

# PNA New York Election

*<Correction: Liezel T. Vince Cruz is a candidate for Corresponding Secretary. She had been incorrectly listed as a candidate for Board Member. 2/18/2020 >*

The following is a list of candidates in alphabetical order by surname for the PNA New York Board 2020-2022:

## **President**

1. Lorelei Belardo
2. Janet Cuaycong
3. Priscilla Sagar

## **Vice President**

1. Laarni Florencio

## **Corresponding Secretary**

1. Liezel T. Vince Cruz

## **Recording Secretary**

No Applicant

## **Treasurer Elect**

No Applicant

## **Auditor**

1. Jona V. Caparas

## **Board Member**

1. Aubrey May B. Agcon
2. Nenita A. Alfonso
3. Ellen J. Arigorat
4. Adrian C. Artista
5. Femarie C. Bedona
6. Davy G. Diongson
7. Nora Ruth Eusebio
8. Elizabeth M. Nacional-Rivera
9. Maia Santarina



## President Elect

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### 1. Lorelei Belardo, MSN, RN

New York-Presbyterian Lawrence Hospital



**Education:** Concordia College, 1980, BSN; Pace University, NY, 2000, MSN

**Brief Profile:** Over the past decade, I have been VP, Chair of the Community Outreach and the Human Rights committees, and Member of the Ways and Means and the Education committees (2016-18), Corresponding Secretary, Member IT, and Newsletter Editor (2014-2016), Recording Secretary and Chair of Ways and Means (2012-2014), and BOD for Member Policies and Procedures (2010-2012). I am currently Chair of Community Outreach.

I've been an active member since 2010, with leadership roles in programming and participation since 2016. In 2019, I was All of Us Research Coordinator, PCOR Facilitator, and S386 Advocate/Lobbying, and was awarded PACEC Recognition for Community Outreach.

I've represented PNA-NY at conferences and events: the Eastern Region PNAA Conference (2016, 2017, and 2019), PNA/PNAA-sponsored Global Summit in Manila (2016, 2018), Simbang Gabi at the Consulate (2016-2019), and the OFW Meeting at the Consulate (2019), among others.

I was Co-Planner for PNA-NY's Annual Picnic (2019, 2018, 2016) and the Christmas Party (2019, 2017), and frequently participate in community initiatives, like PIDC Parade and First Aid Booth (2016-2018), PACEC Health Fair (2017), the Feeding Program in Papanga with PNA-NY Cabinet (2018), and providing Hands Only CPR Training for Faculty at Cavite Institute (2016) and at the Philippine Consulate (2018).

### **Brief Position Statement:**

I am running for President-Elect to promote our shared values, to:

**CONNECT.** Our organization is its membership—I will promote PNA-NY statewide. With an EB balancing acute and long-term care, we will grow together.

**INSPIRE.** New nurses are healthcare's future, and mentorship empowers them today. I will foster resources, for every member, to succeed in their profession.

**DO.** PNA-NY is the intersection of our communities. Let's give back, focusing on organizational collaborations and involvement for wide-reaching work.

**LEARN.** As our profession evolves, so should we. I am dedicated to educational offerings in acute and long-term care.

Salamat po.

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## 2. Janet R. Cuaycong, MS, BSN, RN-BC, CRRN

Mount Sinai West



**Education:** University of St. La Salle , Bacolod City Philippines, 1985, Bachelor of Science in Nursing; Long Island University, New York, 2002, Master of Science; New York University, New York, 2005, Risk Management Certificate; New York University, New York, 2015 Nursing Home Administration

### **Brief Profile:**

2015- Present: Nurse Manager, Mount Sinai West

2008-2015: Director of Nursing, Gouverneur Nursing Facility; Involved in the 245 million dollar modernization project. Assist with the strategic planning and application of the CON to increased bed capacity from 210 to 295 beds.

2006-2008 Associate Director of Nursing, Ambulatory Care, Bellevue Hospital Center; Held multiple positions as the Nurse Educator, QM and Associate DON

2006-2008 Director of Quality Management and MDS, Gouverneur Healthcare Services

1997-2012 Senior Nurse Clinician, NYU Langone Medical Center

Recipient of numerous leadership awards

2017 Nurse Manager of the Year, MSW

2016 Respect, Commitment, MSW

2014 Patient Safety Champion, NYCHHC

2013-2014 Article 28 Deficiency Survey

2009 Geriatric Scholar, Hardford Institute of Nursing/NYCHHC- Corporate Nursing

2009 Excellence in Nursing Care of Older Adults Award Recipient, NYCHHC

2009 Patient Safety Champion, NYCHHC

PNANY, Executive Board of Director 2018 and PNANY Excellence in Nursing Administration, 2018

PNANY, MVP 2016

2014-2016 PNANY, Member, Board of Directors

2016-2018 PNANY, Treasurer -elect

Chair, Membership

Maintained membership records, updated and current, rejuvenated the membership growth utilizing strategic action plans, resulting to increase membership, renewals, recruitment and retention.

Chair, Education and Staff Development

Numerous education programs were conducted and presented in different facilities.

2018-2020 PNANY, Treasurer

### **Brief Position Statement:**

Committed to excellence and passion to serve the organization. Demonstrated outstanding work as Treasurer-elect, Treasurer, Chairpersons of both Membership and Education and Committee for two years. Numerous education programs were conducted and presented in different facilities. Lectured in local and international venues re: Balik-Turo Initiative. Maintained membership records, updated and current. Worked tenaciously with PNA National Membership Chair compliance with online registration for PNANY members.

My platforms include the following:

- Building healthier communities through community education and outreach
- Promote membership engagement, professional development and self-care
- Fostering interprofessional collaboration and partnership with various organization to meet organizational goals, mission and vision.

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**3. Priscilla L. Sagar, EdD, RN, ACNS-BC, CTN-A, FAAN**  
Mount Sinai Mary College



**Education:** The Philippine Women’s University Manila, Philippines, 1977, Bachelor of Science in Nursing; Pace University, Pleasantville, NY, 1986, Master of Science in Adult Nursing, Minor in Education; Teachers College, Columbia University, 2000, Doctor of Education in Nursing, Professorial Role

**Brief Profile:** I am currently Professor Emerita of Nursing at Mount Saint Mary College (MSMC), Newburgh New York. At MSMC, I served as chair of the School of Nursing for four years. I am a longtime PNA-NY, Inc. member, serving as its board member for two terms: 2016-2018 and 2018-2020. Presently, I am editor of The Connection and Chair of Publicity and Newsletter committee. I also served as co-editor of the Newsletter from 2016-2018. I am at present a co-academic research collaborator in Filipino –American patient centered outcome research (PCOR) participated in by PNA-NY. Since 2018, I have been a member of the PNAA Journal of Nursing Practice Applications and Reviews of Research.

After Typhoon Haiyan, I mobilized students and faculty at MSMC through and raised more than \$1000.00 from sales of t-shirts and donation for the PNAAF. My previous leadership positions include president of Northeast Chapter of Transcultural Nursing Society (TCNS) and Director of its Transcultural Scholars Group. I was the NE TCNS President when we sponsored the International TCNS conference in New York City in 2005. I also served as faculty advisor and president of Mu Epsilon chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing at MSMC.

**Brief Position Statement:** I will continue to bring to PNA-NY, Inc. an extensive experience in leadership and mentoring. I am a proficient leader at networking, partnerships, and bridging connections. To be a good leader, I believe in being an effective follower and a willing team player. I am a proponent of democratic leadership, discussing diverging views, and arriving at consensus for what is best for the organization. I support the mission, visions, and objectives of PNA-NY. I wanted to be of more service to fellow Filipino nurses. Together, we will continue our quest for excellence in nursing practice, education, administration, and research.

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**Vice-President**

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**1. Laarni Florencio, MSN, RN, CNL**

New York-Presbyterian



**Education:** Far Eastern University Institute of Nursing (Philippines), April 1990, BSN; University of Maryland School of Nursing/May 2013, Post-graduate Certificate Degree Evidence-Based Practice; Florida Atlantic University, 2007, Master's Degree in Nursing Clinical Nurse Leader; Case Western Reserve University, Started May 2018, Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) Student

**Brief Profile:** I'm the Program Director for Continuing Education at NYP. I oversee the continuing education events for all NYP facilities and I collaborate with the Medical Colleges in Cornell and Columbia for interprofessional development courses. I earned my MSN from Florida Atlantic University, a post graduate certificate degree in Evidence Based Practice from University of Maryland School of Nursing and is currently pursuing my Doctoral Degree in Nursing from Case Western University. I am a certified Clinical Nurse Leader, Credentialing Specialist through ICE and assumed various leadership and nursing roles. Prior to my role at NYP, I was the Product Management Manager for ANCC. I am a member of the ANA, ANPD, my Nursing Alumni Association and is serving as an Executive Board Member for the PNA-NY. I was recently recognized with the following awards: 2019 Most Outstanding Foreign Worker in Nursing given by Team United Maharlika Foundation, Inc. (September 2019), 2019 CVENT EXCELLENCE AWARDS - ONSITE ORCHESTRATOR Top 3 Finalist, Nursing Excellence Award in Nursing Education (August 10, 2018) given by the FEU-IN Alumni Association in New York City and Excellence in Nursing Profession Award (December 16, 2017) given by the Garden State Filipino-American Association in New Jersey.

**Brief Position Statement:** As Vice President, I aim to:

- Inspire and collaborate with others to positively promote the Filipino nurse and recognize our heritage as we collectively impact the practice of nursing.
- Advocate for best practice improvements in our organization and seek engagement and commitment among our members.
- Create better programs that allow our members to professionally develop themselves as effective community leaders and role models.
- Strive for a collaborative effort on how we can propel our organization for sustainable progress.
- Draw on our cultural knowledge so it may result in measurable gains for our organization.

**Corresponding Secretary**

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**1. Liezel T. Vince Cruz, MSN, RN**

Kings Harbor Multi-Care Center



**Education:** University of Santo Tomas, 1997, BSN; Stony Brook University of New York, 2006, Adult Health

**Brief Profile:** I have immigrated to the US from 1999. I have worked at Kings Harbor Multi-Care Center from then to present and held various position in the facility. I am an ANP-BC and WCC. I currently am the Skin Care Coordinator for the facility. I have also assumed the following position at other facilities: Assistant Director of Nursing, Nurse Consultant for Wound Care, MDS Assessor and a Nurse Practitioner in collaboration with a Physician. I have been a member of PNA-NY since 2014. I have held the position of Recording Secretary for PNA-NY from 2016 till present time.

**Brief Position Statement:** I have been an active member of PNA-NY and have served as the organizations' Recording Secretary since 2014. Through the years, I have been influenced by the minds of the past PNA-NY Presidents and officers. I have found the passion to help my fellow Filipino nurses. I realized that I can do more to give back to the community. I am running again for office as I would like to keep this passion burning and at the same time try to pass it on to my fellow Filipino nurses.

**Treasurer Elect: No Applicant**

### **Auditor**

#### **1. Jona V. Caparas, MSN, RN, VA-BC**



**Education:** Central Luzon Doctors' Hospital Education Inst., BSN; Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus, MSN; Case Western University- DNP in progress

**Brief Profile:** Jona is the founder and President of the Association for Vascular Access New York, Metro Network (AVANY) and current CEO/ VP of Clinical Operation of Epicc Vascular New York, The Chair of the Education Committee (2019-2020) and Board of Director of PNA-NY Inc (2017-2020). Jona has over 30 years of nursing experience, 25 of these are on infusion therapy in various setting, as well as radiology, oncology/bone marrow transplants, orthopedics and pediatrics. She received her Master's Degree in Nursing-Executive Leadership and Health Care Management at Long Island University and her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing at Central Luzon Doctors' Hospital- Educ. Inst., Philippines, earning both the Highest in Academic and Florence Nightingale Awards. She is also Vascular Access Consultant and a national lecturer on vascular access and teaches vascular access insertion. Her research on Vancomycin and midline, changed the Infusion Standards of Practice 2016 removing PH as an indication for Central Line Placement. She also implemented the first Rapid Response Team in Long Term Care Facility. She is a member of HAI committees and recommends evidence - base practice on preventing and reducing Infections and facilitates continuing education and point prevalence. She is an active member of Infusion Nursing Society, AVA, NYSNA.

**Brief Position Statement:** I have been a proud member of PNA- NY and enjoyed being part of the leadership and committees. I would like to continue to contribute to the wellbeing of the Filipino nurses and the communities through the PNA-NY efforts and dedication to the betterment of the profession and the people we served, locally and globally. It is crucial that our organization will thrive financially as we plan our activities while upholding our mission and vision. Being in leadership roles honed my skills in balancing finances while providing the best services, therefore I am running for the position of Auditor.

**Board Member:**

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**1. Aubrey May B. Agcon, BSN, RN, PCCN-K**

Sapphire Center for Rehab and Nursing of Central Queens



**Education:** Central Philippine University, Philippines, 2008, BSN; Aspen University, Colorado, USA (Expected 2021) - Master of Science in Nursing with a specialization in Informatics

**Brief Profile:** I have a little over a decade of experience in the nursing profession, which started in 2009. I have a substantial amount of experience in skilled nursing care, critical and progressive care, and currently, with trauma performance improvement. I have been with Sapphire Center for Rehab and Nursing of Central Queens for almost seven years as a staff nurse and now per diem Staff Development Coordinator. On that note, I have worked in NYCH+H/Elmhurst, for nearly a decade now as my acute care experience, and I am currently a head nurse as a Trauma Performance Improvement Coordinator for the Trauma Program, under the emergency department. I managed to transform our program's Performance Improvement (PI) process using my knowledge of healthcare informatics, from manual data entry to paperless PI process. I strive to be dynamic, as I absorb new knowledge and improve my skills and abilities to ultimately reach my professional goal, which is to make a difference in improving patient and staff experience in our current healthcare continuum.

**Brief Position Statement:** I am keen and passionate about performance and quality of care for patients, which is why I remain committed and excited about contributing to the progression of the nursing profession, promoting patient safety, and helping to improve our collective knowledge and nursing skills. Once elected as PNA-NY Board Member, I will hone in and focus my endeavor on enhancing the engagement of the ever-growing Filipino Nurses in our community. Furthermore, I aim to bridge the gap between the young and the experienced nurses, to unite the diverse array of knowledge and specialties, focusing in a better future.

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**2. Nenita A. Alfonso, MSN, RN**

The Allure Group



**Education:** Centro Escolar University, 1996, BSN; Long Island University, 2008, MSN

**Brief Profile:** Currently working with The Allure Group positions held DNS and Director of Regulatory Compliance. PNA NY Board Member from 2018-2020.

**Brief Position Statement:** I always wanted to have SNF and LTC have a voice in the organization and be well represented.

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**3. Ellen J. Arigorat, MS, RN-BC, PCCN**  
New York-Presbyterian



**Education:** Charles E. Gregory School of Nursing, 2008, Diploma in Nursing; Kean University, 2013, BSN; Rory Meyers College of Nursing, New York University, 2018, Masters of Science in Nursing Informatics

**Brief Profile:** Currently a clinical informatics coordinator at New York Presbyterian hospital where I utilize my prior clinical experience to facilitate and advocate clinical efficiency and improvements on various projects. I have more than 10 years of diversified clinical experience, from medical surgical to perioperative care.

Though I am not in an elected position throughout my membership, I continue to be an active member of PNA-NY as a volunteer during community and board events. I continue to advocate for increase membership and the achievements of PNA-NY in the community outreach.

**Brief Position Statement:** Being a member of PNA-NY has opened doors for mentorship and collegiality within the Filipino-American nurses not only in New York but of America. If elected, I will support the mission and vision of the PNA-NY President through increase visibility and engagement of the younger population of Filipino-American nurses.

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**4. Adrian C. Artista, BSN, RN**  
Bronx Care Special Care Center



**Education:** Cebu City Medical Center College of Nursing, 1989, BSN

**Brief Profile:** I am currently employed at Bronx Care Special Care Center as the Director of Utilization Review and Case Management. I have served as Treasurer-Elect of PNANY from 2014-2016, Treasurer of PNANY in 2016-2018, Corresponding Secretary 2018 to present. I have also served as chair or member of the different committees of the organization.

**Brief Position Statement:** I am running for the position of Board of Director of PNANY because I would like to continue to serve the the Filipino nurses and the Filipino community in New York. I believe that my experiences during my term as PNANY Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, the committees that i have chaired or have been a member of; and my experience as a nurse leader can help the organization achieve its goals. It will be an honor if given the opportunity to serve as a Board Member of PNANY for 2020-2022



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**5. Femarie C. Bedona, MSN, RN**  
VA Medical Center, Manhattan



**Education:** Central Phil University, 1980, BSN Hunter College of The City University of New York, 2000, MSN

**Brief Profile:** Work Experiences: Bellevue Hospital Center - CCU Staff Nurse, 1991-2017. Retired. VA Medical Center, Manhattan - SICU Staff Nurse, 1997-2007 MICU Staff Nurse, 2007 to present

PNA NY Chapter Profile: Board Member 2018-2020

**Brief Position Statement:**

For our organization to be strong for the next one hundred years, we need to grow people. My vision is for PNA to be visible in every workplace, be it be a hospital, nursing home, hospice, clinics, school or community centers. I envision our strong partnership with other community organizations. I am bringing in my forty years of experience in different fields of nursing, committing myself to the mission and vision of our organization. With the mindset of “together, we can bring PNA NY to another new heights”, I, Femarie C. Bedona, humbly submit my nomination for Board Member.

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**6. Davy G. Diongson, MPA, BSN, RN**  
Fidelis Care



**Education:** Hunter College CUNY, New York, NY Bachelor of Science, Nursing, 1989 Baruch College, CUNY, New York, NY Master of Public Administration, 1996

**Brief Profile:**

Director, Quality Stars Program Fidelis Care, May 2017 – Present

- Defined the Star Ratings and incentive strategy for the organization
- Identifying, creating, leading, tracking, reporting, and managing all Star Ratings initiatives
- Achieving the Star Ratings and incentive performance goals of the health plan
- Building was relationships with and leading cross-functional teams to drive Star Ratings initiatives and best practices by promoting innovation, strategy development, and implementation excellence
- Facilitating committees and workgroup meetings related to Stars, effectively communicating performance progress, new initiatives needed for higher performance, organizational barriers, and expectations of results Vice President PNA New York, Inc. 2018-2020 Board Member PNA New York, Inc 2014-2016

PUBLISHED ARTICLES / PRESENTATIONS •Project Management and Evaluation, March 2014. Philippine Nurses Association of America Leadership Series Program.

- Polypharmacy in the Elderly Excellence in Long Term Care Educational Program, March 2013. Philippine Nurses Association of New York
- High Risk Medications in the Elderly. Evening Program Fall 2012. Philippine Nurses Association of New York
  - Editor, PNA NY

- Newsletter, Philippine Nurses Association of New York, Inc. 2013 to present
- Editor, E-Balita Newsletter, Philippine Nurses Association of America, Inc. 2010 – 2012
- Editor, The Critical Care Connection, American Association of Critical-Care Nurses, NYC Chapter, 1999 - 2002

**Brief Position Statement:**

I am running for Board Member to continue improving processes and workflows within the association. I bring the following qualities and skills to this position: data-driven results, empathy and accountability. As the current website committee chair, there has been improvement in member communication through monthly publications of e-Balita and utilization of social media.

**Data-driven Results**

My professional experience in quality management emphasizes data-driven results. I apply this same philosophy to improve processes in PNA New York.

**Empathy**

Having an open mind to member feedback is important to understand where opportunities for improvement exist.

**Accountability**

I am accountable for my actions.

**7. Nora Ruth Eusebio, MSN, RN**  
Martine Center for Rehabilitation



**Education:** Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU),Batac, Ilocos Norte, Philippines, 1988, BSN (Cum Laude); Herbert Lehman College, City University of New York( CUNY), Bronx, New York, Year 2002, MSN

**Brief Profile:**

I am currently the Director of Nursing at Martine Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing located in White Plains, Westchester County, New York. This is a 200 bed Skilled Nursing Facility and I am responsible in the daily operations of the nursing department and is in charge of the facility in the absence of the Administrator. Under my leadership in collaboration with other clinical experts since 2019, Martine Center emerged as top 3 consistently among 50 nursing homes in the organization in terms of Reduction in Re-hospitalization. In addition, Martine Center is in the process of implementing a Cardiac Unit Program as one of the many specialties the facility will be offering. I have been an active PNA of New York Board Member since 2018. I partnered with other Board Members in the Ways & Means and Community Outreach Committees. I have played a major role in obtaining sponsors for blood pressure and finger stick checks and other give away items during community outreach events. Moreover, I have also been active in recruiting new PNA of NY members and joyfully procuring major sponsors for raffles as part of fund raising campaigns during PNA of NY events.

**Brief Position Statement:**

As an active member of the PNANY Board of Directors since 2018 and a member since 2017. This challenging position has led to countless, fulfilling experiences and memories shared with other inspired and involved officers, members and advisers of this prestigious nursing organization. The PNANY has been instrumental in many community outreach programs both local, national and international. As an organization, we are very active and focused on the educational and national issues affecting nursing practice. As a Director of Nursing

for many years, and having worked in different nursing leadership roles, I could readily understand the predicaments of our fellow nurses of the challenges they face as they carry out their daily job responsibilities while keeping a fine balance and within sound financial budget. My educational background (MSN and BSN) along with 30 years of progressive work experience in the acute care and skilled nursing facility settings have prepared me to be a successful Director of Nursing and a PNA of NY Board of Director. I envision PNA of New York as an innovative and victorious leader among nursing organizations and to become a strong and tenacious advocate for nursing practice issues at the national level.

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**8. Elizabeth M. Nacional-Rivera, BSN, RN**  
Lincoln Medical Center



**Education:** University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center, 1980, BSN

**Brief Profile:** I started working at Lincoln Medical Center in the South Bronx, NY in 1986. I am currently the Head Nurse of the Pediatric Emergency Room, one of the busiest emergency rooms in the nation. I participated in countless events in our medical center, including the hospital's emergency department community outreach program where the Pediatric ER coordinated with the Bronx Regional Asthma Coalition - one that I personally helped facilitate. Our goal was to reduce the pediatric population with asthma and asthma related ER revisits.

I joined the PNA-NY in 2006 and became a Board of Director in 2010. I have been serving as Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee for two consecutive terms, where I collaborated with other committees to make events to educate other nurses and fundraisers to increase the organization's financial viability. I am also a member of the Community Outreach Committee, where I have participated and collaborated in numerous community outreach programs and health promotion activities with PNA-NY.

**Brief Position Statement:**

I have been a highly motivated member of PNA-NY, Inc. since 2006 and an officer for four terms. I plan to continue to serve as Board Director by:

- Participating with the community outreach committee in fostering various health promotional activities,
- Working with the education committee to create educational programs that transform trends in nursing service, promoting the highest level of safe quality patient care,
- Creating new fundraising ideas that will increase the organization's financial sustainability, and
- Recruiting new members and bringing them into our group with a warm welcome.

BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED!

VOTE FOR ME!

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**9. Maia Santarina, BSN, RN**

Morningside Nursing and Rehabilitation Center



**Education:** Wesleyan University, Philippines 1990 BSN, MSN

**Brief Profile:** I have been practicing my RN profession here in NYC since 2003 specializing in Long Term Care Nursing. My career trajectory started as a charge nurse in one of the nursing homes in Brooklyn wherein I believe my career started and proceeded in joining other corporations to continue my professional growth. I have been a part of long term care facilities that are teaching facilities and mentoring nursing students. I am currently the Director of Nursing Services of Morningside Nursing and Rehabilitation Center since September 2019. I am currently an active member of PNA NY since 2016.

**Brief Position Statement:** My experience in Long Term Care Nursing since 2003 provides me with a strong perspective and insight to promote the organization to the Filipino nurses that works in LTC and be able to bridge that gap. I am avid supporter of reaching out to the younger generation who will be the future nurses and leaders, not only to encourage the younger generation to be active members of the organization as well welcome new insights and ideas to promote or educate what the organization is all about. I know that I will be an asset to promote our goals.