

GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY LETTER

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3850



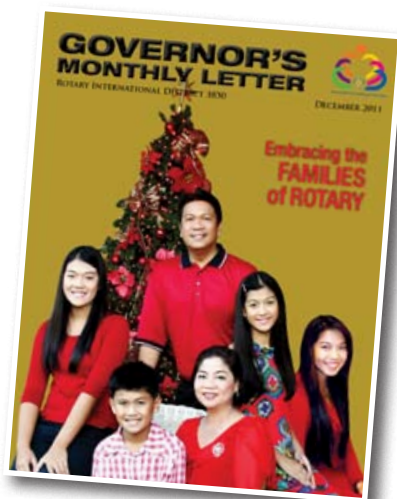
DECEMBER 2011

Embracing the
FAMILIES
of ROTARY



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ABOUT THE COVER

R.I. President Kalyan Banerjee would always give us a clue that the RY 2011-2012 will have a theme and thrust which is very Asian. Asians are noted for their close family ties, giving a priority for the strengthening the family. He said that if we have the right values in the home, it can ripple to the community, and the world at large.

We have so many projects in the District that have given so much to the upliftment of families. It is our clubs' vision to include the betterment of the basic unit of society, and we hope to continue with those best practices, and perhaps change what needs to be modified.

On the cover, at left is Kristia, a senior at Assumption Iloilo; sitting are Martino, third grader in St. Anthony's College Grade School; spouse Fe; to her right is Alexa, fifth grader in the same school at San Jose, Antique; and rightmost is Arianna (photo-shopped), currently a Rotary Youth Exchange at O'Fallon City, Illinois. For the Family Month, the family of District Governor Melvin de la Serna is wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

ABOUT THE GML

This Governor's Monthly Letter (GML) is the official monthly publication of RI District 3850.
Website: <http://www.rotary3850.org> Online version: <http://www.rotary3850.org/gml3850online.htm>

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Strength in Family

One of Rotary's greatest strengths lies in the Family.

First, there is the family of over 1.2 million Rotarians from more than 34,000 clubs that comprise the big, extended family of Rotary International.

Through the international family of Rotary, people's lives are enriched by the exchange of cultures among nations. The Group Study Exchange, the Rotary Youth Exchange, and the Matched Club programs are proof that the RI Family is a functional one. The Rotary Foundation's Matching Grants program is further proof that the family of clubs and districts help one another in helping humanity. The next grand family reunion will happen in Bangkok during the 2012 RI Convention.

Second, there are 51 clubs that form the District 3850 family. Despite the physical distance of our clubs, our district remains a closely-knit family of more than 1,200 Rotarians engaged in common projects and whose friendships are enhanced through Rotary fellowship. The annual activity that celebrates this strength of unity is the District Conference, which will be held in Iloilo on April 12-14, 2012.

Finally, there are the families of the individual Rotarians—their spouses, children, and relatives.

I have noticed that clubs that involve their spouses and children in Rotary fellowships and projects are, generally, the stronger clubs. Rotary activities, instead of taking the members' time away from their families, become family time, as well.

December, as the RI Family Month, is the perfect time to consolidate and strengthen our clubs by involving our families in Rotary.



PP Chris

October 25, 2011

Action requested: Nominate one qualified Rotarian from your district for the Vocational Service Leadership Award

Due Date: 30 December 2011

Urgency: For Your Information

Dear District Governor:



Greetings from Evanston. I am writing to inform you of important changes to the Vocational Service Leadership Award.

Effective this year, the Vocational Service Leadership Award has been redesigned to recognize Rotarians who have made a significant impact in advancing vocational service, but do not hold district or international leadership positions. This award is a wonderful opportunity for you to honor a Rotarian in your district who is actively committed to vocational service and may otherwise go unrecognized.

Please note that only one Rotarian per district may receive the Vocational Service Leadership Award. A detailed explanation of the award criteria can be found on the nomination form, which is available for download at www.rotary.org. Any active Rotarian in good standing who meets the award criteria is eligible to receive this award, except for current, incoming and past district governors, and current, incoming and past RI directors.

Completed nomination forms will be due to Rotary International by 30 December 2011. (Please note, the 1 November deadline stated on the nomination form will not go into effect until next year.) Eligible nominations submitted by 30 December will be processed and you will receive a certificate for your nominee in March 2012. Late submissions will not be accepted. Please submit your completed nomination via e-mail to riawards@rotary.org. You may also submit a nomination by mail or fax to:

Rotary Service (PD210)
Rotary International
1560 Sherman Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201-3698, USA
Fax: +1 (847) 556-2179

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding the Vocational Service Leadership Award.

Best regards,

Catherine Lankford
Coordinator, Rotary Service
Phone: 847-866-3394
Fax: 1 (847) 556.2179
riawards@rotary.org / www.rotary.org

24 October 2011

Dear PP Neptune N. Pittman,

Greetings from the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians (IYFR), Philippine Fleet!

My name is PP Udo Pelkowski; I am Regional Commodore of the Philippine Fleet of IYFR.

DG Mel did send to me your contact address. As Fellowship Chair in your respective Rotary District you might be interested to hear about our Fellowship. The International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians (IYFR) is the oldest and largest among the RI Fellowships.

Jesus "Jun" Avecilla from RC Cubao West formed, together with Rotarians of his Rotary Club and Rotarians of RI District 3780 Quezon City, the Cubao West Fleet of IYFR. So far, 6 fleets in the Philippines have been chartered. Jesus "Jun" Avecilla is today International Rear Commodore and serves as first Pilipino in 2015 as International Commodore of IYFR.

We like to extend our Fellowship within your RI District 3850. To become a Member of IYFR, one doesn't need to own an expensive Yacht or Boat. The Love to Water and its Inhabitants are enough. Together with the Love to Fellowship and Camaraderie the ideal mixture is complete. Every Rotarian, Rotaractor and their Spouses are accepted to join IYFR. Single Rotarians can avail Membership in the nearest Fleet, as we call our Fellowship. Seven Members can form a Squadron, and 25 Members are needed to charter a new Fleet.

Your District 3850 has surely a lot of Rotarians and Rotaractors who might be interested in our Fellowship once they know about our existence here in the Philippines. To give you a better insight of our activities and Programs have a look at Facebook under IYFR Cebu Fleet.

I am looking forward to work with you together. I can forward to you Info Material about the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians (IYFR) if you like to promote the Fellowship within your District.

Yours in Rotary,

PP Udo Pelkowski
Regional Commodore of the Philippine Fleet
Past Commodore, Cebu Fleet
International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians
District Chair for Water (Visayas) D-3860 RY 2011-12
RC Cebu Fort San Pedro
Major Donor of District 3860



My dear brothers and sisters in Rotary,

In 1885, the London Times ran a series of editorials honoring the 100th birthday of Sir Moses Montefiore, the British financier and philanthropist knighted by Queen Victoria. The editorials commented on his honesty, his generosity, and his willingness to come to the aid of anyone in need. One story was particularly telling.

Someone once asked Sir Moses, one of the wealthiest men of his era, how much he was worth. In the face of such an ill-mannered inquiry, he merely paused for a moment's reflection before naming a figure – one that fell far short of his questioner's expectations. Naturally, it was met with an objection; surely he must be worth 10 times as much! Sir Moses merely smiled. "Young man," he replied, "you

didn't ask me how much I own. You asked me how much I am worth. So I calculated how much I have given to charity this year, and that is the number I gave you. You see, in life we are worth only what we are willing to share with others."

When we calculate our own worth, do we think about it in terms of what we have, or how we use it? When we say that all human beings are of equal worth, do our actions follow our words?

I believe that being a Rotarian means looking at all of our resources differently. What is the most good that we could choose to do with what we have? What are the choices that will ultimately leave us the richest?



After speaking at the 2011 RI Convention, Bill Gates, cochair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, met with Banerjee and other Rotarians to talk about overcoming the challenges to polio eradication.



From left: General Secretary John Hewko, RI President Kalyan Banerjee, and Trustee Chair Bill Boyd.

Photo by Rotary Images.

In Rotary, we are all aware of the great needs in so many parts of our world. And we all know how much we can do to help through our Rotary Foundation. We can change lives, we can restore hope, we can build futures – if we choose to.

In life, everything is a choice. We can choose to close our eyes to the needs of others, to keep what we have for ourselves, to declare the problems of others to be theirs alone. Or we can choose to look past distance, past color, past language and dress and culture, and see that people everywhere are just like us – and then refuse to walk away.

Sincerely,
Kalyan Banerjee

Kalyan Banerjee
President, Rotary International



"International Action" is theme of third annual Interact video contest. Deadline is Dec. 16, 2011 met with Banerjee and other Rotarians to talk about overcoming the challenges to polio eradication.

Follow the Footsteps

Pres. Kalyan Banerjee stressed the importance of family, along with continuity and change. Everything emanates from the home, and whatever values we have ripples to our neighborhood and to the world at large. It could also be the reason why PRIP MAT Caparas conceptualized the Children's Party, which we simultaneously held last July 1, to empower our new generation and make kids appreciate generosity and kindness. In other words, to make them follow our footsteps and inculcate in their young minds the beauty of volunteerism through Rotary.

When I finished my Internship from a tertiary hospital in Bacolod City, I was reserved a residency slot, being one of the best interns. After passing the Medical Board Exams, I had no choice, however, but to go back to my hometown and work in a government hospital which offered higher compensation. I knew that my family was pinning their hopes on me, to uplift ourselves from poverty. My first salary went to the school expenses of my sisters. Scholarships are not forever, and I became the family breadwinner after my mother lost two legs from diabetes and my father retired from being a clerk in a government agency. More important than the memory of piling debts, are the values I got from them. It was hard work, helpfulness and empathy that made me strive more to achieve what I wanted in life. I wanted to follow their footsteps,

as a simple couple who strived despite hardships, to give the best of the future for their children.

Rotary International was very apt when it labeled December as the Family Month. The spirit of the Yuletide Season further gives us more reason to value the family. It is the season of togetherness, forgiveness and kindness. And Rotary is one big family reaching for that one vision. It is also with Rotary that we helped families achieve some things in life through the many projects we have centered on alleviating the pain and bringing hope to the forgotten and the desolate.

This is the very reason why, for this Rotary year, we are honoring the family of Rotary leaders in our district. I hope that the Rotary Family Awards remind everyone that being together in a service organization further strengthens our vision. I believe that kids of Rotarians value the memories of their dads and moms bringing them to service events and fellowship activities of the organization. No wonder that we have several generations of Rotary leaders. The new generation looks up to us as perfect role models, dreaming of becoming like us someday. For me, Rotary is the one of best legacies we could give to our children—the legacy of priceless values in our Strategic Plan: service, fellowship, leadership, diversity, and integrity.



I never thought that the simple Rotary Family Award mean so much to some of our fellow Rotarian leaders. There were four awardees who could not contain their happiness, as they couldn't wait to show their tokens to their parents, who are ailing and in their sunset years. There was one club president who cried uncontrollably, as she could have shared the award with her past president husband, who is now gone. There was more drama in real life, and I felt that honoring the family leaders of Rotary was one of the more significant parts of my club visits.

Every time I sing, I would always remember my father, who would accompany me with his guitar, when I was young. He was once the Songbird of Alimodian, Iloilo. And every time I made an excellent performance, the crowd would give him more credit and whispered that I followed his footsteps. My parents may not be Rotarians, but for sure, they made me to be one.

**Merry Christmas and
a Prosperous New Year!**

Melvin

Melvin de la Serna
District Governor



Kundiman songs, 1972



My family, circa 2009

AROUND THE DISTRICT

RC Zamboanga City: End Polio Now lighting.



RC Midtown Iloilo: Unveiling of "We Are This Close".



RC Zamboanga City Central: World Polio Day celebration.



RC Metro Roxas Central: End Polio Now public image.



RC Bacolod North: Eye Screening in Isabela, Negros Occ.



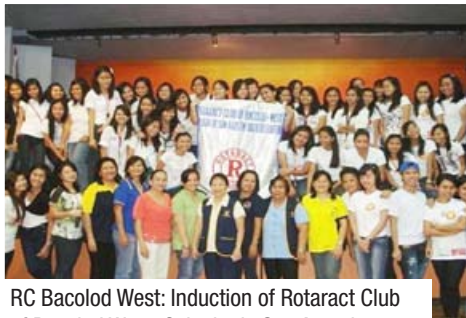
RC Antique: Eye Care for Life optical mission in Brgy. Tulatula, Sibalom, Antique.



RC Bacolod East: Diabetes Week participation with water provision.



RC Bacolod West: Induction of Rotaract Club of Bacolod West, Colegio de San Agustin.



RC Kabankalan: Free Flu vaccination for Kabankalan City Assn. of Retired Employees.



RC Kalibo: Winning poster of Combat TB in Children.



RC Metro Iloilo: Induction of new members.



RC Dumangas: Ongoing Children's Party in Sapao and Lacturan.



RC Bacolod: Boys & Girls Week computerized election.



RC Iloilo South: Observing National Correctional Consciousness Week.



RC Jaro Centraline: Rotaract Club's photo contest, Heal the World with a Smile.





RC Victorias: 5th Day Care Center built.



RC Midtown Iloilo: Goods distribution through Jeep Sang Rotary.



RC Zamboanga City Central: Public image on community & youth programs.



RC Iloilo City: Sister club RC Sae Goyang.



RC Central Iloilo City: Bound for outreach projects in Iloilo's last frontier, Isla Gigantes, Carles.



RC Midtown Iloilo: Visit by sister club RC Mu Ryoung.

RC Bacolod West: Hospital beds for donation.



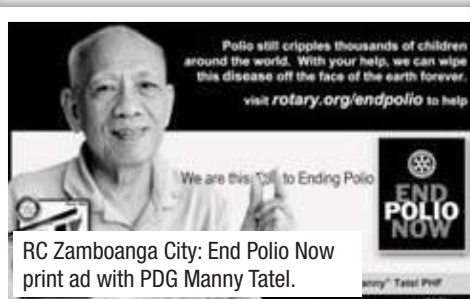
RC Bacolod North: Ear Screening.



RC Metro Roxas Central: Medical Outreach with sis club, RC Kamuning Central.



RC Kabankalan: Nutrition Month celebration.



RC Zamboanga City: End Polio Now print ad with PDG Manny Tatel.



RC Silay: Planning for Taghoy Phils medical mission with PP Meg Lunn.



RC Bacolod Central: Children's Party.



RC Metro Roxas: Interact Club Induction fellowship.



RC Metro Iloilo: Coastal Clean-Up.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

RC Central Iloilo City: Optical Outreach with PP Rene Sarmiento.



RC Bacolod Central: New Generations project.



RC Metro Bacolod: Special Boy Scouts.

RC Central Iloilo City: Literacy outreach in Isla Higantes.



RC Bacolod North: MOA signing for Uplift Int'l Taghoy medical mission.



RC Jaro Centraline: Fellowship Night.



RC Zamboanga City Central: Career Info Forum.



RC Kabankalan: Adopt A Family Project.



RC Victorias: Feeding program.



RC Iloilo South: Japanese Rotarian guest.



RC Bacolod: Interact Club Induction.



RC Midtown Iloilo: Milk distribution & feeding program.



RC Metro Roxas Central: Welcoming RYE Andy Irigaray.



RC Metro Iloilo: Interact Club of Westbridge.





RC Central Iloilo City:
Stop TB Now initiative project.



Rotaract Club of Jaro Centraline: Fellowship.



RC Metro Bacolod: Induction of New Member, including a visually impaired.



RC Bacolod West: quarterly Cardio Care Program.



RC Metro Iloilo: Billboard unveiling.



RC Victorias: Employee of Victorias City Community Service Award.



RC Bacolod: Information Technology Training for high school students.



RC Metro Roxas Central: School supplies distribution and feeding program.



RC Victorias: Feeding program.



Distribution of deworming medicines in Zones 5-7.



RC Dumangas: Supporting Haw-as Festival.



Zones 1-3: Council Meeting.



RC Dapitan: Spooky Halloween.



RC Zamboanga City West: Angry Birds Halloween.



RC Central Iloilo City: Halloween Party.

CLUB VISITS



RC Victorias.



RC Kabankalan.



RC Bacolod.



RC Bacolod South.



RC Bacolod East.



RC Escalante.



RC Metro Bacolod.



RC Bacolod Central.



RC Bacolod Marapara.



RC Basilan.



RC Zamboanga City North.



RC Zamboanga City West.



RC Zamboanga City Central.



RC Zamboanga City.



RC Zamboanga City East.



RC Bongao Tawi-Tawi.

NOTICE TO ALL ROTARY CLUBS OF RI DISTRICT 3850 ON THE ELECTION OF OUR DISTRICT GOVERNOR FOR RY 2014-15



15 November 2011

Dear Club Presidents of RI District 3850:

Our District is mandated to select our District Governor Nominee for RY 2014-15 during this RY 2011-12. By virtue of the authority vested in the District Governor per Section 13.020.4 of the RI Bylaws, I am inviting all Clubs in our District to submit your suggestions for nomination for District Governor for RY 2014-15. All suggestions should be submitted to my office on or before 15 January 2012 and should include the following:

1. Resolution of the Club naming the suggested candidate adopted at a regular meeting and certified by the Club Secretary;
2. Certification of the Club Secretary that the candidate fulfills the following qualifications of a Governor-Nominee as per Section 15.070 and as Governor as per Section 15.080 of the RI Bylaws:
 - Rotarian in good standing of the Club;
 - Rotarian maintains full qualifications of membership;
 - Must have served as Club President for a full term or as Charter President of a Club having served its full term from charter date to 30 June for at least 6 months;
 - Must demonstrate willingness, commitment and ability to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the office of Governor as provided in Section 15.090 of the RI Bylaws;
 - Must demonstrate knowledge of the qualifications, duties and responsibilities of Governor as prescribed in the Bylaws through a signed statement submitted to RI stating clear understanding of such qualifications, duties and responsibilities; and
 - Must have been a member of one or more Rotary Clubs for at least 7 years at the time of taking office as District Governor.
3. Certification of the Club Treasurer that the Club has no financial obligations to RI as of 31 December 2011.

The District Nominating Committee shall be convened to select the District Governor-Nominee on 28 January 2012, Saturday, 10:00 AM, in Iloilo City, at a venue to be announced later. As per Section 13.020.5, the District

Nominating Committee shall not limit its selection to those names submitted by our Clubs and is mandated to nominate the best qualified Rotarian who is available to serve as Governor.

The following timetable shall be in effect covering the selection of our District Governor-Nominee:

- 15 January 2012 (Sunday), 5 PM – Deadline for the Submission of Suggestions from Clubs for District Governor-Nominee;
- 28 January 2012 (Saturday), 10 AM – Meeting of the District Nominating Committee (DNC) for the Selection of the District Governor-Nominee to be held in Iloilo City;
- 29 January 2012 (Sunday) – Notification by the DNC Chair of its Candidate to the District Governor;
- 30 January 2012 (Monday) – Publication of the Name and Club of the Nominee by the District Governor to all Clubs in our District through a written notice;
- 8 February 2012 (Wednesday), 5 PM – Deadline for Receipt of Club Resolution(s) naming previously suggested Rotarian(s) as challenging candidate(s) by my office;
- 9 February 2012 (Thursday) – Proclamation of Nominee selected by the DNC as the official nominee if no resolution(s) of challenge is received by the above deadline; Notification of all Club Presidents follows.

In the event of a challenge, I will release the timetable for the challenging nomination(s) and / or ballot-by-mail when the situation arises.

All Clubs and Rotarians of our District are reminded not to exert any effort to influence the selection process in a positive or negative manner by campaigning, canvassing, electioneering or otherwise which is prohibited under the RI Bylaws (Section 10.060). Please be guided accordingly.

Yours in Rotary Service,

MELVIN "MEL" DE LA SERNA
District Governor, RY 2011-12

Pres. Salvacion "Salve" G. Pescadera Rotary Club of Bongao Tawi-Tawi

I am very happy to be a Changemaker President under the theme, Reach Within to Embrace Humanity. Rotary is one organization that gathers us together, no matter how distant our clubs are, especially in our district. It has the greatness of giving tribute to people of the world through its varied humanitarian programs. It calls for humanity to meet and work together to turn their dreams into realities.



I am also glad for the Governor's Club Visit because it means that Rotary cares for our club, which is in the southernmost part of the country. Together with his spouse, Fe and Assistant Governor Butch Blanco, DG Mel was admirable in coming here to see us in this side of the world. We hope that they will remember our brand of hospitality.

As the Provincial Tourism Officer, our province has the natural beauty, and we really hope that with Rotary, we can help enhance it. We are lucky to have provincial and municipal executives and legislators who are very supportive of our cause, and we thank them for that.



Pres. Jose Rico "Rico" N. Cajili Rotary Club of Bacolod Marapara

It is my wish that all our club members should continue to be active, enthusiastic and always ready to offer help in all our projects for the whole Rotary year. I appeal for good attendance, prompt payment of dues, coming on time during meetings and other activities, and involvement in all the club projects.



For the Governor's Visit, we extend our gesture of appreciation to Gov. Melvin. I believe that when he accepted the responsibility, that he knew that we entrusted to him the leadership to assist us in our pursuit of Rotary's goals and the Ideals of Service, for indeed, one can only lead if he is willing to serve.

Every time I look at the Rotary wheel, I am reminded that the spokes represent our classifications and each member, a cog in the wheel. By attending meetings, we are building acquaintances through fellowship. It is also by attending meetings that we thank the Club Administration Committee's efforts in bringing out good programs for us.



Pres. Ariston "Aris" F. Miñez Jr. Rotary Club of Bacolod South

Before the start of the Rotary year, our club committed itself to hold various community service projects that would cover various sectors of our society, and thereby broadening the scope of our outreach goals.

We have projects for the new generation through our assistance to Day Care centers we adopted. We also spent time in orphanage to show them that we care. For environmental protection, we had a tree planting activity in a remote area in the city. Our Rotaract club is strengthened, and we did meningococemia vaccination to 100 recipients.



We want to do more of these tangible projects as we inch our way with the many lined-up activities of the club. For as long as we can, our hearts dictate that we should care for our less fortunate brothers and share our blessings, because that's what Rotarians are for.



Pres. Frederick "Rikki" Lim Rotary Club of Zamboanga City

I am challenged to do the best I could to sustain the legacy of our hardworking club. This, I can only do with the help of the past presidents, the spouses, and most of all, the members. By working together, we will fulfill the mission for this Rotary year, as we reach within to embrace humanity.



We can make Rotary live for another century and even beyond. Let's start by telling our stories to our family, friends and community. We have to involve everyone, other organizations and other governing bodies in our world.

For this Rotary year, I am happy to have the support of the club members and the spouses. We will continue with our desire to do the good things we have always done. I know that God will bless the works of our hands so that everything we think, say and do, will prosper and be a blessing to others, because we, Rotarians, are committed to serve above ourselves.



ROTARY FAMILY AWARDS



RC Bacolod Marapara: Rotary Family Award to brothers CP Francisco "Paquit" Infante and PP Emilio "Baby" Infante.



Rotary Family Award: PDG Chick Garcia (RC Bacolod North) and Spouse PDG Nanette (RC Bacolod Central), both 3 generations of Rotarians.



RC Bacolod: Rotary Family Award to PE Roderick Alba and spouse, AG Leilani.



Rotary Family Award: PDG Sonny Elegado (RC Bacolod East) and brother PP Edilberto (RC Taguig).



RC Victorias: Rotary Family Award to CP Abelardo Bantug and son PP Reynaldo, award received by Pres. Doming Bingco.



Rotary Family Award: Pres. Paul Brian Mendez (RC Bacolod Central) and father PP Romeo Mendez, Jr. (RC Metro Bacolod) received by Pres. Rico Cajili.



Rotary Family Award: PP Alfonso Torre (RC Bacolod Marapara) and spouse, PP Maida Torre (RC Bacolod) received by AG Leilani Alba.



RC Escalante: Rotary Family Award to PN Rolando Torres and father PP Romeo Torres, Sr.



RC Bacolod East: Rotary Family Award to PP Antonio Sarabia and son PP Antonius.



RC Bacolod East: Rotary Family Award to Pres. Mike Aguilar and brother PP Patrick (RC Silay).



RC Victorias: Rotary Family Award to PP Francisco Soliva and son PP Alvin.



Rotary Family Award: PP Louie Gonzaga (RC Bacolod North) and grandfather PP Alexander Gordon (RC Bacolod).

ROTARY FAMILY AWARDS



RC Basilan: Rotary Family Award for PP Agnes Yu and husband PP Robert.



RC Metro Zamboanga: Rotary Family Award to PP Roel Batausa and son PP Jose, received by Sec. Serio Probadora.



Rotary Family Award: PP Vinnie Atilano (RC ZC East) and son PP JV (RC ZC West), received by Pres. Jay-Ar Ortega.



Rotary Family Award: PP Lope Iringan (RC Zamboanga City East) and son PP Jonathan (RC Zamboanga City North).



RC Zamboanga City Central: Rotary Family Award to PP Dorothy Cajayun and daughter PP Shiela Lee, received by Pres. Lydia Lubaton.



RC Zamboanga City: Rotary Family Award to PP Benjamin Dimaano and son Edmon.



Rotary Family Award: PP Edwin Makasiar (RC Metro Zamboanga) and brother IPDG James (RC Zamboanga City West).

COMMITMENT AWARDS



RC Bacolod East: Pres. Michael "Mike" Aguilar.



RC Kabankalan: Rtn. Mark Sales.



RC Bacolod North: PP Ramon "Mon" Uy, received by PP Louie Gonzaga.



RC Zamboanga City East: Rtn Henry Salac, received by Pres. Baby Albrecht.



RC Bacolod City Central: Pres. Cecilia "Cecil" del Castillo, received by Ms. Roselyn Bontia.



RC Victorias: PP Reynaldo "Rey" Bantug.



RC Bacolod City Central: PP Evelyn "Eve" Gengos, received by Ms. Roselyn Bontia.



An Early Christmas for Boy Scouts with Disabilities

By VP Jess Calixto, RC Metro Bacolod

"Disability is not a hindrance to anyone to do his duty to God and country, to help other people at all times, be the best that he can be, and become what he is capable of becoming."

It is in the light of this philosophy that the Rotary Club of Metro Bacolod decided to organize the Special Boy Scouts or Boy Scouts with Disabilities in the SPED Elementary and High School levels. The 32 selected Special Boy Scouts, 16 in the SPED Elementary and 16 in the SPED High School, are deaf, deaf mutes, blind or physically impaired.

The project is also in line with the conviction that all youths must be given equal rights and opportunities to develop their physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual potential and to make them self-reliant and responsible citizens wherever they are, whoever they are and whatever they are.

For so long, the 32 selected children with disabilities looked with envy at the kids who were clad in Boy Scout uniforms executing the scout salute and the scout sign. How they dreamt so hard and wished that they

could become Boy Scouts, too—until "Santa Claus" came in the person of Pres. Felix Manzo, who broke the good news in September. They will be transformed into Boy Scouts and will be given free scout uniforms and the club will sponsor their participation in the Jamboree. A feeling of thrill and exhilaration glowed in the eyes and faces of these children who would henceforth be known as Special Boy Scouts to make them savor the pride, dignity and respect. It was, indeed, a Christmas in September.

A thorough orientation on the ideals and laws of scouting was held on September 9 for the Elementary Special Scouts and on September 22, for the High School Special Scouts. During the orientation, the Special Boy Scouts pledged on their honor, "to do duty to God and country, to obey the Scout Law, to help other people at all times and to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight."

The Investiture Ceremony was held on September 29 attended by Boy Scout Council Officials, parents, teachers and Rotarians. In this Ceremony, they were formally invested into the World Brotherhood of scouting as members

of the Boy Scout of the Philippines. The Scout Law and Oath, henceforth, would become their way of life.

On October 1, the proud Special Boy Scouts joined the parade that kicked off the scouting month. On October 14 and 15, the Special Scouts High School Level held their first camping at the schoolyard. The activities included tree planting, cooking, physical fitness and lecture on values and global warming. On October 26, the Special Scouts had a special participation in the provincial Jamboree held in Brgy. Granada. They presented a sprightly dance number during the Opening Ceremony, conducted exciting fun games and teambuilding activities and demonstrated a fancy drill to the delight of the curious spectators. Indeed, Christmas spirit was in the air for these children.

From here on, monthly activities will be held until April 2012 geared towards well-rounded development of these children with the full support of the Rotary Club of Metro Bacolod and the magnanimous benefactor PDG Edgar T. Sy (RC-Bacolod), who enthused, "I am supporting this project because it is coming from the heart."





Wastewater: Everyone's Concern

By PP Juliana "Jules" Carbon
District Resource Group Coordinator - Water
Rotary Club of Bacolod Central

Who minds the dirt and water that you flush and forget?

Wastewater that drains out of your toilets, baths and kitchen do not truly disappear. Untreated wastewater eventually winds up into rivers, streams and groundwater and pollutes them. Don't you know that all of us are polluting the bodies of water around us? Sooner, our groundwater, the source of our drinking water, will become polluted too.

Statistics culled from the internet:

- Current government monitoring revealed that only over a third of the country's river systems remain a viable source of public water supply.
- In Metro Manila, all major river systems are biologically dead with dissolved oxygen plummeting to zero for most parts of the year.
- Studies show that 58% of groundwater sampled are contaminated with coliform bacteria. This is in Metro Manila!

Pollution in the water sources caused approximately 31% of illnesses monitored over a five year period.

Dangers of not treating the wastewater:

1. Makes water unfit for drinking and recreational use.
2. Threatens biodiversity.
3. Deteriorates overall quality of life.

Sanitation Program

In Metro Manila, septage management programs have been adopted by Manila Water Company, Inc. and the Maynilad Services, Inc., the two largest water providers in the country following their mandate of providing water, sewerage and sanitation services.

Sanitation service covers the operation and maintenance of vacuum trucks that clean household septic tanks and disposal of the collected septage through environment-safe means.

Sewerage service involves the operation

and maintenance of networks of sewer pipes and the Sewage Treatment Plant that treat the wastewater before disposal into water bodies

What are we doing here in areas covered by Rotary District 3850? Do we have to embark on a wastewater management program, be it a septage or sewerage management and treatment system?

Yes, because we have to comply with the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 (R.A. No. 9275) which aims to protect the country's water bodies from land-based pollution sources (industries and commercial establishments, agriculture and community/household activities). This law provides for a comprehensive and integrated strategy to prevent and minimize pollution through a multi-sectoral and participatory approach involving all the stakeholders.

In Bacolod, the local water district plans to build treatment facilities similar to Septage Management and treatment facilities in Manila. The ordinance for waste water management is about to be presented to the Sangguniang Panlungsod ng Bakolod. In a matter of time, Bacolod City, through the local water district, will launch its own Operation SPSSIP (Septage Project to Support Sanitation Initiatives in the Philippines)-Bacolod.

Other cities in Panay have also their own feasibility studies on septage management. We hope every city will embark on this kind of sanitation project, whether in a small or large scale basis. There are centralized and decentralized wastewater treatment systems that can be adapted to



each city or municipality.

As mandated by RA No. 9275, the host Local Government Unit is to provide the land including road right of the way for the construction of waste water treatment facilities and raise funds for the operations and maintenance of said facilities. The City is responsible in providing 2,000 square meter area for a fully mechanized facility or 2 hectares for a partially mechanized facility. We have to convince our local governments that they must provide the land.

Should we do it only because a law requires? No, We should have a wastewater management system because IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

A septage management treatment facility costs around Php200,000.00 per 100,000 population. The cost will be passed on to the consumers. The septage or environmental charge will be computed based on a certain percentage of the water bill. Let us say its 20% of your bill. So, for example, if your water bill is Php600.00 then the environmental charge is Php 120.00. This is only Php 4.00 per day.

Think of it as a small contribution with mega benefit in saving the environment.

Think of it as an insurance premium that will protect your children and grandchildren from the pollution which you and I created.

Think of it as a way to restore life.

The state of our waters is in your hands. Do you want to pay a reasonable price for clean water?

Rotarians must be involved and must support projects on water and sanitation!



Rotary Family Month

District Secretary Melchor "Cho" Ramos

Every December, Rotarians all over the world celebrate the Rotary Family Month giving emphasis on the family. Clubs direct their activities in the betterment of families, promote cohesiveness among members, and involvement of families in community affairs. Gov. Mel encourages clubs in Rotary District 3850 to celebrate Family Month this December. First, within your home, and encircle your communities to embrace other families in need. We should put into consideration how a family can become a useful member of the society or community where it lives.

In this time of the Rotary year, I know that many of the Rotary clubs are through with the search for the President Nominee for Rotary Year 2013-2014, much the same way that we will soon know who will lead our district in RY 2014-2015. Your election of your next prexy is very important as we all know that we should have long term plans. The president is also chosen so as

to prepare himself with what is required, especially in terms of Rotary information.

All clubs are also busy preparing for their Christmas activities, as well as the completion of projects ready for awards, for the April 12-14 District Conference in Iloilo City. As we are all preoccupied, please don't forget to remit your SAR second semester dues on or before Dec. 31, 2011. Again, may I remind club presidents and secretaries, to submit your MAR on or before the 5th day of every month.

The District would like to extend its heartfelt sympathy to the loss of PP Ric Coros of the Rotary Club of Zamboanga City North and Rtn. Odie Cuna of RC Boracay—our condolences to the bereaved families.

Let's celebrate Rotary through the Family. May you have a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year! Cheers, Rotarians!



Rtn. Odie Cuna



PP Ric Coros

DisCon 2012 Updates

By PP Tres Arandela DisCon 2012 Chair



played by the sound system or you may bring your drummers. Number of participants should not be less than 20 and are strictly Rotarians or Spouses, whose memberships (Rotarians) are officially listed with Rotary International's SAR.

For the **Festival Competition**, the criteria are: Execution and Mastery: 30%; Difficulty and Skill: 30%; Costume: 20%; Projection: 15%; and Audience Impact: 5%.

The same criteria apply for the **Ballroom Dancing Competition**. The contesting pairs (three contesting pairs) should be active Rotarians.

For **Rotary's Got Talent**, judging criteria include: Voice Quality: 40%; Performance: 30%; Diction & Pronunciation: 10%; Suitability of Song/Piece: 10%; and Audience Impact: 10%. Props and back up dancers are permitted. Contest pieces should not be more than 5 minutes.



DISCON 2012 meetings with Committee chairs and the Zones 1-3 Council of Presidents

For the Opening Ceremony, we will be in our colorful festival costumes to witness the "Aliwan" of District 3850. Our District has original and interesting festivals in the country, and this will be the chance of Rotarians to showcase them. There will be six contending tribes during this date

at Plazuela (beside SM City), Diversion Road, Mandurriao, Iloilo City. We will start at exactly 4:00 p.m. to give way to fellowship after the proceedings. The criteria are as follows: Time element should not be more than 8 minutes. Music could be



Monthly Attendance Report

October 2011

Zone	Rotary Club	Club No.	Chartered	Members	Meetings	Att %	Rank
I	Iloilo	17045	1933	45	4	46.79	47
	Iloilo South	17047	1971	23	4	77.54	33
	Antique	17015	1971	25	4	84.00	19
	Iloilo West	28828	1992	19	4	65.00	40
	Miag-ao	58693	2002	13	3	81.00	26
II	Iloilo City	17046	1975	28	3	96.20	1
	Jaro-Iloilo City	25131	1988	19	4	82.00	22
	Central Iloilo City	27338	1990	17	4	92.70	6
	Jaro Centraline	29746	1993	14	4	92.85	5
	Jaro South	31664	1996	10	2	78.70	30
III	Metro Iloilo	17066	1979	60	4	78.01	31
	Midtown Iloilo	24342	1987	31	2	96.00	2
	Guimaras	27277	1990	22	3	73.00	35
	Molo	27939	1991	10	DNR	DNR	
	La Paz	30821	1995	17	4	63.20	42
IV	Dumangas	31821	1996	28	5	77.20	34
	Metro Passi	76428	2007	17	4	72.00	36
	Roxas	17080	1964	17	4	80.00	27
	Kalibo	17053	1967	47	3	90.00	12
	Metro Roxas	22518	1982	40	4	91.24	9
V	Boracay	50661	1997	18	4	85.00	17
	Metro Kalibo	54828	2001	19	4	87.63	14
	Metro Roxas Central	74422	2006	26	4	93.00	4
	Bacolod North	17018	1973	55	3	89.82	13
	Silay	17084	1973	18	4	78.00	32
VI	Escalante	17037	1976	14	6	62.00	43
	Victorias	17091	1966	15	5	81.25	24
	Bacolod	17016	1937	30	4	83.00	21
	Bacolod East	17017	1983	33	3	90.80	11
	Bacolod Marapara	29076	1992	23	3	63.76	41
VII	Bacolod Central	31518	1996	23	4	81.52	23
	Bacolod South	17019	1969	24	4	92.00	7
	Kabankalan City	17052	1974	26	4	71.83	37
	Metro Bacolod	25280	1988	20	4	86.25	16
	Bacolod West	27374	1990	25	5	92.00	8
VIII	Dipolog	21409	1950	26	4	37.00	49
	Jimenez	17050	1975	19	4	94.00	3
	Dapitan City	25485	1986	16	5	29.00	50
	Oroquieta Centennial	69314	2005	16	2	37.50	48
	Ozamiz North	17073	1974	25	4	81.25	25
IX	Pagadian	17074	1975	25	4	53.00	44
	Pagadian West	17075	1977	30	4	86.66	15
	Zamboanga City	17094	1948	45	4	91.00	10
	Basilan	17022	1960	34	4	53.00	45
	Zamboanga City East	17095	1974	20	4	70.00	38
X	Zamboanga City North	17096	1980	20	5	78.82	29
	Zamboanga City Central	26956	1990	25	4	84.00	20
	Zamboanga City West	17097	1971	54	3	70.00	39
	Metro Zamboanga	22275	1974	21	4	85.00	18
	Ipil Sibugay	59175	2002	16	4	52.75	46
XI	Bangao, Tawi-Tawi	69302	2005	25	5	79.60	28

Top 10 Clubs in Attendance %

1	Iloilo City	96.20
2	Midtown Iloilo	96.00
3	Jimenez	94.00
4	Metro Roxas Central	93.00
5	Jaro Centraline	92.85
6	Central Iloilo City	92.70
7-8	Bacolod South	92.00
7-8	Bacolod West	92.00
9	Metro Roxas	91.24
10	Zamboanga City	91.00

Top 10 Clubs in Membership

1	Metro Iloilo	60
2	Bacolod North	55
3	Zamboanga City West	54
4	Kalibo	47
5-6	Zamboanga City	45
5-6	Iloilo	45
7	Metro Roxas	40
8	Basilan	34
9	Bacolod East	33
10	Midtown Iloilo	31

Clubs that Did Not Report (DNR)

- Molo

Facts about District 3850

# of Clubs**	51
# of Active Rotarians*	1,288
Average Attendance %**	76.76
Average Membership**	25.25

* As of 30 June 2011

** For October 2011



DISTRICT 3850 PHILIPPINES *Festival District*

ANTIQUE

Binirayan Festival

The Binirayan Festival, conceived by Governor Evelio B. Javier, is an event celebrated in the province of Antique on the last week of December. It was first held on January 11-13, 1974.

After many years, the festival has evolved into one of the longest-running cultural festivals in the country, touted by many as the first original cultural festival in the region. Although the Binirayan takes its grand narrative from the Maragtas legends, which highlight the coming

and settling of the Bornean datu in Malandog, Hamtic, the present day celebration has integrated the other indigenous peoples in Antique like the Atis, the Bukidnons, and the lowland communities to show the diversity of Antiqueño heritage. It also takes pride in its Chinese and Hispanic heritage, as well as the diaspora of Antiqueños all over the world, represented by the Layas Nga Antiqueños.

The festival opens with a fluvial parade from the Pantalan (port) to Malandog

Beach in Hamtic, believed to be the original settlement of the Bornean datu. In Malandog is a historical marker commemorating this legendary event. There are beauty pageants, cultural shows, street-dancing, parades, and arts and crafts local products exhibits. In 2006, the Binirayan Foundation introduced the Komedya Antiqueña as a sub-festival to promote the komedya as traditional folk theater.



TAWI-TAWI

Seaweeds Festival

The celebration of the annual seaweed festivities in Bongao town showcases the province's cultural heritage and natural resources. The eight-day celebration kicks off with a colorful fluvial parade from different island-municipalities, displaying colorful attires that boost the uniqueness of the province's multi-culture society.

The various activities lined up for the yearly event are: different sports com-

petitions, search for Miss Budjang or Tawi-Tawi, fluvial parade, and the Agar-Agar festivals among others. The famous Seaweeds festival also coincides with the province's Kamahardikaan or founding anniversary celebrations, which honors the province's leading source of livelihood—the Agar-Agar. The event also renews the people's reflection on their culture.

The province is one of the top produc-



ers of seaweeds in the country, with the area producing thousands of tons of Agar-Agar every week to cater to the demand in the Philippines and other countries.

DIPOLOG CITY & ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE

Sardines and Mango Festival

The exciting celebration of the Sardines and Mango Festival, under the inventiveness of the provincial government, the In-Glass Sardines of Dipolog Association, Incorporated (ISDA) and the Department of Trade and Industry is included the the yearly celebration of the "Linggo ng Zamboanga del Norte."

Part of the celebration of the Sardines and Mango Festival are: free food servings consisting of rice, sardines, mango and bagoong for the local enthusiasts who dare taste the province's most talked about products. The venue for this mouth-water-

ing agenda is the Zamboanga del Norte Cultural and Sports Center on a Sunday in June.

Other than the Sardines and Mango Festival, the weeklong celebration of the Linggo ng Zamboanga del Norte consists of various invigorating and refreshing activities, street dancing, food fest, culinary arts competition, industrial tour, trade fair and the ISDA Olympics.

The festivities are attended by various businessmen and entrepreneurs investing in sardines and mangoes in the province, in a united effort to attract both investors



and local and foreign tourists, boosting the provincial economy, as well as the tourism industry.