The FEUDNRSM Alumni Foundation Board of Trustees’ Winter meeting will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2017, at the Monte Carlo Hotel Casino in Las Vegas.

The updated agenda are, as follows:
- Call meeting to order, invocation by Noli Guinigundo MD, and roll call
- Approval of the minutes of the Board of Trustees’ summer meeting of July 8, 2016, by Nida Blankas-Hernaez MD;
- Chairman of the Board’s report by Dr Guinigundo;
- President’s report by Licerio Castro Jr MD on a letter of resignation, status of the Alumni Foundation with proposal for a change of reunion venues, status of the United States Department of Health Secretary, Winter Board Trustees’ meetings, and approval of the Alumni Foundation official brochure created by Dr. Nicanor Reyes Jr School of Medicine Alumni Foundation.

We would like to see that our
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COMMUNITY CLINIC IN LAS VEGAS

Sharing the story of Samahan
Community Clinic in San Diego
CESAR D CANDARI MD
FCAP Emeritus
As one of the founders of Samahan Community Clinic of San Diego County, I am indeed inspired to write this article when a charitable organization in Las Vegas, Rising Asian Pacific Coalition for Diversity (RAPACID), IRS#501 c3 approved Foundation is in the process of establishing a Community Health Clinic – Twin Lakes Community Clinic (TLCC) under the energetic and able leadership of Ms Salve Vargas Edelman.

The organization’s mission is to provide quality health care people can afford. Volunteers in medicine is not alone in assisting the uninsured. Nevada Health Centers operates six clinics in Clark County but it is not enough, much more when we are in the advent of Health Care Reform.

The proposed clinic will be located at medically underserved area/ population of Clark County. These service areas (zip codes 89107, 89106 and 89108) are identified as an existing Health

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**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

I read the **PMAC News** March 2017 issue. Thank you for including my article on the two medical surgical missions that we undertook last January 2017 in the Philippines. The Society of Philippine Surgeons in America (SPSA), founded by Hernan Reyes MD in 1972, will be celebrating its Sapphire Jubilee anniversary in Las Vegas on August 22-26, 2017, at the South Point Hotel Casino as the venue.

The Filipino United Network (FUN) and Filipino American Initiative to Transform our Homeland (FAITH) seminar on Philippine health care and foreign surgical medical missions is definitely scheduled on Thursday afternoon, August 24, 2017, from 3:00 to 5:30 pm, following the SPSA professorial lecture. A Board Meeting of FUN and FAITH is also being planned after the seminar. Non-SPSA fellows are invited and encouraged to attend the continuing medical education, FUN/FAITH seminar and the Friday night Sapphire Anniversary Gala night.

**DANIEL FABITO MD**
Chairman
SPSA Local Convention Committee

**COMMUNITY CLINIC IN LAS VEGAS**

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Professional Shortage area and Medically underserved area/ population. It is also areas with high unemployment rate and with very few being served by the Safety Net Clinics in Las Vegas according to Dr Daniel Fabito, appointed chief medical officer.

Very soon, the Section 330 grant funding will be applied for to be Federally Qualified Health Center and apply under the Federal Tort Claims Act for free medical malpractice insurance.

Dr Fabito stated further: … the Twin Lakes Community Clinic hopes to provide high quality, comprehensive, primary and preventable affordable health care to the needy regardless of ability to pay with the health and well-being of the entire communities.

We, Pilipino–American organizations must show our credibility, spirit and the will for unity as we work together in the spirit of Samahan. Sharing the story of Samahan Community Clinic for emulation

The Samahan Community Health Clinic of San Diego County is a story to behold. It is a story to prove to all and sundry, beyond any shadow of a doubt, that Pilipinos can actually unite and persevere to pursue a worthy and a noble cause.

For non-Pilipinos, samahan in Tagalog means togetherness, working together or helping each other. So whatever nuance of the word you choose it translates to people helping people, exactly what the three doctors had in mind when they started their operation in the dingy barbershop backroom on Fifth Avenue and Market Street in downtown San Diego. How they were able to energize the community to support their project is a story worth telling.

Operation Samahan has since grown to six clinic sites in San Diego County with an additional site pending in City Heights. How it started? At first, it was only a gleam in three dreamers’ eyes. The dreamers, Drs Cesar D Candari, Romeo Quini and the late Adelito Gale, were Pilipino-American doctors practicing in San Diego.

They shared a common dream to reach out to some of the manongs (elderly Pilipinos) living in San Diego, immigrants like themselves, who have shied away from medical care for many years, not only because of indifference but also because of poverty and language and other cultural barriers.

In 1972, they put their heads together and with the help of other volunteers and Pilipino community activists, they started a makeshift clinic in the backroom of a downtown barbershop. Using their own time and resources, they made their
consultation services available to patients on Friday nights when at least one if not all three doctors and other volunteers manned their tiny, understaffed clinic.

Others who were there to lend a helping hand in the early days included other physicians, as well as registered nurses.

Medical care for underprivileged. From the start, the keynote was affordable medical care to all those who needed it but had no medical insurance and could not afford the regular fees charged by most doctors.

The three founders, in the spirit of love and compassion of caring became a legacy.

And business soon burgeoned. Word got out fast in the Pilipino-American community that there was this free medical clinic operated by three caring doctors of their own kind which opened its doors on Friday evenings. Not only the elderly came but also the women with babies.

Soon the three doctors were besieged by a growing number of patients, much more than what they were prepared to handle. There was suddenly a critical shortage of room and support personnel.

At this point, the doctors decided that they needed more help. Help from more members of the community as well as government agencies who could provide the much needed funding for the expansion of the clinic's facilities and manpower.

And so, in 1973, Operation Samahan was officially born and incorporated as a private, nonprofit health organization whose primary mission is to provide affordable medical care to the poor and uninsured. The first Pilipino Medical Foundation Inc was organized to administer the clinic; Dr Candari became the founding president. He also became the first chairman of the board of the Clinic called Operation Samahan.

Pilipino-Americans in support. Among the first in the Pilipino-American community to answer the call for help were officers of the Council of Philippine-American Organizations. Grace Pena Blaszkowski, herself a Pilipina who was then the chief of the City of San Diego's Office of Asian-American Affairs, was another key figure.

After concerted and diligent efforts, she was able to secure the funding from city and county agencies to jumpstart the move of the little clinic to more spacious quarters in National City.

The late National City Mayor Kile Morgan who, after representations by community leaders, allowed the free use of the Boys & Girls Club building for two years. An executive director was hired, provided the administrative support and machinery.

Ten years later, two clinics operated by Samahan served more than 20,000 patients a year on a total budget of $1.5-million.

In addition to the token fees paid by patients, the operating funds come from private donations, grants from institutions like the United Way and government aid from San Diego County, MediCal and Medicare.

Dr Candari as chairman of the board most of the time volunteered his services for about two decades. He says with pride, It gives me great satisfaction in looking back, to have helped organize a medical facility to serve the poor in the community.

Candari considers his involvement with the organization as the highlight of my medical career.

From ethnic to the mainstream

The San Diego Union Tribune has a special section entitled Community Solutions and it spotlights from time to time the work of organizations that have endeavored in their own unique way to help improve the lives of the disadvantaged and neglected segments of the population. Samahan Clinic was featured and highlighted.

Therein lies the secret for the awe-inspiring success of the medical clinics of Operation Samahan. From a purely ethnic Pilipino-manned and oriented operation, the project has metamorphosed into a mainstream player and its doors are now open to all the diverse peoples that make up the American landscape.

Now, Pilipinos, Laotians, Vietnamese, Latinos, African-Americans, and other immigrants regularly troop to the two clinics for their much-needed medical care which otherwise they could not afford elsewhere.

No one, absolutely no one, is turned away by Operation Samahan.

Although the clinics also accept people with insurance, more than 40% of their patients have no insurance coverage at all. While nothing is entirely free, any patient whose annual income is twice the federal poverty level or below qualifies for Samahan's sliding-scale fee and pays a small percentage of the cost of treatment.

Uninsured patients who do not qualify for the sliding scale program pay $65 per visit, while the clinic pays for everything (including x-rays and other lab costs) above that amount.

Example of Pilipino-American capabilities. What started as a Friday-night-only clinic in 1972 by the three pioneers, Drs Candari, Quini and Gale, after a quarter of a century has grown into a full-blown operation with a professional staff of regular doctors, nurses and support persons.

Under Pilipino-American initiative and leadership demonstrates what our people can do to succeed if they put their minds and hearts into it. That all it takes is vision, courage and determination.

What Pilipinos in San Diego have accomplished with Operation Samahan is probably a very small step if viewed in the light of the unlimited potential for service that is waiting to be unleashed in all of our Pilipino-American communities across the United States.

But it is one giant leap to inspire all Filipinos everywhere and it is a shining example for emulation by all other minorities in America.
FAITH CORNER
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suffering at the hands of the Babylonians.

The prophet shifts from reflection on their
trouble and suffering to hope.

He proposes that a return to
God will mean a reversal of
fortune for the sinfulness of
humankind.

Yet even now, says the
Lord, return to me with all
your heart, with fasting, with
weeping and with mourning;
rend your hearts and not your
clothing. Return to the Lord your God, for
he is gracious and merciful, slow to
anger and abounding in steadfast love. Joel 2:12-14

This to me is the reason we observe a
Season of Lent each year. It is the overall
message of Lent for all of us. Just as the
Israelites in the time of Joel needed hope
and encouragement during a low point in
their lives, we too, in this uncertain and
unpleasant world where people continue to
turn their backs on the Lord, need to hear
those same words: Return to the Lord your
God, for He is gracious and merciful and
abounding in steadfast love.

Despite all that we have done to
displease the Lord our God, He gives us a
choice to return to Him once more. In the
imposition of ashes, He reminds us that
our lives belong to Him and to Him alone.

The inevitable question has to be, how
far will the Lord go to see that His people
return to Him?

Our scripture readings, our private
reflections on our lives under God, our
public confession of our faith throughout
the year should give us the answer and this
is made more profound and clear during the
forty days of Lent.

How much does God want His people
to return to Him? For God so loved the
world that He gave his only begotten Son
so that whosoever believeth in Him should
not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

The season of Lent leads to the cross of
Good Friday. We have 40 days in which to
reflect on our past, put into practice those
eriments of religious life that Matthew
writes in his gospel – alms giving, fasting
and prayer.

And then, on Good Friday, we get to
experience how far God will go to see that
we return to Him. We cannot ever fully
understand the hope that the resurrection
brings without experiencing the cross of
Good Friday. Then and only then can we
appreciate Easter Sunday and thank the
Lord for what He has done and continues
to do for us.

Remember this: returning to God is not
about us. It is about God loving and caring
for His people, giving them chance after
chance to return to where they belong – in
His loving arms.

If I were to summarize the theme of
the entire Bible in one sentence, it would
be that God does not abandon His
creation. Beginning with the fall of
humankind in the Garden of Eden, God
has never abandoned His creation
throughout our existence.

God has sent His only begotten Son to
die for us. Saint Paul, in his Letter to the
Romans, accurately concluded that it
would take Jesus Christ to reconcile us
with God the Father once and for all.

From your CHAIRMAN
continued from page 2

people involved in the mission.

Initially we had the
impression that the
Department of Health
wants to stop missions;
but on the contrary, we
are welcome but
coordinate with them.

We are also in the
process of making arrangement for July
2017 annual reunion in Long Beach CA.

There are certain items that we need to
finalize during the Winter meeting that
would affect the summer event.

This will be discussed in this upcoming
meeting, hence, the importance of a good
quorum.

Again, I implore the Trustees to please
make it to the meeting on March 25.

More on this next time.

NOLI GUINIGUNDO MD

PRESIDENT’S Message
continued from page 1

organization is a true workforce
that would enable to initiate
changes for the
better.

We owe it to our previous
great leaders for the
groundwork that had been laid
down for us to follow and for
others to emulate.

We hope to accomplish
things that would benefit the many and to
instill in the younger generations the
possibility of goal attainment with
Patience, Perseverance and Prayers.

LICERIO V CASTRO JR MD

Winter Meet AGENDA
continued from page 1

Amethyst Cureg MD;
Treasurer’s report by Dr
Cureg to include Alumni
Foundation member outreach,
engagement, recruitment and
retention action plan;
Executive Director’s report
by Pete Florescio MD;
2016 reunion convention
chairmen’s reports by
Hermingildo Valle MD and
Rick De Leon;
Various committee reports;
1 - Constitution and by-laws by
Danny Fabito MD;
2 - Financial and investments by Renato Ramos MD and Grace Rabadam MD;
3 – Awards by Daisy Ramos MD and Dr Blankas-Hernaez;
4 – **ECTOPIC MURMURS** by Cesar V Reyes MD;
5 – Membership by Drs Guinigundo and Florescio;
6 - Medical surgical mission by Dr Castro, Roger Cave MD;
7 - Annual Memorial Lectures by Dr R Ramos, Philip Chua MD, Emilie Ongcapin MD, Ed Relucio MD, Dr Fabito, and Dr Reyes;
8 - Scholarship and Student Achievement Awards by Hernani Tansuche MD;
9 - Postgraduate education: Dr Fabito, and Manny Malicay MD;
10 - Fund raising by Dr D Ramos;
11- Professorial Awards by Dr Malicay;
12 - **Balik-FEU homecoming** by Pepito Rivera MD;
13 – Medical school liaison officer by Dr Fabito;
Alumni Foundation Chapters reports by Chapter presidents;
Old business;
New business;
Announcement for the 2017 annual reunion to be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Long Beach CA, July 19 –July 22, 2017; and Adjournment.

**COMMENTS**
Editorials, news releases, letters to the editor, column proposal and manuscripts are invited. Email submission, including figures or pictures, is preferred.

**PMAAC News**
Deadline for April 2017 issue
April 5, 2017
Please address submission to acvrear@gmail.com

**COMMENTS**
Editorials, news releases, letters to the editor, column proposal and manuscripts are invited. Email submission, including figures or pictures, is preferred.

**ECTOPIC MURMURS**
Deadline for April 2017 issue
April 19, 2017
Please address submission to acvrear@gmail.com

**INTERUNIVERSITY Variety SHOW**
SATURDAY APRIL 22, 2017 6-12MN
HYATT REGENCY O'HARE
9900 BRYN MAWR AVENUE ROSEMONT, ILLINOIS, 60018
$80 PER PERSON
ATTIRE: FORMAL
RSVP BY 04/12/2017
MRS. FE LUMIÇAG: (312) 664-2162
DR. MELINDA TOLENTINO: (708) 608-7262
DR. ZITA YURKO: (847) 477-3286
DR. NIDA BLANKAS-HERNAEZ: (312) 668-7386

You are invited.
2018 TRAVEL Invitation
Budapest, Vienna, and Prague tour
September 1 to 10, 2018
Inclusive with air $2787/person

You are invited.
Contact Nida Blankas Hernaez MD FAAP, PMAC Auxiliary president, 7124 West Touhy Avenue, Niles IL 60714, ednida888@gmail.com, or [847]-668-7385

FEUDNRSMAF Alumni Foundation
MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Yes, I would like to invest in the future of the FEUDNRSMAF Alumni Foundation. Herewith below is my membership registration/ renewal for 2016-2017

Name _______________________________________________________
Address _______________________________________________________
Email __________________________________ Telephone ____________

Membership dues is $70 (physician in training, $25). Please make you check payable to “FEUDNRSMAF” and mail the same with this registration to:
FEUDNRSMAF Alumni Foundation, 6530 Dunham Road, Downers Grove, IL 60516
Telephone (630) 971-1356 Email avrear@gmail.com
38th ANNUAL REUNION & SCIENTIFIC CONVENTION

HONOREES
Class\textsuperscript{57} (Diamond Jubilee)
Class\textsuperscript{62} (Emerald Jubilee)
Class\textsuperscript{67} (Golden Jubilee)
Class\textsuperscript{92} (Silver Jubilee)
Class\textsuperscript{72} (Sapphire Jubilee)
Class\textsuperscript{77} (Ruby Jubilee)
Class\textsuperscript{82} (Coral Jubilee)
Class\textsuperscript{87} (Pearl Jubilee)
Class\textsuperscript{97} (20th Anniversary)
Class\textsuperscript{2002} (15th Anniversary)
Class\textsuperscript{2007} (10th Anniversary)

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

**Wednesday, July 19, 2017**
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm Registration
6:30 pm - 12:00 am Holywood Welcome Reception (WR)

**Thursday, July 20, 2017**
7:30 am - 8:00 am Registration, continental breakfast
8:00 am - 12:10 pm Scientific sessions
8:00 am - 4:00 pm Arts, posters, exhibits and product displays
11:10 am - 12:10 noon 11th Annual Jesus B Nolasco MD Memorial Lecture
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm Annual General Membership Luncheon Meeting (L)
12:30 pm - 5:00 pm Holywood shows and tours, or free time for everyone

**Friday, July 21, 2017**
7:30 am - 8:00 am Registration, continental breakfast
8:00 am - 12:30 pm Scientific sessions
8:00 am - 4:00 pm Arts, posters, exhibits and product displays
11:00 am - 12:00 noon Third Annual Ricardo L Alfonso MD Memorial Lecture
12:00 pm - 5:00 pm Annual Summer Board of Trustees meeting
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Class\textsuperscript{67} and Class\textsuperscript{92} Jubilarians’ Business meetings
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Other Classes Luncheon Business meeting
6:30 pm - 1:00 am Alumni Filipiniana Night Honoring Class\textsuperscript{62}, Class\textsuperscript{77}, Class\textsuperscript{82}, Class\textsuperscript{97}, Class\textsuperscript{92}, Class\textsuperscript{2002}, and Class\textsuperscript{2007}

**Saturday, July 22, 2017**
7:30 am - 8:00 am Registration, Continental breakfast
8:00 am - 12:10 pm Scientific sessions
8:00 am - 4:00 pm Arts, posters, exhibits and product displays
11:10 am - 12:10 pm 22nd Annual Dr Nicanor Reyes Medical Lecture
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Photo sessions: Silver Jubilarians and other Classes
REGISTRATION

Name____________________________________ Spouse____________________________________

Address___________________________________________

Telephone ____________________ Email ____________________ Class _______

CME ................................................................................................................. $250
CME (Retired) .......................................................... 150

Annual membership fee [required to attend any event] ......................... 70

Welcome Night Reception* (Wednesday, July 19, 2017, 6:30 pm) ......... free
FREE FOR REGISTRANTS and SPOUSE ONLY and REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Filipiniana Night (Thursday, July 20, 2017) .............................................. 200
On/before June 19th June 20-26 June 21-30 July 1-10 After July 10th/ pay on-site
$200 $220 $240 $260 $280

Grand Reunion Night (Saturday, July 22, 2017) ........................................ 200
On/before June 19th June 20-26 June 21-30 July 1-10 After July 10th/ pay on-site
$200 $220 $240 $260 $280

General Membership Luncheon meeting (Friday, July 21, 2017, 12:00 noon) ....... 50

TOTAL .......................................................... $ _____

Please send your registration early on or before July 17, 2017, to get the discounted fee.
On-site registration is only on Wednesday, July 19th, Thursday, July 20th, and Friday, July 21st, only from 9:00 am through 1:00 pm.

Make check payable to FEUDNRSMAF and mail to Pedro Florescio Jr MD
Executive Director
337 Elmhurst Place
Fullerton, CA 92835.

Your cancelled check is your receipt. It will be acknowledged with your registration and check, with legible email address. Self-addressed and stamped envelope is also acceptable for those without email address.

For further questions or information, please send your questions to my email at pflorescioofla@sbcglobal.net. DO NOT send your registration via certified mail with return card, which will not be retrieved from the post office.

Refund is available upon request 30 days before the event minus $100 for processing fee. Annual membership fee is not required for those who are Lifetime member.

Due to strict hotel policy on banquet events it is advised to register on time. Late registrants may be served with different meal.