



Issue No. 2

May 2006



Left: WB Mike, WB Rudy, Bro. Toytoy, SW John and Bro. Greg at the SM Convention Hall. Right: Cultural Presentation of Cebu talents highlight the opening of ANCOM

ANCOM 2006: Revisiting the Past for the Future

(A general overview of 90th Annual Communication)

by VW Rey Cadiz, DDGM

This year's host of the Annual Communication (ANCOM) is Masonic District No.24 with Maktan Lodge No. 30 as its Lead Lodge.

The Program of Activities started on April 26, 2006 (Wed) with a Golf Tournament at the Alta Vista Golf and Country Club (6:00-10:A.M.), Shootfest at the Cebu Pistol and Rifle Assn. Shooting Range in Lapu-lapu City (8:A.M.),

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Bro. Peter U. Lim Lo Suy is the new Junior Grand Warden

Bro. Peter U. Lim Lo Suy was initiated on April 5 at Macalajar Lodge No. 184, passed June 22, and was raised July 14, 1977. He became Worshipful Master in 1985. That same year, he was awarded the Most Outstanding Worshipful Master in District 17. He was the Most Outstanding Worshipful Master in the Philippines in 1986.



FRATERNAL AFFILIATIONS

Makahambus Lodge No. 315, Leonardo T. Pañares Mem. Lodge No. 220 (Honorary Member), Mindanao Bodies A.&A.S.R., Filipinas Shrine Club, Order of Eastern Star, Cadena De Amor Chapter #16

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MEMBERSHIP GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT & WELFARE

Black Saturday at Grotto Vista

by WB Dante Ypil

Marikina Lodge No. 119 Holy week get together and outing was held last April 15, 2006, Black Saturday at the Grotto Vista Resort and Hotel, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. It's about an hour drive or less from Cubao going to the resort.

Meeting place was set at the residence of WB Dante Ypil at 7:30am, while Bro. Noy Balite went ahead of the group for the reservation of the cottage. Bro. Rollie Acosta proceed directly to the Resort as he lives nearby. VW Macky Macatangay arrived during lunch time.

The relative of the owner of the resort is the Junior Warden of San Jose del Monte Lodge No. 357, Bro. Eugene Anthony Arciaga. We were given a 10% discount on entrance fees and cottage rental. The place is cozy and there are 5 big pools with slides to enjoy with.

Present were brothers and families of WB Dante Ypil, SW John Briones, VW Macky Macatangay, WB Noy Balite, Bro. Conte Sabate, Ateng Sandra Dala, wife of Bro. Toytoy, Ateng Myrna Lumabad, wife of Bro. Jun, Bro. Rollie Acosta, and Bro. Majid Benito. Ateng Judith Ypil has contacted most of the members of Marikina Lodge but unfortunately, they had previous schedule or either out of town to spend the Holy Week.

The usual sumptuous pot luck was prepared by the atengs. Everyone enjoyed the swimming, foods, chikas, and a little booze for the bros and atengs all day long. The group called it a day at past 5pm.

We hope and expect for bigger attendance of Marikina Lodge No. 119 brothers and their families this coming 59th Anniversary (May 16, 1947) celebration



I would like to congratulate the newly elected Junior Grand Warden Peter Lim Lo Suy and all the elected and appointed Grand Lodge Officers, especially VW Ed Tolentino, our DDGM, and to WB Romy Ignacio our GLI.

Our Lodge is truly blessed with enthusiastic members who have gone out of their way, despite their busy schedule to devote their time to represent our Lodge in the 90th ANCOM in Cebu City. My heartfelt thanks to SW John Briones, JW Bugs San Juan, VW Rey Cadiz, VW Ronald Fabian, VW Fred Espino, WB Rudy Masiddo, WB Jojo Eleazar, WB Bubut Burdeos, Bro. Toytoy Dala and Bro. Conte Zabate.



The 59th Anniversary of Marikina Lodge is fast approaching and I would like to congratulate everyone, especially all the Past Masters, for their fruitful endeavors for making Marikina Lodge what it is today. WB Dante Ypil will chair our Anniversary Celebration. We are determined to make this affair truly meaningful, and so we stand ever so hopeful of everyone's support and attention.

Masonic District No. 9 published a General Listing of Masonic Lodges and Master Masons. It is very informative and useful. All Master Masons in this Grand Jurisdiction should have one. For more details, you may contact its project chairman VW Rey Cadiz.

Maraming Salamat Po!

Bro. Miguelito M. Cruz
Worshipful Master, 2006

FREEMASONRY AS A WAY OF LIFE

by Bro. B.J. Torres, PM

(Lecture given in Laong Laan Lodge No. 185, Aug 5, 1990)



There are two common views of Freemasonry. The first unfortunately, views Freemasonry only as a club, a social organization of mutually selected men whose sole object is the enjoyment of such fellowship, and to whom the ritual and secrecy of initiation rites afford only passing interest and casual entertainment of the moment. The second views Freemasonry as a cultural school, a school of practical ethics, an organization for the cultivation of social morals, with a course of study as progressive as the needs of civilization, and as logically consistent as the events through which society passes from goal to goal in its journey toward a World Brotherhood.

As we have learned from the ceremonies of the three Degrees, the symbolism of the Ritual is that the candidate, as an individual, is building the temple of his own character. Yet, it has a broader application. The individual Mason, when he has attained that state of perfection when he can be properly termed a "Perfect Ashlar," represent the prepared stone ready to be fitted into its place in that greater temple of Brotherhood which Masonry engaged in erecting.

Man's nature, as it has always been said, is so constituted that his happiness consists in perpetual progress. The idea of building is but one way of expressing the sublime that man was created for eternal progress, which was one of the earliest teachings of Freemasonry, and was illustrated in its most ancient rites.

The individual Mason, as has been said, is engaged in the building of his own character, and the knowledge which he gain through the degree works may be considered as the foundation of that building. The super-structure which he is to build upon that foundation must be raised, however, by his own efforts. His labor, therefore, is not finished upon acquiring the right to be called a "Master Mason." On the contrary, it has just begun.

For the erection of his individual edifice, the Mason is given various working tools which he must know how to use with care. The gauge, the gavel, plumb, level and square are given him, each with significant meaning. The working tools of an Entered Apprentice Mason are to be used in subduing his human nature and in turning himself into a moral man. This being accomplished, he is then ready to apply to his work the plumb, level and square. When the plumb

has shown that he is upright, a man of integrity; when the level has proved that he has developed recognition of equality and that he is faithful, a man of fidelity; and when the square has also proven by tests the showing of the plumb and the level are straight and true, and they square with each other, then only thus that the Fellowcraft would know himself fit for the service.

And it is only when fit for service, after having passed the test of the square, that he is sure that he has made that suitable proficiency which entitles him to use the trowel the instrument used for rendering service - the only tool for use upon others.

The square is one of the working tools of a Fellowcraft; but in the study of the square we find that it is always nearly linked into the compasses. The square is a right angle and belongs to Geometry, or earth measurements. The compasses describe the circles and deals with spherical trigonometry, the science of spheres and heavens. The square, therefore, is a symbol of what concerns the earth and body; the compasses that of heaven and soul. In other words, the square symbolizes material things while the compasses that of spiritual things. These ideas are significantly illustrated by the arrangement of these working tools in the different degrees.

The Entered Apprentice Mason symbolizes man as influenced by material things only - thus - the points of the compasses are below or beneath the square. The Fellowcraft Mason has gained partial control over his earthly and material nature - thus - one point is above, the other point below. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so should the individual Mason rise above the material and dominate his thoughts and actions. Thus - in the Third Degree the Master Mason symbolizes the Mason who has rule, control and empire over his appetites and passions - both points of the compasses are dominant above the square. This idea is very well expressed in the following quotations:

“As an Apprentice a man is symbolically in a crude and natural state, his divine life covered and ruled by his earthly nature. As a Fellowcraft he has made one step toward liberty and life, and the nobler elements in him are struggling to rise above and control his lower, lesser nature. In the Sublime Degree the Master Mason, far more sublime than we yet realize - by human love, by discipline of tragedy, and still more by divine assistance - the divine in him has subjugated the earthly, and he stands forth strong, free and fearless, ready to raise stone upon stone until naught is wanting.”

The symbolism of the three degrees as a whole can be said to allude to the life of man which is divided into three periods; Youth, Manhood and Old Age. In other words, the Lodge is a symbol of the world and the ritual is the drama of the life of man.

- *To promote sustained growth in membership, by:*
 - implementing a program to improve community perception and information about Freemasonry thus to attract potential members;
 - strengthening the Orientation Program for petitioners;
 - implementing strictly a methodical system for investigation and reporting results thereof by the Committee on Investigation;
 - establishing reasonable and uniform petition fees;
 - establishing an effective program to bring back into the fold Blue Lodge members who have been inactive and suspended;
 - strictly implementing the laws, edicts, regulations and procedures on degrees and affiliations in all lodges within the jurisdiction.
- *To provide for the development and advancement in knowledge about Masonry among members of the Fraternity, by:*
 - formulating a Mandatory Continuing Masonic Education for all regular Masons;
 - establishing a regular program for Lodge Instructions in floorworks and rituals;
 - encouraging the establishment of a Masonic Museum and Library in each Masonic District.
- *To establish an institutionalized support system for members of the Fraternity, by:*
 - encouraging the establishment of cooperatives of Masons' families in the Masonic Districts;
 - establishing a mortuary fund for regular members and their spouses;
 - setting up an Academic Scholarship Program to benefit deserving students who are children of distressed, qualified Masons;
 - establishing an Employment Information & Endorsement Program to assist unemployed children of Masons.

FISCAL STABILITY IN THE GLP and SUBORDINATE LODGES

- *To source out additional funds to support operations and activities, by:*
 - conducting a Grand Master's Raffle Draw to be held during the Annual Communications, where all expenses and proceeds shall be shared pro-rata by the GLP and subordinate lodges;
 - conducting a Grand Master's Golf Tournament, one each to be held in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, where all expenses and proceeds shall be shared pro-rata;
 - implementing other appropriate fund-raising activities.
- *To ensure proper fiscal management, financial transparency and financial controls in the GLP, by:*
 - establishing a continuing program for review, evaluation and improvement of the budgeting, capital expenditure programming and fiscal system in the GLP;
 - establishing and continuously implementing an effective internal control system.

ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT

- *To ensure that the administrative and information management system can effectively support the operations needs of the GLP, by:*
 - enhancing records management through computerization;
 - providing appropriate systems for supplies, purchasing, equipment and property management;
 - implementing a system for personnel management and development in GLP Staff;
 - strengthening budgeting, accounting and auditing standards and procedures.
- *To enhance the GLP's ability to support subordinate lodges, by:*
 - ensuring fast and accurate information dissemination to subordinate lodges and members;
 - enforcing strictly regular monthly reports submission from subordinate lodges and immediate updating of GLP records based on the reports;
 - strengthening GLP capability to respond to inquiries and to analyze/discern needs of lodges from regular reports (Minutes of Meeting, etc.) and to take pro-active action thereon;
 - publishing an updated & annotated collection of edicts and the latest edition of rules, regulations and manuals.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- *To enliven Masonic patriotism and nationalism, by:*
 - enforcing participation of Masons in the celebrations of Philippine Independence Day and anniversaries of National Heroes;
 - encouraging participation in worthy community projects;
 - supporting government's drive against drugs, criminality and corruption.

ANCOM 2006 ...

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Registration of Delegates at the SM Conference Hall (9:00A.M.) and lastly, the 22nd Annual Convention of the Grand Guild of Past Masters at the White Gold Restaurant.

On the 2nd day, 27th of April at 7A.M., wreathlaying ceremony at Brother Dr. Jose Rizal's monument at the Cebu Normal Univ., Courtesy call to Cebu City Mayor Tom Osmena, it was followed by the Opening of the Grand Lodge.

During the roll call of Lodges, three(3) lights of Marikina Lodge No. 119 were present: WM Mike Cruz, SW John Briones & JW Richard San Juan. Other brethren present were VW Fred Espino PDDGM, VW Rey Cadiz PDDGM, etc.

It was followed by the different activities and the most notable is the Approval of the 89th ANCOM Proceedings, Bidding for the 92nd ANCOM and the proponents were: Manila with Masonic Dist No. 1 as Host District, Bacolod City and Bukidnon. The proponents were given 60 days to submit their bid documents and also to pay a certain amount to be included among the prospective host. The day ended with the Grand Master's Night & Presentation of Grand Master's Award at the Grand Majestic Convention City .

3rd day, 28th of April 2006, in the morning Report of the Grand Lodge Officers & Standing and Special Committees. After lunch the most awaited event of Presentation of Nominees. Out of the published 6 nominees only 3 were presented by the ELECOM, for reason that they were only the ones selected by the Past Grand Masters. A brother stood up and questioned the decision because as per Constitution there should be not less than 5 candidates but not more than 7. With this, commotion grew inside the convention Hall and many voting delegates walked out of the hall. Most senior PGM, MW Bunda was asked by the Elecom Chair to speak up for the group and aired that the reason why only a shortlist of 3, because the others were unworthy brothers. Again, it caused many brethren to go out of the room. At any rate, the Election pushed through with VW Peter Lim Lo Suy (299 votes) emerging as the winner. Other contenders were VW Ed Perez who garnered 63 votes and VW Peter Aragon 62 votes. During the night, fellowship at Tambuli Beach Resort & Tribute to the Past Grand Masters.

4th and last day the culmination of the Grand ANCOM, 29th of April in the morning was the conferral of Installed Past Masters Degree with VW Ike Arribas directing and WB Harry Gonzalez, PM as Conferral Master. There were more or less 200 Past Masters conferred. It was followed by the meeting of all elected and appointed Grand Lodge Officers and also meeting of all Worshipful Masters and Lodge Secretaries. In the afternoon, the Grand Lodge Officers for Masonic Year 2006-2007 were installed .The newly installed Grand Master MW Romy A. Yu was one of the youngest GM at 43, after MW Reynato Puno. After the installation, the Grand Lodge was closed and will again be opened in the next ANCOM in Clark on 2007. Inaugural Ball followed in the same venue.

WHY RIVER DELTA?

by Bro. Bugs San Juan

DELTA is the fourth letter of the Greek alphabet. It also means the fourth of any series of classification. In socio-politics, Journalism (or media) is the Fourth Estate, because of its influence on the three other estates: Politics, Religion, and the Mercantile.

Notably, the first Masonic magazine in the Philippines, published in 1906, featured Masonic potpourri done in journalistic panorama. The magazine was given the name DELTA.

Like the Greek capital Δ , DELTA significantly denotes things triangular. The Delta Sagrada or Sacred Triangle was the commonly accepted Masonic symbol during the days of the Katiunan. The Triangulo, more than the

Square and Compasses, pervaded the Masonic scene back then as a preferred icon of membership and eventually was incorporated in the present Philippine flag. Among other Masonic references, DELTA principally allude to Deity, the Great Architect of the Universe; and His attributes exemplified by the Masonic Trinity - Wisdom, Strength and Beauty

DELTA also appertains to any triangular tract of alluvial land between diverging branches of the isthmus of a river. The banks of Sta. Elena breaking with the edge of Jesus dela Pena typifies a river delta. Aside from its prolific shoe-making industry, Marikina City is renowned for it being a valley nurtured by its river.

Rivers sustained life, fostered trade and commerce and from its mere bournes great cultures emerged. Cradles of civilizations were situated adjacent to mighty rivers: the Tigris-Euphrates to the Sumerians, the Nile to the Egyptians, the Yangtze to the Chinese, and the Ganges to the Indians.

The brethren of Marikina Lodge No. 119 found it apt, graphic and sentimental to christen their official newsletter - **RIVER DELTA**.

Birthday celebrants for the month of May

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

SW John Briones (May 15)

Bro. Dominic Failoga (May 22)

Bro. Raymond Taglinao (May 22)

Bro. Edwin Maquinto (May 7)

VW Rey Cadiz (May 27)

Bro. Romeo Reyes (May 12)

Bro. Mike Benjamin (May 29)

VW BJ Torres (May 8)

Bro. Perry Cruz (May 9)

THE RIVER DELTA

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This issue made possible through the generosity of our sponsors:

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