

PNAAF President's Outgoing Message



My warm greetings of gratitude to both PNA and PNAAF.

I have been browsing on old Philippine Nurses Association of America (PNA) convention and gala pictures, and they made me smile, wide eyes and gasps as I remembered some happy memories from 23 years of joining this prestigious, one and only Filipino nurses' organization in America.

Looking back, I was an excited "newcomer," 53 years old, three children, at my prime as a nurse-entrepreneur, looks pretty and smiling in pictures with my late husband Eddie, and wears high heels, and tagging along with past President Ampy dela Paz, who introduced me to PNA as Board member of PNA Metro Houston, in Texas. Now, I am 76 very senior, widow, eight grandchildren, still an entrepreneur, still looking pretty and smiling, immediate past President of PNA Foundation (PNAAF), from 2015 to June 2019 (two terms) and remained active paid member of PNA and a committed PNAAF Council of Trustees.

Reflecting, allow me to share my meaningful involvement and services to PNA and PNAAF, both great organizations that nurtured me as a better nursing leader and a better person. In 1999, I was then a fully active PNA member, got acquainted with all the great PNA Founders and leaders, like the impressive founding President Dr. Clarita Miralor, Phoebe Andes, Leo Jurado, Nelson Tuazon, Pete Calixto among others. I don't know if it was by chance or by providential destiny that the incoming PNA President for 2000-2002, Pete Calixto ask me to run for the PNA Board, which I vehemently declined due to my responsibilities in our businesses, but he was determined as he was a persuasive young man, an Ilocano, a co-Tomasino he got around convincing my late husband to persuade me to be a part of his Executive Board (EB). I conceded to an "appointee" position, and Pete appointed me two positions, as Asst. Treasurer and South Central Regional Liaison (RLO). This was the beginning of my involvement with being on the EB for ten consecutive years. Except on Ray Rivera's term, when my husband got gravely sick and died on Dec 2011. We implemented strategies in increasing membership, Mr. Calixto initiated the formation of PNA Central Florida, and we attended the first induction of EB on a cruise.

During President Mila Velasquez's term (2002-2004), I was elected as PNA Treasurer and worked closely with Mila on budget and finance and Budget Projection. I introduced the essential business bookkeeping and a template for Budget Projection, a copy of the format is included in the time capsule. With the approval of the EB, I started allocation and included in the Annual Budget Projection for a minimal budget allowance (valid reimbursable expense) for travel to the convention for the PNA president and secretary with receipt. I also solicited approval from the EB to increase membership fee to \$15.00 from the previous \$5.00, annually.

During Leo-Felix Jurado's term (2006-2008), I was elected as the South Central Regional VP. As one of the four "pioneering Regional VPs," we split the four core responsibilities in support of President Leo's mantra. This lovable gentleman was much of a challenge, and much was accomplished. Again, the annual membership fee was raised to \$35.00. We had 42 PNA Chapters before his term ended, initiated the APN Forum, and more incentives and benefits were developed for the membership. Leo officiated the groundbreaking of the PNA Gawad Kalinga Village.

The first Gawad Kalinga house was donated by my husband for the Velasquez family. He initiated the JNPARR with a budget of \$45,000.00. I had the opportunity to meet the famous and Philippine icon musical composer, Ryan Cayabyab thru his nephew (my former graduate) and brokered for the musical score for our PNA National anthem "Shine PNA Shine" for \$7,000.00.

I was appointed as Executive Director during Victoria Navarro's term. We did a lot together, flew to Mauritius for a Global conference, a very productive president.

And moving on to my new role as the PNAAF President for 2015-2017 was a culmination of my providential destiny to serve my extended family of Filipino nurses. I am so blessed to work with confident and experiences nursing leaders, the members of PNAAF Executive Board, Amor Castro - Vice Pres., Nancy Hoff - secretary, Martha Cabarrios - treasurer, Alice Andam - auditor and Dr. Annie Vista - Executive Director. We were all inducted in the beautiful island in Honolulu, HI by PNAAF founding President Phoebe Andes. Our gratitude to Pres. Leticia

Hermosa for granting our induction witnessed by the membership during the gala night. Our mantra: "Synergize, Explore and Share, Moving Vision to Reality." The goal was a sequel to the solicitation of donors campaign, the Founding Members Initiative (FMI) initiated by past President Araceli Antonio 2007-2011, and continued to the Legacy Tree Campaign during past President Ernie Rosas 2011-2015.

The powerhouse "Dream Team Executive Board, actively support and autonomously approved to realize "the Dream, the Promise for the PNAAF/PNAAF Legacy Headquarters. It is known to everyone the efforts, dedication, and commitment made by all the Trustees to facilitate the acquisition of the building.

PNAAF implemented proven strategies, created committees, solicited help from PNA EB, developed criteria, put the PNA New Jersey team to work in search for the building, hired real estate agent, consulted real estate lawyer, hired licensed architect and certified accountant, and listened to the advises and guidance of our pro bono legal counsel, Ally, Arnedo Valera. Annie and I traveled and were visible in all Regional and National PNAAF conventions and even chapter inductions.

We created the Council of Trustees for \$10,000.00 donors and offered them benefits of lifetime Trustees and acknowledge their names and pictures in a prominent place in the Legacy Headquarters. We prayed for the impossible made possible with the blessings of our Almighty though we failed on the first property of Feb 2018, we kept the faith, imploring that when "the door closed, God opens the window of hope." And the prayers are answered at the right time.

With the help of PNAAF donating a significant sum of \$225,000.00 during the presidency of Dino Doliente III and his EB, PNAAF finalized acquisition of the PNAAF/PNAAF Legacy Headquarters for \$1.2 million, clean and no mortgage, three weeks before the 39th PNAAF National Convention in New Jersey.

Let us all celebrate our blessings. My heartfelt gratitude and Congratulations to everyone.

Martina M. Velasquez



PNAAF inducts 2019-2021 officers and Board of Trustees

by Nancy Nolasco Hoff, MSN, RN
PNAAF President 2019-2021



The 2019-2021 PNAAF officers and trustees were inducted in front of the General Assembly during the 40th PNAAF Anniversary Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. This group of men and women, who took the oath of office, take their roles and responsibilities to heart. The officers have the creativity and wisdom to lead the foundation and have unwavering faith in the hearts of the members. They will continue to fulfill the mission of the foundation to “Promote and provide opportunities for philanthropy in support of professional advancement of all Filipino-American nurses and health for all through nursing care, education, scholarship, management and research.”

During the past four years, PNAAF officers and trustees, under the leadership of the indefatigable immediate past president Merlita Velasquez, were focused on the realization of the vision and dream of a permanent home for PNAAF. Through the collaboration of PNAAF and PNAAF, more than \$1,000,000 contributions were generated to build the home we now have in New Brunswick, New Jersey, making the vision a reality. New Jersey is where PNAAF started and now, New Jersey is where the PNAAF/PNAAF Headquarters is located.

What will the future bring? A strong foundation has been laid, roadmaps were created through strategic planning by past and present PNAAF officers and trustees and with the goal for advocacy through philanthropic giving, caring, and collaborating, what else can be in store but a brighter and more solid future. PNAAF and PNAAF will continue to collaborate to maintain a strong organization for the Filipino Nurses.





2019-2021 PNAAF Officers

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Corresponding Secretary Luz Newell
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