



The Connection

AUGUST 2014

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The growing trend of cloud computing page 19
- New York one of the most influential city of the world page 20

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28th Convention in New York City

By: Lolita Gillberg

Overall Chair, NCPACA Convention 2014,
President, NCPACA 2008-2009 & Governor
Board of Councilors 2012 – 2013

The response of the member chapters from various parts of the United States, Canada and globally has been overwhelming. To date, we already have more than 200 confirmed delegates, guests and sponsors who are joining in this memorable event as we mark the 28th years of existence of the National Council of the Philippine American Canadian Accountants, Inc. (NCPACA). This year's theme is "Back to the Future: Re-live the Past, Celebrate the Present and Envision Tomorrow". We welcome all of you. We welcome you all!

This year's 28th annual convention hosted by the Association of Filipino American Accountants – New York (AFAA-NY) and the Association of Filipino American Accountants of New Jersey (AFAA-NJ) will be held in New York with its chosen venue, the Marriott Downtown Hotel on August 29th to September 1st 2014. I could not help but reminisce the past as the same

Marriott hotel is the same venue of the 2000 National Convention of the Council that was held on September 1 – 4, 2000 hosted by then AFAA of Greater New York (NY, NJ & CT) chaired then by Nick Dadia and myself (then AFAA President & NCPACA External VP) under the leadership of then NCPACA President Sam Misa of PASCPA-Los Angeles. What has been notable this year in 2014 as compared to that year in 2000 is we still had that famous World Trade Center before that 911 event tragedy happened, What we can see now besides our venue is the newly risen 911 Memorial building, which replaced the World Trade Center. We could then say that our 28th NCPACA convention this year could ever be even more memorable due to this unforgettable event. More so, we have new chapters that were formed this year from Vancouver, Canada and British Columbia.

This year's convention pro-

vided an opportunity for all accountants including our youth across the country, Canada and the Philippines to meet and also discuss matters of their interest in the accounting profession. The Council has continuously provided educational programs for professional development and personal enrichment, career development and networking opportunities for all the attendees of this convention.

Renowned speakers from different parts of the United States and the Philippines are invited to speak on professional and motivational topics including updates in accounting and auditing as well as from AICPA including the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).



President's Message



Chris Banagan
President

Greetings to All:

I present to you the first edition of our Electronic Newsletter.

My congratulations to our National Public Relations Officer, Imelda Bautista, who painstakingly took the helm of producing this Newsletter with the help of the various Chapter Public Relations Officers.

This newsletter is a testament that one of the most rewarding things you do in life is often the ones that look like it cannot be done. With the meeting of the minds we could accomplish greater things.

This newsletter will provide us with a continuous update on all the activities of our various Chapters.

Bravo and thank you to the contributors, photographers and especially to the editors that made this newsletter "par excellence".

Happy reading!!

Chris V Banagan, MBA/EA
President 2014-2015

Executive Vice President's Message



Nora Galleros
Executive VP

Dear Convention Delegates, Guests, and Friends of NCPACA:

We, AFAA New York and New Jersey Chapters, are honored to host the 28th Annual NCPACA Convention. And we are very happy to welcome you all, who came from far and near places, to: 1) participate in the continuing professional education, 1) get involve in business meetings to assess and consider innovative ways to expand the reach of NCPACA, and 3) enjoy the Paligsahan. Our annual convention experiences have showed us that we do have friends and colleagues across North America who have taken the cause of NCPACA and its membership to heart, and whose participation in fact strongly contribute to NCPACA's continued existence.

Let us continue using the convention as a forum to exchange ideas, experiences and most importantly as an opportunity to renew our commitment to promote the mission of NCPACA.

We thank all those who have contributed to this Convention and wish everyone a very productive conference, and an enjoyable visit in New York City.

Leonora "Nora" Galleros
Executive Vice President/
President Elect (2016-2017)

National Council of Philippine American Canadian Accountants

We're on the web!!
www.ncpaca.org

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VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1



IMELDA BAUTISTA

From the Editor...

*"Back to the Future-Re-live the Past;
Celebrate the Present and Envision
Tomorrow"*

A life span is made up of the past, the present and the future. And one can only say he has improved when he looks back at the past and compare with the present and look forward to a better future.

Our beginnings, the formation of our core values, the family that raised us, the environment we lived in, the education we have, shaped and molded the best in us. These are the attributes that we have to embark to a life full of hope and expectations. These are our comfort zones.

We gauge our success first when we look back to what and where we were before and celebrate the new things we have learned, the success we enjoy, personally, intellectually, and in our careers, the material gains, the family and friends we have, and the society we live in.

No one dreamed of going back to a poor beginning, we all look forward to a more successful future, to enhance what we have in the present and hope to achieve more than what the present holds.

The same is true with organizations, like the NCPACA, it starts with a few and fired up with zeal and proper motivation, it is propelled to success, to become bigger and stronger. Yet, it does not discard its beginnings but rather enhance and improve where it is seen fit. And move forward to keep up with the pace of progress.

It is encouraged that all members and elected officers be vigilant and maintain an open mind with the coming of fresh ideas and new generation to carry on the torch, if life and sustainability has to go on.



DIVINA TAMAYO



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Bautista
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Imelda
Divina Tamayo
Winston Lim



WINSTON LIM

Regional Vice President Corner



Ted H. Dayno
RVP Region 7
AFCA Toronto

The National Council of Philippine American Canadian Accountants (NCPACA) is the umbrella organization of professional accounting organization in the United States and Canada which is a non-profit organization and whose memberships are mostly Filipino, American and Canadian accountants. The Council is committed to serving the accounting professionals by providing its chapters and members the need to turn vision into reality and success. At present, the professional accounting organizations are:

- Philippine Certified Public Accountants of Greater Chicago - Chicago, Illinois
- Philippine American Society of CPAs - Los Angeles, California
- Filipino American Accountants of Texas
- Association of Filipino American Accountants - New York City, New York
- Association of Filipino American Accountants - New Jersey City, New Jersey
- Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants, USA - San Francisco, CA
- Filipino American Association of CPAs - Seattle, Washington
- Association of Filipino Canadian Accountants - Toronto, Canada
- Filipino American Institute of Accountants - Washington, DC
- Association of Filipino Canadian Accountants - British Columbia, Canada

As a ruling body of these professional accounting organizations, NCPACA's mission includes the promotion of the advancement of its members in the 'field of accounting, audit, finance, taxes and other related areas and provide them with quality and relevant continuing professional education, disseminate reports on professional licensing policies and various updates on current accounting industry rules, regulations and relevant changes to enhance their knowledge, keep them abreast with the current trends and best practices that will be beneficial and of value to the high quality and standards of performance in their chosen career.' (NAPACA Website)

In addition, our President Chris V. Banagan has stated in her message today that 'on top of our programs, fellowship among members would be enhanced further to encourage sharing of knowledge, expertise and experience in order to develop a team building capabilities and promote harmonious relationships among members. Our program also includes activities to help preserve, protect, and promote Philippine culture and our collective identity.'

With these in mind, the ruling body has come up with the creation of Regional Vice Presidents in US and Canada which is divided in Seven (7) Regions and of which each Region, composed of one or more Chapters, is represented by Regional Vice President. After their elections, the RVPs among themselves have to choose their head and Mr. Bobby Tamayo from Washington DC Chapter (Region 5) was unanimously selected by the RVPs as their Chairperson.

Other current RVPs are: Region 1- Mitz Barber, Region 2- Selena Franco, Region 3 – Marina Buenaventura, Region 4- JaenaValles, Region 5- Bobby Tamayo (Chair), Region 6-Vance Noriega and Region 7- Ted Dayno.

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Updates from the Different Chapter



Welcome to New York!

Here in the Big Apple, we aim to immerse accounting practitioners in the rich world of the profession at the same time solidify their roots to the Motherland. **Left:** the Association of Filipino American Accountants (AFAA) - New York and New Jersey Chapters joined the 2014 Philippine Independence Day Parade.

In 2013 and 2014, AFAA New York also conducted CPE Trainings, a trip to Niagara Falls, a blessed Christmas Party, a pre-Valentine dinner in New Jersey, and a fundraising to support the victims of Typhoon Yolanda.



Right: 2013 NCPACA Convention Paligsahan Champions! After countless hours of practice and perfecting the steps, everything paid off when AFAA New York took home the trophy for the second straight year as Paligsahan Champions! The diverse group of the chapter danced to Lion King's Circle of Life, the Journey's Don't Stop Believing, Hiphop music Don't Sweat the Technique, Broadway's Singular Sensation, and Irene Cara's Fame.



AFAA—New Jersey



**Fundraising Events /
Travel**



**Socio-Economic
Involvements**

**Casual Reunions, Membership
Drives**



**And consolidated projects
with AFAA—NJ**



PASCPA - Los Angeles

PASCPA-LA Hosted the 2013 NCPACA Convention

PASCPA-LA was pleased hosting the 27th NCPACA Annual Convention with a theme of CPA's Quest to Reach for the Stars at Universal City, California. The dedicated committees brought in the well-known presenters in accounting, taxation, ethics, and related business topics, which provided the delegates with their needed continuing professional education to reach for the stars. By the way, the presenters received a golden statue similar to those given at The Oscars and the honor went to Vic Ching, NCPACA President 2012-2013. The various fellowship programs during the 3-day events provided networking opportunities and

promoted camaraderie among the delegates and guests. During the evening, guests walked on the red carpet wearing their favorite Hollywood star costume to reminisce the famous Hollywood landmark and the movie industry in surrounding Los Angeles. The convention culminated with a message from Chris V. Banagan, NCPACA President 2014-2015. Her message was to become mentors, role models, and an influence to the younger members to be a successful practitioner and potential leaders of the community



Tess Miguel
2013-2015
President

*Reaching
out to
the
Community*

Providing CPE to Members Continue

Nanie Enriquez, VP CPE, continued her effort from the NCPACA Committee Chair of Continuing Education to the chapter's CPE Committee Chair. She took the lead in organizing the two seminars and invited her colleagues who spoke on new topics that included Income and Capital Gain Tax Planning, Health Care Reform, Accounting for Non-Public Entities, and Cash and Debt Management. Each seminar has about 33 average attendees.



After the devastation of the strong typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, PASCPA-LA members immediately started a relief effort. Leading the effort were Vee Cristobal who turned in \$4,050 and Frenz Rivera who turned in \$1,500. PASCPA-LA remitted a total of \$6,100 to

ABS-CBN Foundation and The Office of Filipino Ministry Archdiocese of LA. Many members directly sent boxes of goods through LBC.

Volunteer members led by Glo Cajanap, EVP and Monette Rivera, VP Community Service, prepared and served dinner to homeless guests at Ascencia, an emergency shelter that provides temporary place for families and individuals who have lost everything. In addition, the volunteer members experienced to be identified with these homeless guests by joining them during dinner.



New NCPACA Councilor from PASCPA-LA

Thumbs up and a congratulatory salute to Francine Clara, Adviser and Past President, who was selected as one of the five 2014 Councilors by the NCPACA Board of Councilors Award Selection Committee. The designation of Councilor is a *Lifetime Achievement Award* given to deserving members for their outstanding contribution to the accounting profession, their chapter, the NCPACA and their community.

Two NCPACA Scholarship Finalists from PASCPA-LA

PASCPA-LA was informed that two of the chapter's applicants are finalists. The 1st finalist is Kathleen Reyes, an MBA student at Keller University and current VP Youth Membership. The 2nd finalist is Sabrina Partridge, a student at University of California Los Angeles. Both finalists will be attending the NCPACA Youth Leadership Convention in New York on August 30, 2014, where the monetary awards will be decided after a personal interview.

Annual Membership Meeting

The standing committees presented

during the annual membership meeting the activities that took place during the year and the related financial results. The top two activities with the highest net revenue were the Installation of Officers, New Members, and Holiday Night and the fundraising events, which were both chaired by Glo Cajanap, EVP. The combined net revenue for both was \$3,900. New plans for the Youth Program, Award of PASCPA Scholarship, and the website are the chapter's priorities for 2014-2015. The incumbent President Tess Miguel was re-elected for the 2nd term.

AFCA - Toronto



MISSION STATEMENT

The Association of Filipino Canadian Accountant is a non-profit organization committed to the development of its members in order to attain Canadian standards of competence and professionalism through the conduct of seminars and workshops and through the promotion of mutual support with its members and the Filipino-Canadians as a whole.

AFCA 2014 AND 2015 LEADERSHIP AND THEME

AFCA 2014-2015 leadership started its term with planning sessions that were concluded prior to the beginning of the year. With the theme “Bridging for a Brighter Tomorrow” conceived by the entire Executive Board, the association has a full house activities throughout the year which could be the metrics of our goals related to the theme. These goals are focused mainly to members through professional development

training, mentoring program, membership services improvement and fostering and/or improving relationship with recognized Canadian and Accounting Bodies. Secondly, we are looking up to our community by serving its needs through our most realistic ways and resources. Below are what transpired in AFCA in the last eight (8) months.

“Tax seminar aimed to equip and improve tax knowledge of members and volunteers in preparation to AFCA tax outreach program.”



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AFCA held Tax Seminar updates in February aimed to equip and improve tax knowledge of members and volunteers in preparation to AFCA’s tax outreach program. As well, AFCA and Council of Filipino Canadian Professionals Ontario (CFCPO) jointly hosted a Free Career Management Workshop which discussed proven strategies to help improve members’ chances to achieve their goals. In June, Value Creation Session and Career Path to CPA Designation were conducted back to back within the same day. A very eloquent speaker from Chartered Professional Accountants shared many insights during these sessions.

Quickbooks training was also held in June. Bridging Members through Free Advance Excel Training was held in August. This event served its purpose of getting together with new and reconnecting with old members, shared with them where is AFCA at and took their inputs and interest on how AFCA can serve in such a mutually beneficial way.

MENTORING PROGRAM

This program which started in 2011 is still ongoing. At the moment, AFCA is in process of recruiting mentees for the 7th batch. It has served 43 mentees to date so far and most of them are already working on their own professional goals. The program is in partnership with a mainstream not for profit organization looking at the possibility of getting funders.



TRIEC
Toronto Region Immigrant
Employment Council



Advance Excel Training

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT AND SERVICES

For the past 8 months, AFCA has approved 20 new members. Committee on membership met and discussed plans on how to improve services. This would include the help of web group that will cater to some of members' needs. Details are not available yet as it remains in the planning stage. Membership fees can now be collected not only by cash or cheque but by credit cards, electronic transfers and paypal.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND AWARENESS

During the five weekends (10 days) in March and April, AFCA held its free tax clinic services aimed to serve taxpayers of low income bracket. We were able to serve 9 community tax centres with 274 taxpayers. Most volunteers were able to network and enhance their knowledge in tax preparation. As well, AFCA was the official tabulators of Fund-raising Beauty Pageant events organized by 2 Filipino

community organizations (PIDC and PCCF) which were held in 3 Saturdays in May and July. These events were for a good cause to help its unfortunate beneficiaries in the Philippines. As our way of showing community awareness, AFCA joined Fiesta ng Kalayaan event in July by manning its own booth and distributed some AFCA materials promoting our own. To top it all, some officers attended fundraisers on Haiyan victims.

“Bridging for a Brighter Tomorrow”



AFCA GALA and INDUCTION, MARCH 1, 2014

INDUCTION AND OTHER SOCIAL EVENTS

AFCA 2014 2015 Executive Officers and Directors were inducted on March 1st as well as 28 new members. This night event was fully packed with almost 300 members and guests. Tax appreciation day was held in April to give importance to our volunteers who participated in tax clinic program. It was also attended by some of our tax partners from the community. In the past years, it has been proven that appreciation day like this is one way of getting stronger as a team, strengthening friendship and building networks.

ACCOUNTING BODIES AND CORPORATE RELATIONSHIP

AFCA has maintained its relationship with then CGA and CMA who are now both merged with CPA with whom we were



able to sign up a 2014 sponsorship renewal. Proceed of this sponsorship has been earmarked to professional development and membership services. We are now working on to build partnership with non-accounting body which we agreed to start with baby steps leading to a relationship that could be beneficial to both in the long run.

SPORTS TOURNAMENT

To build rapport and better camaraderie, AFCA has already held two (2) tournaments. For the first time, Badminton Tournament was held in May while Bowling Tournament was held this month of August.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

The year is not over yet. On September, we are having Tennis Tournament from which the net proceeds will go to scholarship fund.

AFCA 2014 Mixed Team Tennis Tournament

**September 13, 2014
8:00 AM to 1:00 PM**



serve it, smash it, win it, love it!

Karaoke Fundraising event is also happening same month where most tickets have been sold. Like Tennis, its net proceeds will also go to scholarship. On October, there will be another professional development training and Induction of New Members. Annual General Membership meeting will be held on November 15. Christmas party has been booked on December 6. In the year 2015, we are holding our planning sessions on October 4th and November 15th. We intend to focus on membership and professional development. AFCA 4th Convention seems to be on its way in 2015. We are inspired by the dynamics we see in our young and old migrant and non-migrant Filipino accountants, so here we are, continuously serving our fellow professionals and the community.



FAIA - Washington DC

On behalf of the men and women of the Filipino American Institute of Accountants of Metro, DC, I would like to introduce to you who we are.

What is FAIA? FAIA is a group Filipino-American ("Fil-Am") accountants in the Washington DC Metro area banded together by a common goal to help each other maintain the highest level of knowledge and proficiency in what we do.

From our beginning in 1987, we set our standard high when it comes to honesty and integrity in our professional work and community involvement. As a proud member of NCPACA, one of FAIA's goals is to enlarge the footprint of the Filipino Accountant in North America. What do we do? We are CPAs working for the Big 4, regional and local accounting firms. We are cor-

porate accountants working for defense contractors, the retail industry, media and publications. We are banking and finance professionals; we are cost accountants for manufactures and builders. We are government accountants working for the justice department, the IRS and local municipalities. We are entrepreneurs who own our business serving corporations and

"As a proud member of NCPACA, one of FAIA's goals is to enlarge the footprint of the Filipino Accountant in North America".



FAIA Induction – April 5, 2014

From L to R: Minister Ariel Penaranda, Chris Aballe, Bong Pangilinan, Cheryl Brunner, Ed Aznar, Lynn Francis, Divina Tamayo, Elonor Lindner, David Pagsibigan, Patrick Ferraren, Celson Mataac, Alan Tra-

individual alike. We are accountants engaged in every facet of our profession.

Who we are? We are Dave a longtime treasurer of Philippine American Foundation for Charities ("PAFC"); we are Lynn current auditor of University of the Philippines Alumni Association; we are Gigi current secretary of PAFC; we are Bobby,

board member and super fundraiser for Feed the Hungry; we are Leo legal counsel of US-Philippine Society; we are Tita Chris, Alan, Angelo & Patrick as accountants to the Fil-Am community for over 100 years combined. We are Klaus, Celso, Ramon & Christopher who over the years have served in various capacities in countless Fil-Am organizations. If

you look closely, you will see that we are you. We are Fil-Am community members always ready and willing to pitch in for the good of our community and the greater good of our beloved Philippines.



Filipino American Accountants of Texas
Formerly Texas Society of Philippine American Certified Public Accountants

FAATx - Houston

The Filipino-American Accountants of Texas (FAATx) has established itself as the only accounting professional organization in Greater Houston, Texas. Because of Houston's vast network of community organizations, FAATx takes advantage of providing an active role by participating in these organizations' activities, a viable step in promoting the accounting profession, and most importantly, reach out to

young accounting professionals (and also students) to encourage career development and professional growth. FAATx takes pride of members who act as educators and who are constantly available in fostering educational leadership and direction to its young members. Over the past few years, FAATx has solicited membership of young accounting professionals, encouraged networking, and fostered spirit

of fellowship and camaraderie. The recent devastating storm in Tacloban Leyte when all members lent selfless dedication to its cause was sheer proof of FAATx's active role and visibility in the community. FAATx is proud of having the chance to help alleviate the miseries brought by the storm to our people in the Philippines.

"FAATx is proud of having the chance to help alleviate the miseries brought by the storm."

Relief Boxes for Leyte typhoon victims



The upcoming NCPACA Convention has strengthened members' involvement, not only in professional development, but also in maintaining an active role in the success of the entire organization. FAATx plans to focus on the future by being more responsive to the needs of the accounting profession in Greater Houston by reaching

out to accounting students and young accounting professionals by encouraging members to provide them with results of research, direction, leadership, and sharing with them their life-long experiences in the accounting profession, experiences that made them productive accounting professionals.



PICPA USA - San Francisco



**“Fun Golf
Tournament
in Pebble
Beach”**

**“Challenge
of the
champions”**

Pebble Beach welcomes PICPA-USA!

The countdown is on for this year’s Fun Golf Tournament in Pebble Beach to be held on October 18, 2014 (Saturday).

For more information, please call RVP Selenna Franco-Cefre at 650-238-8062 or email her at sfcefre@yahoo.com.

Perfect weather + Pebble Beach Golf + Fandango = Fun !!! Yes, it was a fun day indeed for all PICPANs and we’d like to thank all the participants who drove all the way from the Bay Area to the Monterey Peninsula (which sports the title “Golf Capital of the World”) to celebrate PICPA-USA’s 37th anniversary last year.

It was a pleasure to meet LPGA Master Professional Sally Dodge, our special guest who conducted the golf clinic for beginners in the basic fundamentals of golf. Ms Dodge was recognized by Golf for Women magazine as one of the top 50 teaching professionals in America and most recently named to the LPGA Top 50 teachers list. Even if you have not held a

putter in your hands, listening to Sally would give you the confidence to play a 9-hole in Peter Hay with the blue Pacific and deers in the background.



Our congratulations to first place winner, Brad Ramos who took home the crystal golf trophy and second place winner, Mark Duldulao who got a “Lacoste” sports watch. The highlight of the event was the surprise “challenge of the champions” round after all the

7 teams finished the shotgun tournament. Each of the teams were asked to field in their best putter for the “closest to the pin” competition in the 9th hole. Edward Clyde and Sara Ertz won and received a “Ferrari” watch and diamond stud earrings respectively. Golf shirts, balls, towels and more diamond stud earrings were raffled off in the end.

After the Fun Golf in Pebble Beach, all the players and guests savored Fandango’s flavorful paella and seafood specialties. Fandango’s warm Mediterranean setting was just the perfect way to end a perfect day!





PCPA - Chicago



Happy 40th Anniversary PCPA Chicago !



**Good Vibes, Good Company, Good Food,
Happy Feet!**

From Left, Back Row: Mary Ann Castelo

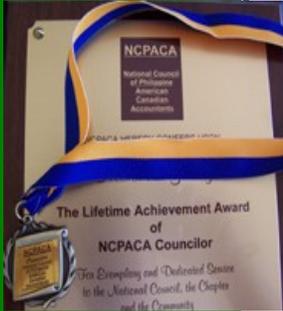
Next Row from back: Raffy Tanada, Andy Justo, May Fermin, Bob Fermin, Auring Galimba, Nestor Galimba

2nd Row from Back: Nick Macabenta, Lucy Macabenta, Ed Ortiz, Carmen Ortiz, Vicky Justo, Tony Silvano,
Susan Silvano

First Row: Lito Soriaga, Edna Soriaga, Adeling Vergara, Met Castelo, Art Dilay, Nattie Dilay, Boni Cava, Sue
Angeles, Paul Angeles

Thanks to Boni and Rhodora Cava, Choreographers

Board of Councilor



From the Governor's Desk Mr. Art Dilay

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

Last year during the NCPACA convention in Los Angeles, California, the Board of Councilors elected Arthur Dilay- Chicago Chapter and Ms. Gloria Cajanap - L A Chapter as the Governor and Secretary General respectively for the year 2014-2016. Likewise, the following councilors were elected members of the Selection Committee.

1. Chris Banagan – Washington D. C.
2. Mitz Barber – Washington
3. Klaus Buntua – Washington D. C.
4. Bobby Dela Cruz – Toronto
5. Art Dilay – Chicago
6. Nora Galleros - New Jersey
7. Al Maglan
8. Rey Padilla – New York
9. Frenz Rivera – Los Angeles

Gloria and I are tasked not only to coordinate the annual selection of the new members of the Board of Councilors but also to manage all the Board of Councilors activities for 2014-2016. It is our plan with help of the 8 other members of the Selection Committee and members of the Board of Councilors to evaluate the selection criteria and make the appropriate changes in the selection process if necessary. We will continue to communicate with all the members of the Board of

Councilors to seek advice from them not only on how we, collectively can provide assistance to NCPACA but also how the group can make meet the goals established when it was created.

For the year 2014, the Selection Committee selected the following new members of the Board of Councilors.

1. Marina Buenaventura – Houston
2. Patrick Ferraren – Washington D. C.
3. Stella Marie – Chicago
4. Jaena H Valles – New York
5. Francine Clara – Los Angeles

On behalf of the Selection Committee, Gloria and I would like to congratulate this year's new members of the Board of Councilors. We know that their admission to this group is a testament of their outstanding contributions not only to the NCPACA but also to their respective chapters and community. It is our hope that they will continue to participate and provide their knowledge and skills in making NCPACA and our respective chapters, an organization of professionals that will be an envy of other similar organizations.

NCPACA Achievers

Not too long ago, I was selected as one of the NCPACA scholars. I remember receiving the news that I had been chosen as one of the scholars and have been invited to attend the NCPACA Convention in Los Angeles. It had felt surreal, as I had just finished my 16-month internship a few days before and here I was, off to travel to the beautiful city of Los Angeles!

Being chosen as one of the NCPACA scholars was truly an amazing experience. During the NCPACA Convention, I was able to meet and network with many professionals and young professionals who shared the same passion as me for account-

ing. Attending the convention and receiving the scholarship has benefited me in many ways. The thing that had the most profound impact on me was how inspirational the convention was. It was astonishing to see every professional and young professional coming together and hosting such a wonderful event.

I would like to thank NCPACA for choosing me as one of their 2013 scholars and for giving me the opportunity to meet many wonderful people in the beautiful city of Los Angeles. I would also like to thank my chapter, AFCA Toronto, for being my accounting family during the convention last

year. I will always remember the experience I had at the NCPACA convention as I continue to embark on my path to becoming a CPA. As a newly graduate from McMaster University, I will officially start my accounting career this September as a Staff Accountant in downtown Toronto. I hope that one day, I can become someone that young professionals look up to, similar to how I look up to everyone from NCPACA and AFCA Toronto. I wish the future scholars luck and hope they have a great experience, just like I did.



Jonalyn Joy Baldovino

Last year, I had the pleasure of attending the 2013 NCPACA accounting conference in Los Angeles, California. As my first NCPACA convention attending as a youth delegate, I learned a lot from all the professional workshops, events, and speakers. In addition, I also had a great time meeting many other youth delegates from around North America, whom I am glad to call my friends. Becoming a youth delegate and NCPACA

scholar really opened my eyes to the NCPACA and Filipino community. I am grateful and honored to be part of such welcoming and hardworking individuals. Since becoming an NCPACA scholar, I finished an internship/coop term at Ernst & Young. I am currently in the process of finishing my final semester of my undergraduate degree and hopefully will be pursuing a masters accounting before I write the CPA exam. As a future CPA, I know that being

an NCPACA scholar will help me develop many competences required of today's accounting professionals. In addition, I know that it will open many opportunities for me in regards to future job prospects. I would like to thank the NCPACA community for seeing potential in me. I hope to continue as an NCPACA youth member on my journey towards my CPA.



Michael Marlo Mallari



Congratulations to Anna Diaz!

Anna Diaz, PICPA-USA's scholar to NCPACA, recipient of \$3,000 NCPACA scholarship (2nd place), graduated Magna Cum Laude at LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY (LMU) with the degrees of Bachelor of Science in Accounting with a major in Accounting and Bachelor of Business Administration with a Major in Entrepreneurship in May 2014.

Anna received LMU's Presidential Citation Award, Social Entrepreneurship Student of the Year Award, Richard J. Riordan Service Award, Arete Community Service Award, Donald Strauss Public Service Scholarship Award amongst other awards. Anna with other LMU graduates travelled Europe after graduation. She still loves training and showing dogs at the American Kennel Club Dog Shows and is enjoying pursuing her professional career with Ernst and Young Accounting Firm in San Francisco.

Anna is a niece of Selenna Franco-Cefre, NCPACA's Regional Vice President for the Pacific Western Region of the US.

Photos







The Growing Trend of Cloud Computing

By: Ramon Guanzon, CPA, CA, LPA
 AFCA Toronto Executive Vice President

Cloud computing surfaced about 2009 or 5 years ago, marking a key turning point in the evolution of accounting-driven computing, with the arrival of browser-based enterprise applications, commonly-known as “Google Apps.” Big players are involved in the cloud computing evolution, some earlier, some later. In 2009, Microsoft launched Windows

Azure, and companies like Oracle, IBM and HP have all joined the game. Today, cloud computing has become mainstream, establishing a structurally different environment for various professions, particularly the accounting professions.

What is cloud computing? According to a web dictionary definition “this refers to the practice of using a network of

remote servers hosted on the Internet (called Cloud Infrastructures) to store, manage, and process data, rather than a local server.”

Like any new trend, there are risks associated with Cloud Computing and among these are the following, which one might be able to mitigate or avoid:

“The Cloud is a friendly way of describing web-based services that are hosted outside of your organization.”

What are the Advantages to Accountants?

One of the advantages of moving to cloud-based services is the enabling of accounting/tax practitioner access to information from nearly anywhere, on many types of devices - a PC, tablet, mobile phone, or other device with an internet connection - which increases practitioner's productivity and accessibility. The possibility of working anywhere – for all account-

ants an “always on the go” approach opens up a whole new world of possibilities. Accessing files anywhere and anytime securely can boost one’s productivity. Firms going paperless are increasingly using a private cloud to carry out their business - no more paper files, paperless audits and documentation. The bottom line is the ability to cut down local IT costs and improving overall productivity, which usually translates into

an improved bottom line. AFCA Toronto Past President Julito Longkines commented that “The Cloud is a friendly way of describing web-based services that are hosted outside of your organization. When you use cloud-based services, your IT infrastructure resides off your property, and is maintained by a third party, instead of residing on a server at your home or business that you maintain.”

Data Risk is risk associated With loss, leakage or unavailability of data. This can cause an interruption to business, loss of revenue, loss of reputation or even regulatory non compliance in some cases. This can be addressed by the following:

- Data segregation, isolation, encryption (to protect data From being stolen);
- Information Security (such As physical or locked rooms) and logical security protocols (virtual firewalls);

- Identity and access management (use of user account And password, identity credentials); and Intellectual property protection ensure all software used are appropriately licensed).

Operational risk is associated with execution of business Active/ties and services that rely on IT systems. This can be addressed by the following:

- Business resiliency / disaster recovery (backups& disaster recovery plans);

- Reliability and service up time (99.9% uptime guarantee, standby power supply);
- Service Level Agreement compliance (must be mutually understood when contracted);
- Evolving customer / client needs (ever changing needs and demands of clients must be understood and met).

Regulatory risk is associate With non-compliance with Various legal, government and regulatory requirements.

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New York one the most influential city of the world

The 28th NCPACA annual convention is now happening at the New York Marriott Downtown Hotel, hosted by the AFAA-New York and AFAA-New Jersey. This is a great opportunity to reconnect with our peers, earn CPE credits on pertinent accounting, tax and other business topics to be imparted by sought-after speakers in the profession. Take charge of your professional advancement but do not miss the wonderful opportunity to explore New York . New York City is one of the global centers of international finance, politics, communications, film, music, fashion, and culture, and is among the world's most important and influential cities. It is home to many world-class museums, art galleries, and theaters.

Many of the world's largest corporations have their headquarters in NY.



The Empire State Building is the one. The stately deco architecture rivals the nearby Chrysler Building for Best in Class honors and it is, once again, New York's tallest structure. The view from the 86th-floor observation deck is breathtaking.



Give yourself a gentle introduction to the city by exploring its beloved, natural gem. Though Central Park may not exactly be free of tourists, there are ways to avoid the herds. Designed by Calvert Vaux and Frederick Law Olmsted, Central Park is home to 843 acres of verdant views, vibrant flora and hidden histories.



"The Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World" was a gift of friendship from the people of France to the United States and is recognized as a universal symbol of freedom and democracy. The Statue of Liberty was dedicated on October 28, 1886. It was designated as a National Monument in 1924.

RVP Corner...

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One of the responsibilities of RVP is to assist the organization establishing additional chapters in addition to other functions assigned by NCPACA President. The group feels that a good strategy to attract new membership is to enhance the existing website and come up with operation guidelines in accordance with existing bylaws. To attain their objectives, the group organized different committee, i.e Website, Bylaws, membership, etc. Each committee established a timeline to submit an accomplishment report to general membership in our AGM this year.

To improve the communication not only during annual convention and have constant dialogue with chapter members, the RVPs will continue to have teleconference and update the chapter members under their respective jurisdictions. We encourage chapter president/officers to communicate with your RVP any concerns regarding our organization. Thus, any other suggestions for the furtherance of our organization's memberships, among other means to improve overall standing of NCPACA, please contact us RVPs and we will definitely look into your highly valuable suggestions, recommendations and the likes, with open arms.

The Growing Trend...

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 - Information Security (such as physical or locked rooms) and logical security protocols (virtual firewalls);
 - Identity and access management (use of user account and password, identity credentials); and
 - Intellectual property protection (ensure all software used are appropriately licensed).
- **Operational risk** is associated with execution of business activities and services Business resiliency / disaster recovery (backups& disaster recovery plans);
 - Reliability and service uptime (99.9% uptime guarantee, standby power supply);
 - Service Level Agreement compliance (must be mutually understood when contracted); and
 - Evolving customer / client needs (ever changing needs and demands of clients must be understood and met).

that rely on IT systems. This can be addressed by the following:

Regulatory risk is associated with non-compliance with various legal, government and regulatory

requirements. This can be addressed by the following:

- Records management (ensure that local or regional policies apply 3 years or more records retention policies, 7 years for public companies);
- Data privacy (restrictions on access to data ensures the client's private information is protected); and
- Lack of industry standards (determine local certification or registration standards).

Addressing these key risks would certainly take Cloud Computing to significant business advantages involving increase in users.

"Accounting does not make corporate earnings or balance sheets more volatile. Accounting just increases the transparency of volatility in earnings."

Diane Garnick