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# PHILIPPINE BISAYAN SOCIETY OF NEVADA, INC

P.O. Box 28195 , Las Vegas NV 89126  
Tel. (702) 355-0649, (702) 258-1224, (702) 338-3311,  
(702) 363-7147 & (702) 461-1806

Web: [www.bisayans.com](http://www.bisayans.com) E-mail: [Bisayans@yahoo.com](mailto:Bisayans@yahoo.com)

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

PBSN was formed by twelve founders in the late 1990 and became officially in existence on February 23, 1991, with its Articles of Incorporation 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, charity and calamity assistance, community and cultural services, scholarship to deserving students, medical missions providing free health care to indigents in the Philippines, youth development and outreach projects.

Over the last 28 years, the focus and inspiration of the officers, advisers and members are to attain the goals and objectives of PBSN. Among the key elements of the membership services are assistance during emergencies with cash and insurance benefits. The consistent support of the community has undoubtedly been the factor to the success of PBSN with the strong and decisive leadership of the officers and advisers. PBSN has been fortunate to have devoted leaders as Presidents for the following years: 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, 2003-2020.

Among the major community accomplishments of PBSN are the following:

1 **Philippine Medical Mission:** Conducted eight (8) missions in the Philippines providing free health care services to indigent patients in Northern Cebu, Southern Cebu, Misamis Occidental and Bohol. A recorded total of 62,761 services were rendered including medical cases, surgeries, dental works, prescription and dispensing medicines, optical services, giving away reading glasses and providing patients special personal education to take care of their health issues. Note that PBSN medical missions in the Philippines involved complex 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, food supplies, logistic support, etc.

2 **Scholarship Programs:** Free start-up scholarship to deserving Nevada high school graduates entering college since 1993 up to 2019. For these yearly activities, as of 2019, a total of \$204,500 was raised through donations from friends and members giving grants to a total of 399 Nevada high school graduates entering college. On the other front, the Philippine scholarship program as of 2019 has graduated a total of seven deserving college students and became professionals with Bachelor of Science degree at total cost of \$17,200.

3 **Outreach** to the Philippines giving cash and goods to victims of typhoons and earthquakes plus the regular **Annual outreach** to Vicente Sotto Hospital in Cebu City, giving free prescription medicines to indigent patients of the hospital's pediatric ward.

4 **"Feed the Hungry" program Sponsor** to the homeless in Las Vegas and Philippines.

5 **Youth development Sponsor** in promoting Filipino culture and extracurricular activities.

6 **Accident insurance** to active members.

7 **Actively participate** in National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) programs promoting the good cause of Filipino interest in the USA. NaFFAA National nominated and awarded PBSN outstanding community performance in the years 2014 and 2016.

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

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Scholarship application form is available at [www.bisayans.com](http://www.bisayans.com)