



FIL-AM BULLETIN

The Official Newsletter of the
Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia, SC
 (A Non-Profit Organization to Promote Inter-Cultural Education and Understanding)



★ Volume 21, Number 3

★ P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224

★ Spring 2012 ★

Annual Summer Picnic & Members Appreciation Day Set for June 9

FAAGC will hold its annual summer-time Fil-Am get-together, on **June 9, 2012**, starting at 1:00 p.m. at the **Weston Lake Recreation Area** on Ft. Jackson.

The venue is off the 4500 block of Leesburg Road (SC-262), Hopkins, SC 29061, about 9 miles from the intersection of Leesburg Road and Garners Ferry Road, and a 5-minute drive from the fort's Gate 5. The recreation park has a swimming area, playground, volleyball court and available canoes, kayaks and paddleboats for rent. Just look for the picnic shelter with the FAAGC banner.

All Association members, supporters and friends (and their families) are all invited to this fun-filled, time-to-cool-off occasion. We will also have a brief program to acknowledge and appreciate the FAAGC volunteers and to vote on the proposed amendments to the By-laws.

This is a POTLUCK affair so please bring a 2-liter soda or water and a covered dish enough for your family and others. Suggested dishes to bring and additional picnic details will be noted in an upcoming postcard mail and on the FAAGC website.

FAAGC President Honored as CIF 2012 “International Professional of the Year”

Dr. Marj Peña, FAAGC President now on her second term, was recently named the 2012 “*International Professional of the Year*” by the Columbia International Festival (CIF).

The annual award is given to a foreign-born citizen who has met the criteria for residency, age and professional qualifications and has “used his/her gifts/talents/skills/resources to help the international community in tangible ways.”

Marj’s selection marks the seventh time in the 17 years of the festival that a *Columbia Fil-Am Association* member has been recognized. Dr. **Francisco Sy**, a longtime FAAGC benefactor and a former
 (continued on Page 2)



FAAGC President Marj Pena receives her “International Professional of the Year” award from CIF founding director, Dr. Raj Aluri.
 Photo by Carlton Edwards

FAAGC By-laws Amendments Proposed

To make FAAGC’s guiding rules more responsive to changing needs and state of affairs of the Association, the Executive Board has proposed a few minor amendments to the By-laws. The proposed amendments involve member-

ship, funds, meetings, and time constraints of certain Association requirements. Many of the time limits in the present By-laws have changed over time, as approved by the general membership, to reflect changing conditions of the organization during the past 20 years. The proposed amendments will codify these changes into the By-laws.

(continued on Page 4)



Fil-Am Volunteers at the 2012 Columbia International Festival

FilAm children pose in front of the *Pahiyas-Festival*-themed *bahay kubo* display before joining the *International Children Fashion Show* (above). At right, the Columbia Fil-Am Youth Dance Troupe members have their post-*singkil*-performance *kodakan* moment with dance coordinators Joette Flora (extreme left, second row) and Bernadette Yavis (extreme right, second row).

Photos by Carlton Edwards and NCA





From the President by Marj Peña

FAAGC Is Off To A Great Start in 2012!

Summer is just around the corner, and everyone is gearing up for proms, graduation, and summer vacation! I wish y'all safe summer travels and fun with family and friends!

2012 was off to a great start for the FAAGC. The **Columbia FilAm Dance Troupe** once again participated in the **Santo Nino Fiesta** on Jan. 14.

Basketball

We sponsored our **Second FAAGC Invitational Basketball Tournament and Filipino Food Sale** on January 21. Four teams participated from Sumter, Orangeburg, and Columbia. In addition to the excitement of competition, the proceeds allowed us to add to the FAAGC Scholarship Fund and to create a Basketball fund to support our team as it participates in local and out-of-town competitions.

As of press time, the FAAGC team has won the **Championship trophy** at the First Savannah Filipino-American Basketball Invitational 2012 held on April 28 at the Mercer Middle School Gym in Garden City, GA! **CONGRATULATIONS, TEAM!!!** We look forward to the next competition. The FAAGC will sponsor its **Third Basketball Invitational Tournament and Filipino Food Sale on October 13, 2012. We hope to see you then!**

International Festival

We participated in the 17th Annual Columbia International Festival with an exhibit showcasing the *Pahiyas* Festival from Lucban, Quezon. The display, with its colorful flowers and decorations adorning the bamboo hut and accented with a model of the *lechon*, was one

of the most photographed and admired exhibits at the festival. A very big **THANKS** To everyone who shared their artistic talents in creating the flowers (Lisa, Bambi, and Odess) and to George McNulty for transporting and assembling the hut.

A big thanks also to those who donated Philippine pastries and helped with the food booth. We were able to raise funds for the cultural group.

Thanks also to all the officers and members who helped assemble and disassemble the exhibits and watched the display, to all the *Parade of Nations* and *Fashion Shows* participants, to those who visited the booths, and to the Teen Group of the **Columbia FilAm Dance Troupe** who did a great performance of the *singkil*, *binasuan*, and *maglalatik* folk dances and who led the audience in learning the *tinikling*! **You all did a great job !!!**

Annual Get-Togethers

Our **Annual Spring Picnic and Easter Egg Hunt** was well attended by new and old members alike! We welcome the new members. We hope to see you and your family in our future activities. I invite you to consider serving on the FAAGC Executive Board in the future, a truly very rewarding service and experience.

Coming up, I would like to invite all of you to our **Annual Summer Picnic and Membership Appreciation Day on June 9th** at the **Weston Lake Recreation Center**. This will be a potluck event starting at 1 PM. This is a great chance for your family to enjoy a fun day at the lake with our *kababayans* and to recognize those who have helped make the FAAGC activities in 2011-2012 a resounding success.

Annual Gala

Finally, plans are underway for the **22nd Annual Gala** which will be held on **September 15, 2012** at the **Columbia Marriott Hotel**. Mark the date in your calendars for our biggest fund-raising event of the year. Please consider purchasing an ad or sponsorship in our Souvenir Program. If you would like to participate with a cultural performance, please contact any of the FAAGC Officers or Board Members. Tickets will on sale on June 9th at the summer picnic. I hope that you will join us for a night of food, entertainment, and dancing!

Achievements Galore

Finally, the **Achievements Galore** issue of the **FilAm Bulletin** is coming up. If you or a member of your family has notable accomplishments or honors, awards, graduation, etc., please send a short article and photo to our Editor, Noel Alon at faagc@hotmail.com. We take pride in your accomplishments and would like to share them with the community.

Scholarship

If your child is graduating from high school, please apply for the **FAAGC scholarship**. You or your child must be a paid active member of the FAAGC for at least one year to qualify for this scholarship. An application is required; this can be downloaded from the FAAGC website: filamsc.org, and must be submitted to the Scholarship Committee by **August 15, 2012**.

Again, thank you for all your support and for making the FAAGC the exciting organization that it is today!

With my very best,

How To Contact Us

FAAGC

P.O. Box 24112
Columbia, SC 29224

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or Fil-AmSC@yahoo.com

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International Professional (continued from Page 1)

public health professor at USC, and Dr. **Nieves McNulty**, the 1997-2001 FAAGC President and the math department chair at Columbia College, also received the "International Professional of the Year" awards in 1997 and 2001, respectively. The "International Volunteer of the Year" awards were given to **Noel Alon**, 2003-2005 FAAGC President **Grace Collins**, and 2001-2003 FAAGC

President **Peter Liunoras** in 1998, 2002, and 2004, respectively. 2001-2007 FAAGC Treasurer Dr. **George McNulty** was named the "International Community Ambassador of the Year" in 2006.

Marj was recognized and received her plaque during the opening ceremonies of the 17th Annual Columbia International Festival on March 31, 2012 at the State Fairgrounds. She was cited for her ac-

tive involvement and leadership in the area Filipino-American community and its "cultural and social activities that have enhanced the area's cultural diversity."

Born and raised in the Philippines, Marj obtained her B.S. in chemistry and then taught at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila. She came to the United States to pursue graduate studies at Florida State University, where she met and married Edsel Peña.

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Association of Greater Columbia, SC

P.O. Box 24112
Columbia, SC 29224

The **FIL-AM BULLETIN** is one vehicle of the Association to achieve its objectives and maintain regular communications with its members and interested parties. Contributions of articles (as well as financial donations) are most welcome; contact the Editor for more details.

NOEL ALON

Editor

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Helen Alon

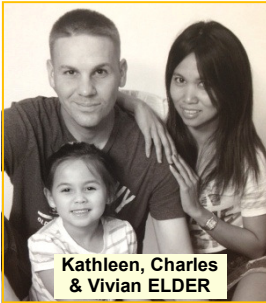
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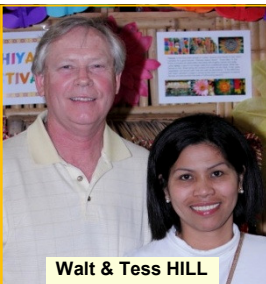
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Kathleen, Charles
& Vivian ELDER



Joey NADEAU &
Dena HUGGINS

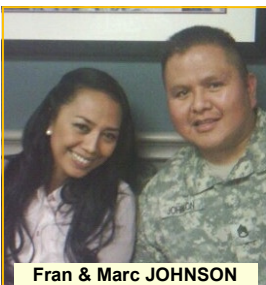


Walt & Tess HILL

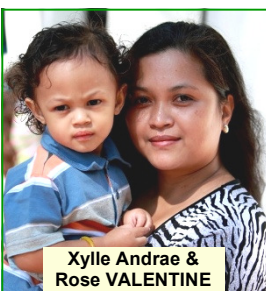
**Welcome to the
FAAGC Family !!!**



Glenn & Caren JOHNSON



Fran & Marc JOHNSON



Xylle Andrae &
Rose VALENTINE

★ **ROY & CARINA BALACANAO** of Columbia, SC. A registered nurse, she works at Palmetto Health Richland. He has served as the playing coach of the FAAGC basketball team which recently won the Savannah FilAm tournament.

★ **STEVEN & JOSEPHINE BATTLE** of Columbia, SC. They have two sons, Joseph and Vincent.

★ **CHARLES & VIVIAN ELDER** of Columbia, SC. She is originally from Sta. Maria, Zamboanga City. A native of Columbia, SC, he is with the Army National Guard. They have a daughter, Kathleen, 5.

★ **CONRADO ("Jun") & EMY FAJARILLO** of Lexington, SC. Originally from Buhang Hamtic, Antique, he is a civil engineer with Shaw Group. From New Washington, Aklan, she is a registered nurse at Palmetto Health Richland. Recently arrived in the area, they have two children, Leslie, 12, and Coline, 5.

★ **WALT & TESS HILL** of Chapin, SC. Originally from Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya, she teaches at Richland District One and Newberry College. He is an operations supervisor at Midlands Technical College. They have one child, Sachiko Joy, 10.

★ **MARIADENA ("Dena") HUGGINS & JOEY NADEAU** of Columbia, SC. Newly arrived in the area, she hails from Iloilo City and works in medical coding; he is with the US Air Force.

★ **GLENN & CAREN JOHNSON** of Lexington, SC. She is originally from Tetuan, Zamboanga City. They have two children, Brianna, 7, [who participated in the *Children Fashion Show* of the recent Columbia International Festival (CIF)], and Ayden, almost 2;

★ **MARC & FRAN MARIE JOHNSON** of Columbia, SC. Originally from Bacolod City, she has been in the area for over two years. He is with the US Army.

★ **DORIS MATOS** of Columbia, SC. Originally from Panama,



Doris MATOS

she is a long-time area resident and works at Blue Cross/Blue Shield. She has been a regular attendee of FAAGC events for the past few years.

★ **FLORENCIO ("Jun") & CORA**

PEÑA of Lexington, SC. The in-laws of FAAGC President Marj Peña, they have been mainstay volunteers in FAAGC activities since arriving in the area over a year ago. They have two children, Christine, 17, and Claude, 6.

★ **MICHAEL & LUZVIMINDA PILAPIL** of Columbia, SC. Both from Quezon City, he is a machine operator, while she is a registered nurse at Palmetto Health Baptist. In the area for six years now, they have a son, Jacob.

★ **ERIC & HAIDEE SOSA** of Columbia, SC. Growing up in the U.S., he is with the U.S. Air Force; she hails from Quezon City. Although new in the area, they have been active volunteers in recent Association activities. They have two sons, Ethan, 10, and Brayden, 4, who both participated in the recent CIF *Children Fashion Show*.

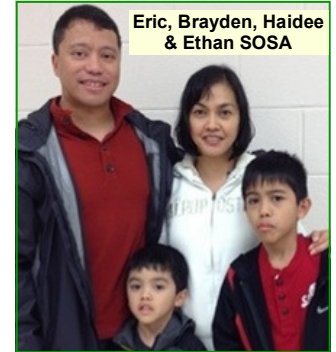
★ **BRENT & KAYE SOSTAK** of Hartsville, SC. She is originally from San Ildefonso, Ilocos Sur. From Askox, Minnesota, he works at Progress Energy. They have two sons, Marcus, 6 (who also participated in the recent CIF *Children Fashion Show*), and Josiah, 1.

★ **ROSEMARIE ("Rose") VALENTINE** of Columbia, SC. Newly arrived in the area from Valencia, Bukidnon, she hopes to make new friends through the Association. She has two children, Chiezzle, 12, and Xylle Andrae, almost 2.

★ **ROHMAR & TRUC TRAN VERDEFLO** of Columbia, SC. Listing Ilocos Norte, Samar, and Manila as "hometowns," he is a patient care tech at Palmetto Heart Hospital; she is from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. He hopes the Association can "bring the Philippines to the U.S." and help him "feel more at home." In the area for nearly four years, they have a newly-born baby girl.



Christine, Claude, Jun,
Florencio Sr. & Cora PEÑA



Eric, Brayden, Haidee
& Ethan SOSA

Maraming Salamat !

Recent Membership Renewals:

- * Dan & Tess ADCOCK
- * Jennifer ALMEDA
- * Carlos & Kathy AREVALO
- * Ruben & Charl BAGNAL
- * Terry & Judy BERENDS
- * Ron & Faye COLLEY
- * Rio & MaryJane DAQUILANEA
- * Carlton & Lisa EDWARDS
- * Carlton & Amy EDWARDS, Jr.
- * Sean & Shirley McGUINNESS
- * Chris PADUA
- * Bong & Rosa RANCES
- * Joe & CELYN SZOKE
- * Francisco SY
- * Joel & Joy TALDE
- * Neil & Bambie TIJING



Brent, Josiah, Kaye
& Marcus SOSTAK



Rohmar & Truc Tran
VERDEFLO

They Who Serve: One Comes Home, One Leaves

Joseph A. Szoke III, is home from his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas and from his Air Traffic Control training at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi. He is now at the McEntire Joint National Guard Base in Eastover, SC. A 2011 *Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship* recipient, he is the son of FAAGC members Joe & Celyn Szoke of Hopkins, SC and a grandson of FAAGC 1st Vice-President Lisa and Carlton Edwards.

Meanwhile his dad, Master Sergeant **Joseph A. Szoke Jr.** left on Easter Sunday with the 169th Fighter Wing squadron of the SC Air National Guard which was deployed to help with Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Based at the McEntire base, the squadron will be overseas for four months. ♦



Shortly before his own overseas deployment, Joe Szoke (right) welcomes his son Joseph III home from his Air Force training.

International Professional (continued from Page 2)

After moving to Bowling Green State University, she obtained her master's degree in Biochemistry and her Ph.D. in Molecular Biology. They next moved to Michigan where she held a postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the University of Michigan Medical School.

The Peñas joined USC in 2000: Edsel as professor at the Department of Statistics; Marj as a research assistant professor at the Department of Biological Sciences.

Promoted to Research Associate Professor, Marj was named Director of the Mouse Core Facility at

the Center for Colon Cancer Research. In this position, she has served as principal investigator or co-principal investigator of several funded research grants.

She also serves as an undergraduate research mentor while directing a number of graduate students' research. Dr. Peña's cancer research has resulted in many articles published in peer-reviewed journals; she has also given presentations and invited talks in numerous national and international symposia. ♦



Manila Youth Performers to Present Philippine Cultural Show in Fayetteville

A Manila group of young dancers, singers and musicians who "come from a garbage dump (now closed) ... [and] used to hardship," will present a **Philippine Cultural Show** in Fayetteville, NC, on **May 26, 2012**. Starting at 7:00 p.m., the show will be at the **Reeves Auditorium, Methodist University** (5400 Ramsey St., Fayetteville, NC 28311). There is a \$15 admission donation to help the troupe and its projects in the Philippines.

Mga Anak ni Inang Daigdig (MAIDS) (Children of Mother Earth) is an environmental performing arts group featuring young people and children who were born and grew up in Smokey Mountain (in Manila), one of the largest untreated garbage dumps in the world for 40 years before it was closed in 1990. The dumpsite has a large

squatter community, with most of the estimated 30,000 residents making a living from scavenging.

Founded in 1993 by Fr. Benigno P. Beltran, SVD, the ensemble has already performed over the years in Australia, Germany, Sweden, Japan, and the US. Designated the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines' Ambassadors for Peace and Environment, the group is currently on a US 2012 tour.

According to Fr. Beltran, "the performances of the kids showcase the beauty of Filipino dances and rituals but they also have an environmental slant since most of the dances are those of indigenous Filipinos in the mountains and rainforests."

For more details, contact Dr. **Monte Hill (910-474-6099)** or **Allen Burton (910-584-4841)**.

~ CONGRATULATIONS ~

★ **KEITH SEYMOUR** was one of 13 people in his Knights of Columbus (KofC) council to receive the South Carolina KofC *Pro-Life ACE Wings Award*. The award is given to individuals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to publicly fight for the pro-life cause on behalf of the unborn and against euthanizing elderly and disabled people. Keith received the award on April 10 from Jim St. Claire, the KofC State Pro-Life chair.

★ **HANS BRIONES** won third place in *Individual Competition – Level II* at the *2nd Annual*



Mathletics Competition held on April 21 at Christ The King—Stella Maris School in Mt. Pleasant, SC. A St. John Neumann School student, he is the son of Paolo & Christine Briones of Columbia, SC. ♦

† CONDOLENCES †

Our condolences to the families of:

† **Cecille Boman** on the February 2012 death of her mother in the Philippines;

† **Lisa Edwards** on the death of her mother Carmen P. Reyes in Philadelphia, PA, on February 13, 2012, at age 100+;

† other FAAGC members who recently have lost loved ones but for which we had no details as of press time. ♦

Maraming Salamat !

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

Recent Donations:

- * **Jennifer ALMEDA** (Scholarship/Cultural/Orphanage)
- * **Francisco SY** (scholarship)

Visit the
FAAGC Website
www.FilAmSC.org

By-laws Amendments (continued from Page 2)

This announcement serves as the formal notice for the proposed amendments (*see inserted flyer*), as required by the By-laws. Discussion and voting on the proposed amendments will be held at a general membership meeting during the summer picnic on **June 9, 2012**. Members who cannot attend the meeting can vote on the amendments by mailing in their votes using the form in the inserted flyer or by **e-mailing** their approval or disapproval of the amendments to the By-laws Committee at **FAAGC@hotmail.com** before noon on June 9. ♦



ACHIEVEMENTS GALORE

Now that the school year is almost over, it's time to start preparing for the **FIL-AM BULLETIN's** annual "**ACHIEVEMENTS GALORE**" issue. In the next issue of the Association newsletter, we would like to make a special recognition of the graduation and recent scholastic, athletic, community and other achievements of Fil-Am adults and children in the area during the 2011-12 school year.

Provide us with the details (*full name, school, grade, awards, college plans, etc.*) as well as a photograph (*preferably with light background*) so we can give due recognition of your and/or your child/ren's achievements.

A form can be downloaded from the FAAGC website: www.FilAmSC.org. Contact the Editor at **738-0372** or e-mail (faagc@hotmail.com) with the details no later than **July 15**.





COLUMBIA FIL-AM BASKETBALL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT



Tournament volunteers, players of four teams from three cities, and family members gather for the cameras at the end of the 2nd Columbia FIL-AM Basketball Invitational Tournament on January 21, 2012.

FAAGC Wins GA Basketball Tournament

The FAAGC basketball team won the championship of the recent First Savannah Filipino-American Basketball Invitational 2012. Held in the Mercer Middle School gym, Garden City, GA, on April 28, the tournament involved eight teams from Georgia (Atlanta, Augusta, Savannah, Statesboro) and South Carolina (Beaufort, Columbia, Sumter).

The FAAGC team defeated the Augusta team to claim the championship. Coached by Roy Balacanao, the FAAGC team line-up included **Carlos Arevalo**, **Leo Balacanao**, **Roy Balacanao**, **Jeff Capalar**, **Harold Corrales**, **Rio Daquilanea**, **Jun Daquioag**, **Jojo Miranda**, **Pepe Moore**, **Bong Rances**, **Nick Roberts**, and **Ice Tupas**. **Pepe Moore** was named tournament MVP, while **Jojo Miranda** was tabbed as the team's best player.

Congratulations to the team and special thanks to Peter Liunoras for his non-stop solicitation for the team's financial support and to Grace Collins, Roy Balacanao and their families for accompanying and cheering on the team.

FAAGC Basketball Tournament

In a related development, Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia (FAAGC) hosted its **second Columbia FIL-AM Basketball Invitational Tournament** on Saturday, January 21, 2012, at the Polo Road Park gym, Columbia, SC.

Free to spectators, the round-robin, nine-game tournament involved South Carolina Fil-Am teams from Columbia, Orangeburg and Sumter.

Sumter's **Shaw Pinoys** (coached by Richard Luong and led by tournament MVP Daniel Dydasco) edged Columbia's **FAFMC Warriors** to win the tournament championship



The victorious FAAGC team pose with the championship trophy of the First Savannah Filipino-American Basketball Invitational held on April 28 in Garden City, GA.

trophy donated by FAAGC. The Warriors (coached by Butch Tupas and led by team MVP Paolo Briones) received the second place trophy donated by Norman Capili.

The Columbia FilAm (coached by Carlos Arevalo and led by team MVP Nick Roberts) and the Orangeburg Heat (coached by Norman Capili and led by team MVP Sean Odom) got the third and fourth place trophies donated by Archie Luna and Bong Rances, respectively. All MVPs received medals donated by FAAGC.

Proceeds from the tournament and the accompanying food sale fundraiser benefited the *Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship Fund*. FAAGC acknowledges with thanks and appreciation all the food donors, food servers, tournament staff, and other volunteers for helping make the *Columbia FIL-AM Basketball Tournament* highly successful.

Tournament commissioner Peter Liunoras and tournament co-coordinators Bong Rances, Carlos Arevalo & Rio Daquilanea managed the tournament, with some assistance from Noel Alon.

Another Columbia tournament is now being planned for **October 13, 2012**. Meanwhile, the FAAGC team is slated to compete in upcoming basketball tournaments in Augusta, GA and Beaufort, SC.

Basketball Practice

Sports-minded Fil-Ams (members and non-members alike) in the area are invited for practice and scrimmage every Saturday afternoon at the Polo Road Park gym. Children are also welcome since a children's team is being organized and trained. **Those in the official FilAm team must be FAAGC members.**

For more information about the Saturday practices and/or the upcoming basketball tournaments, contact **Bong Rances** (803-788-6271; vmcr24@yahoo.com), **Carlos Arevalo** (803-237-9171; carlos73626@yahoo.com), or **Rio Daquilanea** (803-629-8829; Ridaq94@yahoo.com).



Graduating Fil-Am high school students are reminded to apply now for the Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship. Started in 2002, the Fil-Am scholarship awards are given to college-bound students who have participated actively in FAAGC activities or whose parents are active paid FAAGC members for at least one year. For details, contact **Nieves McNulty** (781-9509; nmcnultyster@gmail.com).

Application forms can also be downloaded from the FAAGC website: www.FilAmSC.org

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(803) 467-9426



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ELGIN



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1.5 acres
LUGOFF



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SOUTHEAST
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312 Nottingham Rd
IRMO
Bed: 4 Bath: 2 SF: 2000



292 Hollingsworth Ln
LEXINGTON
Bed: 3 Bath: 3 SF: 1700



1832 Romain Drive
BROAD RIVER
Bed: 3 Bath: 2 SF: 1500



116 Kennicott Way
GASTON
Bed: 4 Bath: 2 1/2 SF: 2500



113 Charleswood Dr
NORTHEAST
Bed: 4 Bath: 1.5 SF: 1190

**ON THE EDGE OF LOSING YOUR HOME?
DO NOT LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU.
I CAN HELP.**

FORECLOSURE PROPERTIES & MORE.....



4218 Leeds St
BROAD RIVER
Bed: 3 Bath: 1 SF: 998



237 Devonport Dr
IRMO
Bed: 3 Bath: 2 SF: 1276



1423 Nunamaker Dr
BROAD RIVER
Bed: 3 Bath: 2 SF: 1296



1506 Nursery Hill Rd
IRMO
Bed: 3 Bath: 3 SF: 1934

During my trip to the Philippines in February 2012, I was shopping one weekend at the Ayala Center in the City of Makati. I immediately noticed that the items I purchased were placed in brown paper bags instead of plastic. I routinely shopped at these places every time I visit the Philippines and I immediately noticed the absence of the typical plastic bags used by these shops. I made a remark to the clerk that it was good they were using paper bags instead of plastic. I was then told that the stores in the Ayala Center have to use paper bags on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.



I chatted about this positive trend with my family. My mother added that a large grocery store chain had a promotion that if the store's reward program card holder purchased and used the chain's reusable cloth bags instead of plastic bags, one would receive double the points in the reward program.

I later learned that the *Plastic Bag Regulation Act of 2011* (House Bill 4840) was approved in August 2011 by the Philippine House of Representatives. The measure regulates the use of plastic bags and creates a plastic bag recovery system. It eventually prohibits the use of non-biodegradable plastic bags by phasing these out within three years. Such bags will be phased out by supermarkets, department stores, groceries, convenience stores, food chains, restaurants, *sari-sari* (variety) stores and other commercial establishments.

Representative Oscar Malapitan, principal author of the bill, said "the recovery system will lead citizens to exert effort and give their due share in protecting the environment by bringing used plastic bags to stores and commercial es-

ENVIRONMENTAL TRENDS IN THE PHILIPPINES

by I.C. Go

tablishments which in turn shall provide the logistics for recovery of these plastic shopping bags." The recovery system aims to reduce the volume of plastic bags in the environment, landfills and waterways. The local governments have the primary responsibility for decreasing the percentage of plastic bag waste produced within their jurisdictions by collecting, recycling, and disposing of all plastic bags recovered by the stores.

An even more stringent act is Senator Loren Legarda's *Total Plastic Bag Ban Act*, which was filed on March 29, 2011 as Senate Bill 2759. If approved, a total ban on plastic will take effect nationwide. The evidence that decomposing plastic harms marine life is overwhelming and was cited by the Senator Legarda. It was also obvious during Typhoon Ondoy in 2009 that plastic waste severely aggravated the flooding in Metro Manila. Under this bill, violators will be fined 10,000 Philippines Pesos (PHP) for the first offense, 50,000 PHP for the second offense, and 200,000 PHP as well as one year suspension of business permit for the third offense.

Even as a child growing up in the Manila area, I remember seeing so much plastic debris floating in Manila Bay after every typhoon. A good friend of mine who also grew up in the Philippines remembers being out on a boat in Philippine waters and approaching what seemed to be an island of predominantly plastic floating trash. I have still another friend who encountered a similar island near Australia. All these debris contribute to the accumulation of trash in our oceans. Take the example of the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch" (a.k.a. Pacific Trash Vortex), which is now visible using satellite photography. This is one of a number of large masses of floating debris in our oceans.



I am excited about this trend in Philippine environmental laws, but I am hoping this trend will be fully implemented. In a September 5, 2011 press release from the Office of Representative Juan Edgardo Angara, the representative cited the need for an inventory of all unfunded, under-funded, or unimplemented environmental laws. Representative Angara mentioned:

Republic Act (R.A.) 8749: *Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999*

R.A. 9003: *Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000*

R.A. 9275: *Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004*

R.A. 9367: *Biofuels Act of 2006*

R.A. 9512: *National Environmental Awareness and Education Act of 2008*

Fil-Ams Design for Recycled Fashion Show

Outfits designed and made by three FAAGC members out of recycled materials were among the 60 entries modeled at the 2012 *Runaway Runway Fashion Show* held on April 21 at the Township Auditorium. Organized by the Columbia Design League to raise awareness about recycling and "prove that green can be fun, fashionable and fabulous," the show featured fashion designs using "used or post-consumer [materials] on the way to the landfill."

♦ Judged one of the Top 10 finalists, **Ivy Sumaydeng-Bryan's** design featured *sushi* rice bags, packing felt and cloth from shipping kayaks, travenol gloves, and foil coffee bags.

♦ Ivy's daughter, **Claire Sumaydeng-Bryan** modeled her own design made with packing felt and knit material from shipping kayaks, plastic bubble wrap, magazines, aluminum cans and business cards.

♦ A show participant for several years now, **Imelda "Mel" Go** also modeled her own design made from tarp, lace, vegetable bags, plastic and twist ties.

Act of 2010

References:

♦ **Great Pacific garbage patch.** Retrieved March 10, 2012 from the Wikipedia web site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Pacific_Garbage_Patch

♦ **House OKs Plastic Bags Regulation Act; Loren elated.** Retrieved March 10, 2012 from the Philippine Journal Online web site: <http://www.journal.com.ph/index.php/news/top-stories/12727-house-oks-plastic-bags-regulation-act-loren-elated>

♦ **Lawmaker seeks inventory of unimplemented environmental laws.** Retrieved March 10, 2012 from the Philippine Congress' House of Representatives web site: <http://www.congress.gov.ph/press/details.php?pressid=5415>

♦ **Philippines House of Representatives votes to regulate plastic bags.** Retrieved March 10, 2012 from the Plastic Bag Ban Report website: <http://plasticbagbanreport.com/philippines-house-of-representatives-vote-to-regulate-plastic-bags/>

How enterprising Pinoy's use plastic bottles to get solar lights:

<http://wimp.com/lightenup>



FAAGC members Claire Sumaydeng-Bryan (center) and Mel Go (right) model their own designs for the 2012 Runaway Runway fashion show, while USC student Olga Nedorub (left) models the Top 10 Finalist outfit designed by Ivy Sumaydeng-Bryan. Photo by Ivy Sumaydeng-Bryan

Columbia FIL-AM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- * **June 9, 2012** (Saturday, 1:00 p.m.)
 - ▶ **Columbia Fil-Am Summer Picnic & Members' Appreciation Day**
 - ♦ **Weston Lake Recreation Area** at Ft. Jackson [Entrance at the 4500 block of Leesburg Road (SC-262), Hopkins, SC 29061]
- * **September 15, 2012** (Sat., 6:00 p.m.)
 - ▶ **Columbia Fil-Am 22nd Annual Gala**
 - ♦ **Columbia Marriott Hotel**
1200 Hampton St., Columbia, SC 29201
- * **October 13, 2012** (Sat., 9:00 a.m.)
 - ▶ **Columbia Fil-Am 3rd Basketball Invitational Tournament & Filipino Food Sale**
 - ♦ *Details to be announced later.*

RELATED EVENTS:

- * **May 26, 2012** (Saturday, 7:00 p.m.)
 - ▶ **Mga Anak ni Inang Daigdig** (Children of Mother Earth) Philippine Cultural Show (from Manila)
 - ♦ **Reeves Auditorium, Methodist Univ.**
5400 Ramsey St., Fayetteville, NC 28311
 - ♦ *For details, contact:*

Dr. Monte Hill (910-474-6099)
Allen Burton (910-584-4841)


*** Just A Reminder ***

Membership renewal for the Fil-Am Association is now due for many members. Please check the mailing address label below — if there are three asterisks (***) on the line above your name, then your membership has expired or will expire on the date specified after the asterisks.

Your membership renewal and prompt payment of dues are crucial to the continued operations and success of the FAAGC in our community. Please send your membership dues as soon as possible. Dues can also be paid at the summer picnic. If there are membership renewal questions, contact **Nieves McNulty** (553-6540; nmcnulty@columbiasec.edu).








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FIL-AM BULLETIN

"TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE"

of the **Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia, SC**

P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224



Spring 2012



Volume 21, Number 3



Don't Forget:

See Y'All There !

- * **Columbia FIL-AM Annual Summer Picnic & Membership Appreciation Day** will be held on **Saturday, June 9, 2012** at the **Weston Lake Recreation Center**



Proposed Amendments to the FAAGC By-laws

To be voted on during the Summer Picnic, June 9, 2012



To make FAAGC's guiding rules more responsive to changing needs and state of affairs of the Association, the Executive Board has proposed a few minor amendments to the By-laws.

The proposed amendments involve membership, funds, meetings, and time constraints of certain Association requirements. Many of the time limits in the present By-laws have changed over time, as previously approved by the general

membership, to reflect changing conditions of the organization during the past 20 years.

The currently proposed amendments will clarify and incorporate these changes into the By-laws. The current By-laws can be downloaded from the FAAGC website:

www.FilAmSC.org

Since the Association By-laws were first approved and adopted on June 9, 1991, amendments were proposed and approved a few times: on

August 11, 1991; November 10, 1991; May 10, 1992; April 11, 1993; March 13, 1994; and lastly, February 9, 1997.

Voting

Discussion and voting on the proposed amendments will be held at a general membership meeting during the summer picnic on June 9, 2012.

Members who cannot attend the meeting can vote on the amendments by postal **mail** or **e-mail**; such votes must be received before noon

on June 9, 2012:

(1) Use this form:

Check the appropriate box next to each amendment, place in a stamped envelope, and mail to: **FAAGC**

**P.O. Box 24112
Columbia, SC 29224**

(2) **Reply to the FAAGC email** you may have received about the proposed amendments; or

(3) **E-mail** your vote to:
FAAGC@hotmail.com

Amendment 1 : Add a new membership category to read as follows:

Article III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 3. MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- D. **Lifetime membership may be extended by the Executive Board to any member who has paid or willing to pay the equivalent of twenty (20) years of membership. Lifetime members do not have to pay membership dues afterwards and are entitled to all the rights and privileges of membership.**

☐ APPROVE

☐ DISAPPROVE

Amendment 2 : Delete the words with the strike-through line and add the capitalized words in bold:

Article III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 4. MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES

- A. Each member shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of membership, including the right to cast one vote on any matter for which voting is authorized or required under the terms of these By-laws. No person shall be entitled to cast a vote in relation to electing officers if that person (1) has not been a **PAID** member in good standing ~~for at least 90 days~~ prior to the ~~date~~ **TIME** of such election, or (2) falls under the term "dependent" as defined in Article III, Section 3.B.

☐ APPROVE

☐ DISAPPROVE

Amendment 3 : Delete and replace the old provision of Article IV, Section 1 with the new provision:

Article IV. MEMBERSHIP DUES AND OTHER FEES

Section 1. ANNUAL DUES

OLD Provision:

- A. Dues in the amount of \$12 per person with a maximum of \$24 for a family per calendar year are payable on July 1 of each year. Arrangements with the Membership Committee may be made to pay such dues in two installments. Failure to pay such dues within 30 days shall result in suspension of membership, as stated in Article III, Section 5.B. above.

NEW Provision:

- A. **Membership dues per person or per family shall be set and regularly reviewed by the Executive Board and presented for approval to the general membership.**

☐ APPROVE

☐ DISAPPROVE

Amendment 4 : Delete the words with the strike-through line and add the capitalized words in bold:

Article V. OFFICERS

Section 2. QUALIFICATIONS, NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- A. **QUALIFICATIONS.** Candidates for any elective office must be a paid member in good standing ~~for at least 3 months~~ prior to the **TIME** of election and must be present during the election or must have ~~filed with~~ **NOTIFIED** the Election Committee ~~a written letter of~~ **WITH THEIR** intention to serve if elected.

☐ APPROVE

☐ DISAPPROVE

>>>>>> continued at the back >>>>>>



Proposed Amendments to the FAAGC By-laws

To be voted on during the Summer Picnic, June 9, 2012

Amendment 5 : Delete the words with the strike-through line and add the capitalized words in bold:

Article VIII. FUNDS

Section 2. DISBURSEMENT. The President is empowered to authorize payment of bills under ~~One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)~~ **TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$200.00)**. The Executive Board shall authorize the payment of bills between ~~One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)~~ **TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$200.00)** and One Thousand Dollars (\$1000.00). Any disbursement over One Thousand Dollars (\$1000.00) **NOT OTHERWISE COMMITTED FOR SPECIFIC ASSOCIATION PROJECTS OR EVENTS** shall be voted on during a general membership meeting.

Section 3. WITHDRAWAL. Withdrawal from the funds of the Association shall be properly authorized by the President, the First Vice-President, or the next officer in line, excluding the Treasurer, in accordance with the provisions in Article VIII, Section 2. Checks or other instruments of withdrawal from Association funds shall be signed by the Treasurer and, **IF DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**, countersigned by the President, the First Vice-President, or the next officer in line.

☐ APPROVE

☐ DISAPPROVE

Amendment 6 : Delete the words with the strike-through line and add the capitalized words in bold:

Article IX. MEETINGS

Section 1. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING. There shall be a regular general membership meeting on the second Sunday of each month, unless a simple majority in good standing present at the meeting vote to change the meeting date or frequency of subsequent meeting/s. A quorum of at least twenty (20) members must be present in order for any Association official business to be conducted at any meeting. Every other year, the ~~July meeting~~ **MARCH OR** April meeting shall be the meeting at which the election of officers shall take place. The ~~July meeting~~ **FIRST MEETING DURING A NEW ASSOCIATION YEAR** shall be the annual business meeting at which the officers shall make the final financial report of the past year and, ~~when appropriate following an election of officers, turnover the administration of the Association to the incoming officers.~~ The Executive Board may call for an emergency general membership meeting if deemed necessary, provided the members are informed of the specific agenda at least two days prior to such a meeting.

☐ APPROVE

☐ DISAPPROVE

Amendment 7 : Delete the words with the strike-through line and add the capitalized words in bold:

Article X. COMMITTEES

Section 3. ELECTION COMMITTEE. The President, with the approval of the Executive Board, shall appoint the chairperson and two members of the Election Committee. Election Committee members and their immediate families are not eligible to run for any elective position during the election/s they are supervising. The committee shall promulgate specific rules and procedures governing general election and present such rules and procedures at the general membership meeting ~~60 days before~~ prior to the election. It shall insure that all candidates meet the qualifications specified in the By-laws and shall supervise the conduct of the elections.

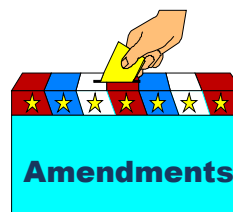
☐ APPROVE

☐ DISAPPROVE

Member's Signature _____

Member's Name _____

Date _____



Check the appropriate box next to each amendment, place in a stamped envelope, and mail to:

FAAGC
P.O. Box 24112
Columbia, SC 29224

➤➤➤➤➤ see front page ➤➤➤➤➤