



Newsletter of the National Council of Philippine American  
Canadian Accountants

# The Connection

DECEMBER 2021

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## 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Professional Convention First Virtual Convention Held Globally

By: Jennifer Roan  
Overall Chair, NCPACA Convention 2021  
Chicago Chapter President

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**T**ime flies when you are having fun! This is exactly how we feel after we concluded our NCPACA 2021 1st virtual convention.

It seems so real seeing each one, yet definitely different knowing it is only virtual. It seems so real because the excitement and closeness of one another within this professional organization extends beyond the challenges of the current pandemic.

CPA Academy sponsored interesting topics as part of our Continuing Professional Education on our first day. On our second day, we heard from knowledgeable speakers. On our last day, we looked back at our accomplishments last year, where we are this year, and our plans for the next years to come with the mission of NCPACA guiding us.

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## Welcome to NCPACA Nunavut Chapter

By: Myra Zabab

**A**fter months of working on the requirements to be an NCPACA Chapter member. AFCA Nunavut was presented and approved by the Board on June 23, 2021, as per Board Resolution 2021-008. Members convened virtually on September 19, 2021, to ratify the acceptance of AFCA Nunavut as new chapter member. It is with great honor and pride to announce that AFCA Nunavut – Canada East Region is officially a member of NCPACA.

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## Welcome New Officers and Board Members

By: Imee Bautista

**A**s a professional organization, NCPACA is governed by Executive Officers elected by its members and Board of Directors represented by Chapter Presidents.

We are pleased to share that the following officers were elected as announced by the NCPACA COMELEC chaired by Ramon Guanzon on September 19, 2021, during our First Virtual Convention. For the first time, NCPACA run the election online via Eballot.

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## President's Message



**Marlo Mallari**  
President  
2020-2021

Greetings to all!

As I come to the end of my term as NCPACA President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for supporting me and the NCPACA, for your time, effort, dedication, commitment. I won't mention names anymore because you know who you are. I am sorry if I have always been persistent to all of you to get all the jobs done. This was because I wanted you all to have the same POWER as me. I wanted you all to Plan, to be Organized, to Work, to have the Enthusiasm, and to arrive at good Results. That is POWER.

During our two-year term in office (2020 – 2021), we have had twenty-five (25) NCPACA Executive Council Meetings, 11 in 2020 and 14 in 2021. These were all documented on a two-page spreadsheet. Thank you to all the NCPACA Officers and Chapter Presidents who attended these meetings and supported all the board resolutions.

In addition to this, being your President, I have joined all the numerous committee meetings and to name a few were the convention weekly committee meetings and the endless weekly and monthly 2020 to 2021 Bylaws committee meetings, etc. Thank you to all the various committee members who attended these meetings and made a difference.

Almost all our visions for our two-year term were all accomplished and implemented. These were all documented on the following page showing the summary of our visions along with the results.

As proven, there is nothing we cannot do if we do it together. Unity requires us to come together in common love that defines us as Filipinos.

It has been a rare opportunity and privilege to be your NCPACA President (2020 – 2021) and I will cherish this for the remainder of my life. Again, thank you to all of you. Take care and stay safe. Best wishes to all of you!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mallari". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'M' being large and prominent.

MARLO Mallari, CPA  
NCPACA President 2020 - 2021



**Violeta Cristobal**  
Executive Vice President  
2020-21  
President  
2022-2023

## Executive Vice President Message

**Y**ears 2020-2021 brought us a big surprise. On March 19, 2020 here in California and the whole country as well as other countries around the world declared “LOCKDOWN”. Despite this pandemic NCPACA executive officers and board of directors continued to assume the duties and responsibilities we have promised to fulfill to our organization, members and the communities we belong.

As EVP my main responsibility is to fulfill the duties, responsibilities and other tasks assigned by President Marlo Mallari.

At the start of the year the first task given to me is the preparation of the Survey Forms to get the statistic of our membership through the chapter president such as age, gender, occupation, etc., with the objective of getting the total numbers of active members, inactive, retirees and young professionals from all our chapters. The result was not to our surprise most of our members, majority are on retiring age. Our goal is to increase our young accounting professional members as well as other professional members related to our field so we can continue to receive more scholarship donations from professional organizations, corporate sponsors, and individual donors to continue our mission to provide scholarship and free continuing professional education and professional development training to our members.

I am glad to report that we have expanded our relationship with CPA Academy by offering quality CPEs to our members specifically for our First Virtual Convention last year, September 17, 2021 to September 19, 2021 hosted by Chicago Chapter. As the overall chair of our First Virtual Convention, I found it incredibly challenging but fulfilling such as: meeting weekly via Zoom without fail with the Convention Committee Chair, Jenny Roan, President Marlo, Chair of the Board Marina, Secretary Neva Fajardo, and Imelda Bautista, our loyal and hardworking PRO. Overall we were able to deliver an extraordinarily successful First Virtual Convention despite the effect of Covid-19 to all of us. The Parade of Colors presentation was applauded by many, it truly gave me a goose bumps, thank you for the inventive minds of our young professionals, Mavelle Lopez, Jake Zalzos, and Hartney Molina from New Jersey Chapter.

Having to experience from the beginning to the end of the First Virtual Convention preparation - from twice a week early morning meetings with the CPA Academy leaders, unannounced or last-minute meetings with the Convention committee; many meetings with the prospective corporate sponsors, looking for available experienced back up speakers, coordinating and negotiating on CPE cost with CPA Academy, etc. were truly vast learning experience. I cannot imagine that we had done this without live person meeting. We made it successfully because of the dedication of each of the committee member and the Chicago Chapter through the leadership of Jenny Roan and Stella Santos. This is the most profitable First Virtual Convention ever, thank you immensely to all our Chapter leaders / members for your unending full support and to our corporate sponsors. Most of all, I had the opportunity to be part of the Bylaws Committee chaired by Mercy Gonzales. What a great accomplishment! Thank you very much to all the Bylaws Committee members, Lolita Gillberg, Buddy Ibe, Al Maglan, Stella Santos, Czar Lopez, and Atty. Cris Lozano for your exemplary dedication and leadership.

I am grateful to our hardworking President Marlo Mallari for his commitment and for sharing his leadership expertise, to Rina Buenaventura, our Chairman of the Board for your guidance and dedication, to our executive officers, board of directors, our advisors and legal counsel for all your knowledge contributions. I learned a huge mountain of knowledge working with all of you.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to work and serve you. May God Bless us all.

Respectfully yours,

Vee Dela Cruz Cristobal, CPA, CGMA  
NCPACA EVP/President Elect 2020-2021



**Marina Buenaventura**  
**President**  
**2018-2019**  
**Chairman of the**  
**Board**  
**2020-2021**

## Chairman of the Board Message

We never could have imagined the huge impact and effect that COVID-19 would have had in our communities, our society, our nation, and the entire world. These past two years have been anything but predictable. It still continues to be so as we experience another year of adjustments and to somehow go back to a new “normal”, far different from how we used to live and function prior to 2020.

As with any profession and business that had to pivot, adjust, and even create changes to adapt to move forward in order to survive and thrive when everything and everywhere was shut down or locked down, the accounting industry has also undergone transformations to keep up with the evolving direction our world is moving towards amid the pandemic. With the use of online meetings, video calls, and other means to connect with each other, we figured out how to still serve our clients, even if difficulties or obstacles may have been thrown in our direction.

Entering 2022 with hopeful hearts and faith in humankind, I encourage all of you to keep persevering and to continue what you do best: to serve your clients to the best of your ability. I wish you all the best of health, in mind, body, and soul, as we face a new year of challenges, opportunities, and successes.

Respectfully,

Marina R. Buenaventura, CPA  
NCPACA Chairman of the Board 2020-2021



**IMELDA BAUTISTA**  
Public Relations Officer  
2020-2021

## **The Year Ahead: Hopeful for a better 2022**

The years 2020 and 2021 were incredibly tough times for many people, including me, but I am hopeful that 2022 will be better.

After our 33rd Convention in The Woodlands, Texas, everyone was happy to see old friends and colleagues. The new sets of officers for 2020-2021 were elected and excited to be on board. Chicago Chapter was thrilled to host the next convention. Yet a lot has changed in our world since we last gathered in July 2019. We never expected that COVID 19 will completely change our lives and the way we do things.

The outcome has been the most unusual and difficult years of our lives. I know most of you might say the same. The year 2020 had a very brief period of normalcy before COVID-19 disrupted everything. In 2021, the pandemic has turned our lives upside down. We all must adapt to the “new normal” globally. Every person experienced uncertainty of what is yet to come.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic that forced the cancellation of the planned in-person convention, for the first time NCPACA convention happened on a virtual platform. It was new and completely different from what we have been doing before, but it attracted more than two hundred registrants during its weeklong program. The robust participation showed that NCPACA members were finding ways to experience fellowship and fun, take part in the election and meetings. The virtual convention attendees used the opportunity to stay engaged and connected with each other.

While we are excited to be planning an in-person event for the 35th Annual Professional Convention, our host chapter “New Jersey Chapter” recognizes that there are lot of things to consider, guidelines about health and safety protocols on-site at the Annual Convention. As the situation develops in the next few months and more specific information is available, we will be notifying all members with further details.

This new year, I hope and pray that 2022 will be our year to shine and prosper, to put a permanent end to this virus, and where we all can say “happy days are here again.”



**Minerva Garcia**  
Toronto Chapter

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### ***Editorial Staff***

**Imelda Bautista**  
**Minerva Garcia**  
**Marina Buenaventura**



**Marina Buenaventura**  
Houston Chapter



# President's Report



**Marlo Mallari**  
President  
2020-2021

Two years ago, we had no idea what was in store for us. And as I wrap up 2020-2021, I looked back with fondness. We started our term sharing our ideas for ways we can get a head start on 2020, with anxiety but full of hope. We established our visions, goals, and objectives for the two years ahead of us as officers of NCPACA. Nobody expects nor predicted that Covid 19 pandemic will change our life as well as our plans. Nevertheless, we move on to our monthly meeting and I am proud to say we accomplished a lot during our two years term.

As agreed, our visions and action taken are as follows:

- \* To promote the accounting profession to the second generation.
- \* All scholarship applicants should be committed to be active members and/or officers of the NCPACA after they have completed their studies. We need new blood and new ideas.
- \* Automatic Youth membership of the NCPACA should be stated in the scholarship application form.
- \* To amend the NCPACA By-Laws to incorporate the Regular Youth Members with voting rights as part of the Membership.
- \* To maintain statistical on how many accounting students have been awarded the scholarship funds.
- \* To introduce the branding and individual membership to the NCPACA, and gradually discontinue the Chapter membership, or a combination of both.
- \* To revisit the Members-At-Large and give them voting rights to facilitate recruitment of individual membership.
- \* To include all the Past NCPACA Presidents in the monthly NCPACA teleconference meetings as they are the foundation of the NCPACA.
- \* To release all approved monthly meetings within a week or two.
- \* To have the Treasurer's Report during the monthly NCPACA teleconference meeting.
- \* To release all approved minutes of the NCPACA Past Presidents' meetings, NCPACA Executive Board Meetings, and Annual General & Business Meetings be completed within a month or two after the said meetings.
- \* God has given each one of us the POWER. All we need to do is to use that POWER. P = stands for Plan; O = stands for Organized; W = stands for Work; E = stands for Enthusiasm; R = stands for Results.
- \* To increase the NCPACA membership; to create new chapters; to increase the attendance of the annual convention; and to encourage the active participation of the councilors who represent the majority of the expected attendees of the annual convention.

**IMPLEMENTED**

**IMPLEMENTED**

PENDING. Criteria in the Scholarship Packet needs to be modified to reflect this.

**IMPLEMENTED**

**IMPLEMENTED**

The NCPACA is still carrying the Chapter membership with 7 delegates per Chapter entitled to vote. Step by step, the 2021 By-laws has just been ratified to operate globally.

**IMPLEMENTED**

**IMPLEMENTED**

**IMPLEMENTED**

**IMPLEMENTED**

**IMPLEMENTED**

All of us were able to PLAN and ORGANIZED for the first time a Virtual NCPACA Convention because we WORKED with ENTHUSIASM and positive mental attitude; and the RESULTS were all good positive results

**IMPLEMENTED**

With the help of AFCA Toronto Chapter, **AFCA Nunavut Chapter** created and officially accepted during the AGM. Currently we are working for the creation of AFCA Saskatchewan Chapter. **The 2021 Bylaws has been successfully amended, approved, and ratified by the NCPACA general membership. The NCPACA will now operate globally.**

# Committee Reports

## Professional Development Committee



**Sarah Dama**  
RVP Northwest  
USA  
2020-2021

As the Chair of the Professional Development Committee, we support the mission and goals of NCPACA. We help members to complete their Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credit hours requirements. To help ensure that you remain competitive and keep up with the constantly expanding body of knowledge in the accounting field, it is important that you continue our professional development. By growing and enhancing your skills through CPE activities, you are making an im-

portant investment in yourself and your career - and increasing your value to your profession.

We are thankful to CPA Academy who offers a wide range of development activities that help members stay ahead of evolving trends while earning CPE credits. Likewise, we thank Vee Cristobal who connected us to the CPA Academy for these free webinars.

During my term as Chairman of the Professional Committee I am tasked to circulate information about webinars that is currently available.

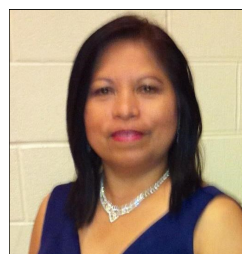
## Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee is to oversee the annual scholarship and to ensure the timely and fair disposition of scholarship funds. The committee is charged with publicizing and soliciting applications and making decisions based on the applicants' responses. It is also the responsibility of the committee to distribute the scholarship(s) and follow up with recipient(s) to ensure the scholarship(s) awarded is received.

This year scholarship was awarded to Virgel Ross Carrillo, a junior accounting student of Augustana College (IL). Awarding of scholarship for SY 2021 -2022 was held during the convention on September 17-19, 2021.



## Constitution and By-Laws Committee



**Mercy Gonzales**  
RVP Western  
Canada  
2020-2021

As appointed Chair of the Committee and on behalf of the knowledgeable Co-Chair Mr. Buddy Ibe; hard-working members such as Stella Marie Santos, Czar Lopez, Neva Fajardo and Violeta Cristobal; our tireless advisers Mr. Al Maglan and Ms. Lolit Gilberg; a very supportive 2020 2021 President Marlo Mallari with the utmost needed legal advices from our legal consultant, I am proud to say that NCPACA's Amended By-Laws have been finalized by the Committee, deliberated and approved at the Executive Council and ratified at the

General Members Assembly. It was several months of wee hours of work, meetings, collaboration, deliberation, lawyer's consultation, proof reading and endless support from each of us in the Committee. The fruit of our labor has come out to

support the future of NCPACA and the inevitable succession of leadership from amongst the youth of today. KUDOS to everyone!!

**As Regional Vice President** – One of the roles of RVP is to create or initiate or encourage creation of new chapter within the region of responsibility. During the year 2021, I took the initial steps of trying to create one in Saskatoon and/or the close regions in Saskatchewan. It was started by the late Vida Cruz with Marlo Mallari's help as well. I just continued talking to another fellow CPA who lives and practice in Saskatoon together with one of my closest friends who are willing to help each other to form a chapter eventually. This discussion will be turned over to the next RVP – Western Canada.

**"Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results." – Andrew Carnegie**

## Secretariat



**Neva Fajardo**  
Secretary  
2020-2021

I had no inkling that 2020 will be a challenging year for all of us because of this Covid-19 pandemic which also affected my family.

However, we beat this pandemic, having the monthly NCPACA meeting via Zoom and other NCPACA activities like the first Virtual Annual

Convention last September 2021. President Marlo Mallari has shown extraordinary leadership with the cooperation of the Executive Council and the Board of Directors to make things happen.

- During our term 2020-2021, every committee did their best to get involved for the betterment of the organization. As the Secretariat, my core responsibility consists of a range of activities to ensure that NCPACA officers and members receive access to relevant and classified information on a timely manner. Duties include the following:

- Release of monthly minutes of meetings (draft and approved as corrected), agenda and other relevant communications to the NCPACA Executive Council, Board of Directors, Past NCPACA Presidents, Advisers, Governor-Board of Councilors and others.
- Release of the Annual and Special General Membership minutes of meetings before the end of my term as of December 31, 2021.
- Release and dissemination of the 13 approved as corrected Board Resolutions for 2020-2021.
- Determination of the presence of quorum during the monthly meetings especially when board resolutions are passed.
- Constantly reminding all Chapter Presidents to disseminate all approved as corrected minutes of the monthly meetings not only to their Chapter Officers and Board of Directors but also to its general membership for the information of everyone.

## Members-At-Large Committee



**Myra Zabab**  
RVP  
Eastern Canada  
2020-2021

As the chair of Members-At-Large, I would like to thank the committee members which consists of Imelda Bautista, Nimfa Santos, Marlo Mallari, and Buddy Ibe who had been very supportive in developing the Members-At-Large

(MAL) Guidelines. We proposed to give voting rights to Members at Large which was presented on May 26, 2021, was approved by the Board as per Board Resolution # 2021-006 and was ratified by the general membership during the convention on September 19, 2021.

**Life as we know it, with all its ups and downs, will soon be over. We all will give an accounting to God of how we have lived.**  
– William Wilberforce



# Updates from the Chapters



## New Jersey Chapter



**Mavelle Lopez**  
President

The past two years had been unprecedented. No one would have predicted the impact that the novel coronavirus would have in all our lives.

All aspects of our society have been impacted, from how we work and learn, to how we celebrate and socialize. To provide COVID-19 relief to our members, AFAA-NJ waived the 2020 annual membership fee. Our work at AFAA-NJ was also impacted by the pandemic. However, AFAA-NJ is fortunate to have full support of our founding members, past presidents, leaders, and members.

One of AFAA-NJ's goal is to increase involvement of the youth and young professionals in our organization. With this, AFAA-NJ networked with Rutgers Association of Philippines Students (RAPS). RAPS is an affiliate of a national Filipino students, Filipino Intercollegiate Networking Dialogue (FIND). We had a dialogue with RAPS at one of their last in-person gathering, which was attended by Filipino students in the tri-state. At that event, we had the opportunity to introduce the organization and for future collaboration. The pandemic had halted our dialogue but taking this first step was a big leap for the Organization. It opened our reach to student network.

As part of our fundraising program, we conducted a virtual BINGO during the pandemic to provide financial assistance to calamities in

the Philippines. During the summer, AFAA-NJ had its first hybrid summer outing and general membership.



We also volunteered as independent auditor for the fundraising event, "Gabi Para sa Talisay". The event was a collaborative fundraising of Fil-Am Who's Who with JCI Manhattan, JCI Queens, TOFA Artists among others. It was one of the Fil-Am Community's efforts to assisting the affected families of Talisay, Batangas rebuild.

For three years in a row, AFAA-NJ co-sponsor one day of Simbang Gabi in the Philippine Consulate's Simbang Gabi sa Consulado. The "Simbang Gabi sa Konsulado" reaffirms the community's re-connection with Filipino culture and heritage through this unique Filipino Christmas tradition

AFAA-NJ was also proud to have spearhead NCPACA's very first NCPACA Idol held in September 2021 during the Virtual Annual Convention.

In addition, AFAA-NJ was also a recipient of the NCPACA Scholarship for the benefit of our members. Included in our pipeline is tapping on the accountancy/business departments of universities in the area to promote AFAA-NJ and the Scholarship grants of NCPACA.



Looking forward into the future, AFAA-NJ's vision is to strengthen our presence in the community, increase our membership, and provide mentorship and support young professionals.



## Toronto Chapter

### “AFCA...Expanding Horizons, Reaching Greater Heights”



**Nimfa Santos**  
President  
2020-2021

True to our theme “AFCA... Expanding Horizons, Reaching Greater Heights”, the AFCA 2020-2021 current Officers and Directors tried their best to keep the AFCA in the best form it can be.

The AFCA opened the range of interest anticipated for a more successful operation and focus on broadening minds to new activities and

ideas but ensured the mission and values the organization is founded on are never compromised.

The continuous professional development of its members was always the main concern as well as of being service to the community. The need to work collaboratively and to represent collective interest is more important than ever. That AFCA advances as a professional organization and serves as an inspiration will always be cherished.

### For 2020-2021 the AFCA intended to achieve the following:

- Aim for a continuous upskilling and re-skilling of members by offering relevant professional and personal development programs that can give a boost to their career.
- Collaborate to increase the benefits of the AFCA interdependency with the local community and professional organizations.
- Create AFCA Pool of Mentors for sustained guidance and support of newcomers, unemployed and underemployed members.
- Aspire to make full advantage of all kinds of social media for an effective means of communication and interaction with members.
- Inspire students and youth members to pursue an accounting designation by providing access to the AFCA events and career options in the finance and accounting industry.
- Motivate other Filipino Canadians outside Ontario, Canada to form their accounting association where they can promote mutual support to one another as one community, recognize skills and gain benefits of volunteerism.

### 2020 and 2021 Highlights

- ◆ Created the AFCA's Financial Manual
- ◆ Created the AFCA Sponsorship Policy and Guidelines
- ◆ Bestowed the AFCA Founders Award to AFCA Past President Bobby Dela Cruz
- ◆ Conferred the AFCA Lifetime Achievement Award to the late AFCA PP Carlos Padilla



2020-2021 Executive Officers Induction



2020 Tax Seminar—February 8, 2020 at The Peoples Church



## PROFESSIONAL & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Conducted 17 PD online events, and one in-person training:

- a. February 15, 2020 - Personal Tax Seminar - PP Ramon Guanzon
- b. May 23, 2020 - 4 A'S + 2", Aligning Mindset in the Current Times - Dionisio Mabalot
- c. June 26, 2020 - Develop Yourself the EI Way - Dionisio Mabalot
- d. July 8, 2020 - Part 1 Managing Cyber Security Risks Webinar - Joyce Harkness
- e. August 13, 2020 - Basic Investing Day Training - Jason Jovellanos
- f. August 24, 2020 - AFCA Toastmasters Club Demo Session
- g. September 02, 2020 - Part 2 Managing Cyber Security Risks - Joyce Harkness
- h. September 10, 2020 - Project Management: Insights and Attitude - Sheila Chu
- i. October 01, 2020 - The Art of Giving and Receiving Feedback - Dionisio Mabalot
- j. December 12, 2020 - Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan - David Sukhdeo
- k. February 5, 2021 - Transformation for Personal Development - Dionisio Mabalot
- l. February 20, 2021 - 2021 Personal Tax Updates Seminar - PP Ramon Guanzon
- m. April 8, 2021 - Virtual Resume Writing Workshop - Jane Mendita
- n. May 28, 2021 - Professional Networking Tactics for Success
- o. August 6, 2021 - PAG-IBIG Fund for Filipinos in Toronto, Canada
- p. August 27, 2021 - Anti-Money Laundering 101 - Michelle Sarmiento
- q. September 25, 2021- FRAUD - Michelle Sarmiento
- r. October 29, 2021 - Creating Balance in Life - Dionisio Mabalot



**Vida Cruz**  
*AFCA Immediate Past President  
NCPACA RVP Western Canada*

It is with great sadness to inform our colleagues that we lost one of dedicated members on Oct 15, 2020. She will be greatly missed but her inspirational leadership will always be remembered.

## MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

- 27 new members inducted on February 29, 2020
- Recruited/ approved 45 new members
- Group Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance of \$2,000.00 at no-cost to the member.
- The AFCA entered into an agreement with the American Income Life (AIL) for a Group Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance at no-cost to the member. The starting primary insurance amount is \$2,000.00. The program will also provide members an eye care discount and child safe kit.
- The AFCA has entered into an agreement with Knowledge Bureau giving members the following benefits:
- AFCA Member Pricing of 15% off the Regular Gross Tuition Fees to grant one or more Scholarship(s) each year of the Agreement
- Launched the AFCA Scholarship Program on the month of October 2021.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES AND AWARENESS

- Tax Clinics - Prepared personal tax returns, FREE OF CHARGE, for low-income earners
- Acted as Official Tabulators for Gawad Balangay Award and PIDC Song writing Contest
- Donated CAD\$595.00 for the victims of typhoons in the Philippines. The money was sent thru the Philippine Red Cross in December 2020
- Donated CAD\$1,850.00 for the victims of Typhoon Odette in the Philippines. The money was sent thru the PICPA Cebu Chapter in December 2021
- Held the 2nd Carlos Padilla Memorial Golf Tournament on September 26, 2021; Net proceeds go to the AFCA Scholarship Fund

## Ongoing Programs/Activities

- AFCA is one of eight Filipino professional organizations to enter a covenant of working together to the accomplishment of having the credentials of Filipino professionals recognized in Ontario. The Memorandum of Cooperation was signed on July 14, 2020, by the AFCA President Nimfa Villaroman-Santos, representing the AFCA.
- Started the creation and registration of the AFCA Foundation



**2022-2023 Executive Officers & Board of Directors under the leadership of Mr. Casiano Martinez**

## New York Chapter



In 2020 COVID-19 affected almost all countries and more than 50 million people around the world. AFAA- New York is no exception, we have met challenges, we faced inconvenient situations given the health, economic and social challenges it raises.

By spring 2020, more than half of the world's population had experienced a lockdown with strong containment measures. Beyond the health and human tragedy of the coronavirus, it is now widely recognized that the pandemic triggered the most serious economic crisis since World War II.

On February 25, 2020, AFAA New York took part in the International and Accounting finance forum held at the Philippine Consulate General.

June 2020 New York City commenced the first phase of its reopening plan, so we were able to support community activities at the Philippine Consulate General in New York such as virtual Philippine Independence Day and the yearly Simbang Gabi held at the consulate.

We were fortunate that NCPACA Convention was held virtually on September 2021 wherein

AFAA New York members joined. While it's not the same as being together in person, the Virtual Convention provides updates, learning in the current accounting trends, it also connects us to old friends and colleagues.

The said virtual convention provide updates on the current accounting trends, to come together, to meet and celebrate the new normal way.

Election of 2022-2023 officers was also held and heading the AFAA New York is our new President Paolo Espiritu.

We also extend our congratulations to our members who were elected as officers to serve NCPACA for the next two years namely Bienvenida Lagrason as Treasurer and Neva Fajardo as the Board of Councilor Secretary General.



**Aileen Damaso**  
President  
2020-2021

### 2022-2023 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Jose Paolo Espiritu
<b>Executive Vice President</b>	Rafael Garcia
<b>Vice President Internal</b>	Fernando Mabbayad
<b>Regional Vice President</b>	Gater Bautista
<b>Secretary</b>	Rowena Garcia
<b>Treasurer</b>	Esperanza Angeles
<b>Auditor</b>	Luz Ranin
<b>PRO</b>	Elizabeth Sanchez

### Board of Directors

Purificacion Maquiran

Raul Cedeno

Sofia Abad

Froilan Santos

Joan Nicolas

Maricel Lo



Took part in the Kalayaan 2021 celebration



International & Accounting Finance Forum Attendees  
Held at Philippine Consulate General NY



Simbang Gabi at Philippine Consulate General NY





# Houston Chapter

## FAATX LOOK-BACK



**Maylene Santiago**  
President

The years 2020 and 2021 brought several challenges that truly became a worldwide phenomenon. As we geared into acclimating ourselves to our new norms, FAATx must also adapt and evolve with these changes.

Prior to COVID scare and the snowpocalypse that engulfed the state of Texas, one of FAATx highlights was the tax clinic and IRS tax ruling presentation. This was an in-person forum well attended by Fil-Am communities and organizations. It was a timely and up to date information that tackled not only on tax updates but reliefs and funding assistance information and resources.

Amid global pandemic and the rise of social distancing, FAATx was unstoppable in ensuring that the organization stays relevant it continued to share, mingle, and enjoy each other's presence which helped alleviate some of the stress, anxiety, and cabin fever. For the two-year period except January and February 2020, FAATx held its monthly meeting virtually. Along with the monthly agenda, FAATx was able to share new learnings and educate not only its members but also other community non-members through its meaningful and pertinent CPE topics which includes among others, retirement and long-term care planning, insurance, estate, and living will, tax updates, immigration, economy and stock markets. Similarly, members are consistent in sharing news updates and topics that are relevant and of public interest.

Likewise, FAATx was able to support and collaborate with other Filipino-American organizations in Texas through its participation, attending/holding charity/medical missions and national conventions, sponsorship and donations on the different functions and fundraising

events. One of the most noteworthy events where FAATx participated was the celebration of Philippine Independence Day co-sponsored by Philippine Consulate General in Houston.

Latter part of 2021, FAATx saw the opportunity to initiate an in-person gathering, and how else to start the [supposed to be] end of the hiatus but through its annual Christmas celebration attended with joyous and warmest camaraderie. During this time, FAATx also showed its support and attended a community organization in its fundraising gala where one of the FAATx member was honored

its members. Currently, one of its efforts was raising funds for the Filipino victims of Typhoon Odette in the Philippines. The heartbreaking news of this onslaught that left millions of Filipino people homeless, hungry, and scared of their future, tugged the core of the members' hearts. FAATx generous donations will be distributed to the typhoon victims in coordination with NCPACA and other Filipino communities in Texas.

FAATx saw an increase in members for the past two years and will continue to advocate its name to boost its public recognition and attract membership of



with the highest distinction award. As the members took their individual role in fighting against COVID, FAATx never forgot to give back. Its continued effort to raise funds resulted in a humble donation that went a long way to Philippine frontliners. FAATx recognized the hard work and sacrifices of all workers who were the first line of defense against the virus. And the battle to combat the virus continues especially as we entered the new year.

Moreover, during this period, a new set of officers for 2021- 2022 were inducted. Elected FAATx officers will collectively lead the organization with the support of

young professionals who will bear the torch of FAATx legacy. Members' attendance and active participation on FAATx activities is one of the key ingredients to encourage new members to join the organization.

Continued on page 17

**"None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful."  
-Mother Teresa-**



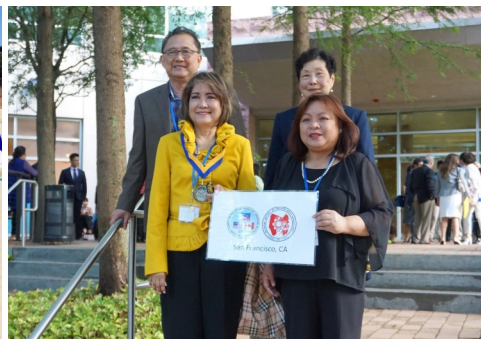
# San Francisco Chapter



## 2022-2023 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

**President**  
**Executive Vice President**  
**External Vice President**  
**Internal Vice President**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
**Auditor**  
**Pro/Social Media**

Selenna Franco-Cefre  
 Essie Claveria  
 Sheila Buenconsejo  
 Wendy Pascual  
 Jose 'Pepe' San Gabriel  
 May Plata  
 Lili Tarachand  
 Debbie Abad



The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has affected activities for many people. Public health restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have led to canceled events. PICPA-USA had to put our planned activities on hold.

Time has a way of moving quickly and catching us unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday when I joined PICPA-USA and met our colleague and friend, Rey Pimentel. Rey passed away last October 2020. He was a founding officer of PICPA-USA and he and his beautiful wife Fe, contributed tremendously to our organization. Rey had been a guiding light to the officers and members of PICPA-USA. He also served as the first President of NCPACA. He will be deeply missed, leaving behind now only those fond PICPA-USA memories.

The challenges have been many, but PICPA-USA San Francisco Chapter has really stood up to the tests. We are hopeful that soon with booster vaccinations, herd immunity and time... we can all reconnect and proceed with our planned initiatives such as rebranding of the San Francisco chapter to NCPACA-San Francisco, reaching out to young and emerging Fil-Am accountants in the Bay Area and reviving our Professional Development Seminars to help our members adapt to the changing accounting landscape.

Our Christmas Party was held on December 11, 2021, in Patio Filipino to reconnect with one another and to celebrate Essie Claveria's EVP win in the recent NCPACA Election.





## Chicago Chapter



**Jennifer Roan**  
President

If 2019 was “the year of fortune and prosperity”, then 2020 challenged everything else we knew about our work and our lives. And yet, from the jolting experience of a global pandemic to the economic uncertainty, 2020 tested us beyond measure.

Despite the global pandemic PCPA stick to our goals: 1) To maintain membership and 2) continue attendance to PCPA events.

During the membership meeting in July 2019, the members agreed and committed to the following:

- Only paid members will be considered as official members, but we will continue to share events to others to encourage and increase attendance.
- There will be at least three official events each calendar year, for each mission of PCPA:
  - ◆ Social: Picnic and general membership
  - ◆ Technical: CPE -we agreed to attend CPEs during the NCPACA convention or from other Chapters.
  - ◆ Scholarship: Christmas party and scholarship awarding - awarded two scholarships this year; and continued two from last year

### 2022-2023 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

**President**  
**Vice President**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
**Auditor**  
**PRO**

Jennifer Roan  
Rafael Tanada  
Richard Gustilo  
Antonio Silvano  
Maria Divina Valera  
John Emil Yumol

### Board Members

Susan Angeles  
Maria Fides Balita  
Arturo Dilay

Amado Justo  
Gerardo Liwanag  
Gilda Priebe  
Stella Marie Santos  
Maribel Tamoria

Due to COVID, the term of the officers and board from 2020-2021 were extended for another two years, ending December 31, 2023.

We have been challenged by this global pandemic but for Chicago Chapter we positively adjusted ourselves to the “new normal,” we did our best in hosting the First Virtual Convention. We are happy of the turnout and success of the recently concluded convention, we learned new things and embraced the new platform to elevate our accounting profession.





## Board of Councilors

It has been my privilege to serve you as the Board of Councilor Governor over the last 2 years. The trust you have placed in me is something I honor and respect and for which I thank you.

At the Councilors AGM on September 19, 2021, we elected my successor, who will then serve the next two years in leadership. I will hand over my role, but rest assure that I will always be around to support whatever the Board of Councilor's mission and goals. Stella Marie Santos and Neva Fajardo were chosen as Governor and Secretary General, respectively. The Selection Committee Members and Councilors-in Charge had been elected during the meeting as well.

Before we continue to next activity of the virtual Convention, we awarded 5 deserving Councilors for their exemplary achievements and contributions to NCPACA and their respective communities. Congratulations to Ramon Guanzon, Sarah Josefa Dama, Marie Domingo, Arleen Ibay, Czarmel Lopez.



Vivian Roz  
Board of Councilor  
Governor



As Councilors, we strive to fulfill our mission and goals to be in service to our fellow Councilors and NCPACAn, this includes:

- Updating the Board of Councilors directory
- In December 2020 raised funds (for NCPACA) totaling \$2,425 for the typhoon/earthquake victims in the Philippines. The donation was sent to PICPA (through the courtesy of Evelyn Chun Peng) and in coordination with PICPA President Jun Bato and Ms. Lita Aguirre, funds were awarded to the earthquake victims in Mindoro. An official receipt amounting to Ph 116,739.50 was received and acknowledged by PICPA.
- We also started Quarterly Meetings for the Board of Councilors (instead of annual / convention meeting). Meetings were held on Jan 7, 2021, April 19, 2021 (Selection Committee only), May 19, 2021, and July 26, 2021.
- Finalized proposal to provide financial aid to Councilors 75 years old and over to give 50% discount in the delegate fee. Such discount shall be shown in the Delegate Registration Form.
- Improved and revised the Councilor Nomination package and Councilor Selection to show/include in the Nomination Package and Evaluation Forms: 1) The rating (%) for each criterion and the passing %. 2) Enumerate/show by box/checklist form (for check off) the location and year of the last 10 NCPACA conventions. 3) Enumerate year and position (outline form). 4) Give specific descriptions on professional accomplishments and community involvements. 5) Match/reconcile nomination criteria guidelines against the evaluation sheets and include breakdown of rates to be assigned to criteria
- Agreed to 'decentralize' responsibilities by naming a 'Councilor-in-Charge' from each Chapter, who shall be responsible in coordinating future Councilor's events/activities per Chapter, follow-up attendance and meeting participation.
- At the councilors meeting, our Secretary General Stella Santos donated \$2,000, Marlo Mallari and Abraham Villanueva pledges to donate \$100 each to fund Councilors Bank Account to drop the deficit balance and for the incoming officer to start anew.

**"The Board of Councilor does not supplant the governance of the Council but contribute to make the Council grow better and stronger."**

**"Team spirit is knowing and living the belief that what a group of people can accomplish together is much larger, far greater, and will exceed that which an individual can accomplish alone."**

## Welcome New Officers...

Continued from page 1

The 2022-2023 Executive Officers are Violeta Cristobal (*President*), Praxedes "Essie" Claveria (*Executive Vice President*), Nimfa Villaroman-Santos (RVP *Canada East*), Myra Zabat (RVP *Canada West*), Arleen Ibay (RVP *US Northwest*), Antonia "Nanie" Enriquez (RVP *US Southwest*), Leovigilda Genova (RVP *US Central*), Mavelle Lopez (RVP *US Northeast*), Lilly Chilton (Secretary), Bienvenida Lagazon (Treasurer), Jennifer Roan (Auditor), Imelda Bautista (Public Relations Officer). Welcome aboard.

The newly elected officers will serve a two-year term commencing January 1, 2022. They will volunteer their time and knowledge to support the goals and objectives of the organization.

The eleven Board of Directors helps in implementing policies, support all programs of the organization and serve as the representative of each chapter. As the Past President of NCPACA, Marlo Mallari will now lead the board as the Chairman of the Board. The members are Andy Afuang (Washington DC Chapter), Mavelle Lopez (New Jersey Chapter), Selenna Franco-Cefre (San Francisco Chapter), Paulo Espiritu (New York Chapter), Casiano Martinez (Toronto Chapter), Rabespierre Abutin Jr (Seattle Chapter), Maylene Santiago (Houston Chapter), Lilly Chilton (Los Angeles Chapter), Jennifer Roan (Chicago Chapter), Daniel Camalayan (Nunavut Chapter).

*"Alone we can do so little; together  
we can do so much"*

By Hellen Keller

## FAATX Lookback...

Continued from page 11

Despite the uncertainty of the present time, FAATx is steadfast in promoting the organization to Filipino-American and younger generations. Its commitment to provide value added services to its members shall remain unwavered. FAATx will continue to provide significant and relatable CPE topics for both members and non-members of the organization. Among this is providing a TSBPA approved Ethics course. This year, FAATx plans to develop an ethics CPE class that will be beneficial to members and non-members needing ETHICS CPE units. FAATX will persist to solidify its niche as the only Fil-am accounting organization in Texas. It will continue to reach its new milestone as the organization prepares for its 40<sup>th</sup> year.

## Welcome New Board Members

We want to congratulate and welcome to the Board four new members namely, Paulo Espiritu of New York Chapter, Daniel Camalayan of Nunavut Chapter, Sonny Martinez of Toronto Chapter and Mark Bangi of Seattle Chapter. We are grateful and excited to have these individuals join the board and bring their unique talents, expertise, and perspectives to work in the organization to further its vision of promoting the accounting profession

## Thank you for a job well done

We thank our outgoing officers who had been very supportive and extend a heartfelt thanks to Marlo Mallari for his untiring leadership ensuring that the organization is doing its best to support its members. His term was the most challenging years of NCPACA because of Covid 19, but it was not at all deterrent to fulfill its plans, programs, and projects. A lot of them were accomplished and implemented.

Marina Buenaventura served as Chairman of the Board. She guided the organization in the fulfillment of its mandate, convenes and presided over the Board meetings, built consensus, and developed teamwork within the board. We appreciated and are grateful for her dedication during her time on the board.

Thank you to all who serve as Officers, Board of Directors, Committee Members, and Advisers. We look forward to working together again to advance NCPACA mission.

Thank you for  
**your hard work  
and dedication!**

## Welcome to NCPACA...

Continued from page 1

On another note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank AFCA Nunavut Chapter Executive Officers namely Mr. Daniel Calamayan, Mr. Ramon Santos, Ms. Norma Ablay, Ms. Judy Grace Gabuna, and Ms. Ester Usman on this collaboration. And last but not the least, I would like to thank the person who did most of the heavy lifting.... AFCA-Toronto President Ms. Nimfa Villaroman-Santos. Thank you for your help in this endeavor.

**WELCOME  
ABOARD**



## National Council of Philippine American Canadian Accountants

**We're on the web!!**  
**[www.ncpacafoundation.org](http://www.ncpacafoundation.org)**

### **2020-2021 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

President	<b>Marlo Mallari</b>
Executive Vice President/	<b>Violeta Cristobal</b>
President Elect	
Regional Vice President	
Northwest USA	<b>Sarah Diamo</b>
Southwest USA	<b>Praxedes Claveria</b>
Central USA	<b>Stella Marie Santos</b>
Northeast USA	<b>Czarmel Lopez</b>
Southeast USA	<b>Andy Afuang</b>
Eastern Canada	<b>Myra Zabat</b>
Western Canada	<b>Mercy Gonzales</b>
Secretary	<b>Neva Fajardo</b>
Treasurer	<b>Jennifer Roan</b>
Auditor	<b>Josie Domingo</b>
Public Relations Officer	<b>Imelda Bautista</b>

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Chairman of the Board	<b>Rina Buenaventura</b>
Washington DC Chapter	<b>Andy Afuang</b>
New Jersey Chapter	<b>Mavelle Lopez</b>
San Francisco Chapter	<b>Selenna Franco-Cefre</b>
New York Chapter	<b>Aileen Damaso</b>
Toronto Chapter	<b>Nimfa Santos</b>
Seattle Chapter	<b>Bobby Abutin Jr.</b>
Houston Chapter	<b>Lea Tacas</b>
Los Angeles Chapter	<b>Lilly Chilton</b>
Chicago Chapter	<b>Jennifer Roan</b>

### **ADVISERS**

**Al Maglan**  
**Librado Ibe Jr.**  
**Lolita Gillberg**

### **LEGAL COUNSEL**

**Crispin Lozano**

### **2022-2023 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

President	<b>Violeta Cristobal</b>
Executive Vice President/	<b>Praxedes Claveria</b>
President Elect	
Regional Vice President	
Northwest USA	<b>Arleen Ibay</b>
Southwest USA	<b>Antonia Enriquez</b>
Central USA	<b>Leovigilda Genova</b>
Northeast USA	<b>Mavelle Lopez</b>
Southeast USA	<b>Andy Afuang</b>
Eastern Canada	<b>Nimfa Santos</b>
Western Canada	<b>Myra Zabat</b>
Secretary	<b>Lilly Chilton</b>
Treasurer	<b>Bienvenida Lagrazon</b>
Auditor	<b>Jennifer Roan</b>
Public Relations Officer	<b>Imelda Bautista</b>

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Chairman of the Board	<b>Marlo Mallari</b>
Washington DC Chapter	<b>Andy Afuang</b>
New Jersey Chapter	<b>Mavelle Lopez</b>
San Francisco Chapter	<b>Selenna Franco-Cefre</b>
New York Chapter	<b>Paulo Espiritu</b>
Toronto Chapter	<b>Casiano Martinez</b>
Seattle Chapter	<b>Mark Bangi</b>
Houston Chapter	<b>Maylene Santiago</b>
Los Angeles Chapter	<b>Lilly Chilton</b>
Chicago Chapter	<b>Jennifer Roan</b>
Nunavut Chapter	<b>Daniel Camalayan</b>



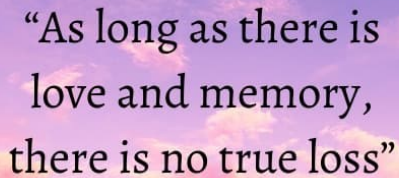
## REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAD GONE BEFORE US

At the start of our Convention Activities a moment of silence was observed to respect and honor all members who had gone before us...members who touched our lives, shared their talents and time to NCPACA. Members who had gone ahead back into the arms of our Creator.

"We will not forget the contributions they made, and we will all be thinking of the friends, families and colleagues they've left behind."

The following members had joined our creator:

- Rey Pimentel
- Maria Vida Cruz
- Sonny Quitlong



"As long as there is  
love and memory,  
there is no true loss"

## New Jersey Chapter will host the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

Will it be in-person or virtual?

Our annual convention planned in 2020 got cancelled. In 2021, as the pandemic spread, we moved to virtual systems instead of traditional in-person schedules. Aside from Zoom, which has become global during the pandemic, other virtual event platforms like Webex, and many more allow participants to connect from the comfort of their own computers with robust features for registration, networking, chat, and attendees' engagement tools.

COVID 19 cases are finally starting to fall, and restrictions are being lifted around the world. Pulling off a safe and successful in-person event right now is possible, but it requires a lot of planning, as well as active communication with attendees and ongoing collaboration with host chapter, sponsors, speakers, and event place in which the convention will be held.

The health, safety, and well-being of our members/attendees is still our top priority. New Jersey Chapter as the host chapter is planning the event and will present all ideas and plans for 2022 Annual Convention.

Dates and venue will be announced soon ... We will keep you posted.

## 34<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL CONVENTION...

Continued from page 1...

We acknowledge the leadership of the 2020/2021 officers, board, councilors, and auxiliaries, and congratulate the incoming group of leaders for 2022/2023.

Last but not the least, thank you to all our sponsors for your generosity.



We learned, we met, we dined (in our own homes!), we planned, and yes, we sang! Our very first NCPACA Singing Idol champion has the bragging right this year (John Israel Tipsay, from Chicago chapter), and we already know a lot of other contestants are practicing early.

See you all next year when New Jersey chapter hosts. Take care always. Until then...

PCPAs of Greater Chicago  
2021 Convention Chapter Host

