



The PNANC TORCH

The official newsletter of the Philippine Nurses Association of Northern California

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SPECIAL COVID -19 ISSUE

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PNANC Attends 2020 Filipino Nurses global Summit and International Nursing Conference

The Filipino Nurses Global Summit 3 and the 12th International Nursing Conference was held at the luxurious Henann Regency Hotel Resorts and Spa. It was attended by four members of the Philippine Nurses Association of Northern California led by PNANC President Sol Hafalia, Past President Cherina Tinio and Treasurer Thea Smith, Vilma Milan and PNAA/PNANC Past President Pete Calixto who was also the over-all chairperson of the event.

The meeting was held despite the unanticipated eruption of the Taal Volcano jeopardizing holding the event. This caused multiple flight disruptions and cancellation causing the Manila International Airport temporary closing air traffic. The effects on the attendee was minimal to having arrivals being diverted to airports far from Taal.

The Henann Regency Resort and Convention Center was the venue of all the events of the Global Summit. The two-day conference started with the opening ceremonies where international delegates paraded. There



were eight countries that were represented at this Filipino Global Summit 3 and 12th International Conference.

Nurses Role in Addressing Climate-Sensitive Diseases by Patricia Davidson was presented via a video addressing the 450 audience in attendance. Dr. Davidson is the current Dean of the School of Nursing, Johns Hopkins University of Baltimore, Maryland. Prior to



Reactions to the CoronaVirus -19 Pandemic

Everytime people around the world turn on their televisions, all they see are vignettes how governments implement and follow directives. This is not limited to local cities but throughout the world. Some governments have resulted to measures as extreme as militarization strategies to implement preventing its spread. Governments have been highly criticized by its citizens of their inaction to a point of politicizing it. More than ever, inaction can be viewed as threats to their political careers.

With citizens more cognizant of the dangers of this epidemic, it has also complicated by citizens' perception of "fake" and "real news." This is an unfortunate new culture saw surge of more news and information that causes further confusion.

With the dynamic change in status of this pandemic, advisories could change anytime only to be reversed immediately. Dr. Anthony Fauci, White House Chairperson Director of COVID-19 in one of his briefings stated, "It is going to get worse before it gets better."

(continued on page 4)

President's Message



My fellow colleagues,

As Covid -19 continue to accelerate its spread globally were all facing crisis and our lives are impacted with this unprecedented situation

Unlike the flu, there is no vaccine, no known treatment for this unknown virus so far. Even though the healthcare industry

Are in such rapid vaccine development, it cannot be available for 12-18 months' even if proven safe for public use

How can we help our community and nurses who are the front liners in combat for this monster disease? Most hospitals are in shortage of PPE across USA

The PNANC organization are in contact with small businesses organization in providing handmade masks to be provided to Bay area health system for support, and we continue to accept small donations

What can we do to help combat this virus?

Stay Home

Abiding with 6 feet social distancing

Practice good handwashing with soap and water

Educate our kids, families and friends

Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing (per current news, Covid-19 is now airborne x8 hrs.)

Wear mask when out for errands

Be active, hydrate, get good night sleep

Let's help our community by helping each other. Together we can Save Lives!!!!

Free on demand sign up "What Nurses Need to Know to Stay Safe" go to: event.on24.com

Best and warm regards,
Sol Hafalia, BSN RN



Since 911 when nurses were overshadowed as the most respected profession by firefighters, nursing has been at the top for straight for the last twenty years. No doubt that 2020 was designated as the Year of the Nurse and Midwives by the World Health Organization. With not much thinking put into it as another casual recognition from the WHO, never did nurses expect that this recognition would go beyond the real test of the profession. It was to the least expectation that nurses would be deployed as frontline warriors in a global warfield.

Though nurses take this responsibility of providing care as they do in their everyday duties, more than ever this weather that COVID-19 has brought into the world would test their resiliency, dedication and commitment to humanity.

Everyday, nurses come into the workplace unknowing what kind of patient load they will have. This same commitment runs in the blood and soul of every nurse. Commitment that defies every single barrier in human-created classifications and categories that would ultimately define discrimination.

This celebration is now putting the profession at the center stage of human reality show. Truly nurses go to work- hug their loved ones at home with no idea how they can make the best of their day at work.

Unlike traditional warriors, where they are equipped to fight

2019 PNANC PICTURES IN REVIEW



Become a member of the Philippine Nurses Association of Northern California. One of the 53 chapters of the PNA of America. There is always an available opportunity for you to advance your personal and professional goals. As a member of the PNANC, you become an automatic member of the PNA where more opportunities await you. For more information go to www.pnanc.wildapricot.org



their battle, these nurses are now confronted with the inadequacy of protective gears to effectively deliver what they are good at. Their demands for gears that would protect them seems to go beyond deaf ears to a system that it in itself is overwhelmed by the demands. triggered by unreadiness to cope and manage controlling this pandemic. Grassroots staff have taken it upon themselves to call on for donations from private corporations to donate personal protective devices. A plea that was unheard of in healthcare particularly here in the United States because of adequate supplies under normal conditions.

In his address update on april 1, 2020, White House Health Advisor Anthony Fauci said, “the world may never get back to what is considered “normal” before Corona virus emerged in Wuhan, China” indicating a grim forecast of what is yet to come.

Could this designation as 2020 International Year of the Nurse and Midwife be incidental? Was it a nonchallant meaningless proclamation? Or is it Divine Providence designation? Something for all of us in nursing to reflect on and think about.

The PNAA North Central Regional Conference originally scheduled for May 1-3, 2020 in Indiana was cancelled due to the Corona virus epidemic. The 41st PNAA National Convention's fate will be decided on April 15, 2020 when the PNAA Executive Board will meet on April 15, 2020.

Responsible Informant During This Time

More than ever, our roles as nurses regarding health dissemination become more important during this epidemic. Fake news and unfounded sources of remedy have been the result of people's irresponsible actions and attitudes about the disease. Make your presence known by correcting wrong information that is being shared- whether it be in social media, conversations and interactions who are not in healthcare. Advise these people to only go to reputable sources as the World Health Organization, the Center for Disease Control and the American Nurses Association. Validate your resources before making a statement. Practice what you preach.

Advice family and friends when they attempt to disseminate information on household remedies that have no solid validity to the current situation.



Madelyn Yu, MSN RN delivers keynote address

2019 PNANC Fall Conference

PNAA President Madelyn Yu delivered the Keynote presentation during the 2019 Professional and Clinical Nursing Update held at the Double Tree Hotel in Burlingame on October 17, 2019. She detailed her administration's mantra, **“Make A Difference: Advocate”** which was also the theme of the conference. In her presentation, she described the steps on how PNAA came about citing past administration's accomplishments in bringing PNAA to its very successful 40th anniversary.

Mary Dickow, MPA FAAN spoke on the **Future of Nursing Update**. She is an authority of nursing initiative when States were forming their own coalitions through the American Nurses Association.

San Mateo County Supervisor David Canepa discussed **Community Advocacy: Getting Your Voices Heard** an advise for nurses to come forward to advocate for their own cause. He shared updates on the status of Seton Medical Center and the impact on the community should this hospital closes.

John Maa, MD a very strong advocate for the welfare of ethnic minorities in San Francisco arrived at the conference coming from an anti-smoking campaign at the San Francisco City Hall. His touching presentation on **Health Policy Advocacy to Underserved Communities** included his personal story of what made him get involved in such activities. His presentation was so personal that brought some partipants to tears.

A general membership meeting and lunch where a video that was presented at the First Time Attendee Session in Atlanta was shown. The video also included information about the Boracay International Conference on January 21-22, 2020

continue on... page 8

Chapter News

Wild Apricot Subscription Extended for Another Year

In a close vote, the PNANC Executive Board voted to continue the use of Wild Apricot as the PNANC website hosting. The expensive renewal for two years prompted President Sol Hafalia to call for an emergency meeting. The Board discussed and debated the merits of renewal with a statement from Board Member Kathy Abriam Yago heavily supporting the measure to renew.

Some call participants expressed their opinions about renewal and the possible implications if it was not. During the debate, EB member Igor Mocerro indicated that he could construct a website with limited functionality and could not possibly be linked to the PNAA website.

Kathy Abriam-Yago, EdD, RN Running for PNAA Board



The PNAA's over 4000 members will cast their electronic ballots to choose 2020-2022 members of the executive board. Scheduled from May 11-17, the candidates are led by three aspirants for president-elect who are Jennifer Aying (NE), Gloria Beriones and Jonathan Gecomo, both from Metro Houston.

Two regions will be contested for Regional Vice President. The South Central Region will be between Michelle Cedana (South Padre) and Tita Ravi (Gulf Coast). The Western Region will be between Marlon Saria (Southern California) and Ramon Sumibcay (Hawaii). Two other regions are uncontested as Victoria Pike (NE) for Eastern and re-electionist Leila Busch (GKC) for North Central regional vice president.

Candidate for secretary is Susan Repotente (NE) and Auditor Lorna Imperial are both running unopposed. The treasurer will be contested by former auditor Rose Ferguson and newcomer Janet Mary Cuaycong (NY).

There are five candidates for the five slots Board Mem-

ber slots. The five candidates are Kathy Abriam Yago (PNANC), Bob Gahol (Hawaii), Meliton (NY), Manny Ramos (Central Florida), and Nancy Walch (Hawaii).



Campaign started on March 27 and will go through before the electronic ballots are sent to over 4000 membership to vote. This is the third time that PNAA is using electronic voting.

2020 Induction Postponed Indefinitely

The PNANC Executive Board has postponed the induction of officers originally scheduled for June 26, 2020 at Fort McKinley Restaurant in South San Francisco. Postponement of the event is due to the City and County mandates of shelter-in-place where citizens are advised to stay home and to avoid crowds of ten or more. As the global coronavirus pandemic continues with no uncertainty of it being controlled, observing prevention is the most prudent action to take. For now, possible of online induction in lieu of the traditional ways is being considered.

The induction ceremonies can be scheduled at a later day once this pandemic is getting better.



Global Summit... from page 1

her presentation, Renzo Guinto, Director of Public Health Fellow

tion, **Nursing Advocacy: Advancing our Mission Globally through Leadership, Collaboration, Engagement and Empowerment.**

Conference on January 21-22, 2020.

Lindsay Bolt, MSN RN a clinical nurse educator at UCSF Medical Center's Institute of Nursing Excellence presented **Transgender Care and Considerations : Providing Gender Affirming Care.**

The conference concluded with a TED talk by Meriam Signo, DNP RN NEA-BC PHN with her presentation on **Advocacy: Putting it All Together.**

The General Assembly also approved Mary Dickow as an Honorary Member of PNANC joining Mary Foley, Liz Dietz and John Lantz on the list.

The conference ended with Peter-Reuben Calixto summarizing and concluding the day.



at Harvard University presented **"Our Planet, Our Health: Why Should Nurses Bother?"** In his presentation, he congratulated the Philippine Nurses Association for being a visionary in this aspect of global health which he further posted on his personal blog citing nurses' vision and concern on going beyond their usual traditional roles in health care.

Director of CGFNS International- Mukul Bakshi, cited climate change as a force for nurse migration on his topic, **Nursing A Sick World: The Consequences of Climate Change for Migration and Nursing.**

Climate and Health Alliance based in Melbourne, Australia Founder Fiona Armstrong described **Nurses' Role in Advocacy and Action: Climate Friendly Healthcare.**

The Global Summit portion of the conference was moderated by Victoria Navarro in whose term as PNAA president conceptualized the Global Summit.

The second day was the International Conference. Professor Emeritus, Dula Pacquiao from Rutgers State University was the keynote speaker on her presenta-

The presentation of **Clinical Leadership in Nursing and Healthcare** was eloquently presented by Mary Ann Donahue, an executive consultant from New Jersey. She discussed quality, safe and compassionate care.

A research panel moderated by Dr. Marlon Saria where **Ethics in Research and Publications** were presented by PNA President Caster Palaganas, PNAA Executive Director Leo Felix Jurado and Associate Professor Sigrid Ladros of University of Alabama, Birmingham.

The Networking Night featured local Boracay Fire Dancers. It was also during the Networking Night where the PNAA Global Summit were presented. There was also a live band that provided the musical entertainment playing mostly those top hits in the 70s, 80s and some in the 90s. Held at the Henann Garden, this was an open air event which was another party ending another fun chapter during this GS/International Conference .

The GS/INC was a sold out event that registration had to close a week prior to it being held. On-site registration was not allowed.



Big Island West Becomes A Chapter

President Madelyn Yu inducted the first officers of the PNAA's 55th chapter, the Philippine Nurses Association Big Island West on February 29, 2020 at the Waikoloa Hilton Hotel Ballroom. Also attending the event was former PNAA President Pete Calixto and Western Regional Vice President Ramon Sumibcay. The founding officers are Maria Mndel, president; Bri-an Alejandro, president-elect; Cindy Ventenilla, vice president; Bridget Bala-Valdez, Secretary; and Severina Bactad, Treasurer.

The chapter's formation was made possible through the coordinated efforts of the officers of PNA Hawaii led by Erlinda Ferrer, PNAH President. The "Team Kona" organizers included Bob Gahol, incoming president Violet Sadural, Norgen Orpilla, Perrie Danao-PNAH Parliamentarian, Nelia Andrada Jose and mentor, Bea Ramos-Razon- PNAH Executive Director who also was the master of ceremonies.

There was no dancing after the dinner but instead, a chapter strategic planning was held with almost all attendees staying till the strategic planning was over.

Umingan Medical Mission: Perspectives of An Eight-Year Old

As you can see, I am wearing a red tank top approaching the school supply distribution table. Since Miss Nubian escorted us out of our classroom to assemble in front of the stage, my mind was just busy imagining what is yet to come. I love occasions like these as we are freed from classroom work and expect surprises.

Not too long after my class was instructed to sit on the pavement, two big vans rolled into the campus parking where we assembled. With us were some barangay kagawad and our male teachers as they harmoniously helped unload boxes from the vans. We were instructed to keep quiet and to be ready to welcome the visitors. As each visitor alighted from the vans all wearing white shirts, pleasantries of hand shakes, introductions and hugs by our visitors and our teachers.

Our school principal made the introduction and introduced the local boy who has made it. His name



is Sir President Dino Doliente. He then introduced his group saying that they were all nurses. He explained why they were in the school and I was happy that he went to school with some of my teachers.

They were going to distribute presents - basic school supplies and later jollibee treats. Classes took turns getting up to the stage as each student was handed his own. I remember from my first grade teacher to always say thank you which I repeatedly recited to myself as I approached the table designed for second graders. I did not forget to say thank you to the person who handed me my stuff in fact I might have said it too loud that she gave me a caring smile.

The goodies we were given overwhelmed me. Simple pleasures for children like us. But to me the message was clear. Sir President Dino Doliente is from Umingan and he cares for children like me and my school. He said so in his speech. When the distribution was over, it did not take them very long before they got back into the vans. I watched the vans carrying our generous visitors disappeared from my view as Miss Nubian led us back to our classroom.

As I sat on my desk, I fantasized that someday I will also come back to my school and will do the same thing that Sir President Dino Doliente did. It will be an inspiring moment for me and someday a child like me will fill into my shoes and feel the same emotions like what I'm experiencing right now as a second grader. To Sir President Dino Doliente, thank you so much. You make us so proud of your accomplishments and for your incredible gesture of giving back. God bless you..