

THE RAPIDS NEWSLETTER

An official publication of the PAGSANJAN CLUB INTERNATIONAL, INC.

January, 2007

Series No. 5

From the Editor's Desk...

Those who have been following each release of the Newsletter must be wondering why there was no November, 2006 issue. It was not an oversight. We deliberately postponed the release of the Newsletter so that we may be able to bring you some of the most significant news items. First was the election of the officers of the club to serve from January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2008. Then there was the biennial reunion to be held in Las Vegas. We wanted to announce the details of this reunion through the Newsletter and at the same time send you all the materials that you will need in order to make your arrangements for the event.

Henceforth, the Newsletter will be released in January and July of each year.

We want this Newsletter to be a medium by which every Pagsanjeno away from home can be updated about our hometown. We welcome any news item or any article that you feel our kababayans should read about.

You may send your news articles to:
Pagsanjan Club Newsletter
C/O Rodel B. Ual
5909 Edgefield Avenue
Lakewood, CA 90713
Email: RodelUal@yahoo.com

VERY IMPORTANT REMINDER

Your \$20.00 annual membership fee per household for 2007 is now due. The fees we collect plus all donations determine how much we can help our town. Be a proud supporter of the only organization outside Pagsanjan dedicated to helping our poor kababayans. Please make your check payable to:

**Pagsanjan Club International, Inc.
c/o Cynthia C. Rivera
6252 Chapman Avenue
Garden Grove, CA 92845**

We are counting on you! Pagsanjan is counting on us!

Outgoing President's Message ...

2006 just went by and with it my tenure as club president. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight our accomplishments these past two years. The most important one is the re-incorporation of our club as Pagsanjan Club International, Inc., thus opening the membership not only to Californians but for all Pagsanjenos around the globe.

We continued to raise funds for our scholarship program which has now become a worthwhile and well known grant in Pagsanjan. We supported the Puericulture Center by providing funds for medicines and medical supplies to ensure that the indigents of our town, especially the children, are able to receive free medical care.

We donated funds to purchase four (4) sets of computers for the Unson Elementary School in Cabanbanan, whose principal, **Mrs. Leonida Ranes Torralba**, was voted Educator of the Year.

These accomplishments would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the Board Members, Officers, Committee Chairpersons, and the active participations of our members. Without them, this club would not be what it is today, one of the few remaining organizations dedicated to provide assistance to our beloved town of Pagsanjan.

As I pass on the leadership to the next president, I ask you to please continue supporting your club by way of your annual membership fees and your active participation in all of its activities.

Lastly, as the chairperson of the next biennial reunion of Pagsanjenos, I would like to extend to you an invitation to join us in Las Vegas on September 14, 15, & 16, 2007. Please watch your mails for more information about this reunion. ●

Marina V. Garcia

**"There is strength in numbers"
"Success comes when everyone does a little bit of something" (Anonymous)**

Incoming President's Message ...

It is indeed an honor having been elected president of your club. Having been involved with the club for many, many years, I know that the challenges ahead are difficult. My predecessors managed the club exemplarily and I will consider myself a failure if I can not keep the club going as well as it has been. I am very confident, however, that with the hardworking and dedicated officers that we have, and the support of the entire memberships, we can surmount any obstacles. We will entice a greater number of members to be actively involved with the club. We will have some worthwhile activities that will interest the members and at the same time serve as fund raising events. Subject to availability of funds, we will try to organize a medical mission to Pagsanjan, expand our scholarship program, and continue to support the Puericulture Center.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Grand Reunion in Las Vegas, Nevada on September 14 to 16, 2007. ●

Norma Maceda Gatpayat

Fiesta Celebration ...

The Chateau Blanc Townhomes Community Hall in Fountain Valley, California, was once again filled to capacity as the Pagsanjan Club International, Inc. celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 10, 2006. This is an annual gathering of Pagsanjenos, mostly from California, to honor our town Patroness.

The all afternoon affair started with an invocation by Rodel followed by a very appetizing lunch. The community then sat in solemn prayer of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In between the giving out of door prizes, the second most important part of the affair was the election of the officers of the club. Ramon presided over the process as head of the nominating committee composed of the five most recent club presidents namely: **Gloria A.**

Dinfotan, Ramon Garcia, Abet Ablis, Tony Aquino, & Lorie Buencamino. The elected officers appear in another section of this issue

Tony Aquino did a fantastic rendition of "White Christmas" supported by the four aces namely: **Freddie Gatpayat, Mario Reodica, Rick Ramos and Rodel Ual** with accompaniment from **Roger & Arthur Aquino.** Kundiman maestro **Ancing Nadera** belted out his "Basang Sisiw" and "Sa Kabukiran".

More games, raffles, eating and dancing followed until everybody called it a day. ●

New Set of Officers ...

The following were the elected officers who will be leading the club from January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2008:

Norma M. Gatpayat – President
Rodel B. Ual – Vice President
Luis O. Rivera – Secretary
Cynthia C. Rivera – Treasurer
Connie E. Reyes – Assistant Secretary
Marilene Concepcion–Asst. Treasurer
Bobby A. Concepcion – Auditor
Mario R. Reodica – Sgt. at Arms
Ely R. Trinidad – PRO
Elma L. Ang – Events Coordinator
Roger N. Aquino – Events Coordinator

In her acceptance speech, Norma expressed confidence that with the other officers behind her, and with the support of the general memberships, she hopes to continue the club's efforts in assisting our impoverished kababayans in Pagsanjan. ●

College Scholars

Juvianne Mogul – Nursing
Rachel Habijan– Electrical Engineering
Rhea Malonzo – Electrical Engineering

High School Scholars

Arlyn Rodriguez – Third Year
Rei Cid Romar Ual – First Year

Rei Cid competed and won second place in an International Mathematics Competition held in Bali, Indonesia last year. He was also awarded a Plaque of Distinction by the Mathematics Commission of Australia. ●

Christmas Caroling ...

A group of twenty two members of the club sang Christmas carols to five households in Southern California last

December 9, 2006. It was very gratifying to see the enjoyment of those we visited. Tired after a whole day of singing and traveling, we still found time to sit together and share the joys we felt as we performed from house to house. We rejoiced even more when we found out we raised \$1,550.00 for these efforts. This, in addition to the annual membership fees of \$20.00 per household, will support our scholarship program. Tony Aquino, apparently inspired about the core group's ability to sing, said he will put together a new medley of Christmas songs for next year. ●

2007 Grand Reunion in Las Vegas ...

It is now official! The 2007 Pagsanjan Grand Reunion will be held on September 14 to 16, 2007 at the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. We have reserved the hotel and the picnic area. We have even selected what will be on the buffet tables.

Now it is your turn to start your own planning! The reunion committee is as excited as you are about this event. Not only will this be the first reunion under the expanded Pagsanjan Club International, Inc., it can also be the most widely attended reunion of Pagsanjenos ever. Credit it to the very systematic planning by your organizers and to a greater extent, the endless varieties of attractions that Las Vegas offer.

Each reunion ticket costs \$75.00 which includes the Welcome Reception, Dinner Dance and the Picnic.

Las Vegas weather will be ideal for this time of year. You will enjoy the comforts of the waning heat of summer and the onset of the cool nights of fall.

VIVA LAS VEGAS!!!! ☺ ♠♥♣♦♪ ☺

PA Class 1957 Golden Anniversary Reunion ...

The Pagsanjan Academy Class of 1957 will celebrate its golden anniversary with a medical mission. Tentatively, five to six physicians, three dentists, and twelve nurses will provide free medical care to Pagsanjenos on April 10 & 11, 2007. The surgical group will see patients at the Unson General Hospital while the non surgical cases will be seen at the Puericulture Center. The surgical group will perform minor surgeries that require

only local anesthesia and the dentists will perform mainly tooth extractions. The group will proceed to Paete on April 12, 2007 to conduct a similar mission.

The class reunion will start on April 13, 2007 and end on April 15, 2007. For more details, contact Dr. Alex Abary at (562) 981-0732, Carmelita A. Flores at (909) 595-4653, or Connie Edesan Reyes at (760) 963-2471. ●

Personality Profile ...

Dr. Laura Opelanio Buencamino is our featured Pagsanjena in this issue. She is the youngest of eight children of Anacleto Opelanio and Emitteria Ranese Opelanio, from Maulawin. Lorie is a 1972 Pagsanjan Academy graduate. She obtained her B.S. in Chemistry degree from the Mapua Institute of Technology and her Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

She is married to Pipo Buencamino with whom she has two children: Leah, 20 and Mick, 14.

She spent 20 years with various pharmaceutical companies in various capacities from Research Scientist to Senior Manager of Quality Control.

In 2004, she ventured in the Real Estate, Mortgage, & Insurance fields. She is a licensed Realtor, Life Insurance Agent, and a Notary. She is a District Manager and the San Diego Branch Manager for Insurance Services with the Mili Corporation. Her new passion is in Estate Planning.

Dr. Opelanio was a past president of the Pagsanjan Club of California. During her tenure, she published the first club newsletter, launched the scholarship program, and started the Christmas caroling with a group formed by Mr. & Mrs. Meding Fabiero.

She is a Director of the International Outreach Program of the Mili Corporation, member of the Mapua Alumni Association and the Mira Mesa Filipino American Senior Club. She and her husband are very active members of the Pagsanjan Club International, Inc.

Her goal is to build a library in Maulawin where Pagsanjenos of all ages can engage in reading and writing thus promoting literacy. She is indeed one of a kind. ●

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