

## 2016-2017 Filipino Members Chapter

Ethel Fernandez, P.Eng. (*President*)  
Nancy Santoyo, P.Eng. [*Vice-President (Technical)*]  
Ray Sator, P.Eng. [*Vice-President (Finance)*]  
Franz Kasala, P.Eng. [*Vice-President (Communications)*]  
Angelito Velasco, P.Eng. (*Ex-Officio*)  
Leo Aguila, P.Eng.  
Jess Giba, P.Eng.  
Joy Oserio, P.Eng.  
Gladys Paciente, P.Eng.

- **August 2016 – Golf and Picnic Summer Event at Harbor View Park**

In previous years, FMC hosted golf and picnic events separately. This is the first time that a joint golf and picnic event was organized with a fundraising component. Seven teams with four members each participated in the golf fundraiser. As most participants were not familiar with golf, the organizers assigned at least one team member who knows a thing or two about golf. Newbies, experts and enthusiasts enjoyed the game on the greens. Upon completing the nine-hole golf tournament, participants were invited to proceed to the picnic area, where other chapter members, family and friends were waiting to feast on a whole *lechon* and potluck meals.

- **October 2016 – Winnipeg Harvest Group Volunteer; Launching of Chapter Website**

### Helping Hands at Winnipeg Harvest

On the afternoon of October 22nd, the chapter engaged in community service by helping out at Winnipeg Harvest. This is the first time we connected our members to help in a charitable institution, thereby accomplishing one of the chapter objectives – to engage and participate in community services

More than 20 members and friends of FMC showed up and enthusiastically gathered at Winnipeg Harvest's office. Most volunteers were first-timers, who had no idea what to expect, except that they are there to help with sorting, bagging or packaging. As this is the chapter's first involvement with Winnipeg Harvest, an hour of orientation and a quick tour of the facility was included as part of the afternoon's itinerary.

We were split into two groups - one group bagged and re-packed flour, while the other group went to sorting area. While there and doing the charitable work, the chapter members also had a chance to chat, catch up with old acquaintances and get to know new members and friends.

### Chapter Website

IT/ Communications worked to design FMC website, where the public can have access to what the chapter is about, links to the association website, events and more. Visit us at [www.fmc-egm.ca](http://www.fmc-egm.ca)

- **November 2016 – Engineering Credential Recognition Process Orientation**

On November 5, the “Engineering Credential Recognition Process Orientation” was held at the Philippine Canadian Centre of Manitoba, where a total of 171 participants attended.

This event was organized for the benefit of Filipino newcomers with an engineering background and those who have yet to undergo the credential recognition process. Dr. Marolo Alfaro, one of the founding members of the chapter, delivered the opening remarks on behalf of Ramon Cairo, the first chapter president. MMC chair and chapter VP Finance, Ray Sator, discussed the process of becoming a professional engineer or geoscientist in the province of Manitoba.

The following chapter members graciously accepted the invitation to speak at this event to provide more information, inspire and encourage participants to pursue becoming professional engineers and geoscientists:

Jeraldine Velasco, EIT – Confirmatory Exams; Rodel Hernandez, P.Eng – Equivalent University Courses; Gerard Batara, P.Eng – Equivalent Courses/ IEEQ; Romeo Zoleta, P.Eng – Interview; Earl de Guzman, EIT – Masters in Engineering; Maurice Petallo, EIT – Fundamentals of Engineering Exam; Edwin Madera, EIT – Fundamentals of Engineering Exam

- **December 2016 - Fundraising and Christmas Party; Winnipeg Harvest Donation**

In early December, our annual holiday party included a fundraising event through a silent auction not only for our bursary program, but also to be able to give back to the community by handing over the rest of the proceeds to a chosen charity. At this event, we awarded four bursaries to our student members and recognized our new engineering interns and professional engineers.

To cap off the year, the executive officers headed over to Winnipeg Harvest and handed over the remaining proceeds from the fundraising event.

- **March 2017 – Annual General Meeting; Technical Seminar**

Members of the Filipino Members Chapter (FMC) and guests from Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba (the provincial association), including invited members from the Arab and Chinese Members Chapters gathered at the Canton Food Gallery to attend the 2017 Annual General Meeting on Saturday afternoon, March 11.

I, as the chapter president, facilitated the meeting with a presentation to reflect on the work the chapter executive officers and volunteers have had accomplished in 2016, which included events organized by the chapter, community involvement, collaboration with the Arab Engineers chapter as they set their own chapter. I also briefly previewed the future plans for the upcoming year and what the members can look forward to.

Ray Sator, VP for Finance, presented the chapter's financial statement, where a stable financial status is evident and a confidence that there will be enough funds to ensure that planned events for 2017 will materialize.

A representative from the SOPA program, Milagros Dacwag, spoke briefly on the collaboration with FMC and presented an overview of what SOPA is all about – more details can be found on their website: [www.entryprogram.ca](http://www.entryprogram.ca)

The second part of the event was a technical presentation on the new National Building Code, presented by former chapter executive officer, Norman Garcia, P.Eng. The presentation generated several questions from professionals working in the construction and consulting industries.

- **April 2017 – Volunteer Appreciation**

April 23 to 29 was National Volunteer Week for 2017. The Filipino Members Chapter – Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba (FMC) joined in the celebration by organizing its first Volunteers' Appreciation Day.

The FMC recognizes that volunteers are the heart of every event, as without them, no event would be as organized and as successful. We see volunteers hard at work from afar, just another face in the crowd and numbers to statistics. The chance of getting to know them better at an event is slim, if not nil.

The chapter's Volunteers' Appreciation Day, sponsored by National Bank, held on April 29 at the Fairfield Inn and Suites presented the opportunity to get the FMC's volunteers together and get to know them better in a light and informal gathering.

More than 30 volunteers showed up to enjoy an afternoon of food, fun and fellowship.

The organizers prepared thought-provoking, but entertaining, icebreakers and team-building activities.

Part of the event was dedicated to the presentation of volunteer appreciation certificates to those who missed the presentation at last year's Christmas party. To cap the afternoon off, participants gathered around in a circle to reflect and provide feedback about the afternoon's event.

- **June 2017 – Philippine Heritage Week**

In June, we participated in Philippine Heritage Week organized by the Philippine Heritage Council of Manitoba (PHCM). Our members commemorated and appreciated Philippine's independence and culture through various activities. This also allowed our chapter to be introduced and interact with other organizations.

It is indeed another productive year, and while I have no crystal ball to foresee what the future years will bring, I am optimistic that greater things are yet to come for the chapter.

**Ethel Fernandez, P.Eng.**

**Filipino Members Chapter President, 2016-2018**