



Spring Meeting 2024 Edition

The Council

Official Publication of the Alpha Phi Omega Alumni Council of North America



APO LAS VEGAS HOSTS 2024 ACNA SPRING MEETING AT SUNCOAST HOTEL & CASINO

By Bro. Art Rivera

All roads will lead to Las Vegas on April 5-7 for the 2024 Spring Meeting of the APO Alumni Council of North America. Alumni Associations from the US and Canada represented by their respective Presidents and delegates will gather at SunCoast Hotel for the 1st ACNA Meeting of the Development Years 2024-2025.

The Board of Directors are represented by the Presidents of the 30 Alumni Association and 4 petitioning chapters. Brother Jerry Foronda of APO Virginia Beach is Chairman of the Board while the Executive Officers will be headed by Sis Ving Adriatico. The ACNA Board of Directors will meet April 5 and the ACNA Spring Meeting will be on Saturday, April 6 to be followed by the Mobsters Gala in the evening.

There will be a welcome fellowship on Friday evening and a Sunday Going Away Brunch. Las Vegas offers various activities for everyone to enjoy including entertainment shows, tours along the LV Strip, day tours to Red Rocks, the Grand Canyon West or South or to Zion or Bryce Canyon National Park. They offer exhilarating feast for the eyes as well as thrilling adventures of these famous landmarks. Our Las Vegas Hosts are led by President Alex Aquino and Chairman of the Board Joey Avisado.

The Annual APO Golf North vs. South Ryder Cup will also be hosted by APO Las Vegas at the Angel Park Golf Club LV playing the Palm Course on Friday, April 5 and the Mountain Course on Saturday, April 6. The format of the tournament includes a Team Play on the first day and the Match Play on the second day.

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APO HAWAII TO HOST 17TH ACNA BIENNIAL CONVENTION AND APO CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

APO-Hawaii has shifted to drive-gear in preparation for the 17th ACNA Biennial Convention and the APO Centennial Celebration during the 2025 Labor Day weekend on August 28 to September 1 at the Ala Moana Hotel in the heart of Honolulu. The alumni association in the Alohaland got the official nod of the Alumni Council of North America (ACNA) to host the historic event during the 16th biennial convention held last September in Seattle, WA.

The 2025 event will feature a string of fun events including an evening reception, an Aloha Night, an APO Night, and a Centennial Gala. A centennial caravan through Waikiki and major areas in Honolulu will kickstart the four-day event.

A call for papers on the theme "APO@100: A Century of Leadership, Friendship and Service" will be issued for a conference that will be interleaved with the centennial celebration. APO brothers and sisters from across the globe are welcome to send their abstracts to the event chair, Bro. Raymund Liongson, at rliongson@gmail.com.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from the Nation's Capital, Washington DC!

It is now five months since the ACNA Officers took the Oath of Office at the Seattle, WA Convention. Together with the other elected officers, I am still filled with awe and gratitude for the honor and privilege to serve Alpha Phi Omega and the APO Alumni Council of North America. I am aware of the magnitude of the work and the huge responsibility but with faith, He will lead and guide us into the right path.



I look forward to an exciting and productive centennial administration. We draw inspiration from the enthusiasm shared by the servant leaders of the administration, the officers, the Alumni Association Presidents, committee members, the President's Circle, and all the brothers and sisters of North America. The challenges ahead and opportunities for service will not be hindered because we will work together in the pursuit of our goals and objectives.

Let there be Trust, Passion, Togetherness and Understanding in the pursuit of our mission to serve and make a difference in the lives of others. Let us strive to live by the principles and values we stand for, not only in words but in deeds in the pursuit of service to the community, friends and the needy. May these inspire the young to emulate these examples as they grow and find their purpose.

We are indeed happy and proud to revive The Council, the newsletter and communications media of ACNA and may it bring us closer, joyful and united in purpose. Our gratitude to all the brothers and sisters who helped make this issue come into fruition.

In Leadership, Friendship and Service

Sis Ving Adriatico
ACNA President, 2024-2025

The Council

Official publication of the
Alpha Phi Omega Alumni Council of North America

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Alpha Phi Omega

Philippines

ALUMNI COUNCIL OF NORTH AMERICA, INC



"A Century of Steadfast Commitment to LFS."

Our Vision: "Preserve the legacy of ACNA as it continues to grow as an APO organization with a stronger presence, unified, and impactful in the communities and our nations (USA, Canada, Philippines)."

Our Mission: "Strengthen ACNA's presence in the United States and Canada promoting the cardinal principles of Leadership, Friendship, and Service among its stakeholders."

Our Goal: "For ACNA to achieve its organizational objectives and to be the standard bearer in leading the Alpha Phi Omega (Philippines) Centennial Celebration in North America."

***Programs & Activities for 2024-2025**

1. Leadership Skill building:
Webinar/Seminar on Robert's Rules of Order
CBL 101 Series
Leadership Workshop
2. National Service Week – November 3-9, 2024
Service to the Community, Brethren, & Thyself (please refer to the NSW mechanics)
3. 100 Themed Services – 100 Numerical Significance
Objective: 100 ACNA services from 1st Quarter of 2024 to November 2025
3-4 services per ACNA AA until November 2025 (please refer to 100 Numerical Significance mechanics)
4. Calamity/Relief Operations
5. ACNA & AA Partnership in Service Projects
6. Centennial Activities – APO100 Promotional activities
Hot Air Balloon, 100 Water Lanterns, 100 balloons, Aerial Banner
7. IHMDO in Davao City May 29
8. Health & Well-Being Programs
9. Programs to promote APO in schools and communities in the Philippines
10. Fundraising activities – Raffle, APO Items, Activities

***Projects 2024-2025**

1. ACNA Newsletter – to be released quarterly
2. New ACNA Banners, COA, Seal
3. ACNA History Scroll
4. Presidents Circle Scroll
5. Alpha Plaque in FEU of Founding Members "Lafayette plaque PH version"
6. APO Centennial Marker in Davao City
7. Archiving & Digitization of ACNA Records
8. ACNA Website

Disclaimer:

*Programs, activities, & projects are subject to change – and are not limited to the listed above or subject to availability of funds. Others may be added as budget permits, if aligned with the vision & mission of this administration, and upon approval by the board.

We can do great things when there is a culture of Shared Accountability, Integrity, Engagement, & Fun, we can make things happen! 23 months will pass us by swiftly, let us SEIZE THIS MOMENT, and make our presence count.

Sis Felvic Ving Adriatico
ACNA President 2024-2025



ALPHA PHI OMEGA
Philippines, Inc.
ALUMNI COUNCIL OF NORTH AMERICA



My Fellow ACNA Members:



Congratulations to all those involved in putting up this Newsletter. ACNA newsletters are expected to be published every quarter and will be foremost in getting information to our Alumni members. Kudos to our ACNA officers led by President Sis Ving Adriatico. This would not be possible without their tireless efforts to get this done.

This year I look forward to a fun yet productive year. To the members of the Board and as Pres Ving said, let us now start working towards the greater good of our organization. We have a number of service, fundraisers, and other projects lined up. Let us remind ourselves of our commitment as members of the Board and together let us work as one to meet each and every goal our alumni sets.

I also ask all members of the 34 strong ACNA Alumni Associations, that we never let go being active members of this beloved fraternity and sorority we belong to. We clasp our hands together and keep pushing forward. Let our principles of leadership, friendship and service be our guide so that together we will achieve all we set out to do. God Bless us All, and God Bless Alpha Phi Omega.

Jerry Foronda
 Bro Jerry Foronda
 ACNA Chairman of the Board



The Keynote Speech at the 16th ACNA Biennial Convention in Seattle

"Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile." These were the words of Albert Einstein, the world-renowned genius who, while contemplating how the universe functioned, must have stumbled upon this epiphany.

We, members of Alpha Phi Omega, know that our lives as APO members are lived in service of others. We don't have to be geniuses to know what we have known ever since we joined APO. In the 33 years of its existence ACNA had grown from three AAs (East Coast, Northern California and Southern California), to what is now about 10 times that number. To me, this signifies a positive forward movement, much like the proliferation of chapters in the Philippines 25 years after the founding of APO in Lafayette College. Having more AAs means we have more opportunities to be of service with greater impact. I know for a fact that establishing numerous AAs may have been achieved with mixed intentions and consequences. To be brutally frank, I know that some associations were organized because of disagreements and hurt feelings within an existing AA and, like any ordinary Filipino organization, this gave birth to several organizations because, instead of resolving their differences, members simply organize new groups, much like ordinary Pinoy organizations all over.

In Seattle, for example, there are more than 300 Pinoy organizations that came into being because of hurt feelings, each claiming representation of their particular ethnic group or barangay. This is the elephant in the room that we sometimes fail to see because of misplaced pride and sense of victimization. Is APO like any other Filipino organization or is it of a higher, more professional level? This is a question I'd like to leave unanswered for us to think about as we return to our respective areas to contemplate the future.

Aside from SERVICE, our main guiding principle is LEADERSHIP. I have seen in almost all Pinoy organizations including APO, that the concept of leadership is sometimes equated to being elected as officers of the organization, oftentimes forgetting that what matters is what you do after being elected to the position. The title is the objective and the goal is power or whatever perk that comes along with the position. Oftentimes disagreements arise because of the mentality of some leaders that "it's my way or the highway", losing sight of the truism that a good leader is first of all a good follower who feels the pulse of the members. This requires humility because being a leader does not preclude the contributions of even those who they might consider as lesser mortals. The poem *Desiderata* by Max Ehrman comes to mind, and a passage therein is very relevant, and I quote "Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story."

Perhaps one of the pitfalls of unenlightened leadership is the establishment of new organizations simply because they can, perhaps to assuage their hurt feelings instead of envisioning the bigger picture. And to add to the cliché, it is like missing the forest for the trees.

Let me get back to the issue of leadership and its role in the larger number of AAs that we now have in North America. I'd rather we look at this as a glass half-full and make the best of what we have. Remember that we cannot recruit new members because that is the function of the collegiate chapters. Our numbers can only increase when members initiated in the Philippines immigrate to North America. The world is fast changing around us. Climate change is creating calamities like we have never seen before, especially among the poor nations like the Philippines that take the brunt of the weather abnormalities that are becoming the norm. In the socio-political realm, we see populations so profoundly divided by cultural upheavals and political distrust that neighbors are exceedingly distrustful of neighbors. APO should be above it all because we have been privileged to have college educations and that we should be above it all as enlightened citizens. It is because of these global developments that we must seize the opportunity to make the world a better place in which to live and to make a life, where service is eminently needed by the less endowed. We will all grow old and gray and we can only pray that our numbers will increase even if our instincts say that we cannot sustain the indefinite increase in the number of AAs. The strategy, therefore, is to strengthen the collegiate chapter so that they can recruit more members. Strengthening the chapter means recruitment of not only many but qualitative students who are well-indoctrinated into our guiding principles.

This brings me to the next point in that perhaps we should look as well into strengthening our AAs, rather than proliferating them. It is in our internal strength that we can hope to be more effective servant-leaders with the ability to transcend our personal feelings for the larger, more glorious objectives attainable only through effective practice of leadership, friendship and service. Please don't take these words of mine as a rebuke but rather as a challenge to transcend our often narrow view about leadership. There is a larger world out there. What good is leadership if we don't share it with the world, with those who do not belong to our fraternal organization? What good is our training as leaders if we limit ourselves to within APO alone?

Many Pinoy organizations out there will benefit greatly from our leadership. Let's go out there and lead by example, by showing them that true enlightened leadership is what counts in building a strong nation, whether it be in our adopted countries or in our Inang Bayan. After all, isn't service to the nation as a participating citizen indoctrinated into us when we joined APO? We can achieve this if we get out of our self-imposed cocoons in APO in order to truly make a difference in the communities we live in.

With about 30 AAs in North America, there is much potential out there for effective leadership and service. Imagine that while we are engaged in leadership and service activities, we gain friends in the process outside of APO. And that is the bonus, the icing on the cake. In the meantime let us enjoy each other's company in true APO fellowship. May we always be true to ourselves and to each other.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

BRO. RUFINO S. IGNACIO, MEM, MEE

APO Eta 1960, Blackjacks

Dean Emeritus, Mindanao State University

BS Electrical Engineering, University of the Philippines

Master of Science in Electrical Engineering as East West Center Scholar, University of Hawaii

Master of Science in Engineering Management, Saint Martin's University, Valedictorian of Graduating Class

AWARDS:

UP Oblation Run Award.

The prestigious Sword of Lafayette Award, the APO Eta Chapter highest award.

Lifetime Distinguished Achievement Award, from the University of the Philippines (UP) and the UP Alumni Association.

Global Achievement Award for Engineering Consultancy, from the UP College of Engineering and the UP Alumni Engineers.

Lifetime Distinguished Service Award from the Filipino-Americans of Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater, Washington.

Founder of the multi-awarded Sining Kambayoka Ensemble of the Mindanao State University (MSU).

Founder of the PBA Legends Foundation, USA. Bro. Ruffy was the Manager of the PBA and Jones Cup Basketball Tournament.

Dean Emeritus of Engineering, Mindanao State University, where a Hall was named after him.

Former Dean of Engineering, and Vice President for Academic Affairs, MSU.

At present, Visiting Professor and Consultant to the President of MSU.



In summary, the UP College of Engineering and UP Alumni Engineers, in the plaque to Ruffy's Global Achievement Award states, **"He is engineer, educator, planner, builder, administrator, entrepreneur, manager, civic leader, author, and artist."**



The Council
2024

ACNA SERVICES for the 1st Quarter 2024

February 24, 2024

- Relief Operations for flood victims of Davao
- Community Pantry

March 2, 2024

- 74th APO Philippines Anniversary Project
- Community Pantry part 2, Davao City

March 2, 2024

- 74th APO Philippines Founding Anniversary Project
- In Partnership with Department of Education, Maasin City
- 10,000 boxes of 100s of deworming meds
- Deworming of grade school and high school students
- Total of 10,000 students, more than 70 schools
- In collaboration with Alumni Associations:

APO Metro San Diego

Greater Washington APO

APO Metro Houston

APO Midwest

APO District of Columbia

APO Greater Los Angeles

APO Hollywood

APO Toronto

Aligned with 3 strategic plans:

1. 100 Themed Service for Centennial Program
2. Promote Alpha Phi Omega in schools and communities
3. Promote the health and well-being of the community we serve

March 22, 2024

- Career Guidance Seminar to High School Students in Tacloban City
- Target recipients 200 students

A Century of Steadfast Commitment to Leadership, Friendship & Service

2025 ACNA RAFFLE FUNDRAISING

ACNA 2025 Convention and Spring / Fall Meetings

- Title: ACNA Raffle Fund Raising
- \$20.00 per ticket
- Cash Prizes: ACNA Convention 2025; Spring & Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 Meetings

Winner	Spring 2024	Fall 2024	Spring 2025	Convention 2025 3 rd Prize	Convention 2025 2nd Prize	Convention 2025 Grand Prize
Ticket buyer	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00
Sponsoring AA	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00

Sponsoring Alumni Association prize

Qualifier: AA Paid the considered sold tickets to ACNA. ACNA treasurer shall confirm qualified AAs prior to each draw.

Incentive Program for Alumni Associations who wish to avail of Option B and C

Considered Sold Tickets	INCENTIVE for Alumni Associations	Payable to ACNA
A. No incentive Receives 150 tickets Considered sold 65 tickets only Return 85 tickets not later than June 30,2025	Not Qualified	\$ 1,300.00
B. Incentive 50/50 Large AA Receives 300 tickets Small AA Receives 150 tickets Considered sold 150 (large), 75 (small)	50% proceeds for AA \$3,000.00 or \$1,500.00 from ticket sales	\$ 1,500.00 (for small AAs) \$ 3,000.00 (for large AAs)
C. Additional Incentive 70/30 Qualifier: AA paid the guaranteed sold (B)	70% proceeds for AA if additional 50 tickets \$700.00 for AA	30% For additional 50 tickets \$300.00

APO LAS VEGAS HOSTS 2024 ACNA SPRING MEETING . . .

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Winners of the Ryder Cup will earn bragging rights for one year until the next Tour. It will be another fun, joyful and beautiful experience at the fairways and greens of the Angel Park Club. Golf Coordinators are Brods Bubu Feriols and John Sanchez.

As we gather on the first weekend of April, we look forward to renew friendships, gain new friends and rekindle relationships with APO brothers, sisters and families. We invite everyone to find the time to be part of the goals, objectives and programs of ACNA as we journey together in making a difference in the lives of others especially those in need.

As it has been said, enjoy the ride and embrace the journey. “Mabuhay and APO, Mabuhay tayong lahat!”

APO HAWAII TO HOST 17TH ACNA BIENNIAL CONVENTION . . .

Continued from page 1

The usual ACNA BOD meeting, general assembly, and election of officers for the DY2026-2027 will be among the highlights of the event. Outdoor activities designed to experience and enjoy the natural beauty of and culture in Hawaii will be offered to non-BOD members who will not be in the ACNA board meetings.

“We are preparing for meaningful and memorable biennial and centennial celebrations,” says Bro. Raymund, who co-chairs the historic event with Bro. Melvin Calivoso.

A souvenir program and a centennial coffee table book are planned to be produced for the events. Information update will be posted in the APO-Hawaii website, apohawaii.org.

LFS Academy to highlight summer program for the youth

A two-day youth leadership training seminar will be the centerpiece in the summer 2024 program of APO-Hawaii. Dubbed LFS Academy, this new initiative is scheduled for July 13 and 14 at the Filipino Community Center. The youth seminar aims to promote among the youth the cornerstones of the fraternity — leadership, friendship, and service. This new initiative will be open to fifty high school and young college-age youth and will focus on “servant leadership, collaboration, and community service.”

LFS Academy will be mostly interactive, employing discovery and reflection through engaging activities rather than lectures. Each participant will be provided a free seminar packet, lunch, LFS Academy t-shirt, and a certificate of participation. The two-day youth leadership training program will culminate with a service project on the second day, instilling APO-Hawaii’s maxim: “*the product of leadership and friendship is service.*”

APO-Hawaii elects new officers for DY 2024 and 2025

APO-Hawaii, the 2025 host of the 17th ACNA biennial convention and APO centennial celebration elected its new officers to lead the service fraternity thru 2024 and 2025. Elected officers are:

- President - Rossana Bartolome-Donalvo
- Vice-President - Nur Hussein Lamorena
- Secretary - Raymund Liongson
- Treasurer - Erma Magno-del Rosario
- Board of Directors:
 - Giovanni del Rosario – Chairman
 - Melvin Calivoso
 - Elmer Corotan
 - John Jacinto



APO-Hawaii regularly meets every two months but gathers more frequently for special meetings, projects, and celebrations.

The APOGLA Los Angeles Marathon 2024 Service



The 39th staging of the Los Angeles Marathon was held on Sunday, March 17, 2024 and participated by more than 20,000 runners and wheelchair racers. This year's 26.2 miles run began at the Dodgers Stadium to Sunset Boulevard to do a loop through Downtown LA to Echo Park then again to Sunset Boulevard heading toward the West passing through Hollywood, and ending at Century City. Wheelchair racers are the first to cross the starting line at 6:30 AM followed by the pro women at 6:40 AM and the pro men and the rest of the field at 7:00 AM.

The Los Angeles Marathon began in 1985 and APO Greater Los Angeles has been a fixture since 1986 when Egay Nino Franco introduced the organization to the LA Marathon organization and thus, we have been a fixture at the race manning the Mile 13 Water Water Station in front of the Laugh Factory at Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood.

As early as 5:00 AM, about 100 brothers, sisters and families of APOGLA gather at Mile 13 to set up the tables, water cups

and electrolyte drinks for the thousands of participants. This annual event has been named the Isauro "Bonjie" Ingco Memorial Service Project. The breakfast table is filled with favorite Filipino dishes as well as coffee, donuts, sandwiches, fruits and everything you can imagine to fill the palates and the taste buds of the volunteers and friends. Brothers Chowee Sy, Bodjie Gapido, Jeff Guevarra and wife Ivy and their two kids, Janine Acosta daughter Bro. Lito and Sis. Josie Tarculas ran the race. To finish the exhausting 26.2 mile run is a feat not easy to accomplish but will surely bring joy and glory to everyone who dares to run.

The elite division men were dominated by Dominic Ngeno, 2:10:20.45, Cosmas Kiplimo, 2:11:05.55 and Belay Tilahun, 2:13:25.05 while the top elite women were Stacy Ndiwa, 2:25:28.97, Volha Mazuronak, 2:25:48.65 and Alesde Baysa Tesema, 2:25:57.70. The 40th staging of the Los Angeles Marathon will be on March 16, 2025.

After the City Clean up crew is done cleaning and removing the litter at the route, members drive to Beverly Hills for the General Membership Meeting. President Joel Carbon conducted the meeting amidst the tired yet energized APOGLA family. After the meeting, a special presentation on Retirement and Financial Management arranged by Si Malou Fjardo. After an exhausting Sunday, we parted ways and went home to our homes for the well deserved rest.

See you all at the ACNA Spring Meeting at SunCoast Hotel in Las Vegas on April 5-7.

Cheers!
-Art Rivera



In Leadership, Friendship and Service



The APOAAGNY News

The Empire State of Leadership, Friendship and, Service



APO CENTENNIAL OBELISK MARKER APPROVED BY CITY OF EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA

It is with great pride to announce the successful meeting with Hon. Mayor Salvatore Panto Jr. on February 12, 2024 spearheaded by Alpha Phi Omega AA of Greater New York President Sol Kapunan and Centennial Committee Chairman Nathan Ty.

This historic meeting was witnessed by Bro. Ronald Reodica, Sis Joy O'Brien, Sis Marivic Aradani and Sis Mary Ann Kapunan.

Watch out for APOAAGNY's series of events happening at the heart of Easton, PA as we partner with them in tracing our roots and prepare our road to 100 years of Leadership, Friendship and Service!



2023 ALPHA PHI OMEGA INTER ALUMNI SERVICES AND FELLOWSHIP OF EASTERN CANADA

Montreal, Canada, October 7, 2023, this is the day three prominent Alpha Phi Omega alumni in eastern Canada joined together to provide park cleaning services at the Kent Park in the burrow of Cote des Neiges Montreal. This inter-alumni service was spear headed by Sis President Glory Foja Pisuena (APO Mississauga Alumni Association), Sis President Marites Prado (APO de Montreal Alumni Association #390), and Sis President Richelle Vergs (APO Atlantic). This service was coordinated by councilor Stephanie Valenzuela for the burrow of Cote des Neiges. The brods and sis from APO Atlantic and APO Mississauga alumni association had to journey 14 hours and 5 hours respectively in order to make this APO sponsored service a success. This was followed by an inter-alumni fellowship at the residence of Sis Arlene Tanawan (Lambda chapter), where the visiting brods and sis bore witness to the 2023 APO de Montreal executive officers' election. – *Photos courtesy of APO de Montreal.*



Mississauga, Canada, October 21, 2023, APO Mississauga Alumni Association, under the leadership of Sis President Glory Foja Pisuena, in partnership with APO de Montreal Alumni Association #390 and the City of Mississauga planted more than 250 trees at Totoredaca Park, Mississauga Ontario as part of the 1 million trees initiative of the city. This was followed by a park cleaning service in the afternoon at the R.K. Mcmillan Park, Mississauga, Ontario. Also present were APO Toronto Alumni Association lead by Brod President Ramir Banasihan and APO Son Alas Alumni Association. This was later followed by another inter-alumni fellowship at the residences of Brod



Fil Manzo and Brod Tito Hermosisima. Also responsible for the success of the tree-planting service were brod Edmund Manuel and brod Robert Reyes, APO Mississauga Tree Planting Service coordinators and brod Zandro Manaoat who was the tree planting chairman for APO de Montreal Alumni Association #390. – *Photos courtesy of Brod Sonny Alino.*

Montreal, Canada, November 4, 2023, APO de Montreal Alumni Association #390 celebrated its 5th year anniversary as well as its induction of its 2023 executive officers at the Salle de Rekado in Lachine Montreal. This inter-alumni event was graced by APO Mississauga Alumni Association, APO Toronto Alumni Association and by its distinguished guests from APO Philippines Alumni Council of North America (ACNA) namely Bro. Thom Pascual (President APO Hawaii and ACNA Treasure DY 2024-2025); Bro. Pres. Aleks Garcia (APO Dallas-Fort Worth Alumni Association President and ACNA BOD secretary); Bro Domel Evangelista, Los Angeles, California, USA, Regional Director, Bro. Pres Jun "Jv" Decastro Jr., West Coast - California, USA Past President ACNA DY 2019-2021; Bro. President Larry Layao, Midwest - Chicago, Illinois, USA, with wife Sis Janet Beatrice; Sis Ching with Sis Aprille Mae Simbulan, Chicago, Illinois, USA, ACNA incoming Secretary DY 2024-2025; Bro. President Ramir T. Banasihan, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, President - APO Toronto with Bros from APO Toronto; Sis President Glory Foja Pisuena, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, President - APO Mississauga with bros and sis from APO Mississauga; last but not the least, Sis President Ving Adriatico, Washington, D.C, USA, ACNA incoming president, DY 2024-2025 with Bro. Lemuel Bañaga Lem Ban Past 1st Vice President ACNA DY 2017-2018. – *Photos and write-up by Sis Aissa "Ice" Agudo Morin-Desjardins.*

Montreal, Canada, December 16, 2023, APO de Montreal Alumni Association # 390 conducted ritual rites at the Holiday Inn & Suites Montreal Airport, an IHG Hotel. The rites were sanctioned by the national council committee on membership and the ritual team in Montreal was chaired by Bro. Mark Twain Nabua. The ritual rites were conducted by members of APODM as well as witnessed by visiting bros. from Toronto. At the end of the evening, Brod Macky Pena and Bro. John Dale Olano usefully completed the ritual ceremony and were deemed full pledge bros.

Montreal, Canada, January 24, 2024, APO de Montreal Alumni Association #390 was successfully installed by the national office as a chartered member. The hybrid celebration was graced by Bro. President Kevin Dy, Sis. National COME Chairman Cielo Velasquez, Sis. National Executive Director Evelyn Canete Evangelio, Bro. ARNA Regional Director Domel Evangelista, Sis. President Gloria Foja Pisuena, Sis, ACNA President Ving Felvic Adriatico, Bro. Denis Dumaup and Bro William Sherwin Ay-Ay of the National Council and Regional Directo Sis. Zarah Suliguin Alunday. It was truly and exhilarating experience for members of APODM as at the moment in time, they were now officially a chartered member of APO Philippines.



APO ATLANTIC CANADA AA NEWS *by Sis. Richelle B. Vergara*

In line with the 98th International Founding Anniversary of our Beloved Alpha Phi Omega International Service Fraternity and Sorority, the APO Atlantic Canada Alumni Association (APOACAA) did Christmas Caroling and Gift Giving on December 26, 2023, to Shannex Residents at Cohen Hall, Shannex Nursing Home in Saint John, New Brunswick. We then attended the afternoon Mass at St. Pius Church in Saint John, New Brunswick, followed by our 98th Anniversary Celebration for Friendship and Fellowship at Quality Inn and Suites Amsterdam in Quispamsis, New Brunswick.

The following attendees who participated in this Service were Sis Richelle Vergara, Sis Susan Capulong, Bro Rodel Santos and family, Bro Dominic and Sis Cherryl and family, Bro Michael Salalima and family, Bro Joseph Setias and family, Bro Eric Calanada and family, Bro Ian Jay Borbe and family, Bro Arnold Dejan, Bro Matt and Sis Shenna Bustamante and family, and Sis Anne Mercado and family.

APO Atlantic Canada Alumni Association (APOACAA) is looking forward to supporting this event again this year.

We can't thank everyone enough who participated and supported the success of this event.

Richelle B. Vergara
APO ACAA President
Zeta Zeta Chapter



APO SAN FRANCISCO-SILICON VALLEY NEWS

The Alpha Phi Omega Alumni Association of San Francisco and Silicon Valley, together with the Rotary Club of Quezon City APO and the Rotary Club of Kagitingang Cubao, conducted a gift-giving activity for the families of fishermen residing in Brgy. Sobol, San Fabian, Pangasinan yesterday. We thank everyone who took part in the activity!



SERVICES CONDUCTED BY APO LAS VEGAS AA

by Brod Bubu Ferriols, Gamma Epsilon '78B

“Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much”. That was a quote from Helen Keller, a woman who lost her hearing and eyesight when she was an infant yet accomplished so much as a disability rights advocate and political activist.

Although APOLVAA has diminished in membership, the few that remains prove that we can still do so much when we work together for the sake of our brotherhood.

APOLVAA conducted four services during this period. First, was helping with the Philippine Consulate of Los Angeles Outreach in Las Vegas. This was held on December 2 and 3, 2023 in cooperation with the Bicolnon Association of Las Vegas an association of Bicolanos. This event helped our Filipino countrymen get their Philippine passports, apply for dual citizenship, and get notary services. We helped in setting up the place, posting signs for directions on the streets, guiding applicants where to go through the process and cleaning up after the event. Second, we contributed to a feeding program for the Bohol Sunshine Home Orphanage in Tagbilaran City. This is in coordination with the APO Alumni Association of Bohol. On December 16, 2023, fifty people were given Jollibee breakfast, orphans were given white shirts and slippers, and bags of rice were given to the orphanage. Third, was a cleanup at a local park. On March 2, 2024, we helped clean up Nicholas E. Flores Park. This is in coordination with Get Outdoors Nevada, an environmental group in the city of North Las Vegas. Nicholas Flores was a community volunteer and very active with the Boy Scouts. It was fitting for us to have chosen this park. The fourth, although it is not an actual service, it is still in the spirit of helping. With just a handful of generous Brothers and Sisters, we were able to raise enough money to be a hole sponsor for the very first Menggie Cobarrubias Cup.

We are very grateful to our spouses, partners, friends, and families for their unwavering support for their APOLVAA families. Without them we would not be able to accomplish our mission.



APO MANITOBA AA: ANNUAL FISHING DERBY



Alpha Phi Omega Manitoba Alumni Association (APOMBAA) is on its 9th year of hosting an “Annual Fishing Derby”. Since its inception in 2015, we had acquired a big following of anglers, at least 100 participants from Winnipeg and surrounding towns, every fishing season in May to July. This friendly competition event has fostered camaraderie among members of the APOMBAA, our families, sponsors and supporters bringing a positive impact in the community.



As a fund-raising initiative, monies raised are tabled to fund our yearly services and projects, such as: our Adopt-A-Highway Program, Annual Tree Planting Program, Quarterly Blood Donation Drive, Harvest Manitoba Food Hamper and Christmas Cheer Board Volunteers. This has also extended monetary support in terms of purchasing educational materials for grade schools in the remote and indigent areas in the Philippines.

We are now looking forward to a decade of a more meaningful and fun-filled event in the pursuit of promoting Leadership, Friendship and Service.



Alberta Highway Cleanup: A COLLECTIVE EFFORT TO PRESERVE OUR ROADS WITH APO CALGARY AA

Every year, dedicated volunteers and authorities come together to participate in the Alberta Highway Cleanup Campaign, a vital initiative aimed at maintaining the cleanliness and safety of our provincial highways. Coordinating with the Government of Alberta via Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors, APO Calgary Alumni Association members heeded the call for volunteerism and vigorously participated in its two 2 cleanup programs for non-profit organizations namely the Adopt-a-highway and Annual highway cleanup. The aims of these cleanup events are to help Alberta's environment and enhance the province's natural beauty on top of our members' purpose, provide service to its community.



The Importance of Highway Cleanup

Environmental Stewardship: Our highways serve as lifelines, connecting cities, towns, and rural areas. Keeping them clean is not just about aesthetics; it's an essential part of environmental stewardship. Litter and debris can harm wildlife, pollute water sources, and degrade the natural beauty of our landscapes.

Safety First: A clutter-free highway is a safer highway. Removing trash, hazardous materials, and debris reduces the risk of accidents. Whether it's a plastic bag caught in a fence or a spilled substance, prompt cleanup ensures smoother travel for all.

Community Pride: When citizens actively participate in highway cleanup, they take ownership of their surroundings. It fosters a sense of pride and responsibility, reinforcing the idea that we all play a role in maintaining a clean and safe environment.

Looking Ahead

Preventing Future Incidents: APO Calgary AA supports stricter regulations and better monitoring of transportation vehicles that are crucial to preventing spills and leaks. Holding responsible parties accountable ensures that incidents like the recent spill are minimized.

Education and Awareness: APO Calgary AA supports programs that are educating the public about the impact of littering and the importance of proper waste disposal is essential. Be involved with Awareness campaigns that can encourage responsible behavior and reduce the need for extensive cleanup efforts.

Volunteer Engagement: APO Calgary AA continues to encourage community and member participation. Whether it's picking up trash during the annual cleanup or reporting incidents promptly, every effort counts.

In conclusion, the Alberta Highway Cleanup Campaign is more than just picking up litter; it's a collective commitment to preserving our roads, protecting our environment, fostering community pride, and building camaraderie with our brethren. As we move forward, let's remember that a cleaner highway benefits us all—drivers, pedestrians, and nature alike.

Service Event: Rosebud, AB Highway Cleanup (14kms Annual Highway Cleanup spanning)

Assembly Point: A&W Parking Lot, 2220
68 St. NE Unit 740
Calgary, AB T1Y 6Y7
Assembly Time: May 6, 2023; 6:30 AM



Service Event: Adopt a Highway (3kms along Airdrie, AB South bound lane)

Assembly Point: No Frills Parking Lot
1050 Yankee Valley Crossing,
Airdrie, AB T4A 2E4
Assembly Time: September 30, 2023; 7:00 AM

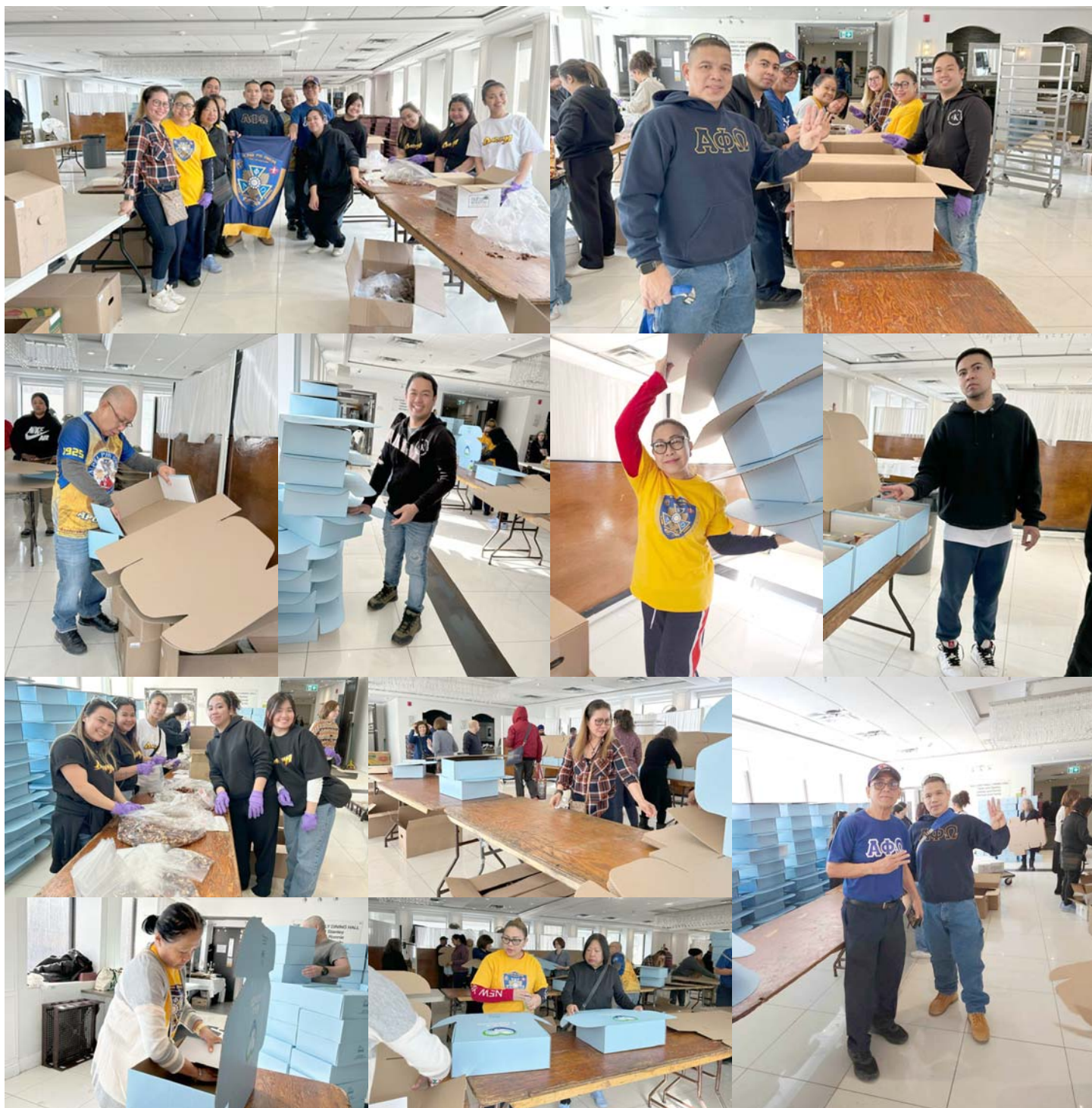


*Let's keep our highways pristine,
one bag of trash at a time!*

APO QUEBEC renders service @ House of Common, Canada

APO Quebec frequently renders services to MADA, and on January 14 was the 1st service for the year 2024. MADA located in Montreal supports Montrealers in need through the provision of free, nutritious, kosher food and related supports in a dignified manner.

On February 25, 2024 regardless of bad weather, although it's cold outside and it's currently snowing and it's hard to get up especially on the weekend, but this is not an obstacle to stop the members and friends of APO Quebec from serving the people of Montreal.



Picture taking after APO Quebec service with Mr. Jasraj Singh Hallan, Member of Parliament, House of Common of Canada.

APO MISSISSAUGA AA NEWS

1. On November 24, 2023 the city of Mississauga unveiled a new marker for the Alpha Phi Omega Mississauga Alumni Association located in R.K. McMillan Park. The park has been adopted by the association since 2013. This marker symbolizes the continuous commitment of APO Mississauga to serving the city and protecting the environment through tree planting and park clean up.

2. The City of Mississauga and our city Mayor Bonnie Crombie extended their congratulations Alpha Phi Omega Mississauga Alumni Association on its 10th Adopt a park program anniversary. It is our commitment to contribute to our community. We remain dedicated to supporting our shared goals for a thriving city.



3. A year-end giving service sponsored by Sis Tadeo Liwanag of Alpha Phi Omega Mississauga Alumni Association was conducted in Brgy. San Francisco, Cauayan, Isabela. This is in partnership with CAUYAN METRO ISABELA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION & ICAT PETITIONING CHAPTER.

4. In celebration of APO's 98th International Founding Anniversary on December 16, 2023, the Alpha Phi Omega Mississauga Alumni Association, in partnership with the APO Iota Nu Chapter, brightened the faces of the differently-abled children from various barangays of Odiongan, Romblon. Accompanied by their parents and guardians, participants enjoyed the activities, indulged in free ice cream and were thrilled to receive gifts from APO. Tailored to the abilities of these extraordinary children, this even created moments that transcended their limitations, fostering an environment where they shine in their extraordinary ways.



PICTURES FROM APO AA OF DALLAS-FORT WORTH



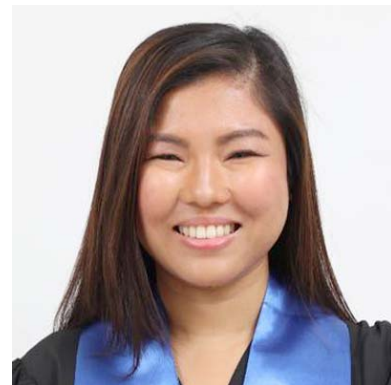
23rd Anniversary Celebration and Induction of New Set of Officers FY 2024-2025 conducted by APO Phil. Past President Atty./Sis. Norma Singson De Leon last December 2, 2023 at Grand Prairie , Texas.

PICTURES FROM APO METRO SAN DIEGO AA



A Short Story and An APO Inspiration

In November 2010, a pivotal moment unfolded when a close friend approached me with an urgent request for companionship. His eyes betrayed a sense of fear and uncertainty that I couldn't ignore, compelling me to stand by his side without hesitation. Without delving into the details of the situation, a group of friends and I followed him to Parumog, a familiar place for those acquainted with Nueva Ecija.



Initially, I speculated that my friend might have found himself entangled in a confrontation, seeking support as a form of backup. Despite my petite stature, the instinct to stand up for a friend in need overrode any reservations I might have had. Little did I grasp the unfolding events – upon reaching Parumog, it became apparent that my friend was to undergo initiation into a fraternity, and he had enlisted me as his companion for the journey.

In the dimly lit atmosphere of *Parumog*, a place that carries significance for those in Nueva Ecija, my friend, well-versed in the rituals as an SRB member, navigated the imminent challenges with a unique perspective. Despite my lack of prior knowledge, I found myself committed to standing by my trembling and perspiring batchmate. The air was thick with anticipation as we received our three symbolic gifts in the form of wax, marking the initiation into a realm unknown to me until that very night.

Beyond rituals, our fraternity's character unfolded in moments of adversity and unspoken connections. This tapestry of experiences, a journey of growth and shared values, defined our true story within the fraternity.

As a child growing up in Nueva Ecija, I was fortunate to witness the profound impact of APO members in our community. Their selfless dedication to providing essential services to those in need left an indelible mark on my young mind. The numerous acts of kindness and support I witnessed sparked a desire within me to contribute positively to society.

In the quiet moments of reflection, I realized that the essence of APO's work wasn't confined to the present alone; it was an investment in the future. The seeds of kindness they planted weren't just for immediate relief but were sown with the vision of cultivating a community where compassion thrives and echoes through generations.

The APO members in Nueva Ecija became beacons of inspiration, showing me that positive change is not only possible but also necessary. They instilled in me the belief that by investing in the well-being of others, we contribute to the growth and prosperity of our community.

Becoming an APO member isn't just a personal goal; it's a solemn pledge to carry forward a tradition of compassion and community building. I envision a legacy where the echo of our collective efforts reverberates through time, leaving an enduring mark on the hearts and souls of those who will follow in our footsteps.

Aprille Mae Simbulan

Mu Omicron Chapter

APO Nueva Ecija AA, APO Midwest Chicago AA

APO ACNA Secretay

APO-ACNA CONVENTION IN SEATTLE, WA

Dive into the heart of the recent Alpha Phi Omega Convention in Seattle, Washington- an experience that transcends geographical boundaries and brings together a diverse tapestry of APO Brothers and Sisters from across the US, Canada, and various corners of the Philippines. As one of the youngest member of ACNA, the excitement is palpable, and the camaraderie is infectious.

Amidst the joyous reunions with brothers and sisters, laughter reverberates through the air, intertwining with the myriad of stories that echo the rich tapestry of our shared journey. It's a tapestry woven with threads of experiences from different backgrounds, creating a vibrant mosaic of unity within our organization.

Yet, amidst the festivity, a subtle undercurrent of anticipation lingers. The spotlight falls on the presidential candidates, each exuding a unique aura of determination and vision. As a participant, I had the privilege of engaging with all three candidates, their firm handshakes symbolizing not only the gravity of the moment but also the spirit of unity that binds us.



In the presence of these leaders, a profound sense of admiration and respect envelops the room. Despite their distinct plans and approaches, they share a common goal—to perpetuate the legacy of leadership and selfless service that defines our cherished organization.

Being part of Alpha Phi Omega is more than just an event; it's a continuous journey enriched by the diverse narratives of its members. The opportunity to contribute and grow within this dynamic community is a privilege that leaves a lasting impression, reinforcing the notion that, indeed, it is an honor to be a part of APO. Here's to the shared laughter, the compelling stories, and the enduring spirit that binds us all together.

Aprille Mae Simbulan
APO ACNA Secretary 2024-2025



APO CENTRAL VALLEY OF CALIFORNIA AA NEWS

The Alpha Phi Omega Central Valley of California Alumni Association (APO CVC AA #186) completed another Service to the Community. On December 16, 2023, the members of our Alumni Association got together to lay wreaths on the resting sites of our Veterans of the United States Armed Forces, in support of the Wreaths Across America Day. We assembled at Tracy Public Cemetery in Tracy, California and participated in the laying of wreaths in honor of over 2000 military veterans laid to rest at this location. It is a privilege for our Alumni Association to participate in this annual event, showing honor and respect to those who served in the military.

The Ceremony includes a Memorial Service at the grave of an unknown service members and Wreath Placement then follows on the graves of our country's fallen heroes. Our Alumni Association showed strong support for this service, with approximately 20 members participating.

The following Brothers and Sisters participated in this Service: President Bro Ernest Batara, 1st Vice President (Leadership) Bro Rey Operario, 2nd Vice President (Friendship) Bro Ryard Paig, 3rd Vice President (Service) Sis Emma Carino-White, Bro Paul Villafuerte, Bro Elmer De Loyola, Bro Bong Estrada, Sis Cris Estrada, Sis Bella Dasmarias, Bro Donald Olimpo, Sis Susan De Ono-Laset, Bro Franklin Bacay, Bro Conrad Segundino, Sis Geraldine Francisco, Sis Prescila Matabilas, Mario Matabilas, Carlita Sales, and Robert M. White, Sr.

Wreaths Across America's mission is to "Remember the Fallen. Honor those who serve. Teach the next generation the value of freedom."

Our Alumni Association is looking forward to support again this event next year, on December 14, 2024.

Following the Service, the APO CVC AA #186 got together for Friendship and Fellowship, to celebrate our Alpha Phi Omega 98th International Founding Anniversary.

Thank you everyone for participating and supporting this Service.

Emma Carino-White APO CVC AA #186
3rd Vice President (Service) 0501-1978-55393
Epsilon Alpha Chapter



Alpha Phi Omega (Philippines)
Central Valley of California Alumni Association
(APO CVC AA #186)

ALPHA PHI OMEGA ALUMNI COUNCIL OF NORTH AMERICA (ACNA)

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President



Art Rivera
1st Vice President



Liberty Bancod
2nd Vice President



Aprille Mae Simbulan
Secretary



Thom Pascual
Treasurer



Edward Lago
Auditor (Appointed)



Tess Prado
P. R. O.

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Chairman of the Board



Crystal Geiger - Florida
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District of Columbia
Anthony Busog

Metro San Diego
Roger Dale

South Bay
Dominic Espejo

Fresno Yosemite Integrated
Marc Barcelona

Midwest
Larry Layao

Toronto
Ramir Banasihan



APO Alumni Council of North America Spring Meeting

SunCoast Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas Nevada

April 5 - 7, 2024

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

(Golf, BOD/Executive Meeting, Election, Gala Night, Fellowship)

Day 1 April 5, 2024 (Friday)

A. GOLF

1. 7:15am – Golf registration (breakfast will be served)
(Golf Tournament APO North vs South Ryder Cup 2024)

2. 1:00pm – Lunch @ Hospitality Suite, Rm #506, SunCoast Hotel

Venue: Angel Park Golf Club 100 S. Rampart Blvd. Las Vegas NV 89145

B. BOD and Executive Meeting @ Sunrise Room

1. 1:00pm – 5:00pm (with snacks @ Sunrise Room)
2. Dinner @ Hospitality Suite (to be announced at the venue)

Note:

- a. There will be directions/signs posted along the corridors.
- b. Optional City Tour – please ask at the front desk.
- c. Registration outside Sunrise Rm is from 10:00am-12:00noon; 1:00pm-5:00pm

Day 2 April 6, 2024 (Saturday)

A. GOLF

1. 7:15am – Show up (breakfast will be served)
(Golf Tournament APO North vs South Ryder Cup 2024)
2. 8:00am – Golf Tee time (shotgun)
3. 1:00pm – Lunch @ Hospitality Suite, Rm #506, SunCoast Hotel

Venue: Angel Park Golf Club 100 S. Rampart Blvd. Las Vegas NV 89145

B. Council Meeting and Elections @ Sunrise Room

1. 8:00am – 4:00pm (with lunch & afternoon snacks @ Sunrise Room)

Note:

- a. **Delegates** will stay for lunch @ Sunrise Room. Non-delegates may proceed to Hospitality Suite Rm. #506.
- b. Optional City Tour – please ask at the front desk.
- c. Registration outside Sunrise Rm is from 10:00am-3:00pm

C. Gala Night @ Madrid Ballroom – registration starts at 6:00pm-7:00pm outside Gala Rm.

1. Program starts @ 7:00pm and ends @ 11:00pm. All brothers, sisters, and guests are cordially invited to the Fellowship and Camaraderie at Hospitality Suite Rm. #506.

Day 3 April 7, 2024 (Sunday)

A. Brunch/Fellowship

1. Served @ Hospitality Suite, Rm #506, SunCoast Hotel

“Thank you for your unwavering support and significant participation. Have safe travels!”

From: APOLVAA Family