



Fall Meeting 2024 Edition

# The Council

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



## VANCOUVER

IS WAITING FOR YOU



## ACNA

### Fall Meeting

Aug 30-Sept 1 2024

**RIVER ROCK**  
**RESORTS AND CASINO**  
Richmond, BC

## **LAS VEGAS TO VANCOUVER, EMBRACE THE JOURNEY**

*By Bro. Art Rivera*

Following the April 5-7 Spring 2024 Meeting in Las Vegas, held at the SunCoast Hotel and Casino, the Fall ACNA Meeting will be held from August 30-September 1 at the River Rock Resort and Casino in Richmond, British Columbia. The Board of Directors, Executive Officers brothers, sisters and APO families will fly to Western Canada to enjoy the sights and sounds of beautiful Vancouver. Upon arrival, we will be treated to genuine Canadian hospitality by APOAA British Columbia, led by President Gene Generoso, Past ACNA President Cora de Jesus and the entire membership.

Las Vegas has always been a favorite destination by many because of the fabulous attractions, shows, culinary adventures as well as the beauty of the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Zion National Park, the Seven Magic Mountains and all the great scenes of nature. The Sphere was the newest attraction in Las Vegas and of course, one never is tired trying their luck in the slot machines, the Black Jack and Poker tables and win or lose, Vegas is one adventure we always cherish and remember. Besides, whatever happens in Vegas does not necessarily stay in Vegas anymore.

*Continued on page 3*

# THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brothers and Sisters in ACNA,

Early on, at the onset of this administration, I shared this quote in a few occasions, *“Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, and working together is success.”*

I witnessed Alumni Associations come together and has kept it together. Looking at the bigger picture, all of this, is because of our love for Alpha Phi Omega.

The Board of Directors eagerly came together in early January, stayed diligently, and alongside their energetic and enthusiastic members, we had a fruitful and memorable Spring Meeting.

For the past 8 months, we have labored successfully together – counting the thousands of service hours spent for the community, and time spent with our brethren, the thousands of recipients with grateful hearts, and the countless services we have collectively provided. We launched the first service of the 100-Themed Service aligned with our goal on good health for schools and making it possible for 10,000 students in the Philippines to receive deworming treatment in collaboration with Department of Education. All over North America, every Member Alumni Associations serving your communities and conducted Leadership Seminar, Clean-up services, Fed the Homeless, and more others. We can proudly say, “We delivered”.

Our dedication produced numerous successful projects. It is incumbent to us all to sustain this passion, improve on the skills that we have gained, friendships build, and let the harmony and peace reign. We share each other’s challenges just as we share each other’s victory. After all, it is not a “one man’s success”, it is “OUR SUCCESS!”.

But we attribute all our successes first and foremost to our God, who despite our deficiencies, He strengthened and sustained us.

As we continue in this journey, my wish and prayer for ACNA is found in...

## Psalm 28:7

*“The LORD is our strength and our shield;  
our heart trusts in Him, and He helps us.*

*Our heart leaps for joy, and with our song  
we praise Him.”*

God bless us all  
God bless ACNA  
and God Bless Alpha Phi Omega!!!

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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# **Las Vegas to Vancouver, Embrace the Journey** *By Bro. Art Rivera*

*Continued from page 1*

Vancouver is another beautiful and interesting place to explore this coming Labor Day weekend. A few hours' drive from Seattle, WA just across the US-Canada Border, Beautiful British Columbia is another beacon of light waiting for all of us to wander and wonder. Our hospitable hosts have lined up several tours for everyone to experience including Stanley Park, English Bay, Granville Island, Lynn Canyon Suspension Bridge, Gastown and Queen Elizabeth Park. These attractions are just a glimpse of this famous city and will surely tickle our interests.

There is an Early Birds Welcome Dinner and Fellowship on Thursday, August 29, 6:00 PM at the home of Sis Cristina Patricio in Richmond, BC.

On Friday, August 30, 1:00 PM-5:00 PM, the ACNA Board of Directors made up of the Presidents of the 34 Alumni Associations of US and Canada will meet at the Thompson Room of the River Rock Conference Center and presided by Brod Jerry Foronda of APO Virginia Beach. Dinner and Fellowship will follow at the Presidential Suite 904 of the East Tower.

Saturday, August 31, breakfast for Delegates will be served from 7:00 AM-9:00 AM also at the Presidential Suite. The Council will then meet at the Thompson Room from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM attended by the ACNA Board of Directors and Delegates. President Ving Adriatico will preside over the meeting. President Ving will be joined by her team of PRO Tess Prado, Auditor Francis Cuvin, Assistant Treasurer Santi Morano, Treasurer Thom Pascual, Secretary April Mae Simbulan, 2nd VP Bebet Agutaya-Bancod and 1st VP Art Rivera. The other council members who will be in attendance.

The Dinner-Dance in the evening will feature an 80's Themed event at the Whistler Ballroom of the East Tower. It will be an evening filled with fun, friendship, fellowship, laughter, joy, food, drinks and endless stories of past as well as new memories created. Endless fun continues at the Penthouse of the West Tower for midnight snacks and more fellowship.

Sunday Brunch after a tireless Saturday will be served at the Penthouse of the West Tower from 8:30 AM-11:30 AM. Free time, more tours and time to visit with friends and relatives will be the order of the next few days.

APOGLA will be represented by President Joel, Lou Carbon, PP and Past ACNA President Lito, Josie Tarculas, Rennel Atienza, Dae Mendez, Biebic Gilbuena-Ford, VP Mandy and Naty Javierto, PP Domel and Secretary Jen Evangelista, PP and COB Art and Gie Rivera.

See you all in Vancouver, enjoy the ride and embrace the journey! Cheers!





# APO Las Vegas AA News

**2024 ACNA Spring Meeting Hosted by APOLVAA: April 5-7, 2024**  
**“A Celebration of Leadership, Brotherhood/Sisterhood, and Service”**

**Introduction:** The APO Alumni Council of North America (ACNA) adheres in developing and strengthening the core of values having the foundation of ethics: Integrity, Teamwork, Mutual Respect and Personal Accountability.

The annual 3-day APO ACNA Spring Meeting, hosted by the APO Las Vegas Alumni Association (APOLVAA), took place from April 5-7, 2024. This highly anticipated event focused on APO's three Cardinal Principles: Leadership, Friendship, and Service. APOLVAA officers and members thoroughly planned the event, including non-APO wives/husbands and family members playing significant roles. The first two days featured meetings with updates from ACNA to various alumni associations in the US and Canada, along with sports competitions. Participants eagerly gathered for keynote speeches and presentations, with Gala Night serving as the highlight for fellowship. The event concluded with a farewell fellowship on the third day.

**Day 1: Leadership and Updates** The event began with a warm welcome, setting a positive tone. Chapter leaders shared experiences, highlighting achievements and challenges, fostering unity and purpose among attendees. Engaging discussions led to proposed amendments, ensuring the organization's rules remain relevant and effective. Simultaneously, a golf competition took place between two dynamic teams.

**Day 2A: Strengthening Brotherhood and Sisterhood** The second day focused on friendship and brotherhood, with activities aimed at strengthening member bonds and community. Workshops and team-building exercises encouraged collaboration, enhancing camaraderie. Panel discussions featured esteemed members sharing personal stories that emphasized the importance of brotherhood and sisterhood. Afternoon group activities included problem-solving challenges and leadership/service skills, fostering trust and cooperation.

**Day 2B: “Roaring 20s” Gala Night** The evening culminated in the “Roaring 20s” Gala Night, a celebration of friendship and unity. Members dressed in their finest attire, enjoying a sumptuous dinner with live music. The awards ceremony recognized outstanding APO members for leadership and sportsmanship, including the newly elected ACNA Auditor from Las Vegas AA. The night continued with dancing and entertainment, concluding a memorable two-day event.

**Day 3: Farewell Fellowship** On the final day, APO members, spouses, and guests gathered for breakfast and fellowship, exchanging “Thank Yous” and “Welcomes” for the wonderful gathering.

**Conclusion:** The Spring Meeting was a resounding success, embodying the principles of leadership, friendship (brotherhood and sisterhood) and service. Over three days, members engaged in meaningful discussions, strengthened their bonds, and celebrated their collective achievements. This annual gathering not only reinforced the values of the organization but also inspired participants to continue their journey with renewed vigor and commitment. As the event ended, attendees left with a sense of camaraderie and enjoyment, fulfillment, eagerly anticipating the next opportunity to come together and celebrate their shared vision.



## HIGHLIGHTS: Awards



# **APO Las Vegas Alumni Association News**



**PREPARATIONS: Planning, Creation of Committees, Collaboration**



**GOLF SPORTS: Sponsors/Competition of Annual APO North-South Golf Tournament**



**MEETINGS/ELECTION: Board Meetings/Discussions**



**FELLOWSHIP/CAMARADERIE: Meals served at Suite Room**



**GALA NIGHT/SOCIALIZATION: Awarding/Entertainment/Socials**



# APO Midwest Hyskulers Explore Utah



The Alpha Phi Omega, Philippines (APO) Alumni Council of North America (ACNA) meetings have become a beloved tradition and a vacation destination for many members. These gatherings offer a unique opportunity to connect with fellow APO members across North America and explore exciting locations. Last spring's meeting was held in Las Vegas, Nevada, which is conveniently close to some of the most stunning U.S. National Parks.

Among the participants were the APO Midwest Hyskulers, known for their love of outdoor activities. After the meeting, they embarked on an unforgettable journey to Zion National Park and Bryce Canyon National Park in Utah. Sporting their APO caps, the members drove from Nevada to Utah, soaking in the breathtaking scenery along the way.

The trip was a memorable experience, with members capturing the natural beauty of the parks in photos and creating lasting memories. The camaraderie and shared experiences added a special touch to the adventure.

The Midwest Hyskulers encourage all APO members to take advantage of ACNA meetings to connect with fellow members and explore new places. By enjoying the great outdoors and each other's company, members can strengthen their bonds and create meaningful experiences together.



*Sis Aprille Mae Simbulan*  
APO Midwest AA  
APO ACNA Secretary 2024-2025



*Midwest Hyskulers: Brod Jong, Sis Garly, Sis Ruthy, Sis Lenni, Sis Jaja, Sis Shiena, Sis Aprille*




# APO Arizona Events and Activities



*APO-Arizona participated in the 2024 Philippine Independence Day Celebration. We were chosen to manage the Information table, register the volunteers, and distribute the PIDC volunteer shirts. We were also asked to take charge of the “Tambololo” and draw the raffle ticket winners.*

*After the event, APO-Arizona was named and praised as the most popular table.*






**APO CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION  
& 17<sup>TH</sup> ACNA BIENNIAL CONVENTION**  
August 28 - September 1, 2025  
Ala Moana Hotel  
Honolulu, Hawaii

For more info go to: [www.apohawaii.org](http://www.apohawaii.org)

**ΑΦΩ Centennial and  
17<sup>th</sup> ACNA Biennial Convention**



August 28-September 1, 2025  
Ala Moana Hotel  
Honolulu, Hawaii

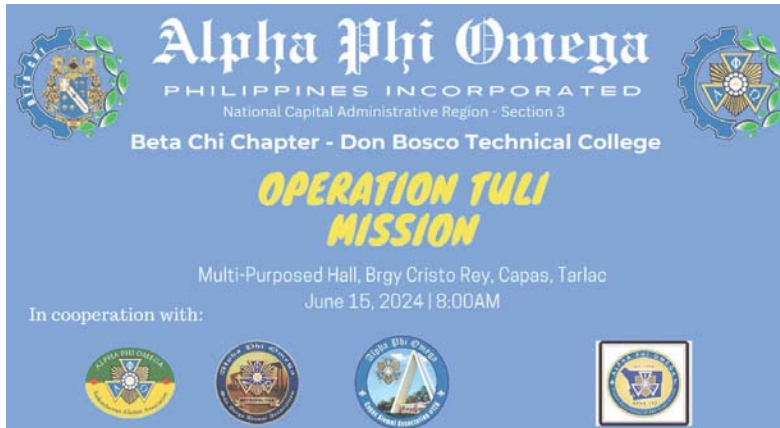
# APO Metropolitan San Diego News

*APO Metropolitan San Diego Alumni Association is proud to have brothers and sisters that are committed in embodying the ideals of Alpha Phi Omega specially in serving less fortunate kababayans in the Philippines.*



*For the past few months our Alumni Association has participated in a few projects. To name a few here are some of the projects that APO Metropolitan San Diego is proud of:*

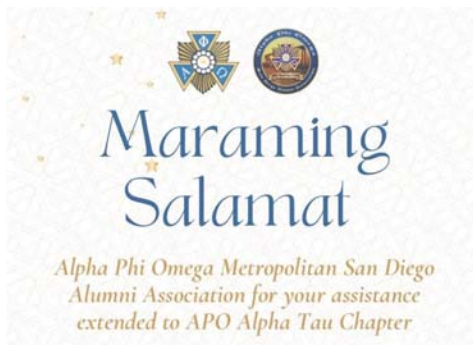
## 1. OPERATION TULI - June 15, 2024 Capas Tarlac in Cooperation with Beta Chi Chapter Circumcised more than 300 underprivileged children



## 2. LIBRENG TULI - July 10, 2024 Gumaca, Quezon In cooperation with Lambda Delta Chapter & Gapos Alumni Association circumcised more than 300 underprivileged children



## 3. ASSISTANCE FOR OUR BROTHERS FROM ALPHA TAU CHAPTER who were involved in an accident



All of the achievements our Alumni Association accomplished will not be possible without our families on our side. That is why it is important for all our members to include our families with us in everything we accomplish as a group.

In Leadership... Friendship... & Service!!!!

**Brothers and Sisters of Alpha Phi Omega Metropolitan San Diego!!!**



# APO Central Valley California AA



Alpha Phi Omega (APO) has always been known for our Cardinal Principles that our APO founder Frank Reed Horton established, and we have followed these Cardinal Principles for many years. It is core to our APO organization to Serve. Our APO Cardinal Principles are Leadership, Friendship and Service.

The APO CVCAA has been very active in APO Services here in our Community, and elsewhere. We have four (4) yearly Services approved for fulfilling on an annual basis, and we always joyfully, with a servants heart, fulfill these four (4) Services each year, on schedule. We are defined as being a small APO CVCAA membership category, yet we always come together and do a great job. We complete each and every task with excellence and joy. Our community is very grateful for our Service to them. And because of that we are very happy to continue the Services to our community.

The four (yearly) Services of our APO CVCAA are the following, which includes a listing of those who participated in the Services:

## 1. APRIL 2024: SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

**RIVERBANK CLEAN-UP** - This riverbank clean-up is named in tribute to our Brod Egay Brosas, to commemorate and to remember his legacy. This Service, performed on the Sacramento River (riverbank and vicinity near the area), is located at 8301 Freeport Blvd Sacramento, CA 95832. It was completed on April 20, 2024, and started at 7:00 am and concluded around 11:00 am. This Riverbank is now a very clean area, free of trash, waste, and other unsightly refuse. We just go there every year (rain or shine, cold or temperate) to maintain the cleanliness of the area. For each Service, year to year, The APO CVCAA coordinates well in advance with the Sacramento Parks and Recreation Division. The day of the Service, we meet with the Sacramento Park Manager before we start our Service, and then again when we conclude our Service. The Park Manager is always very impressed with our commitment, cheerfulness, excellence, and desire to continue to Serve our community each year.



**2. OCTOBER 2023: IRONMAN, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA** - Ironman is a nationwide endeavor, and is held in Sacramento, California in October each year. The APO CVCAA supports this event by volunteering on an annual basis. Each year the APO CVCAA coordinates well in advance with the Ironman Event Organizer on the Service to be performed, location of Service, and the number of Volunteers who will be assisting. This year 2023, we folded 1000 T-Shirts, placing 50 T-Shirts in 20 boxes each, arranging from 4 different sizes. This was important to the Ironman Event Organizer, as we were located at the Finish Line of the Running Event, and the T-Shirts were given to those runners who completed the event.

**3. NOVEMBER 2024: THANKSGIVING SERVICE** - This is a new Service we will be performing on an annual basis. We are starting this month, and it still needs follow-up. We will be serving Senior Citizens in the local area and will make a schedule soon.



**4. DECEMBER 2023: WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA** - This is a nationwide event across the United States, and locally held in Tracy, California. This activity is one where monetary donation are provided to Wreaths Across America, where this organization then purchase wreaths to lay on the graves of those who served in the Armed Forces of the United States, as an honor to their sacrifice. In addition to donating funds to purchase wreaths, the APO CVCAA also joined community volunteers in laying wreaths on the grave sites of those who served in the military, to honor and remember every American fallen service member and recognize the enduring sacrifice of every family member. With mixed emotions, one being sadness for the family who still grieve, yet one being joy to honor each military member, we performed this Service of laying wreaths on the graves of the fallen.



# APO AA Toronto Services

## HUMANITARIAN SERVICE AT WOMEN'S CORRECTIONAL - Mandaluyong City, Philippines



To kick-off the new year, APO Alumni Association of Toronto have commenced a humanitarian service at the Correctional Institute for Women in Mandaluyong City Philippines last February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Beneficiaries varied in ages – some are mothers and grandmothers that are mostly neglected by their own families. The service project in the Philippines were over Php100k was raised to help the Mandaluyong women inmates.

Together with the Alumni President, Bro. Ramir Banasihan and the Chairman of the Board, Sis. Nimfa Sacun, gone back home to relegate an over 220 food and hygiene kits personally. They were welcome by the correctional staff & inmates with marching band and some public program to celebrate the occasion.

The project has been very successful in coordination with APO Alpha Eta Alumni Association and APO Mandaluyong Alumni Association.



**APOAAT BLOOD LETTING 2024** - We do not need a doctor to be a hero. APOAA Toronto has once again proves that together, we'll make a difference. Headed by Alumni Coordinator, Sis. Joy Bolivar, the APO members and their families gathered 25 donors at the Canadian Blood Services, 880 Warden Ave., Scarborough Ontario last April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Among them were a whopping 17 whole blood bags successfully donated to Blood Services. It does not end there - for another batch of blood donors are already scheduled to donate in Fall.



**APOAAT SPRING DANCE 2024** - APOAAT values fun and good fellowship as the cement of the community. A gathering traditionally held to celebrate the season of Spring. Coordinated by Sis. Marietta Carriazo, last May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, over 55 APO members and guests come together to feast at the FV Foods, Scarborough, Ontario. They have enjoyed the night with lots of foods and drinks and a free musical concert by APO members for the duration of the night.



Wait, there's more! Acknowledging all the ladies of the night, the gentlemen has prepared red roses for their ladies and danced with them passionately. Honoring motherhood and get to celebrate in advance for Mother's Day on following day, May 12<sup>th</sup>.

## BOWLERAMA 2024

A tournament play coordinated by Bro. Jon Baril and Sis. Fe Lagasca is customarily happening also in Springtime. This will be Bowling! It can be solitary or social. It offers the perfect way to get out of the house and spend some time with old friends. Whiles APO members and friends have some fun and competition to their time together, this has allowed them to come up a fund raising benefiting for the Alumni Association of Toronto.

APOAAT Members and family get to enjoy the fine weather on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024. With 28 attendees and 26 players, the organizers were delighted to announce that with registration and sponsorship, they were able to gather \$1,380.00 that will go straight to treasury!





# APO Alumni Assn. of Toronto Services

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO A SIS WITH TERMINAL ILLNESS IN TORONTO** - For a fight to be won or lost, is not an accurate or fair analogy. Cancer is something people live with—deal with, manage, experience—and sometimes people die from the disease. Highlighting the fundraising efforts of the association to help not only for a service project but for one of our own as well. March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, when a sister is needing for help, APOAAT is there to extend a helping hand in any way possible. Passing the hat to every member and even non members has come about \$4,500.00 grantee to the sister in need.



**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO A TRAGIC VEHICULAR ACCIDENT OF APO ALPHA TAU BROTHERS** - 2 APO Fraternity members killed, 10 injured in Sarangani accident on Jun 9, 2024, 8:27 PM PHT. This was the headline surrounding the news in the Philippines. Every APO member has downcast the moment they hear the news.

“DAVAO CITY, Philippines — A fatal accident involving members of the Alpha Phi Omega (APO) Fraternity resulted in the deaths of two individuals and injuries to

ten others when their van collided with a parked wing van along the national highway in Malungon, Sarangani province, on the morning of Sunday, June 9. The group was enroute to Kidapawan City after participating in a Rover Scout Vigil organized by APO General Santos in Glan, Sarangani. A fraternity brother informed Newsline about their return journey when the tragic incident occurred.”

APOAAT took the initiative to pass the hat among members and raised PHP 50,000.00. The contributed amount has been extended to the 10 injured brothers of Alpha Tau last June 12<sup>th</sup>, through the Kidapawan APO RAD.

Source : <https://www.rappler.com/philippines/mindanao/apo-fraternity-members-killed-injured-sarangani-accident-june-2024/>



**SPECIAL PARTICIPATION ON 7<sup>TH</sup> OFW & CAREGIVERS DAY** - Filipino caregivers have their own way of acknowledging and thank some of the Filipinos in the estimated 43 million caregivers who work to improve the lives of others. Nearly 1 in 4 adults in US and Canada are reported to be caregivers, with about 1 in 6 adults receiving help. Coordinated by Sis. Leila Manlansing, APOAAT participated in the celebration last June 15<sup>th</sup> at Earl Bales Park in Bathurst St., North York Ontario.

Participants have showcased each local folk dances and talents. It was graced by guest speakers from government of Canada and Philippines. Heavy lunches were served with lechon and with plenty of giveaways for everyone.

**FAMILY CAMPING 2024** - Families drive outside Toronto as APOAAT initiate an exceptional 3-day camping activity takes place in Guelph Conservation Lake on Canada Day from June 29<sup>th</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup>. Coordinated by Jon Baril, a total of 10 campsites or 90 campers joined in and setup their tents. Campsites were serviced with electricity & water. Apart from that, campers & kids were delighted to outdoor activities by the lake, beaches and trails. They have enjoyed scrumptious food - barbecuing, lechon feast, campfire and smores.

The first day was a sunny day, the second was freezing day, and the third was a fine day. In total, camping was an A-okay!







## Greater Washington Alpha Phi Omega News

The Pagdiriwang Philippine Festival held its 38th annual event at the Seattle Center to commemorate the 126th anniversary of Philippine independence. This event is sponsored by the City of Seattle under the Festal Program of 24 ethnic festivals spearheaded by the Filipino Cultural Heritage Society of Washington (FCHSW), in partnership with GWAPO, and other organizations. GWAPO handles the

Operations support. All the Executive Officers of FCHSW are members of GWAPO, and of the 6 current Board Members, 4 are members of GWAPO (see [www.festaltagdiriwang.com](http://www.festaltagdiriwang.com)).

Members of GWAPO also regularly assist with stage management, setup and tear down of art and artifacts exhibits, and other operational activities.

On June 1 and 2, Pagdiriwang provided free cultural performances, songs and dances on stage, poetry readings, film festival of short films by Filipinos, bands, FilAm history exhibit, food booths and all sorts of merchandise booths. This year's solo art exhibitor was Francis Arnaiz who was invited by GWAPO Brod Ruffy Ignacio.

GWAPO Brod JP Paredes delivered the initial oral report (remotely from the Philippines) to peer festival producers on June 25, 2024 (June 26 Philippine time).

According to former Tourism Attaché Purzi Suanding Molintas:

*"Congratulations on the continued success of Pagdiriwang, an inspiring model of community energy and cultural engagement. You are so blessed with the opportunity, support and resources that is not available to others in other parts of the world."*

Cheers 🍷 to the patriots of Pagdiriwang and its continued success!

JP Paredes  
Secretary  
GWAPO





# APO FLORIDA Celebrates 25th Annual Philippine Cultural Summer Festival



**West Palm Beach, FL** – The Alpha Phi Omega Alumni Association of Florida, Inc. proudly celebrated the 25th Annual Philippine Cultural Summer Festival in collaboration with the Philippine American Society, Inc. of West Palm Beach. This milestone event, held at the South Florida Fairgrounds last June 8, 2024, provided a day filled with vibrant cultural experiences, authentic cuisine, and lively entertainment.

Marking its 25th year, the festival celebrated Philippine culture, heritage, and traditions. Attendees enjoyed a rich tapestry of music, traditional dances, and the revered "Santacruzan" procession. The festival featured a variety of food vendors offering authentic Filipino dishes, allowing everyone to savor the unique flavors of the Philippines. From savory adobo to sweet halo-halo, the culinary offerings delighted both Filipino food

enthusiasts and newcomers alike.

The success of the festival was made possible through the generous support of the community and the dedication of PAS members. As one of the festival's key supporters and vendors, APO-Florida has continuously backed the summer festival event annually. The event not only served as a fundraising effort but also showcased APO-Florida and its upcoming service projects, particularly the 100 Service Mission Projects initiative. APO-Florida's participation in the PAS summer festival was driven by the initiative of Bro. Edgar "Bong" Lopez, a dedicated PAS member who spearheaded this service project. The event's success was further bolstered by the tireless efforts of event coordinators Bro. Harry Garalde and his wife Sis. Arlene Garalde along with Sis. Remy Dela Cruz. Their contributions significantly enhanced the festival

experience and strengthened the bonds between APO-Florida and PAS.

After the festival, a general membership meeting was held at the residence of Bro. Korex Espiritu. Members expressed their gratitude to Bro. Korex and his wife, Sis. Heidi Espiritu, for preparing dinner and hosting the gathering. This meeting allowed members to reflect on the event's successes and discuss future initiatives.

PAS remains committed to enriching the cultural tapestry of Palm Beach County by promoting an appreciation of Filipino heritage. APO-Florida, together with PAS, continues to dedicate its efforts to preserving Filipino traditions for future generations. This partnership not only highlights cultural continuity but also ensures that these rich traditions are celebrated and handed down through the years.



# APO BRITISH COLUMBIA IN ACTION



## Celebrating Filipino Heritage Month: Service and Flag Bearers Lead the Way

Burnaby and Surrey, BC (June 2024) – Over 30 members of the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity proudly participated in Filipino Heritage Month celebrations across Burnaby and Surrey. Their dedication was evident as they served as marshals and flag bearers in various community events, showcasing the spirit of unity and cultural pride within the Filipino community.



## Honoring Lapu-Lapu's Legacy: Vancouver Parade Marshalled by APO

Vancouver, BC (May 2024) – Members of Alpha Phi Omega took on the crucial role of marshalling the Lapu-Lapu Day Parade in Vancouver. Their organized efforts ensured a smooth and meaningful procession, paying tribute to the bravery of the Filipino hero and fostering a sense of historical connection among participants and spectators alike.



## White Rock Beach Sparkles After APO Shoreline Clean-Up

White Rock, BC (May 2024) – Alpha Phi Omega demonstrated their commitment to environmental stewardship by organizing a shoreline clean-up at White Rock Beach. Over 20 volunteers collected debris and litter, leaving the beach pristine for residents and visitors to enjoy. Their efforts serve as a reminder of the importance of preserving natural beauty.



## Guildford Streets Shine Brighter Thanks to APO Adoption

Guildford, Surrey, BC (April 2024) – The streets of Guildford received a facelift courtesy of Alpha Phi Omega's 'Adopt a Street' initiative. Fraternity members dedicated their time to cleaning and beautifying the area, fostering a sense of community pride and responsibility for the environment.



## APO Families Unite for Fun-Filled Camping Adventure

Chilliwack, BC (July 19-21, 2024) – Over 50 members of Alpha Phi Omega and their families enjoyed a memorable weekend of camping in Chilliwack. The annual event featured a variety of activities, from hiking and swimming to campfires and storytelling, strengthening bonds and creating lasting memories for all.



## Fleetwood Park Buzzes with APO Family Picnic and Sportsfest

Surrey, BC (July 6, 2024) – Fleetwood Park came alive with the sounds of laughter and cheering as Alpha Phi Omega hosted their annual Family Picnic and Sportsfest. Over 50 attendees participated in friendly competitions, enjoyed delicious food, and basked in the warm summer sunshine. The event showcased the fraternity's commitment to fostering a close-knit community atmosphere.



*British Columbia*



# APO CALGARY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN SERVICE



*Alpha Phi Omega Calgary Alumni Association sponsorship and security volunteers at various concerts in Calgary of Filipino Artists. Crowd controlling while enjoying their performances.*





## APO DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NEWS

### PABAHAY PROJECT

In 2008, thru the initiative of brothers Rudy Magsalin, Ding Gomez and Di Aquino, APODCAA volunteered for the Feed the Homeless Program. This feeding program is held twice annually during the Saturday before Easter and the Saturday before Thanksgiving to feed the homeless population in Washington, DC. It was started in 1993 by a 76 year old Filipina who lives in Fairfax, Virginia by the name of Ms. Thelma Billy whose dedication has helped motivate countless other volunteers in the community, including APODCAA who has since adopted this program in earnest. This feeding program has been so inspiring that through the years it had assembled a committed group of donors that has continued to sustain it more than 30 years.



*APODC with Ms. Thelma Billy in yellow apron. APODC members from left to right: Di Aquino, Lemuel Conrad Bañaga, Ving Adriatico, Keith Austria, Ding Gomez, Pol Alvarez, Edgar Velasquez, Chito Yabes, Dennis Gawat, DJ Alfaro and Leah Alfaro*



*Bro. Di Aquino with the parish priest serving the Siargao community visiting one of the pabahay project homes.*

### SIARGAO HOUSING PROJECT FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

This feeding program was only one of the many projects of Ms. Thelma Billy. One of which is a FREE HOUSING PROJECT specifically aimed at helping out calamity victims in the Philippines. Most recovery program are expert-led and victims who were generally displaced from their community are given emergency shelters. But this self-recovery program is community-led funded through donations from the local community church in Fairfax, Virginia and the victims themselves become essential partners and key stakeholders in rebuilding their own homes.

This program aims to improve the lives and homes of calamity victims after the typhoon hit by providing teaching instructions to make their homes more resilient to typhoons. It also provides tools, cash grants, technical and professional support. By using locally available materials and debris from destroyed houses combined with new construction materials they have helped families avoid getting uprooted from their own homes and get displaced to other location. Victims are able to retain the rights to their homes and land and maintain their social ties to their community. To date, this program has already constructed a total of 68 homes that housed 350 plus people situated in Iloilo and Cotabato. The latest Free Housing Project is in Pilar, Siargao where APODCAA donated more than \$1,700 that financed at least 2 homes which served 2 families.

The positive impact to these beneficiaries were meaningful and lifetime as it will assuredly assist them attain health, financial and inter-family relationship stability. APODCAA for its part hopes to raise not only funds but awareness to the plight of many of our less fortunate Kababayans in some of the most rural and far-flung communities devastated by natural disasters.





## **A Tribute to Brod Toti Ayo, the Epitome of a Great APOGLA Leader**

*By Bro. Dan E. Nino*

I'm privileged to pay my tribute to our fraternity Brother, Thomas "Toti" Ayo with whom I've worked very closely, with some brods and sis when we revived our organization known then as Alpha Phi Omega Alumni Association of Southern California until it shifted to APOGLA. I became his secretary general after our election held on August 25, 1984 at Heritage Park in the City of Cerritos.

During his incumbency, part of my role was to send out notices for our GMM by mail. *Wala pang personal computer, Microsoft Word, internet or social media nuon.* Our theme then was: The Renaissance Period. The literal translation is Rebirth.

I also became the National PRO of ACNA under the presidency of Brod Toti from 1990 to 1994. We are also fellow cursillistas. *So marami kaming pinagsamahan o common denominator ni Bro. Toti.* We also share the same philosophy imparted by our Jesuit mentors as "men and women for others"

Bro. Toti is the epitome of a great leader. He was humble, a decent person, refined gentleman, a pacifier and peacemaker. *Hindi siya mayabang* or flamboyant. He exuded an aura of grace under pressure and never lost his cool. Because of his sterling wisdom and cool demeanor and most of all not belligerent amid heated discussions - you would think he was the only adult in the room. On a personal note, I felt Brother Toti was my confidant, my protector and defender. He was our fraternity buddy through and thin.

When he learned that I was interested in skiing, he offered to pick me up and off we went to Mountain High and spent the whole day skiing, just the two of us – bonding. Perhaps it was his appreciation for my loyalty and hard work as his secretary general or little president in those days of rebirth of our organization.

When I needed somebody to lean on and sought solace during the challenging days of my early marriage — to cool off — Brother Toti and Sis Racquel opened their apartment on Wilshire Blvd. for an overnight sleep over. The following day, we strolled along Santa Monica Beach to savor the breezy air of the Pacific Ocean.

Before we moved to Cerritos, he even inquired if there was a home for sale in my neighborhood in Norwalk. Perhaps, he and Sis Racquel wanted to be near me. But that didn't materialize. They remained in West Covina.

When I over-imbibed the spirit of cognac in one of his birthday celebrations in his West Covina home. Brother Toti didn't sleep and watched over me *hanggang akoy nahimasmasan*. I left at about 3:30 am — at the break of dawn.

He called me every now and then to ask me how I was doing. Kinukumusta si Myrna (my wife) and my son Denver who is also an APO alumni from Rho Gamma (Cal State of Long Beach) and affiliate of Alpha Kappa (USC). But when it was my turn how he was coping with his health condition because I heard it from the grapevine, he told me, "I am okay." He must be in denial. Despite his public persona, Brother Toti was a very private person. But if you talked about his grandkids or anything about APOGLA, oh boy, his pair of ears were wide open.

The last time, I saw Brother Toti was during our last December Affair at Hilton in Woodland Hills. When I caught a glance of him, I was so happy to approach him and we hugged each other like a long lost kin. Then Brother Domel took our picture together. If you have that picture Brod Domel, please share it with us. You were included in that photo.

Brother Toti, *maraming nagmamahal sa iyo. Sa ating nakaraang camping nuong Memorial Day weekend, may isang brod na umiyak sa gabing yon dahil naalala ka. Ganyan ka kamahal ng ating kapatiran.*

I salute you Brother Toti and Sis Racquel for your friendship. Patrick, Christopher, Emily and your children, I hope you all are coping well.

With the passing of Brother Toti, I just consoled myself with one my favorite scriptures, Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament: *"There is appointed time for everything and a time for every affair under the heavens. There's time to be born, and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to uproot the plant. A time to kill and a time to heal. A time to weep and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance. A time to hug and a time to let go of the embrace. A time to be silent and a time to speak. A time to love and a time to hate. A time of war and a time of peace."*

*Ad majorem Dei gloriam.* For God be the glory. Brother Toti, till we meet again in the Great Beyond.

—denino1951@gmail.com





**Alpha Phi Omega**  
Philippines  
**ALUMNI COUNCIL OF NORTH AMERICA, INC**



*"A Century of Steadfast Commitment to LFS."*

**ACNA SYNCHRONIZED SERVICE**  
**National Service Week ~ November 3 - 9, 2024**

**Background**

Since 1979, APO USA has been conducting synchronized service programs across the country for brothers to be united in service. The first week of November was designated as the national service week with an aim to unify the chapters under a national theme.

Source: [apo.org/service-mission/national-service-week/](http://apo.org/service-mission/national-service-week/)

This inspiration will turn a dream of a synchronized service all over North America into a reality.

ACNA will conduct its 1<sup>st</sup> National Synchronized Service Week on November 3-9, 2024, inspired by APO USA's theme of Self & Community Care, ACNA's Theme is, "Caring for the Community, Our Brethren, & Thyself."

ACNA Members will conduct services during this week focusing on: Community, Brothers & Sisters in APO, APO extended family, & Self-care.

**Sample projects:**

- A. Community: visit to Nursing Homes, Feed the Homeless, Coat Drive for the Homeless, Gift giving to orphanage, Card making for our soldiers (& mail them), Visit Cancer patients, Assemble hygiene kits for the homeless, Organize bingo at a nursing home, Organize musical or program in a nursing home or orphanage. Adopt-a-highway/park/beach, organize educational activities to senior communities,
- B. Family, APO Brothers & Sisters, APO Extended family: Yard cleaning, visit the sick, reach out to those you have not seen or heard in years (we don't know if they are in need until we ask), make or write thanksgiving cards for family and friends, host a webinar on different topics: financial literacy, health
- C. Self-care: Get regular exercise. Eat healthy, regular meals and stay hydrated. Make sleep a priority. Explore relaxation or wellness programs or apps. Set goals and priorities. Decide what must get done now and what can wait. Learn to say "no" to new tasks if you start to feel like you're taking on too much. Try to be mindful of what you have accomplished at the end of the day, not what you have been unable to do. Practice gratitude. Focus on positivity. Stay connected. Source: [www.nimh.nih.org](http://www.nimh.nih.org)

**Record & Document:**

1. Name of activity, recipient, description, total number of volunteers, total number of hours for each activity.
2. Pictures with captions. Caution & reminder: Pictures of patients in any facilities should not be posted in social media, unless there is a written consent allowing their photos to be used.

Prepared by:

Bro Art Rivera  
ACNA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Noted By:

Sis Felvic Ving Adriatico  
ACNA President



# **ALPHA PHI OMEGA ALUMNI COUNCIL OF NORTH AMERICA (ACNA)**

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS (2024 - 2025)**



**Felvic Ving Adriatico**  
President



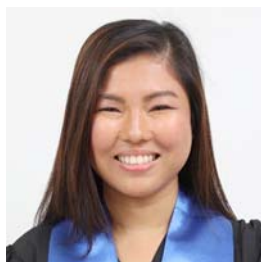
**Art Rivera**  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President



**Liberty Bancod**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President



**Samuel Cuvin**  
Auditor



**Aprille Mae Simbulan**  
Secretary



**Thom Pascual**  
Treasurer



**August Santi Morano**  
Assistant Treasurer



**Tess Prado**  
P. R. O.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2024)**



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Chairman of the Board



**Crystal Geiger - Florida**  
Board Secretary

**Alberta**  
Raul Lastimosa

**Fresno Yosemite Integrated**  
Marc Barcelona

**Metro Phoenix**  
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Jason Paulo Tentativa

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**Quebec**  
Norman Fernando

**De Montreal**  
Syvel Deslauriers

**Las Vegas**  
Alex Aquino

**San Diego**  
Henry Libed

**District of Columbia**  
Anthony Busog

**Manitoba**  
Albert Bravo

**Saskatchewan**  
Vicente Quilang





# **ACNA FALL 2024 MEETING**

**Vancouver, BC**

## **Meeting Schedule**

**6:00 pm Thursday - August 29, 2024**

**WELCOME DINNER** (To those who are already in town)

Sis Cristina Patricio's Residence

11091 NO 2 Rd, Richmond, BC Canada

**1:00 - 5:00 pm Friday - August 30, 2024**

**BOD MEETING (Delegates)**

Thompson Room, Conference Centre (Back Building by the waterfront)

Snack will be served by River Rock

**5:00 pm to 11:00 pm Friday - August 30, 2024**

**FELLOWSHIP DINNER** (Delegate and gala attendees)

Presidential Suite, Room 904, East Tower

**7:00 am to 9:00 am Saturday - August 31 2024**

**DELEGATE BREAKFAST**

Presidential Suite, Room 904, East Tower

**9:00 am to 4:00 pm Saturday - August 31, 2024**

**COUNCIL MEETING (Delegate)**

(am and pm snack and lunch provided by River Rock)

Thompson Room, Conference Centre (Back Building by the waterfront)

**5:00 pm to 11:00 pm Saturday - August 31, 2024**

**GALA NIGHT PARTY (Theme: '80s)**

Buffet Dinner

Whistler Ballroom AB, 2nd Floor, East Tower

**10 pm to 12 midnight Saturday, August 31, 2024**

**Snack will be serve in the Penthouse**

11th Floor, West Tower Bldg.

**8:30 am to 11:30 am Sunday - September 1, 2024**

**SUNDAY BRUNCH**

Delegate and gala attendees

Penthouse 11th floor, West Tower Bldg.

**12:00 Noon Sunday - September 1, 2024**

**HOTEL CHECK OUT**

**Note: Deadline for registration and payment is August 16, 2024**