

THE DIGI-LEDGER

The online publication of the PICPA Metro Manila Region, GAO and its four Chapters

JULY 2020 | www.picpa.mmr.org | picpa.eventbank.com

PICPA MMR new council officers



Michael C. Gallego
Chair



Maria Teresita Z. Dimaculangan
Vice-Chair—Operations



Marydith C. Miguel
Vice-Chair—Professional Development



Aldrin M. Cerrado
Vice-Chair—Membership



Ellen B. de Guzman
Secretary



Geraldine H. Apostol
Treasurer



Ma. Teodoro Josephat C. Martinez
Ex-Officio



Remedios R. Santos
Northern Metro Manila Chapter President



Noel Antonio E. Canlas
Eastern Metro Manila Chapter President



Asser S. Tamayo
Western Metro Manila Chapter President



Maricris U. See
Southern Metro Manila Chapter President



Stephen O. Uy
RSR for Commerce & industry



Macrina Violeta Vicente Mutuc
RSR for Education



Francis J. Ricamora
RSR for Public Practice



Marjonie D. Ando
RSR for Government

Turnover Ceremonies

The MMR turnover ceremonies from FY 2019-2020 Chair Apat C. Martinez, Jr. to FY 2020-2021 Chair Michael C. Gallego took place July 4, 2020. In his inaugural speech, Chair Mhycke announced his plans for the year as follows: (1) Full digital transformation that will integrate accounting software Quickbooks and Eventbank and organizational alignment that will bring policies and procedures down the MMR level; (2) Transformation of Secretariat into a full-complement MMR Professional Office to continuously and effective-

ly deliver excellent services in the new normal; (3) Promotion of membership engagement programs that will involve professional organizations in holding professional fairs towards international accreditation; (4) Creating differentiated and specialized professional development courses based on one's career level, consistent with Philippines Qualifications Framework (PQF) career progression and competency frameworks. All these programs will be integrated with GAO's Sectoral Summits co-hosted by NMMC, EMMC,

WMMC, and SMMC ; and (5) Sharing knowledge and skills to the micro, small and entrepreneurial and public sectors, and continue to support other chapters, sectoral and professional organizations in the pursuit of our shared objectives.

In the same manner, Chair Ma. Teresita Z. Dimaculangan assumed the leadership in the Geographical Area Office for FY 2020-2021.



PICPA MM celebrates accountancy week

The annual Accountancy Week Celebration has always been marked by seminars and fellowships to promote professional development with fun and friendship. On July 13, MMR Day was celebrated with a technical session in the afternoon and a fun-filled Tik-tok session in the evening. Past EMMC President Leo L. Leano and Co-Chair MMR AWC Jovito Gerdes opened the Technical Session with Chair Michael C. Gallego delivering the Chairman's Message. The first speaker, Mr. Jonathan E. Ravelas, First Vice President & Chief Market Strategist, of BDO Unibank Inc., delivered a very interesting topic entitled "Financial Strategies in a Challenging Environment". He was then followed by Mr. Jose Maria "Joey" C. Salceda, Representative, 2nd District of Albay, who spoke on "The Philippine Economy After COVID19 and the Role of the CPAs." The last presentation dealt with "Keeping Family Values Intact and Managing Relationships" which was brilliantly relayed across to an ecstatic audience who raised more questions based on real life experiences. The mother-and-son team of Ms. Maribel Dionisio and Mr. Raf Dionisio together with Ms. Aiza Tabayoyong comfortably and elaborately presented the relationships within the family keeping Filipino values intact. Ms. Mai Sigue-Bisnar, successfully facilitated the discussion. The evening program "MMR Showtime" was a real hit as each of the four Chapters excitedly prepared its own presentation for the Best Tiktok dance with a P10,000.00 prize. With mostly all members participating, young or old, shy or not, they found themselves hooked on this latest craze that made the fellowship more fun and memorable. Of all the hilarious entries, PICPAN judges Sugar Sagarino, Ralph Salazar and David Martin awarded NMMC's "Let's Beat COVID19! We Fight, We Dance, We Rise!" as the winning entry.

Filipino CPAs RISING in Solidarity Amidst Challenging Times

In response to challenging times, PICPA National President Lope L. Bato, Jr. for FY 2020-2021 laid down his program to promote the rise of CPAs above challenges posed by the current global pandemic. As accountants adapt to the new environment, plans and strategies are revised to cope with the demands of work and the profession. Suddenly, the unexpected becomes the new norm that brings about a radical change in a life aiming to maintain the preservation of the Filipino family, its tradition and values. The agenda for this fiscal year focuses on six programs which are part of a long range plan, namely: Recovery

The Role of CPAs After COVID19

During the Accountancy Week, the Chair of Committee of Ways and Means in the House of Representatives, Cong. Joey Salceda was the MMR guest speaker. In his message, he identified five (5) points on the role of CPAs in the Philippines after Covid19. They are as follows: (1) Confidence is everything; (2) Focus on Secular; (3) Keeping powder dry vs opportunity for quick recovery; (4) Structural Reforms, and (5) Seize low-lying fruits.

According to Cong. Salceda, confidence is equated to assurance of health, income, employment and growth, while secular refers to focus on mid-2021 when Covid19 vaccination is expected to be on-hand. He also mentioned the impact of demographics on the workforce. Capitalizing on the relatively young population in the country, he revealed that the median of 23.9 years old is a positive factor. Taking that into consideration, coupled with the Filipino's inherent resiliency, he anticipates that this will open opportunity for the Philippines fast recovery after this pandemic. Similarly, reforms such as Infrastructure, which is the economy's top multiplier, and the increasing overall domestic production, together with the digitization of government processes, and provision of regulatory relief for micro, small and medium enterprises, all these will contribute to recovery and growth after Covid19.

and In-House Programs, Social Responsibility and International Programs, as well as the introduction of New programs and pursuing the On-Going ones.

The Livelihood Programs that aim to create jobs and work opportunities for members capitalizing on the micro-business linkage supplemented by skills training from free webinars create a fora where chapters and committees are tasked to participate. The Committee on Social Responsibility, Women Empowerment and PICPA Foundation together with the different Chapters are to create the link towards Job Opportunity Referral Center. The various Chapters nationwide are seen to assist in the areas of patronage, mentoring, marketing, referrals, advertising busines during PICPA Webinars, while the Professional Development Committee will provide free Skills Training webinars in coordination with TESDA and NGOs on periodical basis.

The quarterly Accounting Times and semi-annual release of Accounting Journal under the Publications Committee will be a part of the In-House Programs together with the full-implementation and utilization of management and accounting

MMR Chair speaks on COVID 19 and beyond to aspiring CPAs

On July 25, 2020, MMR Chair Michael C. Gallego was one of the speakers in a Free Webinar sponsored by Carl E. Balita Review Center entitled "ACCOUNTANCY: Covid-19 and Beyond with Tips in Preparing to be a CPA." There were 250+ participants who were mostly students intending to take up the CPA Review. There were seven speakers including two active members of PICPA-MMR, Eugene Villaceran and Zeus Aboy. The event is an opening salvo on the CPA exam review program of the Center.



MMR Proficiency in Quickbooks and Eventbank

Last July 14, 2020, ED Estelita Aguirre met with National Office Finance Division, MMR Accounting Section, and IT Committee Chair Corazon S. Rey on the use of the accounting software Quickbooks and membership and event software, Eventbank. Chair Rey praised early compliance of MMR in providing the Committee information needed in updating members' records. Ms. Ma. Elizabeth F. Villarama, MMR Accountant, explained that data generated from Quickbooks are immediately reconciled with the Cashier, then forwarded to Membership Section for encoding in the Eventbank daily. Chair Rey noted the speed and accuracy of such coordination that made it possible for her to detect discrepancy in members' records, more particularly those whose email address are lacking.

This brought the Committee to forge an agreement with the National Office whereby technique/technology transfer in reconciling data in Accounting via Quickbooks and in Membership via Eventbank be facilitated. ED Aguirre informed the Chapter Presidents on the use of Quickbook Intuit Interchange Format (IIF) to facilitate submission of monthly transactions to NO in real time, which in her own words is considered as a quantum leap in PICPA.

MMR, having fully utilized the integration of Quickbooks and Eventbank early on, earned recognition that made Accountant Villarama a "consultant" for Chapters in the national level to ask from concerning Quickbooks and Eventbank.

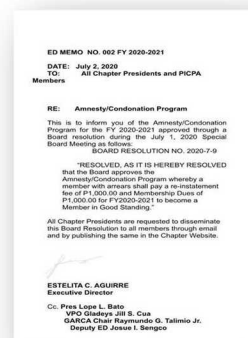
PICPA Membership Reinstatement

On July 2, ED Estelita Aguirre issued Memo No. 002 for an Amnesty/Condonation Program whereby a member with arrears shall pay a reinstatement fee of P1,000.00 for FY 2020-2021 to become a Member in Good Standing. This was issued to all Chapter Presidents and members.

software, Eventbank and Quickbooks. Eyeing on ISO Certification, the Committees on Information Technology and Review of Policies and Procedures are assigned to complete the full Digital Transformation.

Social responsibility programs are made in collaboration with national government agencies such as Department of Finance, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Interior and Local Government, and Cooperative Development Authority in the promotion of financial accounting and taxation program as well as the promotion and development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. This will be complemented with partnership from the private sector, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI).

The elevation of the Filipino Accountant in the threshold occupied by other Accountants in the world is the objective of the International Programs. The Committee on International Affairs aims to strengthen alliances with other professional organizations such as CAPA, AFA,



and IFAC to entitle Filipino CPAs international certification.

New programs such as Members' Privilege Card, Members Learning and Development Program, past PICPA Presidents Tribute and the national and local media campaigns on PICPA projects and activities will be pushed. Likewise, On-going programs such as 75th Annual National Convention with Search for Ms. PICPA, National Sectoral, GAO and Regional Conferences, PICPA Cooperative Summit, 2nd PICPA Women Summit, NGO Summit, and By-laws amendments to allow On-Line voting are to be continued.

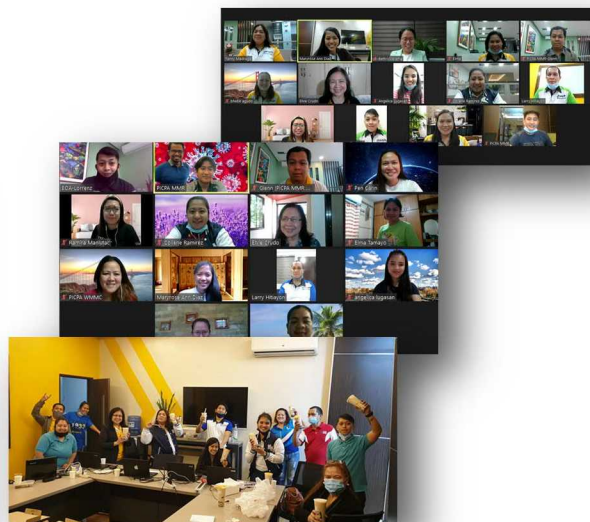
Governance briefing for GAO, MMR and Chapter officers during Metro Manila Annual Planning Conference

A virtual briefing on governance was held on July 2, 2020 from 10:00am to 12:00 noon as part of the 2-day Virtual Annual Planning Conference for the officers of the Metro-Manila Region (MMR), Geographical Area Office (GAO) and Chapters for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. NMMC President Remedios Santos led the opening prayer with the Oath of Conduct of CPA recited by WMMC President Asser S. Tamayo. Chair of MMR Planning Conference Committee Ms. Geraldine H. Apostol introduced the guest speaker, Executive Director Estelita C. Aguirre. Dean Aguirre presented and explained the structure of PICPA as gleaned from its by-laws. It was entitled "PICPA National, GAO, MMR Structure, Role of Chapter Officers, Committee Chairs and Co-chairs, and Regional Sectoral Representatives". At the outset, she praised MMR as a model region in terms of performance and membership. She talked about "Understanding the PICPA Structure and Your Role". The objectives of her presentation were: (1) to understand the organizational structure of PICPA; (2) to know the roles and functions of the officers of PICPA, GAO, Region and Chapter; and (3) to be reminded of some Chapter administrative and financial compliance requirements. The briefing was moderated by Ms. Mai S. Bisnar with Closing Remarks from 2019-2020 MMR Chair Aphant C. Martinez.



MMR Secretariat

True to its role in supporting the projects of PICPA-Metro-Manila Region, the MMR Secretariat once again passed the challenge of standing behind the key people in ensuring the success of every MMR activity. Led by ED Elvie Crudo and Administrative Manager Fanny Madraga, the Secretariat was manned by Beth Villarama, Kevin Rosete, Glenn Felicen, Angelica Lugasan, Bhebe Agudo, Pen Carin, Mira Manlutac, Mary Ann Diaz, Collene Ramirez, Elma Tamayo, Caloy Tamayo, Larry Hitiayon and Cheng de Leon. They were able to learn and, ultimately, mastered the art of handling webinars. When the threat of COVID19 materialized, the first webinar was launched on April 13. In that instant, the entire staff was given the baptism of fire. However, after 54 webinars that culminated on June 12, the learning and discovery of this new medium was too precious to behold. They quickly adapted and successfully produced and assisted the 2019-2020 Virtual Turnover and Induction Ceremonies of 2020-2021 MMR and GAO Officers, Accountancy Week, The Best of TikTok, MMR-GAO and Chapter Annual Planning Conference. The Secretariat actively assisted in the proceedings, producing a smooth presentation of introductions, speeches, conferences, musical presentations and most of all, showing off tik-tok entries. All these were achieved after so many hours of preparation and sleepless nights.



NORTHERN METRO MANILA CHAPTER IN THE KNOW...

The MMR Chair FY 2020-2021



Michael "Mhycke" C. Gallego is a partner for Advisory Services and the Knowledge Management Head of P&A Grant Thornton. Mhycke is also the Regional Leader for Business Risk Services of Grant Thornton in Asia Pacific.

Prior to his assumption as the Metro Manila Region Chairman for the FY 2020-2021, he held various positions in the MMR and PICPA. Top of the list is Mhycke's election as President of the NMMC for FY 2014-2015.

In 2016, Mhycke was awarded by PICPA with the "2016 Special Achievement Award for Professional Development".

In 2017, he was cited as the "Most Outstanding CPA in Public Practice" by the PICPA.

The NMMC President FY 2020-2021



If there's one word or two to describe Ms. Remedios R. Santos' involvement to the NMMC, its being loyal and faithful. Previous to her election to the position of President, Ms. Santos has always been a proud member of the Chapter way back - long before the millennial term was coined - in 1975.

President Remy is married to a CPA. She is the boss in the household and partner in the firm Virgilio R. Santos & Co., CPAs which she and her husband Vir co-founded in 2000. Their daughter Melissa Jeanne R. Santos, also a CPA, works in the firm and is now an active member of the NMMC.

The President-Elect FY 2020-2021



Mr. Julian "Boy" Mantes Lao Tecson is no stranger to PICPA. Having been regarded as one of the most active members (and perhaps longest serving) since the 1960's, Boy has been a National Director, a Member of the PICPA Scholarship Committee for over five years, a treasurer of PICPA Foundation serving three Chairmen, and Chairman and Co-Chairman of various committees in the NMMC.

Currently, he serves as the Chair of the PICPA Committee on Building, Grounds and Facilities. In the NMMC, aside from being the President-Elect, he sits as Co-Chair in three standing Committees: Ways and Means, Social Involvement, Conventions and Conferences.

Fun fact: Boy is one of only three who were conferred and awarded Honorary Life Membership in NMMC due to their distinguished unselfish contributions to the Chapter and the PICPA in general.

The NMMC Past-President



Mr. Vicente C. Gudani, the amiable and used to be papable former President of NMMC stepped down last June 30, 2020. However, his commitment to the NMMC did not end there. He now sits in the NMMC Board as Ex-Officio Member and Chairperson of the Membership Committee and the Publications Committee.

He is currently a professor at the Far Eastern University in Manila.

NORTHERN METRO MANILA CHAPTER

The NMMC Board FY 2020-2021

Leading the Chapter with this year's theme "Filipino CPAs Rising in Solidarity Amidst Challenging Times" is a mixture of young ones and young ones, with all sectors represented almost equitably.

The Members of the Board and their sectors are:
 President Ms. Remedios R. Santos (PP)
 President-Elect Mr. Julian M. Tecson (C&I)
 Ex-Officio Mr. Vicente C. Gudani (EDU)

Members:
 Dr. Zenith C. Camu (EDU)
 Mr. Elmer B. Enriquez (GOV)
 Ms. Marites O. Esguerra (GOV)
 Mr. Mark Chito D. Fajiculay (C&I/PP)
 Ms. Maria Theresa D. Gerona (GOV)
 Ms. Rebecca C. Minodin (PP)
 Mr. Jano C. Minorca (EDU)
 Mr. Jherome G. Ng (EDU)
 Ms. Anita V. Ogena (PP)
 Ms. Jessica Jinky P. Panes (PP)

NMMC Day

For the 2020 Accountancy Week Celebration, July 17 has been set as the "NMMC Day".

To make the "NMMC Day" productive, fruitful and entertaining, the NMMC lined up activities that surely changed the way how virtual seminars are conducted.

The participants were warmly welcomed by NMMC President Remedios R. Santos. Also, Metro Manila Region Chair, Mr. Michael C. Gallego, delivered an inspirational message.

In this year's installment of NMMC Day, the Chapter provided a free webinar entitled, "Grant Writing Made Easy", designed specifically for NGOs.

The webinar was conducted by no less than Ms. Veronica Ester Mendoza. Known as Boots to many, she has a decorated career and extensive experience in providing consultancy, technical support and training to non-profit organizations, donor organizations and government agencies.

Ms. Boots is a seasoned Evaluator, Mentor and Trainer for the Philippine Council for NGO Certification, an organization that accredits non-stock, non-profit enterprises, since 1999.

Ms. Boots shared essential information on:

1. what to do before getting started, i.e. determining the right project to get funded and the identification of grant givers;
 2. basic rules of grant writing and parts of grant proposal;
 3. what funders look for;
 4. grant writer; and
 5. following up a proposal.
- All these definitely contributed to the professional development of all CPAs and non-CPAs alike in grant writing. Around 350 signed-up for the webinar.

To cap off the "NMMC Day", officers and members of the Chapter sponsored raffle prizes to the delight of the participants. G-Cash prizes were given away to where:

- 10 won Php 200.00
 - 5 won Php 400.00
 - 15 won Php 500.00
- President-Elect Mr. Julian M. Tecson delivered the closing remarks.

TIDBITS

Town Hall Sessions

NMMC actively supported and participated in the Virtual Town Hall Sessions of the PICPA MMR, GAO and Chapter Virtual Planning Conference for FY 2020-2021 held las July 2-3, 2020.

MMR and GAO Turn-over and Induction

Officers and members witnessed the turn-over and induction ceremonies virtually on July 4, 2020.

Accountancy Week Celebration

NMMC showed solidarity in the celebration of the AWC from July 12-18, 2020 where officers and members attended Online Thanksgiving Mass, other MMR, GAO and other Manila Chapters' sponsored activities.

Donation to Tahanang Mapagpala

NMMC's soft spot for the abandoned elders remain no matter who is in charge.

On July 12, 2020, Christmas Day came early as the NMMC officers and members once again responded to the call of the Committee on Social Involvement and showed solidarity by contributing cash, groceries, basic necessities, sacks of rice, foods among others.

The contributions were then delivered to Tahanang Mapagpala II located in Malolos, Bulacan.

As always, even in time of pandemic, officers joyfully thronged the venue to show their support.



Adopt-a-school program and donation of pocket WI-FIs

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, learning landscape in school took a new and unprecedented turn. Face-to-face meeting is no longer possible at this time. With this, the NMMC with the

Committee on Social Involvement leading the charge, devised a plan on how the Chapter can provide assistance especially to public school teachers.

The Committee proactively raised funds, with most of the donated or contributed funds came from officers and members of the Chapter.

The Committee then used the funds to purchase Pocket Wireless Fidelity

(Wi-Fi) units which public school teachers can use in the preparation of their conduct of the online classes.

The following are the identified adopted public schools/beneficiaries:

1. Bayugo Elementary School
2. Zamora Elementary School
3. Bangkal Extension
4. Langka Elementary School
5. Ubihan Elementary School
6. Liputan Elementary School

During the donation, the happiness of public school principals and teachers is apparent. This tells us this is not the last.

#joinNMMC #donatewithNMMC

You want to share your blessings and help our elders, teachers and others? Or partner with us? Kindly give NMMC a call. Donations in cash or in kind are most welcome.

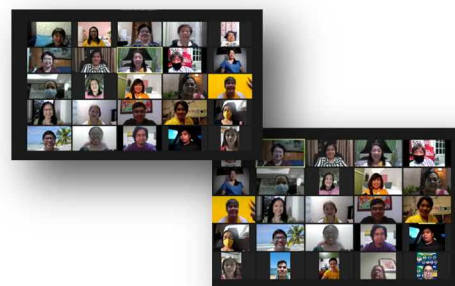


Regular Chapter Meeting

Last July 23, 2020, the Board and the officers and members of the NMMC held its 1st Regular Meeting virtually.

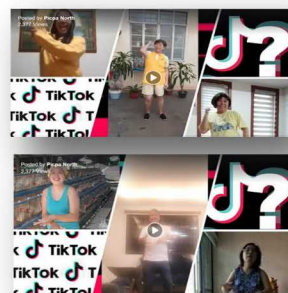
Agenda included discussions of the Plans and Programs, the Scorecard and the Budget for the FY 2020-2021.

Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs presented their reports, plans and budget proposals which were all aligned to and with the end view of achieving the objectives of this year's theme.



NMMC Wins in the 1st MMR Showtime "The Best of Tiktok Challenge"

NMMC CPAs rises in solidarity as it reigned supreme in the 1st MMR Showtime "The Best of Tiktok Challenge" held last July 13, 2020.



EASTERN METRO MANILA CHAPTER

EMMC Pre Planning Activities

Team PICPA EMMC conducted a Pre-Planning Activity: A Virtual Kick-Off and Team Building Activities on June 29, 2020 via Online Zoom Meetings. Attendees were led by Chapter President Noel Canlas together with Officers, Board of Advisers, Committee Chairs and Co-chairs and active volunteers and members. Plans for each committee were discussed during the session.

EMMC DAY on 2020 ACCOUNTANCY WEEK CELEBRATION

Team PICPA Eastern Metro Manila Chapter celebrated EMMC Day on July 15, 2020, 9:30am to 12:00noon in partnership with the National Federation of Junior Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants-National Capital Region with the theme “Standing in Good Stead Amidst New Normal via Zoom. The event was graced by Ms. Maria Lavinia Penaverde who delivered the webinar “New Normal Ready: Adapting in a Low Touch Society” and Mr. Edward Roguel on “My Life Journey as an Accountant”. PICPA MMR Chair Mhcyke Gallego, EMMC Officers led by President Noel Canlas, Board Advisers and Past officers were present during the virtual event. The celebration was spearheaded by 2020 Accountancy Week Celebration Chairman Michael Madlangbayan, NFJPIA President Marco Lim and PUP JPIA President John Paolo Enquanzo. The celebration was attended by students from different schools in Metro--Manila.

Romano awarded as Outstanding Chapter President for FY19-20

FY 2019-2020 EMMC President Joel C. Romano was being recognized as one of the PICPA Outstanding Chapter Presidents during the PICPA National PICPA -National Appreciation and Recognition Day on June 27, 2020. The award was a great reminders for the next batch of officers continue the hard work and excellence of the previous term’s officers.

EMMC co-sponsors the Metro Manila GAO Sectoral Summit for Public Practice on August 20-21, 2020

Regular BOD Meeting

Incumbent EMMC President Noel Canlas spearheaded the Chapter’s First Virtual Regular Board Meeting on July 21, 2020. Projects and programs for the whole fiscal year were discussed to ascertain the needs of the members are best catered during this time of uncertainties. Also, various initiatives were tackled and approved. Board of Advisers Rizalina Ong, George Villaruz, Normita Villaruz, and Joel Romano, Board members, Committee Chairs and Co-chairs were present during the meeting.

WESTERN METRO MANILA CHAPTER

Turnover & Thanksgiving Ceremony

The officers and directors of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants - Western Metro Manila Chapter (PICPA-WMMC) conducted the first ever virtual turnover and thanksgiving ceremony on July 4, 2020 amidst challenges due to the worldwide pandemic. The turnover starts by the blossomed words and encouragement from the Outstanding Regional Director and MMR Chair Ma. Teodoro Josephat C. Martinez, Jr. and with never ending support of the Outstanding GAO Chair Ms. Victoria A. Martinez. Followed by the sum up report and heartwarming valedictory address from the outgoing WMMC President Mr. Froilan S. Labausa. Then, the acceptance of the baton by the incoming WMMC President Mr. Asser S. Tamayo through delivering his energetic and optimistic inaugural speech.

WMMC Day

In participation to the 2020 Accountancy Week Celebration scheduled on 13th to 18th day of July, WMMC, on its WMMC Day, conducted a seminar that is ideal for teachers and lecturers in preparation to their transition from traditional face-to face classes into cloud-based online classes. Before the seminar proper, WMMC Director for Education, Mr. Francisco J. Caliwan Jr., administered the Oath of CPAs followed by a very warm welcoming remarks from non-other than WMMC President, Mr. Asser S. Tamayo.. PICPA National President Mr. Lope L. Bato Jr. delivers an inspirational message to all the CPA in the field of academe/ education. White MMR Chair Mr. Michael Gallego and MMR - GAO Chair Ms. Ma. Teresita Z. Dimaculangan encourage the participants to adopt in the new normal ways of teaching and methodology. The webinar entitled “Effective Cloud-Based Classes Using Google Platform” were delivered by WMMC officer and a Google enthusiast, Mr Alejandro A. Palacio, who shared his experience working with Google tools/apps in conducting online classes. Then, the President - Elect of the WMMC Mr. Meynard A. Bonoen wrapping up all of the learnings and formally closed the WMMC day.

Regular Chapter Meeting

PICPA WMMC held its 1st virtual Monthly board meeting on July 25, 2020 headed by WMMC President Mr. Asser S. Tamayo to completely lay down the activities and budget of the chapter for the fiscal year 2020 -2021 and approved by the BOD. With the guidance and support of the untiring and dedicated WMMC Past Presidents.

Agribusiness in the New Normal: How to Start, How to Scale Up, The Challenges and Opportunities

On the 31st day of July, Go Negosyo invited the WMMC officer and members in good standing for an agribusiness webinar through FB live. The speaker is non-other than the Secretary of Department of Agriculture Mr. William Dar. The session focused on the introduction of agricultural business (how to start an agribusiness; how to level -up or develop your agribusiness and with the corresponding challenges and opportunities in putting up agribusiness) to the greater public due to the crisis facing by the country now a days.



SOUTHERN METRO MANILA CHAPTER

SMMC holds tax updates for local government units

As part of the Accountancy Week celebrations, the Southern Metro Manila Chapter (SMMC) of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) hosted a day of talks and free webinars last July 14, 2020. The SMMC day focused on the needs of Local Government Units' (LGUs) Finance Officers & Accountants. This year's talks centered on taxes, specifically how to align policies during the pandemic as well as updates on real property taxes.

"Taxes are used by the government to regulate and at the same time as source of revenues. If taxpayers and LGUs are aware of the government programs and targets, they'll be prepared of the upcoming changes and plan how to address these," says Maricris See, SMMC President, on why the focus on these topics as the theme for this year's talks.

Resource speakers include Atty. Willie Santiago, Director for Tax & Corporate Services at Diaz Murillo Dalupan and Company, and, Ms. Ma. Pamela Quizon of the Bureau of Local Government Finance.

Atty. Santiago's morning session tackled International Tax & COVID-19, and how Philippine taxation policies align with international tax practices at this time on the pandemic. The morning session has exhaustively shown the extent of tax policies adopted worldwide in response to the pandemic and what the Philippine government response was under the Bayanihan to Heal As One Act. Atty. Santiago's talk also tackled prospective issues around digital payments and tax implications, that became a hot issue considering the commercial shift to digital that was seen during the quarantine period.

Meanwhile Ms. Quizon shared her expertise on Real Property Valuation and Assessment Reforms. Considering real property taxes is a major resource driver for own-revenues of local government units, the afternoon's lecture provided a thorough context of the need for valuation reforms, effect of outdated property values and the needed policy reforms.

Each speaker's lectures were followed by a highly interactive question and answer portion facilitated by SMMC officers. Attendance for the day's webinars peaked at 450 registered participants.

SMMC continues its commitment to offer relevant and insightful lectures through its free and paid webinars. You may contact the PICPA SMMC Secretariat for further information.

SMMC conducts 1st virtual BOD meeting

PICPA SMMC Board Of Directors conducts 1st Virtual Meeting for FY 2020-2021 on July 8, 2020. Despite the limitations of not physically together, the meeting is still very productive. Leading the discussion is Ms. Maricris U. See, Chapter President, on professional development plans, accountancy week celebration preparation, and upcoming GMM.

SMMC's 1st GMM highlights Digital Acceleration

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is tipping the scales towards the faster adaption of digital tools and practices. Against this background, the Philippine Institute of Public Accountants Southern Metro Manila Chapter (PICPA SMMC) held its first General Membership Meeting (GMM) last July 30, 2020, through Zoom. The GMM included a free webinar focusing on digital banking, electronic payment facilities, and cloud-based productivity tools, for accountants and micro, small, and medium enterprises or MSMEs.

PICPA SMMC, through its officers Maricris See (President) and Joel de Leon Poh (Treasurer, VP for Professional Development), notes that digitalizing businesses is one of the ways on how MSMEs can cope with the challenges of adjusting to the "new normal". Moreover, accountants should also adapt to this "new normal" in providing their services to clients. By maximizing the use of platforms, MSMEs can have faster and better ways to pivot their businesses to online.

Speakers include Jaypee Soliman, Vice President and Head of SME Platforms from Unionbank's SME Business Banking Group; Martin Mauhay, Head of Business Development for QR Ecosystems at Paymaya; and Reymund Patrick Monfero, Functional Consultant for Day One Software Solutions Inc.

Mr. Soliman's tackled digital banking solutions available for MSME, which includes Unionbank's Globallink facility to connect with potential customers, suppliers, and employees. Mr. Mauhay shared that there is increased demand for digitized payments, shown by millions of active e-money wallets, and 52% of internet users making online e-commerce purchases. He also highlighted the e-wallet's utility to facilitate access to various services, including transaction payments and even receiving government aid. Meanwhile, Mr. Montero focused on cloud-based tools that will allow you to continue to be productive regardless of your physical location, and also facilitates seamless collaboration despite the lack of face-to-face interactions. An enthused audience, that peaked at five hundred two (502) registrants, participated actively in the Q&A portion by sending their queries in Zoom's Q&A facility.

The GMM also tackled various programs of the organization. This includes PICPA's Amnesty and Condonation program for FY 2020-2021, as well as the advantages of registering in PICPA Eventbank. Other initiatives shared are: (a) SMMC's CPA Jobs group on Facebook, created to help our fellow CPAs, find available work opportunities within the network, as well as PICPA SMMC's Globallink group; (b) 4+1 promotion for SMMC webinars; and (c) Sponsorship opportunities for SMMC's upcoming webinars. PICPA SMMC webinars are in full swing beginning August 2020, and also includes a free webinar in collaboration with the CFA Society and Bureau of Treasury.

For more information on Chapter activities and events, members are invited to join the PICPA SMMC Facebook group.

Led by Ms. Maricris U. See, Chapter President, PICPA Southern Metro Manila Chapter (SMMC) Board of Directors, Advisors and Officers for FY 2020-2021 were inducted in the first-ever Virtual PICPA MMR Induction and Turnover Ceremonies on July 4, 2020.

Other key officers inducted were Mr. Dindo V. Sevilla, President-Elect; Mr. Eric J. Magcale, VP for Professional Development; Mr. Shane Dave D. Tanguin, VP for Membership; Mr. Clark Joseph C. Babor, Secretary; Mr. Michael Victor G. Sy, Auditor; Mr. Alberto C. Benitez, PRO, Ms. Consuelo O. Cadelina, Director - Commerce & Industry; Ms. Cleopatra A. Du, Director - Government; Ms. Rosemary D. De Mesa, Director - Education; Ms. Aileen L. Saringan, Director - Public Practice; Mr. Michael D. Roxas, Ex-Officio; Mr. Joseph S. Moreno, RSR -Commerce & Industry; Mr. Virgilio J. Seballe, RSR - Education; Ms. Michelle D. Hernandez, RSR - Government; Mr. Yusoph A. Maute, RSR - Public Practice.

Committee chairpersons, vice-chairpersons and members were also inducted.

The ceremony was graced by PICPA National President Mr. Lope L. Bato, Jr., PICPA Metro Manila Council Chair Mr. Michael C. Gallego and PICPA Metro Manila GAO Chair Ma. Teresita Z. Dimaculangan.

SMMC adopted the six-point agenda of PICPA National President Mr. Lope L. Bato, Jr., for the PICPA organization-RISING-where R stands for Recovery Programs; I for In-house Programs; S for Social Responsibility Programs; I for International Programs; N for New Programs; and G for on-Going Programs.

Goodluck, PICPA SMMC RISING Team!!

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Chair, Board of Accountancy
BOA - Key Features of QAR & PQF

Atty. Emmanuel Y. Artiza
General Accountant, SEC
Update on implementation of
SEC Oversight Assurance
Review (SOAR) Inspection
Program including the
common findings based on
IFAR survey

Mr. Wilson P. Tan
Managing Partner
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