



# Inside PNAA

Volume 1, Issue 2

August 30, 2012

## New Stakeholders for Medicare Innovation

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Andrew Shin (2nd from Left), the acting director for stakeholder engagement for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) Innovation office, is thanked by leaders of the Washington DC-based group US Medicare PH, Inc. for meeting and advising them. They introduced their request for a CMS feasibility

study on extending Medicare coverage in the Philippines for Filipino American retirees. (L to R) Emma Dela Rosa RN, Dr. Bambi Lorica, Daisy Tucay RN, Dr. Emma Dacquel and Dr. Billy Cabellon. They met for an hour at the Dept. of Human & Health Services headquarters in Washington DC on August 15, 2012. They discussed how their proposal will save CMS

at least a billion dollars per year. An action summit with their stakeholder leaders is planned in the nation's capital in October to prepare for the expected \$100 Billion cuts in the federal budget next year.

(Click [here](#) for more info on US Medicare PH.)



Photo by Eric Lachica



**Madelyn Yu**

Chair, Public Relations/  
Cultural Affairs  
Committee



**Marife Sevilla**

Chair, Human Rights  
Committee

### New Chairpersons appointed to the Human Rights Committee, Public Relations/Cultural Affairs Committee

Vicky Navarro, PNAA President has made changes in the Chairmanships of two Committees. She has asked Madelyn Yu, RN, MSN to Chair the Public Relations/Cultural Affairs Committee for her vision to bring the PNAA issues closer to the members through timely communications, position statements, delivering news to members as it happens.

Madelyn Yu, RN, MSN, has served the PNAA since 2002 as Founding President of Essex County Subchapter of PNA New Jersey, Vice President and President of PNANJ, PNAA COP, PNAA Board of Director, and Chairperson of the Legislative and Human Rights Committee before being appointed to her current position. She brings expertise in journalism as contributing editor to the Kaleidoscope, the

Saint Barnabas Medical Center nursing newsletter and experiences as contributing columnist to The Tribune, a tri-state weekly newspaper. She currently works as Nurse Manager of the PACU at Saint Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, New Jersey and serves as the Vice President of the University of the Philippines Alumni Association of New Jersey.

Marife Sevilla, BSN, RN, CNOR, has been tapped to chair the Human Rights Committee. She is the Immediate President of PNA of Northern California and served as its Treasurer from 2006 - 2008. She was the FEU Nursing Alumni Foundation President from 2006 - 2008. She is the Robotic Coordinator and Lecturer on Robotic and Bariatric Surgery at

Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City, CA.

"I am humbled to be the chair of Human Rights Committee for I believe that the work done has the most lasting impression affecting the lives and professional practice of Filipino nurses. Through various circumstances, the Human Rights Committee helped safeguard the Filipino nurses rights and restored the respect and dignity vital to all of us. With the expert knowledge and experience of my predecessors as my mentors and all the members of the committee, I look forward with confidence that we can only do our best". — Marife Sevilla.

## Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO): PRC SUSPENDS FSMM Requirements to Increase of Permit Fees and Liability Insurance

When the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) asked for an increase in the payment of fees for issuance of permits and to acquire liability insurance for healthcare providers doing medical missions for the indigent population of the

Philippines, there were complaints from the medical and nursing groups who go back to the Philippines to volunteer their services for free and cancellations of some of these medical missions.

Through the efforts of these group of

professionals, MDs and RNs, and with assistance from CFO Secretary Imelda Nicolas and Ambassador Cuisia, the PRC suspends these new requirements.

Medical mission groups are urged not to cancel their planned medical missions and continue their

work to benefit the poorest of the country.

(Click [here](#) for what medical missions can do, write-up on the PNAMD medical mission.)

## Congratulations Corner

Dr. Minerva Salinas Guttman, BSN, MA, M.Ed., Ed.D, RN, APN awarded the 2012 Julita V. Sotejo Medallion of Honor during the 33rd Annual Reunion of the University of the Philippines Nursing Alumni Association International (UPNAAI) in Williamsburg, VA

The legendary founder and first dean of the University of the Philippines College of Nursing (UPCN), Julita Sotejo, espoused high quality in all facets of the nursing profession, be it a public service, a bedside nurse or the academia. Her dedication and unrelenting pursuit of excellence was her enduring legacy to the nursing world.

The 2012 J.V. Sotejo Medallion of Honor recipient, Minerva Salinas Guttman, PNANJ, epitomizes the legacy of the esteemed and iconic Sotejo for her dedication in enhancing nursing practice through the integration of nursing education and other skills. While Minerva was a staff nurse, her passion in teaching moved her from the ward to the classroom as instructor

at The Philippine General Hospital School of Nursing. When she moved to the USA, she again tried a stint as being a staff nurse at the ICU of Mt. Sinai Medical Center in New York, but her deep-seated interest in education pulled her away to become an instructor at The Beth Israel School of Nursing. Her choice of the academe was a momentous decision that paved a career path from Assistant Professor, Assistant Dean of the State University of New York Nursing School and of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Eventually, she became Director, Professor, and Chief Academic and Administrative Officer of the Henry P. Becton School of Nursing and Allied Health, Fairleigh Dickinson University. Dr. Guttman is presently the holder of the highest rank of tenured professor and

Ferguson Endowed Chair. One of her many important achievements is her effort in advancing nursing practice by developing the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program which was given full accreditation by the AACN - a great contribution to the nursing profession.

(Excerpt from the write-up of Nelson Borrero, UPNAAI souvenir journal Aug 10-11, 2012.)



**Remedios A. Solarte**, 6th PNAA President and former Executive Director of PNAA Michigan celebrated her Golden Jubilee in Nursing from the Far Eastern University (FEU).



**Araceli Dacumos Antonio**, 2nd President of PNAAF of PNAA Southern California celebrated her 24th Anniversary (Emerald) with University of the Philippines (UP) Dean Araceli Ocampo Balabagno.



**Dr. Cristina C. Hendrix**, President-Elect of PNA North Carolina was selected to be a member of the Veterans Health Affairs National Nursing Research Advisory Group from 2012 to 2015. She was also promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure at Duke University School of Nursing effective May 1, 2012.



## Congratulations Corner continued ...

**Gabriel Sapalaran, Jr.**  
Founder and 1st President of PNA  
North Carolina is:

1. Member of the Birmingham Veterans Affairs: Evidence Based Practice Council 2012 - 2014
2. Geriatric Scholar of UAB/VA Geriatric Scholar Program, Class of 2014
3. National Committee Member for the Evidence Based Education and Practice for the National

Gerontological Nursing Association  
2011 - 2015

4. Member of the Panel of Experts and Speakers Bureau for the National Association of LPN and the Federation of Alabama LPN Association
5. Panel of Experts and Speaker Bureau for Geriatric Behavioral Health and Community Education for the Princeton Baptist Medical Center, Birmingham AL



## Upcoming Events: Save The Date

### September 9, 2012:

The following chapters invite you to the induction of their incoming Executive Boards:

- \* PNA Cleveland
- \* PNA Columbus
- \* PNA Northeast Florida

### September 15, 2012:

- \* PNAA Illinois celebrates its Affirmation and 55th Year Anniversary: Hope
- \* PNA San Diego will hold the induction of its incoming Executive Board

### September 21, 2012:

- \* PNA New Jersey will hold its 36th Annual Nursing Excellence & Scholarship Awards Night at the Marriott Newark International Liberty Airport in Newark, New Jersey.  
(Click [here](#) for details.)

### September 22, 2012:

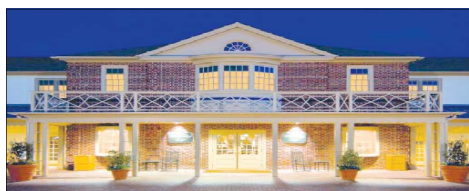
- \* PNA New York invites everyone to their Biennial Induction and Awards Gala Night at The New York Hilton Hotels and Towers in New York, New York.  
(Click [here](#) for more details.)

### November 9 - 10, 2012:

#### 15th Eastern Regional Conference: In Colonial Williamsburg, VA

The Philippine Nurses Association of America, Inc. invites you to attend the 15th Eastern Regional Convention on November 9-10, 2012 at Colonial Williamsburg Lodge. This event will be hosted by the Philippine Nurses of Virginia.

(Click [here](#) for more information.)



Book your room at the  
Williamsburg Lodge



Soldiers in revolutionary uniforms

#### From the Chairman of the Public Relations/Cultural Affairs Committee:

All Regional Vice Presidents, Chapter Presidents, COPs, Committee Chairs, please send in your articles, announcements every 12th and 27th of each month to be included in the **Inside PNAA** news articles that will come out on the 15th and 30th of each month. E-mail Madelyn Yu at [pnanjpres0810@gmail.com](mailto:pnanjpres0810@gmail.com).



# Bring Medicare Home!



## Dear member & supporter,

We, Filipino Americans, medical professionals, retirees and community advocates, **thank you** for joining our campaign to convince the U.S. President and Congress to allow Medicare to pay top Philippine hospitals for our Fil-Am seniors health care when they visit or reside there.

## We earned it

We are retiring at the rate of 100 PER DAY. We are part of the daily "tsunami" of 10,000 baby boomers. Under U.S. law, we can take our Social Security pensions anywhere in the world – but not Medicare.

With decades of work, we have paid into Medicare. We deserve Medicare benefits at accredited PH hospitals and out-patient services.

## Portability is part of the solution

According to their Trustees, Medicare may go bankrupt in 2024. Medicare can save at **least 50 percent** in costs if they allow beneficiaries to be treated in the PH.

If 200,000 retirees choose to reside in the Philippines, the estimated annual Medicare cost savings could be **\$1,000,000,000 (1 Billion)**.

[www.usmedicareph.org](http://www.usmedicareph.org)

This savings could help meet our investments in job creation, education, infrastructure and small businesses or reduce the budget deficit.

## Can this be done?

Precedents: US citizen residents of **Guam** because of proximity are allowed to obtain medical necessary treatment in Philippine hospitals that meet Joint Commission International (JCI) standards. They first pay out-of-pocket their hospitalization and ER expenses and later file claims to be reimbursed by Medicare.

Moreover, TRICARE and the VA reimburse thousands of U.S. military retirees living there.



## How about fraud and accountability?

We aim for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to be authorized by law to pay directly the top Philippine hospitals through **Medicare Advantage Part C** providers.

These JCI accredited hospitals would demonstrate accountability, high quality of care, standardization of professional fees and use of electronic health records (EHR) to meet CMS rules. Fraud would be reduced to almost zero.

The initial **CMS feasibility study** would demonstrate great savings and quality of care.

## Actions speak louder

With the budget crisis we face in America, our proposal deserves the support of your president, your two senators and congressman. E-mail them:

[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

[www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)

[www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)

Urge them to support the draft bill of Del. Madeleine Bordallo (GU), Charles Rangel (NY), Rep. Brian Bilbray (CA), Steve Austria (OH), Bob Filner (CA), Robert Scott (VA) and others.

We highly commend PH Pres. Aquino for his January 26, 2012 commitment to request Pres. Obama to extend Medicare accreditation to the top PH hospitals

## US Medicare PH, Inc. Interim Board:

Daisy TUCAY RN (Chair)  
Dr. Emma DACQUEL (Vice),  
Emma DELA ROSA RN (Treasurer)  
Pilar Poblador-WALSH (Secretary)  
Lorna SEIDEL RN  
Steve HERMOSISIMA  
Marissa USMAN RN  
Luis FLORENDO

**Eric LACHICA** (Organizer)

## Advisers (partial list):

Dr. Bambi LORICA  
Dr. Billy CABELLON  
Dr. Abe BACARRA  
Dr. Orson BATTAD  
Rey RIVERA RN (PNAA)  
Vicky NAVARRO RN  
May MAYOR RN (PNAA)  
Madelyn Yu RN (PNA NJ)  
Loida LEWIS (USPGG)  
Dr. Gino ANG (CT) & Dr. Rommel RIVERA (NaFFAA)  
Rodney GARCIA Esq. (Counsel)

## Partners (partial list):

Former Pres. Fidel RAMOS  
Dr. Mike VERGARA (Global Health)  
Sec. Imelda NICOLAS (PH CFO)  
Vernie ATIENZA (PH Retire. Auth.)  
Dr. Alran BENGZON (Medical City)  
Dr. Joanne COSIN (Chong Hua Cebu)  
PH Nurses Assn. Am  
NaFFAA Natl. Fed. Fil. Am. Assns.  
PARC: PH Assn. Retire. Counselors

8/12

## US Medicare PH, Inc.

1825 Great Falls St. McLean VA 22101

PH: 202-246-1998

E-mail: [usmedicareph@gmail.com](mailto:usmedicareph@gmail.com)



# Global Health Efforts by the Philippine Nurses Association of America

*Fe Nieves-Khouw MSN, RN*

In January, 2012 members of the Philippine Nurses Association of America, Maryland Chapter (PNA-MC) travelled to the Philippines to provide health services to citizens of Barrangay Ampusongan, a rural area in the mountains of the Philippines. The mission, led by past PNA-MC President Dino Doliente III in collaboration with the faculty and staff of St. Louis University School of Nursing in Baguio City, Philippines, took a year to plan and coordinate. The health mission screened and treated over six hundred patients in clinical services such as dental, minor surgery, pediatrics and general medicine. Patients were also given a week's supply of needed medication to manage pain, diabetes, hypertension, infestations, and infection. Many patients walked long distances along unpaved mountain roads to avail themselves of services as their access to healthcare is often dependent upon health missions held by different organizations in the area. Mission volunteers were immersed with the residents of the local community. Some slept in sleeping bags at the government guest house while others were guests in local residents' homes.

## Organizing a Successful Health Mission

The health mission to the Mountain Province of the Philippines is the second health mission undertaken by PNA-MC. Both missions were organized following a three point collaboration model involving PNAMC working with a local school of nursing and the local government of the area where the health mission was held. This collaboration allowed for efficient and effective planning. The local school of nursing provided critical information about the demographics of the selected area, as well as health care needs of the population. Additionally, they mobilized a volunteer group of physicians and other allied health professionals such as medical technologist and dental professionals. School of nursing partners provided important direction about local scope of practice and other standards. PNAMC members worked as colleagues to these professionals and delivered patient care with their guidance. Mission staff was careful to be respectful of the knowledge and expertise of the local healthcare providers, and avoided conveying an attitude that nurses from America were superior to local professionals.

Local government involvement was critical to ensure that area citizens were aware of the planned health mission. Local health officers provided guidance regarding the specific conditions the mission volunteers were likely to encounter and treatments that were likely to be provided. Local government officials were vital in ensuring the safety and security of health mission members, by providing police escorts and when needed, armed guards. Visible police presence during and after health mission hours reassured volunteers (and their families in the US) that their safety was paramount and safeguarded.

Fund raising was needed to support the mission. All volunteers paid their own transportation and lodging. Still, funds were necessary to purchase medications and supplies that were used during the delivery of care. It was beneficial for these supplies to come from the local area so that they were familiar to the professionals who will be prescribing medications and using the equipment and supplies. It also avoided costly shipping and storage expenses.

## Trends in Nursing Conference

A crucial part of the health mission was the day long "Trends in Nursing" conference offered on the last day of the mission and attended by faculty, staff and students of St. Louise University School of Nursing. PNAMC members presented at the conference. Sponsorship by the University of Maryland Medical Center and St. Louis University allowed for the conference to be offered free of charge to about 400 registrants. Some of the students walked long distances or took hours-long bus rides to attend the conference. Conference topics represented US nursing trends that apply to nursing practice in the Philippines. Topics included evidence-based practice, finance in nursing, quality management, patient safety, robotic surgery and trends in critical care nursing. These presentations updated attendees' knowledge about current trends. Participants also valued presentations on strategies for employment abroad and success factors for practicing in the US. While these presentations were careful not to encourage migration to countries outside of the Philippines, they did meet a need because many nurses in the Philippines look to employment abroad to improve their and their family's economic status, due to the current Philippine economy.

## A Dream Realized

Following a previous mission to Davao City, Philippines in 2010, a faculty member of the San Pedro College of Nursing shared her dream to have a mobile clinic to bring healthcare to families who walk hours to get to the nearest rural health station. Taking this cue, Aleli Frias, RN, from Johns Hopkins Hospital and Sonia Neumieir, RN, retired military nurse led PNAMC's efforts to realize this dream. Through fund raising, individual contributions, and a partnership with the Rotary Foundation of Towson and the San Pedro College of Nursing 1972 Alumni group, a mobile clinic was built and delivered to San Pedro College. Capping this 2012 health mission trip, PNAMC members attended the mobile clinic's dedication on February 6, 2012. Students and faculty members of San Pedro College of Nursing will staff the mobile clinic while the local government of Davao City is committed to provide monies for its' operation and maintenance.

## A Humbling Experience

While health missions are an effective way to "give back", participating in one is a very humbling experience and confronts its participants with the realities of poverty and its' impact on health care. Patients and their families wait patiently in long lines, never complaining about their discomforts or pain, grateful for any treatment or medication they receive to ease their distress or manage symptoms of their chronic medical condition. It reminds me how lucky I am to have easy access to health care and continuing education. This health mission reconnected me to my country and my roots, not only to my culture but to the person I am.

*The author, Fe Nieves-Khouw MSN, RN is President of the Philippine Nurses Association of America, Maryland Chapter (PNA-MC), and is Director of Patient Care Services Quality and Safety at Mercy Medical Center, Baltimore, MD, and can be reached at [fnieves@mdmercy.com](mailto:fnieves@mdmercy.com).*



Three students who walked an hour to catch a two-hour bus ride to attend the conference, with speaker Fe Nieves-Khouw



Dedication of the Mobile Clinic, February 6, 2012, San Pedro College, Davao City, Philippines



PNAMC members staff the "Pharmacy"—Patients waiting in line for free medicines



Patients waiting to be screened and treated, PNAMC Health Mission, February 2012

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the world needs YOU. You're a difference-maker. Be ONE with us. Maryland Professional Volunteer Corps.




To register, go to: [mdresponds.dhmm.maryland.gov](http://mdresponds.dhmm.maryland.gov)

Click [here](#) to return to article.

The Philippine Nurses Association of New Jersey, Inc.  
*cordially invites you to its*

## 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Nursing Excellence & Scholarship Awards Night

Friday, September 21, 2012 • 7:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight

MARRIOTT NEWARK INTERNATIONAL LIBERTY AIRPORT  
One Hotel Road • Newark, New Jersey 07114

\$95.00 per person on/or before Sept. 14, 2012 • \$110.00 per person after Sept. 14, 2012

NO ONSITE TICKET SALES.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Meriam F. Canares - 908.705.7237  
mairemcan@yahoo.com

Majuvy Sulse - 908.265.7340  
majuv77@hotmail.com

Rose Rosales - 908.358.6812  
rnrrosales@aol.com

*Attire: Formal/Filipiniana*

Philippine Nurses Association of New Jersey, Inc.

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ tickets to attend the  
36<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NURSING EXCELLENCE & SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS NIGHT

Friday, September 21, 2012

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility/Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: PNANJ

Mail response to: Meriam Canares

24 South Auten Avenue, Somerville, NJ 08876

Sorry, I am not able to attend, but would like to make a donation. Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Reserved seating for tables of ten. Please indicate choice of seating on the back.





Click [here](#) to return to article.

# THE PHILIPPINE NURSES ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, INC.

Requests the pleasure of your company to its...

## *Biennial Induction and Awards Gala Night*

Saturday, September 22, 2012 • 6:00pm - 11:30pm  
New York Hilton Hotels and Towers  
1335 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, NY 10019  
(Between 53rd & 54th Streets)

For more information,  
contact:

Davy Diongson (917) 497-7792  
Vernie Bacolot (201) 681-8987

Donation: **\$150.00/person**  
Cash Bar • Cocktail 6:00pm  
Music: UltraSonic Band  
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