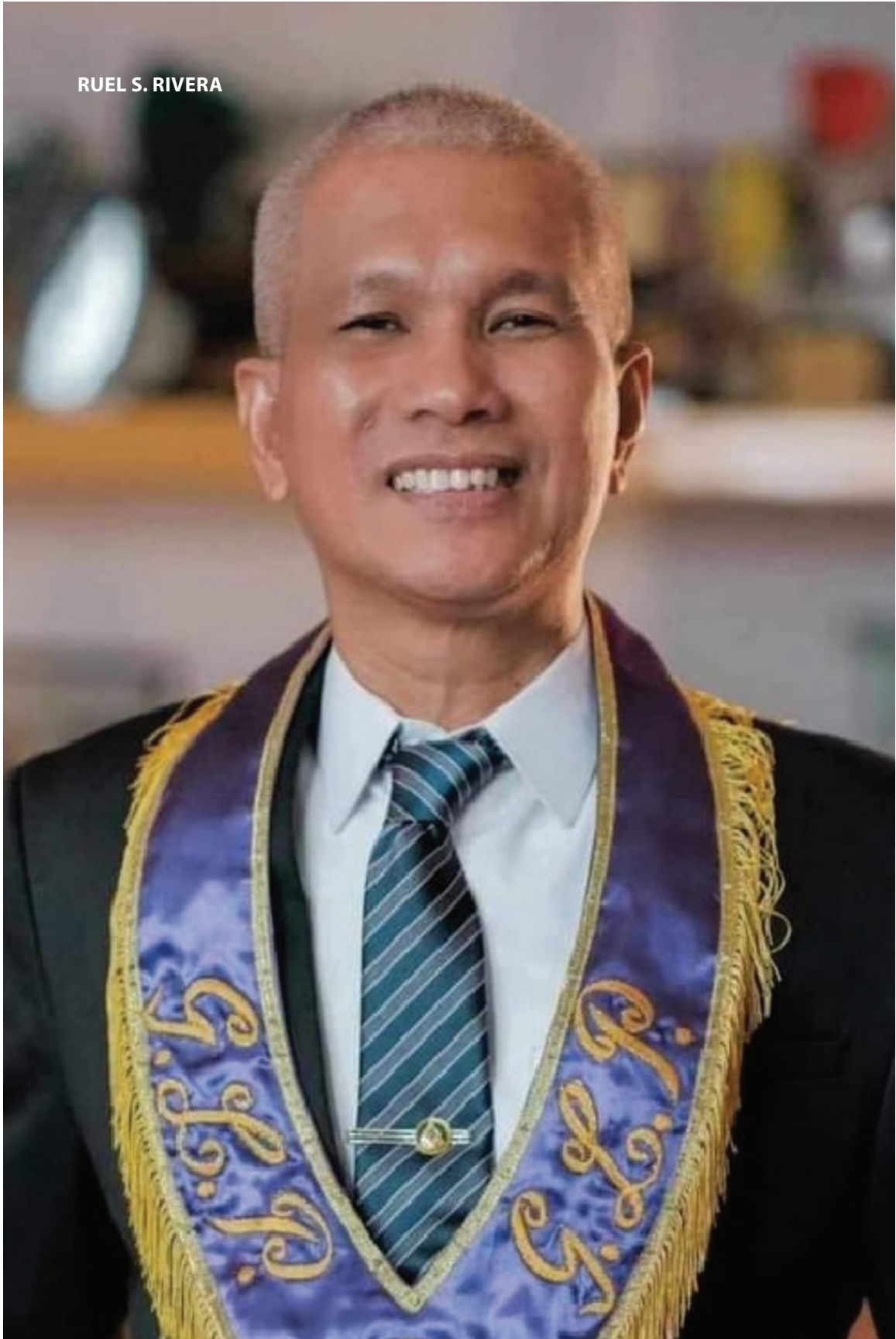
Charter/Plural Membership:

- San Jose Masonic Lodge No. 429,
R-IV Batangas
- Lakan Masonic Lodge No. 483,
NCR-F (Charter Junior Warden)
- Honorary Membership:
- Sixto Lopez (Batulao) Masonic
Lodge No. 129, R-IV Batangas
- Mabini-Kalaw Masonic Lodge No.
195, R-IV Batangas
- Dr. Jose P. Laurel Masonic Lodge
No.325, R-IV Batangas

MASONIC AFFILIATIONS

- York Rite
- Plaridel Bodies
- Mabuhay Shriners International
- Saigon Shrine Club
- IMES Emperor Class 2016-01-74
(President)
- Grand and Glorious Order of the
Knights of the Creeping Serpent

RUEL S. RIVERA



- (GGOKCS) SIGMA Class
- Pagong Ako Kuyang Philippines

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Chief
Bureau of Jail Management and Penology / June 25, 2023 - Present
- Deputy Chief for Administration of the Jail Bureau/July 16, 2019 - June 24, 2023
- Deputy Chief for Operations of the Jail Bureau/June 21, 2018 - July 15, 2019
- Chief of the Directorial Staff of the Jail Bureau/September 16, 2017 - June 20, 2018
- Director for Comptrollership February 27, 2016 - September 15, 2017
- Director for Logistics October 1, 2014 - February 26, 2016
- Regional Director
BJMP Regional Office MIMA-ROPA/October 29, 2013 - September 30, 2014
- Director for Investigation and Prosecution/December 3, 2012 - October 28, 2013
- Chief, NHQ Finance Service Unit January 17, 2007 - January 16, 2011
- Warden of District, City, and Municipal Jails/1998 - 2012
- Staff Officer of NHQ and Regional Offices/1995 - 1998

EDUCATION

- Candidate for Doctor of Philosophy in Education Management University of Rizal System
- Candidate for Doctor of Rural Development Iloilo College of Fisheries

- Master in Public Administration Batangas State University 1999
- Bachelor of Science in Public Safety Philippine National Police Academy 1995
- Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering Golden Gate Colleges
- Undergraduate General Engineering Batangas State University 1989
- Secondary Education The Mabini Academy 1987
- Elementary Education Adya Elementary School 1983

MEMBERSHIPS IN CIVIC/ NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

- Board of Directors
BJMP Mutual Benefit Association Inc. / 2023 - Present
- Chairperson
BJMP Multi-Purpose Cooperative 2022 -Present
- Chairperson
BJMP Provident Fund 2019 - 2023
- Board of Trustees
Armed Forces and Police Mutual Benefit Association, Inc. 2019 - 2022
- President
BJMP Savings and Loans Association Inc. 2017 - 2018
- Member
Knights of Rizal 2019 -Present

- President
PNPA Patnubay Class of 1995
2005 - 2007
- President
Batangas Varsitarian
1989

PLANS & PROGRAMS:

*"Better Men, Better
Masons, for a Better
Freemasonry"
Through Continuing Masonic
Development Program*

We envision making Masonry relevant and resilient in our changing times through capacity building of the members of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines. We believe that the Craft must continuously develop its members and prioritize their growth, highlighting the need to adapt to the needs and expectations of our current and prospective members, while preserving the essence and integrity of our ancient tradition. We see a future where the Grand Lodge embraces technology and innovation and uses them as tools to enhance our education, communication, and administration. In view of this, the overarching theme of "Better Men, Better

Masons, for a Better Masonry" will be the cornerstone of our programs for the Craft.

On becoming "Better Men," we intend to cultivate well-rounded Masons who are good citizens of the country. As aligned with the core principles of Freemasonry, we believe that a good Mason should foremost be a good man. On this principle, enhancing personal ethical standards and moral values is fundamental. We believe that Masons should be good and law-abiding citizens. This plan aims to foster a culture where our members value ethical conduct in their personal, professional, and Masonic lives. Training and workshops related to this objective will be implemented if given the opportunity.

On becoming "Better Masons," we will espouse the personal development of Masons by enhancing their Masonic knowledge and proficiency. We believe that every Mason should strive to improve himself in all aspects of his Masonic journey, from his application for degrees, up to the peak of his Masonic career. We should, therefore, provide our members with the opportunities and resources to do so. In line with this, we intend to introduce

additional programs in our Masonic education system and make it more accessible, engaging, and relevant. A ladderized, modular, and comprehensive Masonic education program is best suited for our modern times, where our brethren may avail of certification courses leading to the completion of the IMES. Furthermore, we envision an advanced education program, focused on enhancing the leadership and administrative management skills of the incoming and incumbent Lodge and District Officers. Lastly, integrating technology for efficient delivery of these Masonic education programs will be instituted to ensure that our programs are effectively implemented.

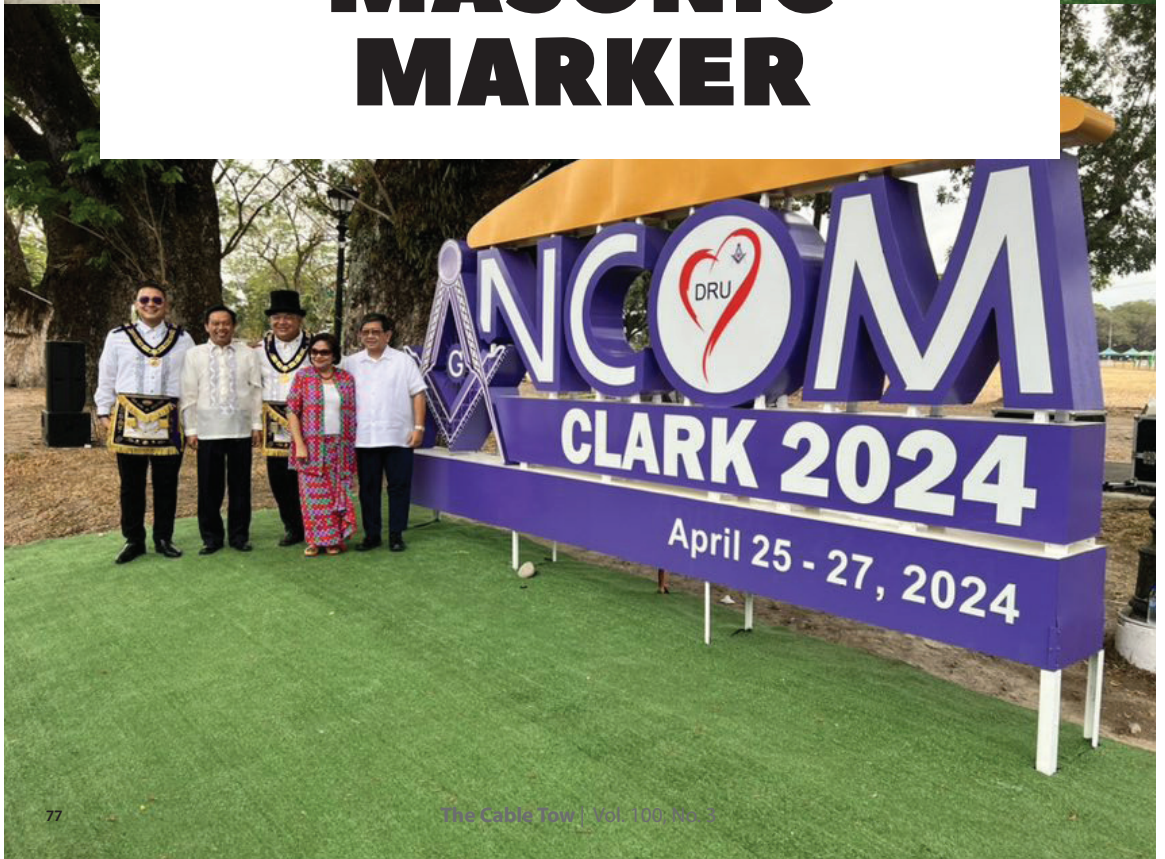
In summary, we believe that our focused education program will positively impact the development of Men who are good and responsible citizens and Masons who are well-educated and dedicated to our principal tenets, resulting in the sustainable progression of the Craft, all for a better Freemasonry.

FRAMEWORK OF PLANS AND PROGRAMS BETTER FREEMASONRY

- **BETTER MEN**
FOSTERING A CULTURE OF RESPECT AND RESPONSIBILITY STRENGTHENING MORAL VALUES UPHOLDING THE FILIPINO VALUES.
- **BETTER MASONS**
EMPOWERING OFFICERS THROUGH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTING A LADDERIZED AND MODULAR
- **MASONIC EDUCATION**
ENHANCING MASONIC KNOWLEDGE AND PROFICIENCY



UNVEILING OF MASONIC MARKER





A historic event occurred with the unveiling of the Annual Communications 2024 marker inside Clark Freeport last March 15, 2024.

Clark Development Corporation Chairman Edgardo D. Pamintuan led the unveiling of the marker, with Most Worshipful Don Terng Ramas Uypitching, Grand Master, Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in the Philippines. The Grand Master was accompanied by Right Worshipful Ariel Cayanan, Deputy Grand Master; Right Worshipful Raul Canon, Jr., Senior Grand Warden; Very Worshipful Oscar Orosco, District Grand Lecturer for Masonic District R-3 Pampanga; and VW Darwin Reyes, Ancom 2024 Director.

The Annual Communications (AnCom) is the biggest national convention of Freemasons held annually. It provides an opportunity for Masons to meet other Brethren and discuss procedures, jurisprudence, values, convictions, practices of being a true Mason. This year the AnCom will be held at The SMX Convention Center in SM City Clark on April 25-27, 2024. More than 5,000 delegates under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, including those in Guam and Japan, are expected to attend. Delegates from the Grand Lodges of Asia, Europe, Australia, and North America are also sending delegates.

For more information, please visit: [AnCom 2024](#).



THE FINAL WORD

MW Don Terng Ramas-Uypitching
Grand Master

WARMEST FRATERNAL GREETINGS, MY BELOVED BRETHREN!

This third issue of The Cable Tow features the brothers who were deemed worthy to serve as our next Junior Grand Warden by our brethren in this grand jurisdiction and graciously offered themselves to serve in such capacity.

Within this issue, we feature their background and their plans for our treasured fraternity. May such information the better enable us to prudently discern who amongst them would be best suited to serve us as our future Grand Master.

As we temper our expectations and fortify our common noble vision for our Craft, let us ever justly remember that Masonic service is always about the discharge of our duties to God and others which are also the universal duties “where all men agree.” For in our sincere labors for His glory as well as

to the welfare of our fellow creatures, we find fulfillment and happiness which are our true wages as Masons.

I wish all the nominees all the best and pray to the Great Architect of the Universe to grant us His Divine Wisdom as we make our respective leadership choices soon for the betterment of our ancient institution.

Together, Brethren.



DON T. RAMAS-UYPITCHING
Grand Master of Masons





ANCOM
CLARK 2024
APRIL 25-27, 2024



**Freemasons Altogether,
Building Temples inside the Hearts of Men.**

REGISTER NOW AT **ANCOM.PH**

FOR INQUIRIES, please call
(0995) 077.05.83
Bro. Francisco "Kiko" Maganis