



Filipinas

CELEBRATING
61 YEARS

October 2017

The official newsletter of the Filipino American Association of Pittsburgh, Inc.

FAAP Celebrates Double Victory: Nationality Room and Philippine Center

FAAP Awaits Philippine Nationality Room Construction Bids

By Jun Calejesan

Great news! The Philippine Nationality Room project is moving to the construction bidding stage. This was announced at the Sept. 25 meeting at the University of Pittsburgh attended by representatives of the university, WTW Architects, and the PNR Task Force. This milestone was reached when it was clear that the estimate of \$507,000 for construction cost was going to be achieved.



Rendering of planned Philippine Nationality Room

With the documents package sent out to potential general contractors, bid proposals are expected to be received by the end of October.

Activities for the Task Force are:

The documentary film "Rescue in the Philippines" will be shown at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 22, in the Frick Fine Arts Building at the University of Pittsburgh. This is the fifth and last movie in the series of Filipino movies presented by the task force this year. This is a must-see movie for both the Filipino American and Jewish communities. It tells the story of 1,300 Jewish refugees who were admitted in the Philippines, when no other country would take them. Admission is free, although donation to the PNR is encouraged.

The annual Nationality Rooms Open House will take place from noon to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3. Admission is free. The Nationality Rooms will be open for touring, and guides in costume will be available to present information. Performances by different ethnic groups will occur every fifteen minutes in the Commons Room. FAAP will provide a dance program, decorate Room 313, which has been assigned to the PNR, and run a food stall for Filipino food. Proceeds of the sale of food, beverage, and souvenirs go to the Nationality Rooms scholarship funds.



Site of future Philippine Center

West Mifflin Building Set to Be Acquired for Philippine Center

By Rebecca Quemado

By the end of October, FAAP will have reached a great milestone when the FAAP president and treasurer sign the closing documents and issue the check for the acquisition of the future home of the Philippine Center of Pittsburgh! We are in the final stretch to give birth to a place where members of the Filipino American community in the area can feel at home.

The center will be a place where we can have a community kitchen, store our dance troupe costumes and props, conduct business meetings, and provide offices for our staff. The overall plan envisions a place for social gatherings, community service events, cultural exhibits, a Filipino school, and a library.

As the work needed for acquiring a property is about to end, the Philippine Center Committee is transitioning to plan for the immediate and long-term future. Phase 1 includes work to prepare the facility for occupancy and opening for business. Phase 2 involves a comprehensive plan to fully operate the building based on our original purposes. The committee membership will be expanded to include individuals with professional knowledge and experience in building construction and facility management. We welcome any of our members who have experience in these areas to provide support or, better yet, join us in the committee.

Cont. page 7, Philippine Center

FILIPINO MARATHON FILM SERIES



Rescue in the Philippines
Historical heroism in the Philippines

WHEN
OCTOBER 22, 2017, 4:30 PM
WHERE
FRICK FINE ARTS AUDITORIUM
SCHENLEY DRIVE, UNIVERSITY OF
PITTSBURGH CAMPUS

ADMISSION

Admission to the film exhibit is free.
Donations made to the University of Pittsburgh to benefit the Philippine Nationality Room project will be greatly appreciated.

SPONSORS

Philippine Nationality Room Task Force
The Filipino American Association of Pittsburgh
Philippine American Medical Society of Western Pennsylvania
Philippine American Professional Association of Western Pennsylvania
The Young Professionals of Pittsburgh

BENEFITING

Philippine Nationality Room Building fund
University of Pittsburgh



UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Oct. 22 | Rescue in the Philippines (Documentary) |
| Oct. 28 | 61st FAAP Anniversary and Induction Ball |
| Nov. 11 | Game Night (Mahjong and Bingo) |
| Dec. 2 | Paskong Pinoy |
| Dec. 3 | Nationality Rooms Holiday Open House |
| Dec. 16 | FAAP Christmas Party |

Come Celebrate Filipino Culture, Dance and Music

Please join us at our 61st Anniversary and Induction Ball, during which the acquisition of a home for the Philippine Center will be celebrated.

Space is limited, so reserve your seats now at

<http://thefaap.org/wp/upcoming-events/>

Filipino American Association of Pittsburgh, Inc.
formerly, Samahang Pilipino Ng Pittsburgh



61st Anniversary & Induction Ball

OCT 28, 2017 | Saturday | 5:30 PM

Double Tree Hotel

101 Mall Blvd, Monroeville, PA 15146



Tahanang Pilipino, Pangarap na Natupad
(The Philippine Center, A Dream Fulfilled)

Graphic Design by: www.thereisadesigner.com

10th Running of Fall Classic a Huge Success

By Mark Knapp, Race Director

The 10th running of the FAAP Fall Classic was a huge success! Many people commented on this being the best year yet. The dance troupe was fantastic too! The weather was again perfect and over 200 runners registered for the race. Thanks to Fannie Spanos and Norie Thomas for coordinating the food for the volunteers and the fundraising efforts with food sales.

The race continues to grow in popularity among the running community. I believe it is the perfect activity to display our culture and our charitable efforts to the broader community.



Runners at the 2017 Fall Classic

One great highlight was the Filipino Student Association from Pitt coming out in full force, both as runners and as volunteers. They actually rented a bus to bring them and drop them off! What a fantastic board they have, and we need to further build strong connections with them.

One other great thing that happened was the Gingerbread Running Man Company donating their timing services to the cause. This was about \$700 in value. The bamboo poles to make the medals, the labor, the bananas and the cash awards were also all donated. The net revenue of \$3,231 for the event will benefit the Queen of Peace Orphanage in Naga City, Philippines, and other FAAP charity programs.

We added a 20K race this year, and with additional volunteers from the running community, we were able to pull it off. And of course, the Fall Classic hats are already being talked about in New York and Paris as the fashion trend of the season! Thanks to all who helped and came to the race.

A Night at the Movies With FAAP

By Rebecca Quemado

FAAP hosted the screening of two multi-awarded Filipino films at the Silk Screen Film Festival held Sept. 15-24. "Blanka" and "Ma' Rosa" were two of 30 films from Asia selected for this year's festival.

Kohki Hasei's "Blanka" sheds light on the plight of abandoned children in the Philippines. It won the Best Film in a Foreign Language prize at the 2015 Venice Film Festival.

Brillante Mendoza's documentary-style film "Ma' Rosa" provides an unbiased look at the struggles of providing for a family. It was selected to compete for the Palme d'Or at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival. Leading actress Jaclyn Jose won the Best Actress award.

Each film had two screenings and was attended by about 100 guests. As sponsor of "A Night at the Movies," FAAP had an opportunity to promote the organization, gain exposure to thousands of festival supporters, and support the programs of other nonprofit organizations in the arts. The reception before and after each screening allowed FAAP members to socialize and network with other guests. It also provided a venue to discuss current events and social issues in the Philippines.

FAAP officers and members also attended and volunteered at the Red Carpet Gala on Sept. 15 to kick off the festival. A performance by the FAAP Dance Troupe was part of the diverse entertainment.



FAAP at the Silk Screen Red Carpet Gala

Summer Picnic Report

2017 Annual Picnic Was Swell

By Rebecca Quemado

The 2017 Annual Picnic was SWELL! That is how one of our members described it. I'm sure all of us will agree.

The venue met the needs for the different activities we have for our annual picnic. The size of the pavilion was decent, the kitchen was roomy enough, the restrooms had multiple stalls, the field was flat, wide and fenced. The parking lot was big and located right next to the pavilion, and so was the playground. The building and grounds were clean. The borough allowed us to set up early and clean up late.



Game time

The general setup of the different activities and displays was well-planned. The food was delicious and plenty. The games, Ticzon Cup volleyball tournament, talent show, mahjong, and chess were entertaining and engaged a lot of people. Elections went smoothly. Business meeting was brief and informative enough. Music added to the fun and warm atmosphere.

The displays for the Philippine Center and the Philippine Nationality Room projects were informative and inviting enough to have encouraged members to give donations right there and then.

The launching of the Philippine Center fundraising campaign was a success. We were able to raise \$15,650 in donations and pledges on the day of the picnic. A very generous matching grant of \$20,000 from

the Calejesan family was also received that day. Thank you all for your generosity.

Attendance was estimated to be 353, including 38 guests. Sixteen families and four individuals renewed their memberships, while thirteen families and eight individuals joined as new members. Great job, membership committee and registration table.

It was most heartwarming and encouraging to see people of all ages engaging in different activities or catching up with old friends or making new ones. Kudos to the picnic team headed by Fanny Spanos and the lively and enthusiastic members and guests!

Perspectives From New Members

By Patrick Platon and Melvin Brutas

The FAAP annual picnic was SUPERB! That is how we can describe the overall event.

From the venue location to the food served, and down to the entertainment, we can say that the picnic was well-planned and well-executed by the organizing committee. We admire all the people behind the event. They were able to accomplish a lot of things in just one event – recruiting and welcoming new members, electing the new set of officers, fundraising for the Philippine Center and the Philippine Nationality Room. And, of course, they were able to promote camaraderie while promoting the Filipino tradition, culture, and foods.

Now talking about culture and foods. The performance of the FAAP Dance Troupe gave extra life to the event. They were able to showcase the beauty of the Philippines through dance and music. And about the food, everything was “delicioso” and everyone was well accommodated by the pretty moms and titas serving at the buffet table.



Pretty moms and titas at the buffet table

Filipinos are known to be good entertainers and the idea of putting on activities like the talent competition and parlor games was a great way to entertain members and guests.

Thank you to the organizing committee for an awesome experience. We salute you for all your hard work and congratulate you for doing such a great job.

About the writers

Melvin (l) and Patrick (r) are two of three Filipinos doing a one-year internship in hotel management at The Hyatt House in Pittsburgh's SouthSide Works. They are now both members of the FAAP Dance Troupe.



FAAP GAME NIGHT

JOIN US FOR A
NIGHT OF FUN!
MAHJONG & BINGO.
FOOD & DRINKS.
MEET NEW FRIENDS.

VENANGO TRAILS
CLUBHOUSE
1305 FREEPORT RD
MARS, PA 16046

NOV 11 . 5-11PM

\$20/PERSON FOR GAMES,
FOOD & DRINK

RSVP TO BECKY AT 724-498-6757



Three Pillars

CHARITY – Cora Bakth
charity@thefaap.org

We thank our volunteers who gathered on Sept. 23 to help wrap up the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's 2017 garden season. FAAP winterized the garden bed at the corner of Hazelwood Avenue and Beechwood Boulevard in Squirrel Hill. The garden is now ready for planting next spring.



FAAP Volunteers at Western Pennsylvania Conservancy Garden

FAAP continues to respond to recent calamities, both here in the U.S. and in the Philippines.

We are partnering with Solidarity Lodge #1457 of Houston to give financial assistance to some Fil-Am families affected by Hurricane Harvey.

For the Philippines, we are raising funds to provide financial assistance to evacuees displaced by military conflict between the Philippine army and the Islamic State group in Marawi City in the province of Lanao del Sur. We have chosen to channel aid through the Tabang Marawi (Help Marawi) relief operations run by the Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan Social Development Center.

Donations are still being accepted for the above-mentioned relief work as well as for our Calamity Fund, which allows us to respond quickly to future needs.

For more information about Tabang Marawi, please visit <http://www.xu.edu.ph/tabang-marawi-about>.

CULTURAL – Fanny Spanos
cultural@thefaap.org

FAAP Dance Troupe

By Fanny Spanos

Congratulations to our Dance Troupe for rousing performances during the FAAP picnic, the McKeesport International Village Festival, the FAAP Fall Classic, the Silk Screen Film Festival Gala, the Ambridge Festival of the Churches, Columbus Day parade, and the Estonilo-Napole wedding reception. Thanks to all dancers, volunteers, parents and to our artistic director Lilian Stefanick, and dance director Jae Villao. The FAAP families are proud to have you as our “ambassadors of goodwill.”

McKeesport International Village Festival

By Evelyn Abola, Carmen Shively and Fanny Spanos

For the fourth consecutive year, the FAAP participated in the McKeesport International Village Festival. While the festival continues to be a great fundraiser for our organization, our primary objective in participating is to showcase the Filipino culture through food, exhibit, and cultural presentation.

Although a bit rushed, the food booth committee came up with a delectable fare of Filipino food and drink, heartily received by the onslaught of hungry crowd. Some food items sold out early, so additional ingredients had to be purchased and prepared onsite.

The FAAP Dance Troupe, in colorful costumes, entertained the crowd with a lineup of folk dances including La Jota Moncadeña, La Estudiantina, Cariñosa, and La Jota Manileña. Thanks to the leadership of the ever-reliable Lilian Stefanick and Jae Villao, they delivered a program that showed grace, color, and musicality in well-rehearsed numbers. During a short intermission, Gabi Young rendered a Tagalog song.

As part of the educational component of the festival, Jaime and Evelyn Abola talked about Christmas celebration in the Philippines.



Dance Troupe at the McKeesport festival

The Abolas described our long Christmas season, unofficially including all the “ber months” September through December and ending in early January. They mentioned the *belen* or creche, the *simbang gabi* (night mass), and the family gathering at *media noche* (midnight meal) after the *misa de gallo* (Christmas Eve mass).

They described the different kinds of *parol*, the traditional Filipino Christmas lantern. They showed parols of varying sizes, colors and materials such as paper and capiz shells.

The net income from the event benefited the Philippine Nationality Room and the Philippine Center projects, as well as the FAAP general fund. Thanks to all our volunteers who helped make this event a great success!

EDUCATION – Beth Villegas
education@thefaap.org

The 2017 Maramba Scholarship awardee has been chosen. The announcement of the winner and the presentation of the award will take place at the FAAP anniversary and induction ball on Oct. 28.

Welcome

Let's welcome the following new FAAP members:

Merly and Tim Brooks • Sarah and Nathaniel Carr
Rolando Dancil and Jack McKinon
Laarnie Fullero and Donald Phillips • Matilda and Charles Goff
Carrie and Mike Guffey • Evalinda and Michael Gutschall
Beatrice and David Halloran • Maria and Steve Jodis
Julieta and Timothy Johnson • Karen Koschack • Pablo Mendoza
Lynn and Lance Morgan • Ollie Parke • Francis Serina
Terri and Luke Stall • Marie Cris and Steven Tamesis
Andre and Katie Umalin • Clarence Villanueva

Committees in Action

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS — Irna de Leon-Knapp

Don Michael Mendoza resigned from the board on Oct. 1. Carmen Shively has been elected by the Board of Directors to replace him and will serve until the next election.

A request has been submitted to the Bylaws Committee chair, Isabelo Toledo, to consider removing the geographical requirement when seeking nominees to run for election as director. All elected directors represent the members regardless of their geographical residence. Each year, we elect seven or eight directors. The proposal is to have the candidates with the most votes win, without regard to geographical placement.



Election of officers

New Board Members and Officers

2018 Officers

President	Fanny Spanos
Immediate Past President	Becky Quemado
Secretary	Freddie Gabriel
Treasurer	Mark Knapp
Communications	Jun Calejesan
Information Systems	Lani Mears
Registrar	Dave Shively
Internal Auditor	Rajesh Mehta

2018 Board of Directors

Jaime Abola	Ann Pearl
Leryll Arboleda (YFAP Pres.)	Becky Quemado
Cora Bakth	Teody Schipper Speer
Henna Bautista	Carmen Shively
Irna de Leon-Knapp	Joji Smith
Junriz Delos Santos	Fanny Spanos
Lani Mears	Isabelo Toledo
Allan Novak	Beth Villegas

2018 Standing Committee Chairpersons

Charity	Cora Bakth
Cultural	Fanny Spanos
Education	Beth Villegas
Bylaws	Isabelo Toledo
Finance	Lani Mears
Fundraising	Becky Quemado
Membership	Ann Pearl
Nominations and Elections	Teody Schipper Speer
Philippine Nationality Room	Jaime Abola
Voice of Wisdom	Henna Bautista
Young Filipino Americans of Pittsburgh	Junriz Delos Santos

2018 Special Committee Chairpersons

Anniversary and Induction Ball	Teody Schipper Speer
Christmas Party	Joji Smith
Summer Picnic	Joji Smith
Festivals	Carmen Shively
Sports and Recreation	Irna de Leon-Knapp
Philippine Center	Allan Novak

2017-2018 Young Filipino Americans of Pittsburgh Officers

President	Leryll Arboleda
Vice President for Internal Affairs	Jaimee Cabili
Vice President for External Affairs	Sarah Umandap
Secretary and Records	Janneselle Umalin
Communications	Jose Isidore Toledo

YOUNG FILIPINO AMERICANS OF PITTSBURGH (YFAP) — Junriz Delos Santos

Apples, Hayrides and Fall

By Junriz Delos Santos

For the second time in three years, the Young Filipino Americans of Pittsburgh (YFAP) had a fun fall trip to the Simmons Farm last Oct. 1. It was dubbed "Apples, Hayrides and Fall."

The turnout this time was bigger, and the weather more favorable! Organized by the YFAP officers led by its president, Leryll Arboleda, a total of 46 youth members, families and friends graced the event and had a great time with the activities lined up at the farm.



Fun fall trip to Simmons Farm

The adventure started with a hayride, followed by playing on the playground and wandering through the apple and corn mazes. Others were content to just enjoy the sunny weather and stroll around, or eat popcorn and share some light sandwich snacks. Everyone got to pick his or her own pumpkin from the patch. After the hayride trip back to the main hall, others stayed and decided to go apple picking, enjoying the fruits of their labor.

All in all, it was a day packed with laughter, companionship and memories to cherish. A member commented, "It was a big turnout. The weather was perfect. Everyone had so much fun. Thanks to the YFAP leadership team and volunteers for organizing another successful event."

Cheers for more fun fall trips in the future!

Behind the Scenes: FAAP Information Systems, the Growth Years

By Rodel Quemado, Information Systems Officer

The FAAP has recognized that information technology (IT) offers cost-effective and efficient solutions to various needs within the organization. Those needs encompass a diverse and wide range of areas: from overall management, collaboration among committee or work group members, communication with its members and supporters, to outreach to the general public. Thus, for over a decade, the FAAP has gradually adopted IT solutions that provide the most positive impact. Here are some highlights during those growth years:



In 2006, the board of directors created the Website Committee, responsible for the development and upgrading of the website. In the same year, a new website was built with a new domain name: theFAAP.org.

In 2007, the email service was switched to Gmail, and operated under theFAAP.org domain. The email service is used for internal work group communications, for mass distribution of announcements and publications to members and supporters, and for the general public to contact our officers and staff.

In 2008, a site called Tambayan, accessible by members only, was created via Google Sites. Tambayan is an online site where FAAP members may access important documents, such as bylaws, quarterly newsletter, photos, videos, financial statements and other corporate documents that are authorized by the FAAP Board for release to the general membership. For improved management and access of photos and videos, Tambayan was moved to myfamily.com in 2009. Before myfamily.com was retired by its owner in 2014, Tambayan was relocated to its current site as a Facebook group: [facebook.com/groups/Tambayan.FAAP](https://www.facebook.com/groups/Tambayan.FAAP).

In 2009, several major changes took place: (a) the Website Committee was renamed to Information Systems Committee to better reflect the growing scope of its functions; (b) the FAAP online office, called Patnubay, was created via Google Apps. It is an online site where members of the FAAP Council (Board of Directors, committee chairs and officers) collaborate and store important documents; and (c) the FAAP newsletter and Balita publications began to be posted in the Tambayan site and emailed to its subscribers.

In 2010, in recognition of the growing importance and use of information systems within the organization, the FAAP bylaws were amended to include an Information Systems Officer (ISO), which replaced the Information Systems Committee. The ISO is responsible for the setup, maintenance, and management of the website as well as any other internet-based systems of the association. This responsibility includes recommending for board approval the policies governing and related to the use of such systems.

Today, the ISO functions include the management of several online systems: (1) main website (theFAAP.org); (2) office in the cloud (Patnubay); (3) members-only site (Tambayan); (4) social networking sites (Facebook) for internal working groups and for the general public; (5) online payment system (PayPal) that allows users to join or renew their memberships, to purchase fundraising merchandise or event tickets, or to donate; (6) reminder service via text messaging (Remind.com) for various internal work groups; (7) email service; (8) membership and contacts databases; and (9) online accounting system (QuickBooks).

This year, we achieved three significant accomplishments: (a) The main website (theFAAP.org) was upgraded to look and work better on various devices: desktop/laptop PC, tablets, and smartphones. (b) The online accounting system in QuickBooks was switched to a cheaper annual subscription. Its Chart of Accounts, Classes and other settings were updated to better match IRS Form 990, needs of various committees, and recommendations of our internal auditor. (c) The FAAP Facebook page has reached more than 1,000 likes.

While our to-do list remains bottomless, our IT infrastructure is in much better shape than ever before. Thanks to our selfless and hardworking volunteer-staff who worked countless hours behind the scenes for over a decade. Without them, we will not have a functional website, Facebook pages, membership database, accounting systems, and the like.

About the writer

Rodel has provided invaluable help to FAAP for many years. He served as board member 2006-2009, where he led the revisiting of FAAP's vision, mission and core values. He has been the Information Systems Officer since 2006, modernizing the operation in the process. He has been involved as webmaster, Facebook administrator, and newsletter and Balita editor.

Finance Committee Formed to Support FAAP Growth

By Lani Mears



Accurate financial records that reflect the activities of our organization is essential for us to thrive and grow. The function of the Finance Committee as defined by our bylaws is to establish policies and guidelines related to the financial activities of the association. During its fourth-quarter board meeting in 2016, the FAAP board of directors appointed Rajesh Mehta as our first ever internal auditor. Towards the end of 2016, the operational framework of the committee was defined and a functioning Finance Committee

was formed. This committee is composed of a board-appointed chairperson, the internal auditor, the fundraising committee chair, the president and the treasurer.

At the beginning of this year, all committee and event chairs were asked to attend a financial planning workshop. One of the goals of the workshop was for each participant to draw a projected income and

expense for their respective committees or events. These were then consolidated to produce the FAAP annual budget.

The committee got a new account with QuickBooks, an accounting software package. This was followed by countless hours of manually entering transactions from 2016 to date, using categories which accurately represent the programs of the organization. The process was tedious, but should pay off in the long run.

Thus far, the Finance Committee has established several guidelines and processes. These include the creation of a donor form and an income report form, the use of which are mandatory whenever funds are turned over to the treasurer. In addition, we were able to file Form 990 without having to rely on a paid CPA. This financial information form is an IRS requirement for all nonprofit organizations like FAAP. There is still a lot of work to be done, such as a cadence for regular internal audits and a monthly bank reconciliation. Overall, the efforts of the Finance Committee have shown great promise in shaping the direction of our organization's financial disposition.

Message from the FAAP President

FAAP Reaches Two Momentous Milestones

Dear Filipino Americans of Pittsburgh,

The year 2017 will be long remembered and deeply cherished in the history of the Filipino American community in Pittsburgh as we reach two momentous milestones. First, the Philippine Nationality Room Task Force raised enough funds to start the construction bidding process. If things go as planned, construction will start next spring with expected completion in the fall of 2018. Second, by the time you read this message, the FAAP will have finally realized a 40-year-old dream of owning a place we can call “*tahanan*” (home), the Philippine Center of Pittsburgh. These back-to-back accomplishments are testament to the enduring vision of the previous generations and the tenacity of the current one to bring to fruition our collective hopes and dreams. We thank our past and present board of directors, officers, members, friends, and donors for continual faith, trust, and support. Mabuhay! Cheers!



The FAAP core committees of Charity, Culture, Education and Membership/YFAP are actively engaged in pursuing the organization’s missions. Under Charity, the FAAP has served local communities through partnership with the Community Food Bank and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. We have supported the Queen of Peace Orphanage in the Philippines for 10 years. This year, we extended financial aid to some Filipino American families in Houston who were affected by Hurricane Harvey, and to families that were displaced by the conflict in Marawi City, Philippines.

The Cultural Committee continues to oversee the FAAP Dance Troupe dance lessons year round and the dozens of performances in various events – community festivals, school cultural events, FAAP-organized events, and even private weddings. Food booths have been set up in three major community festivals, which run from one to three days.

The Education Committee continues to run the Simplicio Maramba Scholarship and has helped organize the Asian American Pacific Islander Committee for the continuation of the Outstanding Asian American Student Awards.

The Membership Committee and YFAP are involved in events such as the Valentine’s party, summer picnic, Night at the Movies, and the annual fall outing, which have all been very well-attended and successful. If you missed any of these events, make sure you make it to the induction ball, game night, and the Christmas party. You will surely have a great time in the company of a delightful and fun-loving group of people.

Another great accomplishment is the successful running of the 10th Annual FAAP Fall Classic Race, held last Sept. 10. Kudos to our Sports and Recreation Committee! For the first time, a 20K race was added, which was well-received in the running community.

Let us not overlook those who work quietly behind the scenes, those who perform numerous tasks year round. Their work is extremely important to the success of our projects and programs. The operation of the whole organization relies heavily on the day-to-day functions of the executive officers (president, secretary, treasurer, internal auditor, registrar, information systems officer, and communications officer), and committees, such as Finance, Fundraising and Nominations and Elections.

Other significant and notable developments this year are the addition of an internal auditor and a fully functioning Finance Committee, which provided a set of guidelines for internal control, checks and balances. In addition, a Project Management, Financial Planning and Budgeting Workshop was conducted for all officers and board members. Another workshop is scheduled for November, aimed to come up with a framework for each committee or event. The framework will serve as a guide for incoming committee and event chairs.

If you have not yet made your reservation for the 61st Anniversary and Induction Ball, I encourage you to join us in celebrating the acquisition of the soon-to-be Philippine Center of Pittsburgh, a once-in-a-lifetime historic event in the Filipino American community of Pittsburgh. Make your reservations now. See you at the ball!

Rebecca Quemado
FAAP President

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Filipinas Newsletter Policies and Guidelines

We welcome input from our readers. For consideration of print publication, please send an email to newsletter@thefaap.org. Letters, comments, and articles will be edited for accuracy, clarity and length and should be in keeping with the mission we have set for ourselves. All submissions should include the full name of the sender. Please provide your contact information for verification purposes. Due to space constraints, we are unable to print items that are non-FAAP related or of a personal nature. If you have related short news items, please consider for publication in *FAAP Balita*. Send an email to balita@thefaap.org.

Publisher
Filipino American
Association of Pittsburgh, Inc.

Philippine Center

Cont. from page 1

Through the generosity of our donors and the initiatives of our supporters, we have now raised \$61,000 out of the \$70,000 goal! To all of you, THANK YOU! MARAMING SALAMAT PO! We are very optimistic that we will achieve our goal by the end of October. The funds are allocated to purchase the property, buy needed appliances and fixtures, and bring the facility to move-in condition.

Very soon we will need volunteers for cleanup and various move-in activities. We expect a strong show of our *bayanihan* spirit at this time. Please watch for future announcements to be posted on the Philippine Center of Pittsburgh Facebook page (@PhCenterPgh).

To learn more about the Philippine Center or to make a secure online donation, please visit www.thefaap.org/wp/special-projects/philippine-center.

1502 Kelly Rd
Glenshaw, PA 15116

Officers

President	Rebecca Quemado
Secretary	Lani Mears
Treasurer	Mark Knapp
Information Systems Officer	Rodel Quemado
Communications Officer	Freddie Gabriel
Internal Auditor	Rajesh Mehta
Registrar	David Shively

Standing Committees

Charity	Cora Bakth
Cultural	Fanny Spanos
Education	Beth Villegas
Bylaws	Isabelo Toledo
Finance	Lani Mears
Fundraising	Osorio Calejesan, Jr.
Membership	Majo Bucao-Walker
Nominations and Elections	Irna de Leon-Knapp
Philippine Nationality Room	Osorio Calejesan, Jr.
Voice of Wisdom	Teodora Schipper Speer
Youth Committee	Junriz Delos Santos

Board of Directors

Leryll Arboleda	Rebecca Quemado
Corazon Bakth	Carmen Shively
Majo Bucao-Walker	Joji Smith
Osorio Calejesan, Jr.	Teodora Schipper Speer
Irna de Leon-Knapp	Fanny Spanos
Junriz Delos Santos	Isabelo Toledo
Lani Mears	Beth Villegas
Allan Novak	Marie Young

Special Committees

Induction Ball	Teodora Schipper Speer
Christmas Party	Marie Young
Festivals	Joji Smith
Philippine Center	Allan Novak
Sports and Recreation	Irna de Leon-Knapp
Summer Picnic	Fanny Spanos