



**PRESIDENT**  
**Lead Empower,**  
**Transform: Let's**  
**Do It**

**INDUCTION**  
**NEWS**  
PNA Central Ohio  
PNA New England  
PNA New York  
PNA Central Calif  
PNA Greater St. Louis

**CONFERENCES**  
1st Time Attendee  
PNA Wisconsin  
14th PNA-NCR

FALL EDITION / VOLUME 3, ISSUE 19

NOVEMBER 2014



## Lead Empower Transform: Let's Do It

Leticia Hermosa, RN, Esq.  
PNAA President 2014-2016

**Lead, empower transform:** Three simple words, but powerful, challenging, dynamic and energizing.

To **lead** is to do the right thing. It is more than managing people; it is or more than simply accomplishing a task or a project. It is the ability to influence

and persuade others to do the right thing. I believe that control is not leadership; management is not leadership; leadership is influence. There is no magic formula, nor a clear definition of an effective leader.

We lead, by first leading ourselves with a clear purpose, guided by knowledge, ethics, principles, motivation and conduct. Our knowledge and awareness of our strengths and weaknesses are essential ingredients in leading our organization to greater heights.

I believe that leadership is **empowering** and trusting others to make informed decisions, to be creative, to try new ways of accomplishing our goals and objectives. During the next administration, we need to empower our regional and chapter leaders to lead their membership. But in doing so, we also need to provide the support and guidance necessary towards their success. The success of each chapter is the success of PNAA.

*... leadership is **empowering** and trusting others to make informed decisions, to be creative, to try new ways of accomplishing our goals and objectives.*

As we move towards the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the landscape of healthcare is changing. In order to sustain our existence as a professional organization, we need to **transform** our way of thinking, not only as leaders and but as members of our profession. PNAA must be more ac-

tively involved in **transforming** health care through nursing. Our participation is imperative in implementing the IOM's recommendations on The Future of Nursing.

Using these recommendations as a roadmap, we must join the other professional nursing organizations and interest groups in transforming healthcare towards the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond. The health care of our fellow Filipino-Americans is very much impacted by this transformation, and we as an organization have an obligation to influence and get involved in shaping the future of our health care system.

**Lead, Empower, Transform: Let's do it!**

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### **The Executive Board of Philippine Nurses Association of America**

(Sitting L-R) Leo-Felix Jurado, Dino Doliente, III, Leticia Hermosa, Lolita Compas

(Standing L-R) Ferdinand Luyun, Bessie Schiroky, Romeo Devera, Vickie Berbano, Aster Vargas, Karen Cendana, Mindy Ofiana, Elena deJesus, Rose Estrada, Ariel Zabala, Belle Villafuerte, Hedda Gonzalez, Jeanette Livelo, Mary Joy Garcia-Dia, Madelyn Yu, Vicky Javier, Mel Carillo

# The Philippine Nurses Association of Central Ohio (PNACOh) Holds its Third Induction of Officers and Recognition of Members

Lawrence Christopher F. Castro, MSN, CS, RN

On August 16, 2014, The Philippine Nurses Association of Central Ohio (PNACOh), the 42<sup>nd</sup> chapter of the Philippine Nurses Association of America (PNAA), inducted its' new officers for the Year 2014-2016 and recognized its' outstanding members. The induction brought together officers from PNAA, members of PNACOh, representatives from academic and civil society across Columbus.



The PNACOh wanted to have a legacy of upholding the Image of the Filipino Nurses in Central Ohio through Leadership, Education, Collaboration and Community Service. The PNACOh as a whole is appreciative and grateful to its members and supporters around Central Ohio, The State of Ohio, The contiguous fifty (50) United States of America, The Philippines, and the Global Community. The induction and

recognition is a snapshot of Leadership, Solidarity and Service where members and guests shared ideas, knowledge, experiences and participated in the silent auction for a cause.

**“Prosper, Progress, Success in Nursing”**

The culture of nursing collaboration and scholarship was evident during the event. Members and guests listened to the distinguished keynote speaker Dr. Doris Edwards, Dean Emerita of Capital University School of Nursing. Dr. Edwards's topic was “Prosperity, Progress and Success in Nursing.” She spoke about the educational advancement in the field of nursing. She also presented research projects that showed the difference of care given by a nurse with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree and a nurse without a BSN. Dr. Edwards shared information about the current statistical data displaying that most nurses in Ohio are not prepared nurses. She encourages nurses to avail of private, state or government educational grant to advance their education. At the end of her lecture, Dr. Edwards emphasized her advocacy for advancement in nursing education. She reminded nurses to strive for excellence in nursing education to meet

the current and emerging issues and trends in health care.

**“Lead, Empower, and Transform – Let’s Do It!”**

Leticia Hermosa, PhD, RN, JD, PNAA president officiated the induction of the PNACOh 2014 – 2016. Letty Hermosa’s message entailed the roadmap of the new administration. President Hermosa presented *“Lead, Empower, and Transform”*. She encouraged all members to be inspired and be motivated by her mantra: “LET’s DO IT”. She related her role in PNAA as a parliamentarian, and as a President-Elect. Dr. Hermosa exhorts members to treat the organization as their own.

**“Let’s Work Together”**

Prior to the induction of officers, the motivational message was delivered by *Bessie Schiroky, RN*. Schiroky, Vice-President of the North Central Region of the PNAA, stressed the value of working together to achieve our common goal and mission. She encouraged the membership to work together and support the three existing Ohio chapters of Cleveland, Central Ohio and Cincinnati. She also emphasized the need for networking and collaboration to encourage more Filipino-descent nurses, well as other nurses with different ethnicity will support the PNAA’s vision and mission. Bessie Schiroky envisions establishing more chapters by collaborating with Filipino nurses in several states of the North Central Region.

**“Let’s Put Visibility Into Action.”**

On her acceptance speech as President, Mrs. Evelyn Sugiyama, RN, said, “My focus was on visibility. Visibility is short but a powerful word, and I know how it is important to us as a chapter. Since PNACOh inception as a subchapter of Philippine Nurses Association of Ohio (PNAO), and later as the 42<sup>nd</sup> independent chapter of PNAA, the organization was supported by PNAO and PNAA. To this date these associations are supporting each other, a sign of visibility. Our membership is commendable for their visibility by participating several community outreach projects. Their humanitarian and volunteering spirit is an example of visibility. These actions are strategies that we should maintain and develop as we go forward to meet the challenges of the new PNAA President and to transform her mantra into actions. Our strategies are expanding our chapters by increasing our membership, having an “open door” policy of inclusiveness, i.e. accept all nurses of Asian ancestry, Caucasian and non-Caucasian ancestry who will assimilate into our culture, share our goals and our mission and expanding our involvement in community outreach projects.”

On her closing remark, President Sugiyama said, “My appreciation and grateful thanks to our members for your unity, commitment and loyalty to PNACOh. Thanks also for your confidence in me to continually lead our association as the interim President last year and currently as the President who will lead you for another two years. Treasure the commemorative ribbons with the PNACOh logo, be proud of it, you deserve it.”

*Editor’s Note: This article was first published in the Buckeye Balita, the official publication of the Philippine Nurses Association of Central Ohio, in the Spring/Summer 2014 Edition, Vol. 2, Issue 2. It has been edited for content.*



# Reflections of a First-Time Delegate from PNA Central Ohio to the PNAA National Convention

Marissa C DeJesus, MS, RN, FNP-BC



I had the privilege to attend the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual PNAA National Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada in July 2014. Here are some reflections on my experiences:

**Background:** Firstly, I arrived in Las Vegas with my family and we did not stay on site because both Ben's sister and his parents live locally. This likely impacted my networking and interactions with other delegates because at the end of the day, I wanted to spend it with my family. I also don't gamble and have been to Las Vegas many times. Secondly, I don't speak Tagalog. I understand some Taglish, but for the most part, I rely on the context of the situation to figure out what

you're saying in Tagalog. This is ok for me for small talk, but when trying to network, it is hard to infiltrate a conversation when you don't have any idea what is being said.

**Regional Meetings:** Luckily, I was able to attend with our fearless leader and president, Evelyn Sugiyama. She was able to introduce me to our regional delegates and their roles. She also gave me the abbreviated version of the organizational chart as it was quite complicated. I would encourage others to review how a local chapter interacts with the Executive Board. I enjoyed the intimacy of these meetings, but I could hear the pervasive issue of the challenges of recruiting "new blood" and maintaining membership. One could hear it among those present how they have been recycled into their roles as president, vice president, secretary, etc. In some ways, it was a little nerve-racking to be a newbie, because at every event, I felt like a fresh-wrapped lumpia in a room full of fasting Filipinos. I reflected: What future role would I play? What can I do for the organization? Do I have Filipino friends who are nurses? These are questions I ask myself in any organization when I join. But I, too, struggle with answers.

**Leadership Institute:** My concerns were further emphasized in the day of leadership talks. I got a glimpse of the energetic outgoing PNAA President, Victoria Navarro, as she passionately discussed the latest accomplishments of our organization, PNA America. I was impressed by how our organization took rapid steps to identify the problem, seek response and ultimately affect result. We also spent time on a task which I felt had good intentions, but will have difficulty translating to action. The goal was to quantify value in the various aspects of our national organization, e.g., newsletters, journals, membership, foundation, etc. The problem was that there was no scale that could be analyzed and the activity was hurried. The latter part of the day was reviewing projects from the Leadership Academy participants. My personal thoughts were that the process of cultivating leaders within the organization is valuable, however, I am not sure that the projects themselves were realistic in their goals or measurements or process.

**Professional Education Day:** These were the generic education topics that would satisfy licensing requirements. The keynote speaker, Fred de Sam Lazano, PBS NewsHour correspondent was phenomenal! He inspired me to consider giving a similar talk to our group. We discussed social entrepreneurship and how it has directly impacted the Philippines. It was both motivating and inspiring. I struggled on a daily basis how to give back to my community: professionally, culturally, locally, to my family, etc. I was raised to pay it forward. It's how I want my kids to be raised. As an organization, we have to find a way to make a difference.

PNACOh has done a great job with the adoption of Bryden House. But can we do more?

**5k Run:** I'm terrible at fundraising, but I placed first in my age group and I was in second place overall in race! Boo-ya. What else is there to say?

**Overall reflections:**

Language: I feel that I was raised in a strong Filipino community. Unfortunately, language is a barrier for me. It is also a turnoff. This is my problem in that I am attending a meeting that is culturally based. I would never tell my parents to speak English only. I am actually humbled that I don't have this skill set. However, as an organization, it is problematic to isolate those who don't speak or understand Tagalog. How do we include nurses who are non-Tagalog speaking, but preserve our heritage?

Age: I'm not young nor old. But I also don't think I am the future of the organization. The future of nursing and our organization is younger than me. However, this is organization that is not alone in its struggle to recruit members. Younger generations, in general, do not feel an obligation or a sense of identity to organizations. How do we organize events that appeal to a multi-generational group? Are there activities that would engage my family as well?

Getting involved: I would consider attending again, if only to reflect on my heritage and profession, bring a different perspective to brainstorm securing the future of the organization with future generations. I also think I would feel more apt to share my concerns about the future of the organization after being a board member at our local chapter. Ultimately, it is our professional duty to be involved in our organizations in some way in order to preserve our heritage and traditions. If you can afford the time and travel, I would encourage you to attend!

*Editor's Note: This article was first published in the Buckeye Balita, the official publication of the Philippine Nurses Association of Central Ohio, in the Spring/Summer 2014 Edition, Vol. 2, Issue 2. It has been edited for content.*





# 14th PNA-NCR Conference, Kansas City, Missouri

## April 24 – 27, 2014

Lorna Valdez-Straw, RN



Lorna Valdez-Straw, Evelyn Sugiyama and Annelie Garcia, represented PNACOh in the 14<sup>th</sup> PNA-NCR Conference that was held at the Westin Crown Center in Kansas City, Missouri. It was Lorna's first time attending the PNAA-sponsored conference.

The PNAGKC members prepared an "early bird dinner" to welcome the attendees. It was a warm "get-to-know," "eat-all-you-can homemade Filipino cuisine" night. The atmosphere that evening was filled with enthusiasm among the young and the old members. The excitement amongst the members and the other guest chapters were very contagious.

The next day was the well-attended Leadership Seminar. The speakers conferred on leadership topics relating to *Innovation, Change, Membership-Engagement, Resources and Community-Involvement*. Vicky Navarro, the PNAA president spoke on the enormous responsibilities of the chapter president. Other speakers emphasized on the benefits that the younger generations would expect to receive by joining the organization, the importance of listening and understanding, serving and helping the members grow and exercise foresight in order to achieve strategic goals.

Friday, was Networking Night to the theme of Zumba. Lorna quoted *"It was actually a perfect night to shed off some stored calories from the food we have eaten since we arrived in Kansas City."* Altogether, it was a fun night filled with ambitious participation by the delegates to partake in the Zumba active floor-exercises.



The highlight of the conference was the Gala Night. Everyone wore their gorgeous attire. The incoming PNAGKC officers were inducted. The theme of the night was 'Guys and Dolls' and the music was the 'old time favorites'.

The conference concluded on Sunday with a farewell brunch hosted by Dr. Fred and Delia Iloreta in their European villa. The camaraderie continued with singing popular Filipino songs and piano accompaniment by Bong Dayon of PNA-Indiana.

The conference was a success. It was a great experience for me to connect, collaborate and be a part of the PNAA. I am thankful to the PNAGKC for their generosity, warmth and friendship. I am looking forward to the

# Philippine Nurses Association of Wisconsin (PNAWI) 2014 Fall Educational Conference

Marilyn G. Mallari, MHA, MPH, RN

PNAWI is proud to announce the success of a Chapter North Central Region educational conference that was held last Saturday, October 18, 2014, at Froedtert and the Medical College of Wisconsin. The theme was "Health Promotion, health education today...tomorrow...and the future".

Our goal is to promote growth, and development of professional nurses, nursing students, and other allied healthcare professionals. This conference also provides an opportunity to network with nursing colleagues as well as share clinical expertise.

PNAWI expresses our thanks to our guest speakers for sharing their knowledge and expertise to our conference most especially for taking extra time off from their busy lives, and work. The topics that were presented were the following:

- "A bright future for treatment of Melanoma" by Sol Atienza Yoder, PharmD, BCOP.
- "Living a more fulfilling life with a chronic condition" by Harvey Padek, retired businessman, and Master Trainer of Living Well with chronic condition program.
- "Hyponatremia in SIDH and Heart Failure" by Cibebe Pinto, PhD.
- "The roadmap to retirement – mile marker conversations to consider" by Delilah Dijamco, MBA.

The Philippine Nurses Association of America Foundation, Inc. (PNAAF) sponsored our educational activity, and it was granted with contact hours. All attendees received certification with 5.6 contact hours. We had total of 39 audiences who attended the conference, and received a lot of positive feedback from them. For PNAAF, PNAWI is thankful for supporting our educational conference, and we are proud to be in the organization.

We are thankful to all our sponsors for their generosity – Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc., Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin, Prudential Insurance Company of America, Bell ambulance, Paratech ambulance, Medacare ambulance, Indulge Salon and Spa, Schlossmann Dodge City, and W & A Oriental Boutique & Furniture.

PNAWI awarded and congratulated Maria Salomon – Yumang, BSN, RN, an Educational Grant Winner, 2014. As per PNAWI President's statement, "The process of putting this together would not be possible without the expert direction of our education committee. We are confident to present significant topics to increase health awareness and reflect on our education theme." Recently, we just had a "Spooktacular Halloween" party and turned to a successful one. Job well done to members for their hard worked and organized this special event.

Upcoming PNAWI events are the following:

- Holiday Folk Fair on 11/22/2014
- Christmas Party, and Reward and Recognition award 12/06/2014
- Simbang Gabi on 12/21/2014

PNAWI is not only for Filipino Nurses but is open to other nurses regardless of one's ethnicity or culture. PNAWI does not discriminate against any applicant or member on the basis of race, creed, age, sex, sexual orientation, religion or handicap. PNAWI provides scholarship program, educational grant program, and

reward and recognition award for members. Web site: [www.pnawi.org](http://www.pnawi.org). Lastly, on behalf of PNAWI, I would like to thank everyone for all the hard work, time, and dedication to make this conference a success. To all PNAWI members, please continue supporting our organization.

God Bless. Mabuhay!

## **Philippine Nurses Association of New England, Inc. (PNA-New England, Inc.) Induction of Officers 2014-2016**



The Philippine Nurses Association of New England, Inc. (PNA-New England, Inc.) celebrated its 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Masquerade Ball and Induction of Officers 2014-2016 on October 25, 2014, at Boston Marriott Quincy, Massachusetts. The event was attended by His Excellency, Jose Cuisia, Jr., Philippine Ambassador to the U.S.; Leticia Hermosa, PNAA President; Madelyn Yu, PNAA Eastern Vice President; Jeanette Livelo, PNAA Treasurer; The Reverend Father Matthias Sasko, FFI, Chaplain, God the Father, Fall River, MA; PNA-New England past and current officers, members, families and friends. The event was co-hosted by past president, Jennifer Aying, and member, Ross Mangilog. The outgoing officers were recognized by H. E. Ambassador Jose Cuisia, Jr. and PNA-New England President 2012-2014 Eden Gianan. Invocation was given by Father Sasko. The Key-note speaker Ambassador Jose Cuisia Jr. spoke about the good work done by Filipino nurses and their contribution to the Philippine economy. Dr. Leticia Hermosa, guest speaker, invited the audience to, "...Lead...Empower...Transform...".

The acceptance speech by President 2014-2016 Teresa Margate talked about "Let's R.O.A.R." as the goal for her 2-year term. R.O.A.R. means "Reach out, Organize, Act, Rise".

The event wasn't complete without dancing and good food. Incidentally, PNA New England, Inc. will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary in September 2015.



# Philippine Nurses Association of New York, Inc. (PNA New York) 23<sup>rd</sup> Induction Ball



Every two years, the Philippine Nurses Association of New York celebrates the induction of new officers. This year, on September 20, PNA-NY celebrated the 23<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Induction and Awards Gala Night held at New York Marriott Marquis Hotel @ Time Square where new batch of # 8 Executive Officers and # 9 Board of Directors were inducted. Our theme for this 2 year-term : Transforming and leading Change in Health Care.

Thanks to the planning committee headed by Ms. Cynthia Margalit, RN, MSA who is also the current president of PNA-NY, the event which was a gathering of Filipino-American Registered Nurses and guests celebrating the nursing profession and the Filipino nurse's dedication, passion and compassion was a success! It was an explosion of colors and talents, a sensory overload, a showcase of the Filipino culture's love of music and dance.

Congratulations to the 2014-2016 Executive Officers and Board of Directors and congratulations to the award recipients:

- Tita Aguilar Nierre, MS,RN,NE-BC,CEN,WCC who received the Award for Excellence in Nursing Administration
- Imelda C. Principe, MS, CPAN, CCRN, ASLNC-C DNP (c) who received the award for Excellence in Nursing Education
- Eduardo del Rosario, MSN,FNP-BC who received the award for Excellence in clinical Practice
- Davy Diongson, MPA,RN for receiving the award for Board of director of the year
- Carmen Meliton, BSN, RN, CFS who received the award for Liaison of the Year
- Marie Ortaliz, Ed.D., MSN, RN, CCRN and Leonila Quinones, MA, RN who both received the Presidential Service Achievement Award

To the sponsors, guests, guest speaker and guest performers who presented spectacular "Wushu Martial Arts" exhibition and to all those who support the PNA-NY, thank you.

# PNA Central California Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary

Nancy Nolasco Hoff, PNACC President 2012-2014

The 25th anniversary celebration of PNACC started May 9, 2014, during Nurses Week. It was at that time when PNACC recognized nursing excellence among its members and awarded scholarships to four Filipino-American student nurses. The celebration ended October 18th when the newly elected 2014-2016 officers



were inducted. It was indeed a celebration of 25 years of “Making a Difference.” The theme for this momentous event was, “Reflections from the Past, Celebration of the Present, and Vision for the Future.”

PNACC has evolved from its humble beginnings to an organization that is relevant and focused on empowering its members. It celebrated the successes and accomplishments of its members and provided scholarships to Filipino-American student nurses to prepare for the future. PNACC members and leaders participated in local, national and international conferences and hosted two western region conferences. PNACC worked closely with PNAA in strengthening the association through representation, revitalization, recognition and research. PNACC continued to promote the image of the Filipino nurses in the Central Valley as essential members of the healthcare team through education, collaboration and participation.

PNACC is at the table to discuss the future of nursing in the Central Valley based on the Institute of Medicine (IOM) recommendations. Opportunities to lead initiatives, and be in the forefront to affect change in healthcare are truly rewarding. Equally rewarding was the opportunity to share blessings with the less fortunate through service, material and spiritual assistance. Outreach programs widened and aligned with the national goal of the organization. PNACC continues to be the partner of the Philippine Consulate in emergency and disaster response for the Central Valley.

The October evening was the end of the present and beginning of the future. The evening was a celebration



of what PNACC has become. Another layer of foundation has been laid to strengthen the organization. Seeds of wisdom were planted and new paths were created for others to follow. That evening PNAA President Leticia Hermosa's presence and message inspired the newly inducted PNACC officers and members. Western Region Vice President Mindy Ofiana was present to assist in recognizing the contribution of Stephanie Robinson, Director of Nursing at Fresno City College, not only for what she does for PNACC but most especially for what she has done for the success of the "Curriculum Concurrency" project for the Filipino-American graduates of Philippine nursing schools.



The future of PNACC is bright.

The reflections from the past and the colorful lights of the present will create a vibrant vision for the future. PNACC will turn challenges to success and will seize opportunities for a better future. Many paths had been created, roadmaps designed and a solid foundation is in place. PNACC will create new paths, design new roadmaps and not only will be part of change but will initiate change for a brighter future. PNACC will have the strength and skill of the members, crea-

tivity and wisdom of its leaders and unwavering faith in the heart of its members.

The 2014 – 2016 PNACC officers were inducted by Philippine Vice Consul Carlyn Monastrial. The highly motivated slate of officers led by Sally Wee will no doubt embrace PNAA President Hermosa's call to "Lead, Empower and Transform." The morning after the celebration, PNAA President Letty Hermosa and Western Region Vice President Mindy Ofiana met with the newly inducted officers to update them on where PNAA is and to share with them the PNAA goals for the next two years. It was a successful and productive conversation and sharing. A great start in making PNACC's vision for the future a reality.





# 13th Induction of PNA Greater St. Louis

Cynthia S. Montejo, PNAGSL President 2012-2014

Annabelle L. Cosas, PNAGSL Secretary/Editor 2014-2016



The 13th Induction ball of the PNA of Greater St. Louis was held on July 25, 2014 at “The Columns” in St. Charles, Missouri. It was well attended by PNAGSL members and officers, family, friends and supporters. Distinguished guests representing the PNAA were Dino Doliente III, President- Elect 2014- 2016 and Bessie Schiroky, NCR Regional Vice-President 2014-2016. Guests from our neighboring intrastate were Leila Busch, PNAA Board member 2014-2016 and past President of PNA Greater Kansas City and Jessamine Endaya, President of PNAGKC 2014-2016.

In the absence of PNAA President, Leticia Hermosa, Doliente read the “Acceptance Speech” of Hermosa at the 35th PNAA annual convention last June in Las Vegas, “Today, we are challenged by the changing landscape of our times, be it healthcare, economics, politics, world news, social responsibilities. Our challenges may be new... but the values upon which the success depends: hard work, accountability, courage, tolerance, curiosity, teamwork — these things are not new. The challenging part is putting these values into action.” Hermosa chose three action words as the theme during her tenure: “LEAD, EMPOWER, TRANSFORM.” She states: “we have **leaders** since the start of mankind. We have heard “**empowerment**” a million times. **Transformation** of healthcare was reconceptualized. These three powerful words will only have true meaning when we put them into action.” In the PNAA President’s closing remarks, “I will do my best, but I will not do it alone. We have to work together. Lead, Empower, Transform: Let’s Do It!”

An inspirational message from Bessie Schiroky emphasized that “the strength of the organization comes from the quality of leadership and the engagement of its members. The leaders must have the commitment and fortitude to keep the organization intact and thriving and, most times, leading requires one to make lots of sacrifices.”

Dino Doliente inducted to office the newly appointed Executive Board members. Cynthia Montejo, PNAGSL outgoing President, handed the gavel of leadership to newly inducted JenJen Betonio Hazelbaker. She, in turn, presented the Presidential Plaque award to Cynthia Montejo.

The evening was filled with dancing with music from DJ Art Murray and with song entertainment from lo-

cal guests and from Bessie Schiroky who gave a touching rendition of “Sometimes When We Touch” by Dan Hill. For all the hard work of the organizers, the success and warm memories of the evening flowed over to the picnic at the park held the following day. Greensfelder shelter at Creve Coeur Lake Park was the site of



the joint PNAPMA annual picnic. With lechon and halo-halo as the main highlights amidst the wonderful camaraderie and summer heat, we were fully filled, both body and soul.

Before bidding good-byes, Bessie Schiroky again spoke to the nurses and provided additional advice and guidance to reassure the nurses that she is just “a phone call away” for any questions or issues concerning PNA Greater St. Louis. Our sincere gratitude to our members and ad donors who made this two-day event possible and memorable. Many thanks, too, to our out-of-town PNAA guests for their presence and kind support. And, yes, we have to work together to “Lead, Empower, Transform!”

## Palakpakan Corner

Jenny Aying had a write up in the VABNHS newsletter about her award from the PNAA. She was honored in the 2014 Excellence in Advanced Practice Nurse. The news was shared within the VABHS nursing staff. The article highlighted her various accomplishments locally and globally.

**For more information about the Philippine Nurses Association of America, Inc.**

**Visit our website:**

**[www.mypnaa.org](http://www.mypnaa.org)**

INSIDE PNAA is published as the Official Newsletter of the Philippine Nurses Association of America, Inc. All articles reflect the opinion of the authors and are not held by the Philippine Nurses Association of America, Inc.

All Communication should be addressed to the Editor: [EbalitaEditor@gmail.com](mailto:EbalitaEditor@gmail.com)

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