

Brief History of the Philippine Bisayan Society of Nevada (PBSN)

The organization was formed by twelve founders in the late 1990 and became officially in existence since February 23, 1991, with its constitution approved and registered as a non-profit organization in the State of Nevada. Its goals and objectives are assistance to members, camaraderie and unity among Filipinos in Southern Nevada, charity and calamity assistance, community and cultural services, scholarship to deserving students, medical missions providing health care to indigent patients in the Philippines, youth development and outreach projects.

Over the last 26 years, the focus and inspiration of the officers, advisers and members have been to attain the goals and objectives of PBSN. Among the key elements of the membership services are assistance during emergencies, cash assistance to deceased members and help when needed. The consistent support of the community has undoubtedly been the factor to the success of PBSN, in addition to the strong and decisive leadership of the officers and advisers. PBSN has been fortunate to have been gifted by the leadership of the following Presidents: Jaime Santiago, 1991- 1992; Martin Celemin, P.E., 1993 – 1994; Nadia Jurani, CPA, JD, ESQ, 1995- 1996; Evelyn Sayre, 1997- 1998; Cecille Boquecosa, 1999- 2000; Romeo Jurani, P.E., 2001 -2002; and Marian Pearson, 2003 -2018.

Among the major community accomplishments of PBSN are the following:

1. Conducted seven (7) medical – surgical – dental missions in the Philippines providing free health care of indigent patients in Northern Cebu, Southern Cebu and Misamis Occidental. For these activities, a total of 49,023 services were rendered including medical cases, surgeries, dental works, prescription and dispensing medicines, optical services, giving away reading glasses and special personal education of patients to handle their sicknesses and diseases.
Note that PBSN medical missions in the Philippines involved complex hard work of strategic preparation, fund raising campaign, solicitation of volunteers, obtaining permits and approval of the mission from the Philippine authorities, procurement and shipment of medicines and medical supplies, administration of transportation and hotel accommodation, logistic support, etc
2. Award free start-up scholarship to deserving high school graduates entering college since 1993 up to 2017. For these activities, as of 2017, a total of \$193,500 was raised through donations from friends and members giving grants to a total of 377 high school graduates entering college.
3. Outreach to the Philippines giving cash and goods to victims of typhoons and earthquakes.
4. Annual outreach to Vicente Sotto Hospital in Cebu City, giving free prescription medicines to indigent patients of the hospital's pediatric ward.
5. Sponsor the "Feed the Hungry" programs to the Las Vegas homeless.
6. Youth development by sponsoring programs promoting Filipino culture and extracurricular activities.
7. Accident insurance to active members.
8. Contribute and actively participate in the programs of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) in promoting and protecting the Filipino interest in the USA.

For additional information, contact Romeo Jurani, source originator or Marian Pearson, PBSN President.

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