



Farewell, Welcome, Madam Presidents
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Editorial



BY CLEMENCIA S. WONG, RN, MED

Kudos to a job well done!

Every two years, as we welcome the changing of the season, the PNA-NY, Inc. celebrates a time honored tradition of saying farewell to an outgoing president and inducting a new one. As an organization, this is also the time to look back, count our blessings, examine lessons learned, thank those who helped us, look at the future and have fun along the way.

Leonila Navarro- Mariazeta, can be proud of her accomplishments as the president of PNA-NY, Inc. for 2008-2010. She has led this organization with energy and determination to keep its finances in order and conducted its affairs accordance to its by-laws.

Leading an organization during a recession is not easy. Leonie met it head on. Under her leadership, she made sure that at the end of her term, she will be handing off to the next administration, a PNA-NY that is financially better amid turbulent market conditions. Raising funds is one thing, but managing it efficiently and ethically is another. She preached transparency on finances, she practiced it too.

Of course, Leonie as president could not have met her goals for PNA-NY without the help of the hard working executive board, the advisors, members, their families and friends.

We will be remised if we do not recognize the invaluable support and volunteerism of Mr. Ramon Mariazeta. As an accountant, he kept the PNA-NY's books up to date and ready for timely filing at tax time, pro bono. He was our errand boy, photographer, clerk, delivery man, and even an altar server in a pinch!

To Leonie, kudos and thanks to a job well done. To Susan Gador, welcome and together PNA-NY can reach greater heights.

A heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Rey Rivera and Vernie Bacolot , inducted this past July as President and Secretary of the Philippine Nurses Association of America (PNAA) respectively. Dr. Rivera carries on a proud tradition of PNA-NY. He is the fourth president from the NY chapter to assume this prestigious post. Kudos to them as well!!



Foreign Nurses In A Tight Spot

BY REUBEN S. SEGURITAN

The visa retrogression that hit the employment-based third preference category (EB-3) has made a tremendous impact on the influx of foreign nurses to the U.S.

The unavailability of visa numbers in general has created difficulties in particular for nurses currently in the U.S. who wish to adjust their status to

permanent residency. We have received several inquiries from them and they usually fall under one of three situations. There are those who were able to file their adjustment applications before the retrogression but their applications were denied because they could not submit their Visa Screen certificates before the deadline set by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

Continued on page 13

**Farewell,
Welcome**



A TERM THAT WAS

Presidential Address by Leonila Navarro-Mariazeta

Good evening and welcome colleagues, friends, ladies and gentlemen.

Two years have gone by since I stood before you as your new president, yet I still feel a great sense of joy and pride when I recall selecting our theme, "Advancing Excellence in Nursing Practice, Education & Research, Technology Competence and Community Activism. A lot has happened since then and with our can do attitude, we were able to achieve our goals advancing to excellence and giving to our community. Our nurses continued to donate to the many projects that we have always supported within all levels - chapter, national and international. We operated within our means and we worked hard to maintain fiscal viability. All these attest to the tenacity of our commitment despite the challenges that came our way.

PNA New York maintains strong ties with other professional and community organizations. We continue to partner with New York State Nurses Association-Nursing Organization Liaison Forum/and the Constituent District Nurses Assembly, both of which participate in regulatory and legislative activities affecting nursing practice. Our association collaborates with other professional organizations geared for research. Last January, Rey Rivera and I traveled to Cebu to participate in the poster session in our international convention where our very own PNAA president, Rey Rivera won first place.

Our education committee continues its fantastic job and we are proud to say that this year, we are once again approved by the NYSNA Council on Continuing Education, accredited by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation to be a provider. Thanks to chairperson Vernie Bacolot and her committee for doing an excellent job!

In the area of community activities we have become champions. On October 24, 2009 we received an organizational award from Kalusugan Coalition recognizing us for our community volunteerism in "Expanding Horizon for Filipino American Health" in New York & New Jersey areas. In addition, PNA New York participated in several health fairs in the Philippine Consular office, in churches, community centers and provided staffing for the emergency booth during the PIDCI Parade.

We can also probably proclaim that this year we have become technologically savvy. We publish an online newsletter, we use teleconferencing instead of face to face meeting, and

we used educational video conferencing. We are currently working on our new website format with our webmaster.

The Philippine Nurses Association of New York has been true to its mission and focused on its objectives. Our membership is strong. We are committed to the ideals of our profession and ready to move on to the next generation of endeavors. I recognize the tireless volunteerism of our members, the generous contribution of their resources, talents and time. You all made my work so much easier. I will always remember your friendship and support for years to come.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the executive officers, board of directors, advisers, members, friends & supporters of PNA New York, and my VA family. You really are the heroes behind all these. To the incoming officers, be assured that we are all behind you. I wish you all the best.

To my husband, Ramon who has done tremendous volunteerism to our organization and to my son Ramon Jr., who has taught me patience and humility, I thank you for your understanding and overwhelming support.

Have a blessed evening. Let's celebrate!

Leonila Navarro-Mariazeta
President, PNA-NY (2008-2010)



INVITATION FOR ENGAGEMENT by Susan Gador

It is a privilege and delight to welcome all of you to our biennial induction of the new executive board and awards night.

Foremost, I am humbled to be a member of the pioneer Philippine Nurses Association of America chapter, the Philippine Nurses Association of New York, Incorporated. The chapter has been in existence since 1929 and has produced many distinguished Filipino nurse leaders in the United States. These Filipino leaders have worked and contributed in diverse healthcare settings and they continue to motivate young and potential leaders.

As the new PNA-NY chapter president, I bring enthusiasm, compassion, engagement, transformation and quality leadership that will lead the chapter into a stronger future. Thus, I created my organizational theme, Engage and Transform: Building a Stronger Future, which aligns with Dr. Reynaldo Rivera, PNAA President's theme, Engage and Make a Difference.

I am very pleased for the many Filipino- American nurses who have joined the membership of the association. Our

Engage and transform: Building a stronger future

membership is growing and I encourage and challenge all of you to show your commitment in promoting the chapter goals and mission. I need you to be more involved: motivate yourself to accept the challenges, contribute your great ideas, and together we can build a better tomorrow. I look forward to meeting new and existing members.

Wherever our practice takes us-at the bedside, in the boardroom, out in the community, even in the midst of natural calamity- our one goal is to provide quality and culturally competent care in all settings. To advance our profession we also continually strive to adapt evidenced-based practice, utilizing advances in research and technology to pave the way in improving patient care management.

To the newly elected executive board, I welcome the courage, volunteerism, dedication and compassion that you will bring to the association and collectively, we will propel a stronger administration.

To all our awardees, my sincere congratulations for your exemplary performance in your respective specialties.

Above all, I give thanks to my family, who continue to believe in my potentials. To my friends and colleagues who have forever shown their support and love and to our cherished and precious guests and sponsors, my sincere gratitude for your generous contributions. Our association will indeed continue to thrive because of your generosity.

I wish everyone health and blessings and let us celebrate another beginning!

Susan Anabelle D. Gador, MA, RN, CPAN, ANP
President
2010-2012
Philippine Nurses Association of New York, Incorporated
www.pnanewyork.org



PNA-NY EXCELLENCE AWARDEES NAMED



Archiel Buagas, RN, MSN
Clinical Nurse Excellence Award

Archiel's career as a nurse started at the University of Cebu as a Clinical Instructor after graduating from the University of San Carlos in Cebu City, Philippines with a BS in Nursing. Presently, she is a staff nurse at Jacobi Medical Center in the Surgical Intensive Care and Surgical Stepdown units. As one of the Sentosa nurses, Archiel has brought honor to us all as Filipino nurses here and abroad, for her courage to fight and for sharing that experience to help others. She has brought that same spirit to the bedside as she cares for her patients.



Corazon Sy, RN, MA, CAN
Nurse Administrator of the Year

Ms. Corazon Sy is an Assistant Director of Nursing (ADN) who currently oversees all 18 nursing units on the evening tour at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, to ensure that quality nursing care is provided. Not only is she providing excellent nursing leadership in the acute care setting, but also served as a commander in the 344th Combat Support Hospital at Fort

Hamilton Army Station in Brooklyn, NY. She is now retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after 21 years of dedicated service in the US Army.

Cora has received numerous awards in both fields. She was awarded the NYSNA Conspicuous Service Award. She is a decorated soldier and a veteran of the first Gulf War: Desert Storm/Shield. Among her many medals in the Armed Forces are Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal with One Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Reserve Components Achievement medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal and the Supervisor's Award Medal, Walter Reed Army Medical Center.



Nemcy Cavite Duran, RN, BSN, CRNAC.LNC
Nurse Educator of the Year

Nemcy Cavite Duran has over 22 years of nursing experience and has served as charge nurse, supervisor, nursing faculty member, educator, assistant director of nursing, quality assurance director, MDS coordinator, risk manager, nurse entrepreneur and legal nurse consultant.

Presently, she is the president of N. Cavite, RN, Consulting Services, P.C., a professional corporation established in 2001,

which specializes in assisting facilities and providers in long term care to meet their goal of providing quality care and improving the clinical reimbursement that the facilities are entitled to. She is also the Director of MDS department at Dr. William O. Benenson Rehabilitation Pavilion, a sub-acute care facility in Flushing, Queens.

As an educator, she had lectured nationally and internationally on clinical issues, leadership and management, legal trends in nursing, risk management, documentation, regulatory compliance, clinical reimbursement and cultural diversity. Her passion for teaching is evident through her presentation style, energy, and ability to engage her audiences. Moreover, Nemcy's demonstrated knowledge of the subject matter and use of innovative teaching methods, made her achieve a consistent record of excellent ratings by workshop attendees for the past 10 years. Currently, she is providing corporate trainings to long term care facilities, as the entire United States of America is preparing for the implementation of the new assessment tool in October 1, (MDS version 3.0) as part of the President Obama's Health Care Reform signed last March.



JOSEPHINE "JOJI" JUELE JALANDONI, RN, BSN, CMC
EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Several years ago, when she was President of Silliman University Alumni Association (SUAA), Joji was recruited to the Board of Directors of the Philippine Independence Day

Council, Inc. (PIDCI). Barely a year later, Joji was elected into the second highest position in PIDCI – the Vice Presidency, an immediate recognition by colleagues on the Board of PIDCI, of her potential as an astute events manager and community organizer.

This year, Joji co-chaired the two largest and most important events of PIDCI's 21-year-old Philippine Independence Anniversary Commemoration in New York City: the Philippine Independence Day Parade and the Philippine Independence Ball. Joji is involved in other community service endeavors as well. Currently, she is the Secretary of Silliman University Alumni Council of North America (SUACONA). At the same time she is on the Board of Directors of Silliman University Alumni Association NY/NJ Chapter (SUAA NY/NJ), of which she is the immediate past President. Joji is a member of the Philippine Nurses Association of New York and New Jersey (PNA-NY and NJ); Assistant Treasurer of Victoriahanon; and is on the Board of Directors of Negrosanon.



EDMUND J. Y. PAJARILLO, PhD, MSN, MPA, RN BC, CPHQ, NEA BC
Informatics Nurse of the Year

Dr. Edmund Pajarillo is an Assistant Professor in the MSN program of Molloy College, Rockville Center, NY, for the past five years teaching Nursing Informatics and a part-time faculty at Adelphi University where he teaches undergraduate and graduate-level nursing courses. He is selfless and passionate of his love for Nursing Informatics, making sure he shares his knowledge, skills and experiences to his students. He strongly believes that all nurses regardless of specialization can optimize their professional practice with a deeper understanding and appreciation of Nursing Informatics, including its tenets, tools, theories and concepts,

Dr. Pajarillo is proud of his strong background and practice in Nursing Informatics. A major focus of his research is on nursing information behavior, the manner by which nurses identify information motivators and the types of information sources accessed. Knowing these is quite relevant according to Dr. Pajarillo, as educators and administrators will then be able to provide appropriate guidance and direction to nurses they teach and supervise.



Annabelle V. Abaño, BSN, MA, PNP, RNC
Excellence in Advanced Practice Award

Annabelle Abaño is an experienced Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, a Certified Pediatric Nurse, an Assistant Director of Nursing, a Nurse Supervisor, a former Regional Medical coordinator, Trainer and Preceptor with 30 years of

bedside nursing and management experience, working in the Philippines, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and at five large New York City hospitals. She has a passion for taking care of children and their families, both professionally and personally.

Annabelle currently works as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP) at Long Island College Hospital. She has generously shared her skills and expertise in her community work here in the US and in the Philippines. As a PNP, she has established relationships with people/agencies who are able to donate medicines, equipment and supplies which she sends to the remote rural health clinics in Cebu. She spends her vacation there conducting free clinics, holding seminars and teaching health care workers. She also strongly networks among other organizations and foundations here and abroad, such as Childrens Chance, Lions Club International, United Home Care Foundation and pro bono medical providers and social workers.

Benjamin H. Santos, RN, BS/HCM
PNA-NY'S Entrepreneur of the Year

Benjamin H. Santos is a distinguished name in the Filipino community as a nurse, a community leader, a philanthropist and an entrepreneur.



Currently, Ben, has many business interests. He is the Founder, President/CEO of the UNITED STAFFING REGISTRY, INC., which is located in various parts of the Tri-State area and the Philippines; United Home Care, Inc. (Licensed by the Department of Home Health Aides (HHA) and/or health care givers; United Home Care Foundation of Queens, Inc., the charity arm of United Staffing Registry, Inc.; United Medical Clinic, LLC; United Home Care Foundation (Philippines), Institute of

Allied Health Profession (School of Nursing), Care Givers and Security courses; Bensan United Manpower; Panther Aviation Security Specialists, Inc., (PASSI); and Royal Eagle Security Investigation Agency, Inc. (RESIA).

As an entrepreneur Ben has received numerous awards such as Citation of Honor” for “Extraordinary Contribution to the Filipino, 2005 Man of the Year Award” by Filipino Express, 2008 “Dr. Jose P. Rizal Circle of Excellence Award for Entrepreneurship”, 2008 “Outstanding 50 Asian-American in Business by the Asian-American Business Development Center-2008 and many more.

Notable Nurses



Leonila Navarro-Mariazeta, MA, MEd, CCRN, BC, critical care nurse educator at the Department of Veterans Affairs, New York Harbor Healthcare System – New York Campus, current president of the Philippine Nurses Association of New York, Inc. received the American Association of Critical Care

Nurses-New York City Chapter, Excellence in Nursing Education Award given on June 12, 2010 during the recent Challenges in Critical-Care 2010 held at the New York Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center, New York.

She also received an appreciation award from American Heart Association NYC/ECC Committee on May 17, 2010 for her 20 years of dedicated volunteerism as an AHA instructor.



Myrna D. Santos, MSN, RN, a Critical Care RN from the New York Harbor Healthcare System, Brooklyn Campus, was appointed full time faculty at the Pace University, Lienhard School of Nursing in partnership with the VA Nursing Academy starting this Fall.



Carmel Sanchez, MSN, RN, currently working at the VANew York Harbor Healthcare System presented a Poster Presentation on the “Solutions to the Challenges of Barcode Scanning Failures in the BCMA system” in Las Vegas, last August, 2010.



Leonida Lacdao, MA, RN, Nurse Manager, Cardiothoracic ICU/CCU at Saint Lukes’s Roosevelt Hospital Center, NY has been elected President for 2010-2011 of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, NYC Chapter. She was the Corresponding Secretary (2008-2010) and is currently Auditor (2010-2012) of PNA-NY.

New Members



- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Iderlina Dabu | Coramarie Taningco |
| John Jorge Bermillo | Josefina Rodriguez |
| Norma Ondoy | Ermita Uy |
| Abigail Hasan | Juna Martinez |
| Maria Dolores Domino | A. Gallero |
| Tommy Sanchez | Mary Ann Napalit |
| Felisa Dalman | Franklin-Mark Aspe |
| Judea Tan | Evangeline Chua |
| Aileen A Gatinao | Maribeth Baula |
| Deanna M Darvin | Maria Jagolino |
| Lolita Ignacio | Janine Duran |
| Alicia Llave | Aileen F Tanafranca |
| Julita S Tamayo | Agnes O Cancino-Pantaleon |
| Marilyn N Vidad | Nemcy C Duran |
| Buenafe Battad | Sienna Aubrey dela Serna |
| Bin Mildred Bukalan | Delicia Palisoc |
| Remedios S Racho | Imelda Tolentino |
| Immaculata Genabe | Jeniffer Troccoli |
| James Millena | Agnes Unciano |
| Donna Vinluan | Joyzelle Abonado |
| Cecile Calica | Marie Ortaliz |
| Ted Calica | Flordelita Guillermo |
| Maria Portia de los Reyes | Ruth Ginsberg |
| Anna Liza Alix | Ruth Ginsberg |
| Adrian Artista | Cynthia Baylosis |
| Marianne Acosta | Samantha Dacasin |
| Michael Cruz | |

Welcome to our new members!

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP AWARD



Marilyn Bookbinder, RN, PhD, FPCN, is the Director of Nursing and Quality in the Department of Pain Medicine and Palliative Care of Beth Israel Medical Center. She is a distinctive nurse leader who has mentored many nurses, some of them were Filipino, that too became leaders in their areas of clinical and/ or community practice.

When I joined the Department of Pain Medicine and Palliative Care (DPMPC) practice, I was delighted to know that I will be working with Dr. Bookbinder, who is as well recognized in her research leadership and quality management expertise.

Dr. Bookbinder has positively influenced me in many areas of my professional career including my involvement with the Philippine Nurses Association. She has professionally supported the many activities of PNA-NY held at Beth Israel Medical Center and in the community. She has volunteered to mentor any Filipino nurse who is interested to work in their doctoral degree or does any research work and likewise offered to lecture in topics of evidenced-based practice through quality improvement and end-of-life care.

In her various professional roles, as nurse leader, mentor, preceptor, educator, and supporter, Dr. Bookbinder has consistently maintained her perfect demeanor and always willing to extend her utmost involvement to promote the mission and vision of PNA-NY.

It is indeed a noble gesture that we bestow to Dr. Marilyn Bookbinder the Distinguished Honorary Member Award, given this day, the 25th of September, two thousand and ten at the Hilton New York, New York, New York.

by Susan Gador
PNA-NY President, 2010-2012

Whereas, **Cynthia Caroselli, PhD, RN** has demonstrated her utmost commitment and dedication and service in promoting the nursing profession and professional advancement of nurses as the Associate Director and Chief Nurse Executive at the Veterans Affairs New York Harbor Healthcare System.

Whereas, as a nurse leader, she champions diversity through her active involvement and continuous support of the various initiatives of the Philippine Nurses Association of New York, Inc. from 2008 to 2010.

Whereas, she has an excellent way of welcoming the PNA-NY Inc. attendees on May 13, 2010- International Year of the Nurse Centennial Celebration of Florence Nightingale's death anniversary held at the Veterans Affairs New York Healthcare Harbor System.

Whereas, she has consistently supported and advocated for the Filipino-American nurses' professional and career advancement throughout her professional nursing journey in different campuses at the Veterans Affairs New York Healthcare Harbor System.

Whereas, her exemplary leadership demonstrates her commitment to higher education as faculty at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Be it resolved that, Cynthia Caroselli, PhD, RN, receive the Distinguished Honorary Member Award from the Philippine Nurses Association of New York, Inc.

Given this day, the 25th of September, two thousand and ten at the New York Hilton Hotels & Towers, New York, New York.

by Leonila Mariazeta
PNA-NY President, 2008-2010

Philippine Nurses Association of New York, Inc.

Summary: Biennial Presidential Report 2008-2010

LEONILA NAVARRO-MARIAZETA, MA, MEd, RN, CCRN, BC

As president of the Philippine Nurses Association of New York, Inc., I selected “Advancing Excellence in Nursing Practice: Education & Research, Technology Competence and Community Activism” as the association’s theme for 2008-2010. The theme is a challenge to members to pursue excellence through dynamic interactions with colleagues and other community organizations. The theme also emphasizes the commitment of PNA New York to embrace new changes in technology, support research and uphold the high standards of practice through continuing education and training. We have reached the end of a very productive 2-year term marked with fulfilled projects aimed to benefit the communities where we live. We have taken many small and big steps to accomplish our projects despite the challenges that came our way.

On behalf of the executive officers, board members advisers and many hardworking PNA New York nurses who worked with me in the last two years, I report to you the accomplishments made for the term 2008-2010

Education Committee Report:

Chair: Veneranda Bacolot

Members: Lolita Compas, Carmen Meliton, May Mayor, Felicidad Valentino, Leony Quinones

We are happy to announce that the NYSNA Council on Continuing Education has approved PNA New York as a continuing education program provider for nurses. We offered the following CEU programs:

Educational Programs Offerings with CEUs

The following continuing educational programs with CEUs were offered:

- December 11, 2008-“New CMS Guidelines for Pressure Ulcer”
- February 12, 2009 –“Women and Lung Cancer”
- May 2, 2009 –“Long Term Care Documentation”
- June 20, 2009 Atlantic City Educational bus trip,” Swine Influenza: What Every Nurse Should Know”
- September 10, 2009- “Archiving of Historical Information”
- October 3, 2009 -“Nursing Documentation in Long Term Care”
- February 11, 2010-“Women and Cardiovascular Disease”
- May 1, 2010-Educational Bus trip to Mohegan Sun –“New York Legislative Update “
- May 13, 2010 “Nurses: Caring Today for a Healthier Tomorrow”

Other Educational Offerings:

CPR / ACLS Program Chair: Lolita Compas

Members: Vernie Bacolot, Martiniana Villa, Leonila Navarro-Mariazeta

In participation with American Heart Association Campaign to increase the number of initial CPR trained individuals, our PNA-NY, Inc. CPR/ACLS team has partnered with other organizations to conduct the following classes:

BLS-HCP/ACLS:

- November 20, 2008 - DVA-NYHHS –New York Campus
- December 6, 2008 - DVA NYHHS –New York Campus
- February 27, 2010 -DVA-NYHHS –New York Campus
- April 10-11, 2010 - DVA-NYHHS-NY Campus Hospital

Heartsaver/AED classes:

- January 27, 28, 2009 - Manhattan Diagnostic Radiology Center-New York
- May 29-30, 2009 - Philippine Consular Office, New York-
- November 22, 2009 - Bayanihan Center in Queens.

Participation in PNAA Conventions:

We participated at all levels of PNAA conventions maintaining linkages with other PNAA chapters and other professional organization.

- October 24, 25, 2008 -Eastern Regional Convention- “Advancing our Future: A Culture of Nursing Excellence”- North Charleston, South Carolina.
- July 15-19, 2009- 30th Annual Convention “The Dream, the Promise Looking through the PRISM -Harbor place Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland
- October 16-18, 2009- 12th Eastern Regional Conference –PRISM...Hyatt Regency Hotel, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- January 7-9, 2010, 7TH PNAA International Convention, “The Intersection of PRISM and Globalization: Uniting Worlds Apart” Waterfront Hotel, Cebu, Philippines
- June 23-27, 2010 31st Annual National Convention, Celebrating the International Year of the Nurse, “Reflection of PRISM “Miami, Florida

Regulatory and Legislative agenda related activities:

(PNA-NY representatives to NYSNA/ NOLF- CDNAA: Clemencia Wong, Cynthia Margalit, Wendelina Tirona, Leonila Navarro-Mariazeta)

We continue to partner with the New York State Nurses Association –Nursing Organization Liaison Forum and the

Constituent District Nurses Association Assembly (NYSNA-NOLF and CDNAA) which participates in legislative and regulatory activities affecting nursing practice. We have 100% attendance in the following meetings held in NYSNA Headquarters in Albany, New York, in 2008: November 11, in 2009: February 10, May 12, September 9, in 2010: May 12.



NYSNA NOLF/CDNAA

Nursing Research

The Philippine Nurses Association of New York collaborates with researchers and other professional organizations to support research projects. On Jan 7-9, 2010 our delegates travelled to Cebu to participate in research poster presentation.

We have plans to collaborate with Kalusugan Coalition for a possible joint project about Fil-Am Health summit on July, 2011 in Washington, DC. Watch for more information in future communication.



*Poster Presentation Appreciation
-Cebu 2010*

Community Activism:

PNA-NY is a community champion in health promotion. We have participated in several health screenings in the Phil Consulate office, church

community centers and provided staffing for the emergency booths during the PIDCI parade. The initiative by PNA members in improving health also resulted in building healthier communities.

January 26, 2009 - Community CPR- Manhattan Diagnostic Radiology

April 5, 2009 - Health Fair Screening with Damayan in Manhattan

April 2009 – Health Fair Screening – Church in Queens, New York

May 29-30, 2009 - Health Fair Screening & Community CPR – Philippine Consular Office

June 7, 2009 - provide staffing to PIDCI parade emergency booth

August 30, 2009 -Health Fair in Collaboration with Philippine New York Jaycees Philippine Consulate Office

November 22, 2009 - Heartsaver/AED classes for Philippine Forum Staff Kabalikat staff- Bayanihan Center in Queens

June 6, 2010 - PIDCI parade-provided staffing for the emergency booth

Other

Community

Activities:

PNA-NY, Inc. held various events like picnics, holiday parties to increase visibility and attract new members and returning members.



PIDCI Parade – June 2010

These activities enliven community and established network of individuals which help us identify community outreach for future projects aimed to make a difference.

December 1, 2008 -Christmas Party – VA Hospital
423rd 23rd Street New York, NY 10010

December 15, 2008 -Simbang Gabi – Philippine Consulate
556 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10036

December 18, 2008 -Simbang Gabi – San Lorenzo Ruiz
Chapel 378 Broome St, NY, NY 10013.

March 5, 2009 - Participant in Symposium on Sentosa 27+++
Case at St. John Law School

March 22, 2009 - Up the Ante- Full support for Sentosa
27++Jing Fong Restaurant, New York

April 4, 2009 - attendance represented by Araceli Mendoza
Grand Marshall PIDCI Ball held at the Manor in Queens

May 6, 2009 - Nurses week Celebration – Hosted by: Cindy
Margalit SUNY Downstate Hospital

June 6, 2009 -PIDCI Parade participants, New York City

June 13, 2009 -attendance in PIDCI Ball, Sheraton, Newark,
New Jersey

June 16, 2009 -attended- Gawad Kalinga Designer Villages
International Architecture Challenge, sponsored by the
Institute of International Education and Phil Consulate general
of the Philippines held at UN Plaza

August 9, 2009 - First Annual Picnic- Liberty State Park, New
Jersey

September 24, 2009 -Special Executive Meeting, By-Laws
Revision Final Draft for approval done

October 24, 2009 - Kalusugan Coalition 5th Anniversary Gala
Sheraton Hotels, Queens, NY

November 18, 2009 - Philippine Nurses Association General
Assembly VA-NYHHS

December 4, 2009 - PNA –NY, Inc. Christmas Party & 80th
Year Anniversary VA Hospital – New York Campus
East 23rd Street New York, New York 10010

December 5, 2009- -Simbang Gabi Sa Cathedral St. Patrick
Cathedral – 6:30 pm Fifth Avenue between 50th and 51st

December 13, 2009 -Christmas Season Hand -Over of Infant
Jesus –2P
NY-Phil. Consulate - 556 Fifth
Ave., NYC

December 14, 2009 -Simbang Gabi as Consul ado in

collaboration With PNA-NJ, PNAA 556 Fifth Avenue, NY, NY –Phil Consulate

December 20, 2009 -Simbang Gabi at the San Lorenzo Ruiz Chapel 378 Broome St., NYC

January 4, 2010-Groundbreaking of the PNAA GK Village in Barangay Piel, Baliwag, Bulacan Philippines and was attended by 21 PNAA members.

January 25, 2010 -Thanksgiving Mass for Rev. Fr. Erno Diaz & Blessing of the Founding Pillars Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz

April 25, 2010 -Sponsored Pandibulan Show Fundraising Event La Ma Ma Theater, New York

May 1, 2010 - Fundraising Event Educational Bus Trip Mohegan Sun, Connecticut

May 13, 2010 -Nurses Week celebration “Nurses Caring Healthier Tomorrow.” & Centennial Celebration of Florence Nightingale Death Anniversary held in 3 Boroughs; Manhattan, Queens and Brooklyn via V-tel, Department of Veterans Affairs NYHHS- New York Campus

August 14, 2010 -Annual Picnic Liberty State Park, New Jersey

September 19, 2010 -Participation San Lorenzo Ruiz Feast Mass St. Patrick’s Cathedral, New York City



Liberty State Park Picnic - 2010

Making a difference through Technology Competence:

We embraced new technology in the last two years by partnering with experts in the field. Thank you to our Newsletter Committee: Chair Clem Wong, Members: Myrna Santos, Pio Pahunon -we published our first newsletter on-line, Vol. IX, Issue 1. I thank Mary Joy Garcia Dia for her contributions to our website.- January 31, 2010 we initiated the use of con call meeting to conserve \$\$\$ instead of face to face meeting.

- May 13, 2010 Nurses Week celebration, with collaborative effort with the Patient Service Education DVA-NYHHS, Black Nurses Association, Panamanian Nurses Association and the College of Staten Island Sigma Theta Tau Chapter, we used V-tel for our educational evening program in celebration of Nurses Week & International Year of the Nurse, honoring the Centennial Death Anniversary of Florence Nightingale.

-We partner with PNAA to do on-line membership renewal.

Engage and transform: Building a stronger future

-The Website Committee is working on our new website format with our webmaster. Our address will stay the same: www.pnanyork.org.

-We collaborates with the PNAA Website Committee in maintaining links to the PNA-NY website



V-tel video conference

Membership Committee Reports:

Chair: Zita Viste Concepcion

Members: Carmen Meliton, Cynthia Margalit, Susan Gador
Total membership as of August, 2010 is 261.

Our Membership Committee has sponsored the approved changes in our by-laws:

- Retired members can chair a committee and hold elective office and can vote.
- Categories of membership in this Association are active, associate, international associate, honorary, student, retired, and lifetime.
- Lifetime Membership (voting members, New York Chapter and National): A professional Filipino-American Nurse who has served as President in the Local Chapter and or National level who has been a member of PNA-NY.
- Membership form was redesigned to reflect changes in membership fees, including student and retired members.
- Policy and procedure re: Honorary membership Qualification was led by our Adviser, Lolita Compas.

Budget & Finance Committee and Ways and Means Report:

Budget & Finance: Chair: Susana Consolacion

Members: Stella Reiss, Mel de Chavez

Way and Means: Chair: Araceli Mendoza

Members: Cynthia Margalit, Ester Suelto

When we took office on September 27, 2008, the stock market went down 778 points the following Monday, the single day loss ever. Many people were concerned if the market will continue to fall in 2010. As a newly installed president my concern was whether we could deliver our projects amid turbulent market conditions when the possibility of diminished financial support appeared eminent. There were 10 pending hospital closures & nurses lay-off.

The good news is we are in the black! PNA-NY is so blessed

that despite the global financial meltdown, its fiscal viability has never been better in its 80 years of existence. Our budget and finance committees worked hand in hand to maintain our financial sustainability. We operated within our means and we worked hard to raise funds to support several projects. Thank you so much to all those who supported even during the most difficult times.

Under the stewardship of Chair Susie Consolacion we:

- 1) Were able to maintain a balanced budget
- 2) Presented monthly disbursement reports during our monthly meetings
- 3) Prepared timely financial reports every after fundraising events
- 4) Filed two of our IRS statement filings on time, saving \$\$\$ on extension costs
- 5) Reduced cost of IRS statement filing fees by at least \$2000.00 for fiscal years 2008 and 2009 by networking with an account/volunteer.
- 6) Filed our 501 C3 requirement on time as required by New York State Bureau of Charities



Mohegan Sun fundraiser

Majority of the association income came from our membership dues and biennial awards gala. I am proud to say that we have

done additional fundraising activities for the last two years and have contributed generously to many PNAA projects.

Fundraising Activities 2008-2010:

I sincerely thank our own: Lolit Compas, Vernie Bacolot, May Mayor, Carmen Meliton, Felicidad Valentino, Rey Rivera & Marti Villa for sharing their expertise as speakers in our respective educational/ fundraising events. I also extend my appreciation to Potri Ranka Manis the producer of Pandibulan for her continued support to PNA-NY, Inc.

September 27, 2008 - Biennial Induction Ball

November 20, 2008 - CPR/ACLS classes

December 6, 2008 - CPR/ACLS Classes

January 26, 2009 - CPR/ ACLS Classes

May 2, 2009 - Half Day Educational Program -“Nursing Documentation in Long Term Care”

June 20, 2009 - Atlantic City Educational Bus Trip

September 26, 2009 - CPR/ACLS classes

October 3, 2009 - Half day Educational Program -“Nursing Documentation in Long Term Care”

April 25, 2010 - Sponsored Pandibulan Show/ Fundraising

Event La Ma Ma Theater, New York

May 1, 2010 - Educational Bus Mohegan Sun, Connecticut

To date, our induction ball on September 27, 2008 was the most attended in the history of PNA-NY, Inc. with more than 300 attendees.



PNA-NY, Inc. has generously contributed to the following:

- 1) Sentosa Nurses Legal Fund- October 2008
- 2) Gawad Kalinga House – Fully paid PNA-NY House
- 3) Typhoon Ondoy Victims
- 4) TH Legal Fund
- 5) Gold Donor – 7th International Convention in Cebu
- 6) 2010-5K Run Project in Miami— Thermometer third place winner

So far these donations were an all-time high in the history of PNA-NY, Inc.

By-Laws and Policy Committee:

Chair: Leonila Navarro-Mariazeta/ Davy Diongson

Members: Susan Gador, Cindy Margalit, Nida Lacdao

PNA-NY, Inc. has reviewed and revised its by-Laws on September 24, 2009.

The changes were ratified by the general membership on November 18, 2009.

A current copy can be downloaded from our website: www.pnanyork.org.

I also take this opportunity to commend and thank the advisers, officers, and members of the board of directors, general membership and our friends for their tireless volunteerism, commitment and the generous contribution of their resources, talent, and time to make this possible. Robert Kennedy once said “We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives”

Engage and transform: Building a stronger future

PNA-NY Builds a House in the PNAA Gawad Kalinga Village

BY CLEMENCIA S. WONG, RN, MEd

The Philippine Nurses Association of NY (PNA-NY) was one of the first supporters of the Philippine Nurses Association of America's (PNAA) initiative to build 30 Gawad Kalinga (GK) houses for the poor. It was introduced at the South Padre Island National Convention in July 2008. By the end of 2009, the PNAA GK committee has received the approval of the Executive Board to name this the PNAA GK Village, selected the site in collaboration with the Philippine GK and raised enough funds to build twenty three houses at \$2,300 each from 3 individuals and 11 chapters. On January 4, 2010, 21 PNAA members, two of whom were from New York, Leonie Mariazeta and Myrna Santos, attended the groundbreaking ceremonies in Barangay Piel, Baliwag, Bulacan, Philippines. To date the first ten houses have been completed and the building of the second phase has begun.

What is Gawad Kalinga?

Gawad Kalinga translated in English means "to give care" It is a non-sectarian, multi-sectoral, non-partisan, and non-discriminatory organization which has its beginnings on December 26, 1995, as a simple but daring initiative by Couples For Christ (CFC). Its vision "is building a nation empowered by people with faith and patriotism; a nation made up of caring and sharing communities, dedicated to eradicate poverty and restore human dignity"

The mission of GK is to end poverty for 5 million families by 2024. It is based on the belief that poverty robs a person of his dignity and deprives him of hope, beauty and dreams. It is a mission of social renewal: to uplift the quality of life of the poor by first giving them back their humanity and to assist them to develop new habits that promote beauty, cleanliness, good order in their homes and surroundings and to encourage them to make positive contributions in the rebuilding of their communities.

GK Programs

GK has an integrated, holistic and sustainable approach to achieve its goals. Its name has become synonymous for building houses, but it is more than that. It is building lives and communities that have a school, a health clinic, a chapel, a town hall, and a playground, whenever possible. Its program consists of the following:

- **INFRASTRUCTURE** – It used to be called TATAG which means "to build" decent homes they can call their own. These homes are not given to them for free. For those who can afford, GK assists them in getting mortgages. For those who have no money, they pay with "sweat equity" This means helping build other homes, working as gardeners, sweepers, etc... to keep their communities beautiful. These homes are painted with bright colors called "color of hope" and described as "bahay na makukulay" (colorful homes)
- **CHILD AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT** – GK has programs



Before and after

that addresses the needs of the different age groups such as:

- SIBOL "to grow" (pre-school, 3-6 yrs)
- SAGIP "to save a life" (7-13 yrs)
- SIGA "to light" (13 yrs and above)
- **HEALTH** – GK believes that good health is a right of every individual. It has programs to address the needs of its communities by building health clinics at the sites staffed by volunteer health care providers (nurses, doctors, etc...) both locally and from abroad. It also trains Health Care Volunteers from among its residents.
- **LIVELIHOOD** –Gawad Kabuhayan ("give livelihood"). GK conducts job fairs for those who have skills, assists them in starting cottage industries, manage their own farms (Bayan-Anihan –"community harvest) from planting to marketing their produce.
- **COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT** - A GK community is composed of about 60-100 families residing in a contiguous area. The critical success factor is the organization and empowerment of the Kapitbahayan Neighborhood Association, where the strong values formation is translated into concrete guidelines for community living, agreed upon and lived out by every member.

Engage and transform: Building a stronger future

A GK community is not complete without a strong community of caretakers, a team of volunteers committed to shepherd the beneficiary community in their struggle to rebuild their lives. The caretaker team provides the backbone for the work of GK through their sustained presence in the community and implementation of the GK programs.

The task of nation building based on a culture of sharing transforms not only the poor communities, but the whole society as a whole. GK mobilizes partners from the government, socio-civic groups, and churches of different faiths, media, corporations, academe and others to provide volunteer services for the various programs. It gives individuals and groups opportunities to live out the spirit

of bayanihan (being a hero to one another), to share their gifts and blessings, great and small to the less fortunate.

The members of this chapter and of PNAA as a whole should be proud to be part of the GK movement. For many volunteers and some paid staff, GK is a cause and /or a calling.

The next time you go home to the Philippines, make sure you visit the PNAA GK Village in Bulacan, to see for yourself how the lives of people who have “lost their capacity to dream” according to Tony Meloto, founder of GK, has changed. And I’m sure, that when you do, you’ll see all around you the power of hope.

Foreign Nurses In A Tight Spot continued from page 2

These nurses cannot lawfully remain in the U.S. and the employment authorization granted to them when they filed their adjustment applications is no longer valid.

There are those who have passed their licensure exams and have found employers willing to sponsor them for I-140 petition. Their I-140 approval will register them on the waiting list but once their nonimmigrant visa status expires, their status becomes unlawful.

Then, there are those who have just arrived on a nonimmigrant visa, usually B-2, that is still valid. They may change to another nonimmigrant visa status such as F-1 student which is valid for the duration of their studies. If they have managerial experience and an employer petitions them for an upper level Nurse Manager position under the H-1B program, they may be able to stay here for up to six (6) years, or longer if they have an approved I-140 petition and a visa number is not available.

Foreign nurses who have overstayed their temporary visa status for six months could invoke Section 245 (k) of the Immigration and Nationality Act if visa numbers are available. This provision allows them to apply for adjustment of status within 180 days from the time their authorized stay expired provided they have not otherwise violated the conditions of their stay.

Unfortunately for those who have overstayed their temporary visas, if they leave the U.S. because they cannot file their adjustment of status application, the 3-year/ 10-year bar will kick in and they can kiss their dreams of getting a job in the U.S. goodbye.

Under immigration laws, those who have overstayed their temporary visa for over six months but less than a year will be barred from reentering the U.S. for three years, while those who have overstayed for more than a year will be barred from reentering for ten years.

No one can determine when exactly nurses will have to wait for visa numbers. The formula for allocation of visa

numbers is rather complex. We can only make an estimate. Nurses fall under the employment-based 3rd preference category but this category also includes other professionals and skilled workers. They are allotted 28.6% of the 140,000 annual worldwide quota for all employment-based preferences. The latest figure (September 2009) on the number of waiting list registrants under the EB-3 was 254,679. This figure reflected the number of beneficiaries abroad as well as those who were applying for adjustment of status in the U.S.

There is also a per country limit of 7% of the 140,000 visa numbers. The Philippine yearly allotment is increased if other countries do not use up their numbers. There were 56,896 Filipinos waiting for EB-3 visa numbers as of September 2009. A large number on the waiting list are nurses and their dependents.

The Philippine EB3 category is allotted 2,800 visas per year. The April 2010 visa bulletin shows processing of priority dates before February 1, 2003.

It is still hard to say at this point when Congress will get around to passing the immigration reform law that would ease the visa backlog. The Nursing Relief Act that has been introduced every year in the last several years and which would create a separate nonimmigrant visa category for RNs engaged in temporary work has not garnered enough legislative support. And the comprehensive immigration reform bill that would exempt nurses from the immigrant visa quota is still bottled up in the Judiciary committee.

As with most things, timing is crucial. Foreign RNs are well advised to consult an immigration attorney to discuss their options and hopefully, provide answers to the dilemma created by the visa retrogression.

(For more information, you may log on to Reuben Seguritan’s website at HYPERLINK “<http://www.seguritan.com>” www.seguritan.com or call (212) 695-5281).

AHA Update: Hands-Only CPR

BY VERNIE BACOLOT, MS, RN-BC

In order to increase bystander CPR, the American Heart Association (AHA) has made an update to the 2005 American Heart Association Guidelines for CPR and ECC recommending Hands-Only CPR for an adult who suddenly collapses outside the hospital setting.

Hands-Only CPR is simply CPR without mouth-to-mouth breathing. It is a two-step technique that involves calling 9-1-1 and pushing hard and fast in the center of the chest until professional help arrives. This method of CPR was recommended by the AHA for bystanders untrained in standard CPR and for situations when the rescuer is unable or unwilling to provide mouth-to-mouth ventilations. It emphasizes the importance of “high-quality” chest compressions — deep compressions that allow for full chest recoil, at a rate of about 100 per minute — with minimal interruptions.

Who should receive Hands-Only CPR?

The AHA recommends Hands-Only CPR for use on teens or adults (anyone over the age of 8) whom a bystander witness suddenly collapse. This increases the chance of a bystander taking action in a cardiac emergency. The AHA still recommends conventional CPR (CPR with a combination of breaths and compressions) for:

- All infants (up to age 1)
- Children (up to age 8)
- Adult victims who are found already unconscious and not breathing normally
- Any victims of drowning, drug overdose or collapse due to breathing problems.

The AHA still recommends taking a CPR course to practice and learn the skills of CPR, including giving high-quality chest compressions. Studies have supported that people who have had CPR training are more likely to give high-quality chest compressions and are more confident about their skills than those who have not been trained (or have not trained in the last 5 years). Most importantly, conventional CPR training will provide training for additional skills needed to care for a wide range of cardiovascular- and respiratory-related medical emergencies, especially for infants and children.



Gador Assumes Presidency of PNA-NY, Inc. for 2010-2012

Susan Annabelle D. Gador, elected President of the Philippine Nurses Association of New York, Inc. for 2010-2012 led the newly elected Executive Board in its biennial induction and awards gala night held on September 25, 2010 at the Hilton Hotel in New York City. Ms. Gador has chosen the theme “Engage and Transform: Building a Stronger Future”, a theme which is strategically aligned with that of the Philippine Nurses of America (PNAA) under the leadership of Dr. Reynaldo Rivera. In her inaugural speech, she called on the Filipino nurses in New York “to be more involved and motivate yourself to accept the challenges, contribute your great ideas and together we can build a better tomorrow.”

Leonila Navarro-Mariazeta, the outgoing President, delivered the welcome address and the 2008-2010 presidential report. She also commended and gave thanks to the advisers, officers, members of the board of directors, general membership and friends of PNA-NY, Inc. for their tireless support and volunteerism. She ended with the presentation of awards. President-elect, Vernie Bacolot for the term 2012-



Ms. Marilyn Bookbinder and Ms. Susan Gador

Engage and transform: Building a stronger future



L. Mariazeta greets guests



Philippine Consul Cecilia Rebong applauds PNA-NY

2014 ended the celebration with her closing remarks. The night was graced by many notable nurses including a strong support from other PNAA chapters from New England, New Jersey, Maryland and as far away as Texas.

Dr. Marilyn Bookbinder was the guest speaker who mainly spoke of the virtues of Ms. Gador as a member of the Department of Pain Medicine and Palliative Care at Beth Israel Medical Center. Dr. Rivera, PNAA president, inducted the officers and Board of Directors. Dr. Cynthia Caroselli from the Veterans Affairs of the New York Harbor Health Care System and Dr. Marilyn Bookbinder received honorary memberships. Dr. Joyce Fitzpatrick who travelled from Cleveland was also in the audience. Consul General Cecille Rebong, commended the Filipino nurses for the honor they bring to the Philippines and its people.

The gala was attended by the many PNA-NY members, families, friends and their supporters without which the biennial affair would not have been possible. It was marked with energy, enthusiasm and excitement, a good start as they engage and transform their way to building a stronger future.

2010 PNA-NY PRESIDENTIAL SERVICE AWARDEES



Veneranda Bacolot, MS, RN-BC
PRESIDENTIAL SERVICE AWARD

PNA-NY continues its tradition in recognizing individuals who have contributed to the growth of PNA-NY Inc. in a variety of capacities through sustained commitment to active participation and inspires others to make volunteering a central part of their lives. The Presidential

Service

Achievement Award is for extended services to the organization at large over a number of years.

Vernie Bacolot has demonstrated unwavering commitment and dedication to achieving the mission and goals of the association as the Recording Secretary and Chair of the PNA-NY Education Committee, 2008-2010. As Recording Secretary, she diligently kept track of the Board meeting minutes, timely distribution of same, and other required flyers and memos. She has started electronic recordkeeping of the minutes and CEU Provider documentation files.

Vernie's other contribution is her lead role as Chair of the PNA-NY Education Committee. With her leadership, the committee was able to provide 27.65 contact hours for the past two years. She has also successfully renewed the PNA-NY CE provider status this past August.

As a member of PNA-NY, Inc since 1992, Vernie has demonstrated longevity and service. Her involvement and support with the association's activities throughout the years

have been consistent.

She is active in PNAA regional and national levels. She was a member of the PNAA Education Committee, Eastern Region 2008-2010 and is the current Recording Secretary of PNAA for 2010-2012.



Ester Taclob-Suelto, BSN, RN-BC
LIAISON COORDINATOR OF THE YEAR

The Liaison Coordinator Program as part of the Philippine Nurses Association of New York, Inc. (PNA-NY) membership recruitment and retention strategy was established on December 4, 2007. The volunteer is responsible for recruitment and retention, as well as communication of PNA-NY activities to his/her organization. One of the incentives of this initiative is to recognize individuals who fulfilled the role and responsibility of being a liaison coordinator and exceeded expectations in promoting the mission and vision of PNA-NY, Incorporated.

It takes a special person to convince colleagues to join, but it takes commitment, dedication and patience to encourage them to renew. These attributes make Ester, the organization's champion recruiter, not only in 2008-2010 but also in the past years. She is responsible for recruiting at least 30% of our present membership, mostly from the VA New York Healthcare Harbor System, Manhattan campus, where she works as a supervisor,

and also from other acute care facilities. Moreover, she has been instrumental in arranging several activities at her place of work, thus keeping them engaged and involved in PNA-NY.

Ester Taclob Suelto has been an active member of the Philippine Nurses Association of New York since 1988. She has served in different capacities, as a three term treasurer from 1998-2004 and Vice-President in 2004-2006. Ester will be best remembered as the best Treasurer in recent memory. She kept the organization's financial records in order and had consistently filed the IRS Tax Statement on time.



Clemencia S. Wong, RNC, M.Ed
**PRESIDENTIAL AWARD:
EXECUTIVE BOARD OF
DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR**

The Executive Board of Director of the Year Award recognizes and honors a board of director who has demonstrated outstanding service to PNA-NY, Inc on a local, regional or national level, without regard to personal profit or gain.

The awardee has given tirelessly of her/his time and expertise and exemplifies the ideal of PNA-NY's vision – Compassion, Courage, Creativity, and Commitment –the living legacy of the Filipino-American Nurse. He/She has served PNA-NY, Inc with

great distinction and the President gratefully acknowledges the contributions of this valuable volunteer.

It is with pride and honor to present this award to Clemencia Wong, a valuable member of the Executive Board since she joined it in 2004. Clem has been the Editor-in-Chief of the PNA-NY newsletter for the last six years and Associate Editor of the PNAA newsletter, 2006-2008. She has shared her passion for writing enthusiastically when asked by her colleagues to edit presidential messages, speeches, and other documents for the organization.

Clem has been the chairman of the Human Rights Committee since 2006 and co-chair of the PNAA Human Rights committee, 2008-2010. Her experience as the University of the Philippines College of Nursing (UPCN) representative to the UP Student Council and inspiring examples of courage of the formidable Dean Julita V. Sotejo, served her well in her fight for the rights of the Filipino and non-Filipino nurses alike as a New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) union representative. She is being recognized most especially with her continued support to the Sentosa 27++ on their fight against exploitation and unfair labor practice.

In addition to her commitment and dedication to this organization, she is fiercely loyal to the presidents of PNA-NY under whom she has served. She has supported their initiatives and programs and has represented them well in meetings with other organizations.

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