



# AWESNA

# The Link

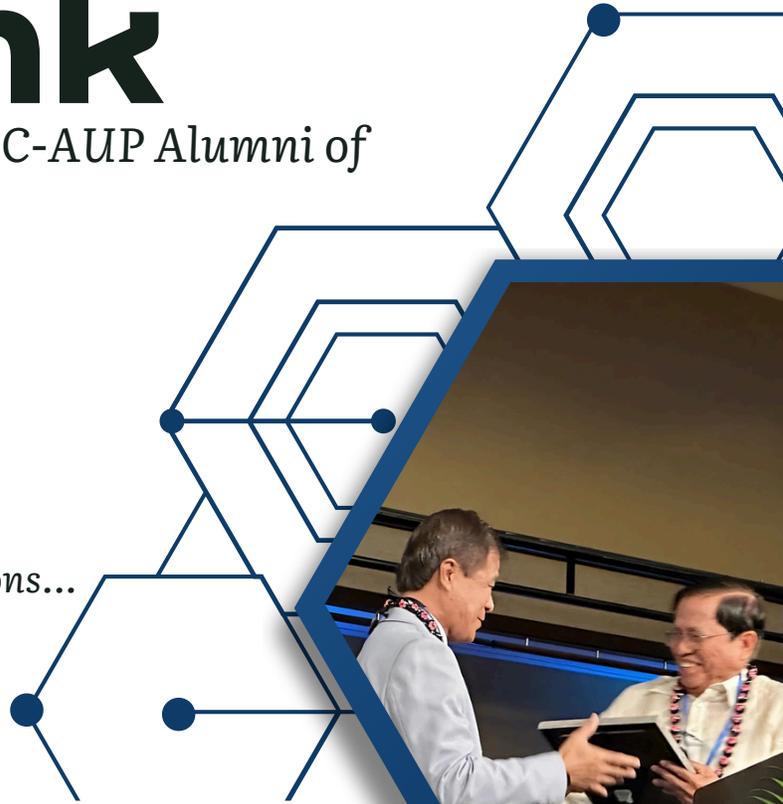
The Official Publication of PUC-AUP Alumni of  
Western North America

# 2025

*Serving with pure passion for generations...*



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# About AWESNA

## **AWESNA: United in Purpose, Anchored in Faith**

The Alumni of Western North America (AWESNA) stands as a vibrant testament to the enduring legacy of the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP). More than an association, AWESNA is a movement—one that champions loyalty to our alma mater, uplifts its members, and radiates service to the broader community.

Rooted in shared values and a deep spiritual foundation, AWESNA fosters:

- Advancement of AUP's mission through advocacy, support, and representation.
- Unity and teamwork among alumni, bridging generations and geographies.
- Service-oriented engagement, reflecting Christ's example in outreach and compassion.
- Spiritual enrichment, the cornerstone of our identity, guiding every initiative with prayer, praise, and purpose.

In every gathering, project, and prayer, AWESNA echoes the call to be servants, leaders, and light-bearers—living testimonies of the education and faith that shaped us. Together, we honor the past, empower the present, and illuminate the future.

The Alumni of Western North America (AWESNA) is more than a network—it is a living community of purpose-driven individuals bound by shared heritage, spiritual conviction, and a commitment to service. As proud alumni of the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP), we carry forward the values instilled in us: excellence, integrity, and faithfulness.

2025





# Meet Our Contributors



## **CHING PEDERNAL**

PRESIDENT, CASCADIA CHAPTER

RN, BS Nursing '88 (PUC-AUP), Post Grad Canadian Nursing Course '95, Kwantlen University, Surrey, BC; Retired Nurse, Acute Medical & Surgical Nursing, Vancouver, BC.



## **EPPIE MANALO**

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE CHAIR

PhD (UP-Diliman); MA Education '78 & BSE-Music Education '86 (PUC-AUP); Retired; Immediate Past President, AWESNA.



## **ANGIE CORRALES**

PRESIDENT, LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

BS Psychology '91 (PUC-AUP), PUCA '86; Real Estate Entrepreneur.



## **ESTHER LIONGCO-ONG**

PRESIDENT, SAN GABRIEL CHAPTER

MD; MSN/ED; BS Nursing '83 (PUC-AUP); Program Manager, Clinical Education, Adventist Health-White Memorial, Los Angeles, California; Chair, AWESNA Community Affairs.



## **WELMIE GUERRA**

PRESIDENT, LOMA LINDA CHAPTER

BSE English '94 (PUC-AUP); Trust Administration Assistant, Loma Linda University.



## **ELIZABETH M. ROLE**

AWESNA VICE PRESIDENT

PhD '95 & MAT '81 (UP-Diliman); BSE Mathematics '80 (PUC-AUP); Retired; AWESNA Vice President; Chair, AWESNA Program/Recruitment/Evaluation Committees.



## **HONESTO PASCUAL**

PRO, LA SIERRA CHAPTER

M.D., PUCE '55, BS PreMed '65; Retired Physician; Past President, AWESNA; PRO, AWESNA La Sierra Chapter.



## **ELEANOR GENSOLIN VELASCO**

PUC Academy '60



# AWESNA

## Board of Officers 2022-2025

### Executive Officers



Jose Manalo Sr.  
President



Elizabeth Role  
Vice President



Leni Espiritu  
Secretary



Marjorie Reyno-Huynh  
Associate Secretary



Fil Alcaide  
Treasurer



Oscar Pablo  
Associate Treasurer



Liberty Olive Bautista  
PIO



Rene Donato  
Auditor



Ernie Banaag  
Parliamentarian





## Chapter Presidents



Roger Rodriguez  
Alberta, Canada



Marilou Bathan-DiLoreto  
Arizona



Rachel Pedernal  
Cascadia



Gorden Frank Farinas  
Glendale



Julit Batulayan  
Greater Central Valley



Angelita Corrales  
Greater Los Angeles



Lorna Agoo  
Greater Northern CA



Melva Manzano  
Hawaii



Cristuto Genobaga  
Las Vegas



Lucy Fernando  
La Sierra



Welmie Guerra  
Loma Linda



Ardina Wang  
Pacific Northwest



Mar Mutya  
San Diego



Harry Avellona  
San Fernando Valley



Esther Liongco-Ong  
San Gabriel Valley



Ismael Junio  
Young Alumni





## Committee Chairs



**Esther Liongco-Ong**  
Community Affairs



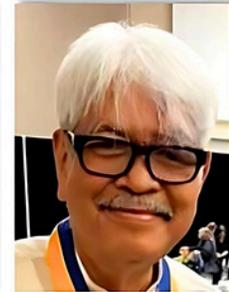
**Jose Manalo Sr.**  
Convention



**Annie Madigan**  
Events Coordinator



**Alberto Bagingito**  
Finance



**Bangele Alsaybar Jr.**  
History and Archives



**Minnie Tamayo**  
Honors and Award



**Lucy Fernando**  
Membership/Registration



**Leni Espiritu**  
Banquet



**Jimmel Fabra**  
COMELEC



**Gina Siapco**  
Health & Fitness



**Elmer Bangloy**  
Endowment Fund



**Eppie Manao**  
Fundraising



**Lorie Bangloy**  
Guest Relations



**Charity Cabreros**  
Honor Classes



**Jesse Role**  
Multimedia & Design



**Don Ferrolino**  
Projects



**Elizabeth Role**  
Program/Recruitment  
& Evaluation



**Loida Miguel**  
Scholarship



**Dinah Robles**  
Socials





## Most Outstanding Alumnus



### Jay Mosquera

Artist, Animator, Designer

Jay Mosquera, born in Santa Cruz, Occidental Mindoro, Philippines, is the eldest of three children. With both parents as teachers, his early artistic talent was nurtured through books on art and history, inspiring his dream of becoming a professional artist.

His abilities became more evident during elementary and high school, where he won art competitions and attended seminars, deepening his interest in art and animation. While his parents supported his talent, they also worried about the financial risks of an art career. In the Philippines, people often ask aspiring artists, “*What will you do with your art?*”—a question that lingered in Jay’s mind.

In 1999, Jay earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP), preparing for medical school. Yet his passion for art remained. While at AUP, he contributed illustrations to the *College Voice* and toured with the AUP Ambassadors to Indonesia and California. During the U.S. tour, he was encouraged to explore opportunities at Walt Disney Studios.

In 2000, animator Jojo Paniza mentored him, and he applied to small studios in Manila. By 2003, he was working in Bahrain as an animator, storyboard artist, assistant director, and graphic designer.

In 2008, Jay moved to California to pursue his dream of working at Disney. He studied multimedia, animation, and film design in Los Angeles, learning film editing and 3D animation. Despite the 2008 recession, he built his portfolio through freelance work.

In 2017, he joined Disney as a Senior Concept Artist and Designer. He contributed to projects in the Technology and Marketing division, including AR experiences for *Toy Story 4*, *Eternals*, and Disney+’s Apple Vision Pro showcase at WWDC 2023.

As a freelancer, Jay worked on projects worldwide. He illustrated *My Bible Treasures*, authored by Arceli Rosario, AUP President, for Philippine Publishing House, designed the AUP College of Medicine logo, and created AUP’s mascot, the Penguin.

He is married to Myrtle Mae Mosquera, also an AUP alumna and a former member of AUP Ambassadors. They have three children: Audrey, Jalen, and Julian.

# Leadership Award



## Melwida Z. Guerra

Melwida Z. Guerra has been a dynamic president of AWESNA's Loma Linda Chapter since 2022. As chapter president, she rallied her members to raise funds through Christmas caroling, food sales, benefit concerts and encouraged membership to the association through contacts with fellow alumni.

Quoting Melwida, "I will do anything to support my Alma Mater."

In December of 2022, under her leadership, the chapter was able to raise \$9,450.00 through Christmas caroling. In less than three years, the chapter was able to raise \$50,000.00, for one classroom in the College of Arts and Humanities, Alfonso P Miguel Jr, MD Building . The room is named AWESNA Loma Linda Chapter.

In 1994, she graduated with a Bachelor of Secondary Education Major in English from AUP. She was the class Associate Secretary and wrote their class song, entitled "Vanguards of Excellence".

From 1992 to 1994, at AUP, she was the President of College of Education Teachers of Tomorrow, and during the same period was the Coordinator of Livelihood Program ( an outreach to the women within the vicinity of AUP), teaching them basic skills they can use for home and livelihood.

From 1994 to 2002, she was an Academy English Teacher at AUP. During the same period, from 1998 to 2002, she was also the Academy's Disciplinary Officer.

From 1978 to 1990, she worked as a credentialed literature evangelist for Central Luzon Mission. While working as a literature evangelist, she took classes at Philippine School of Business Administration majoring in Accounting. However, after a couple of years, she decided not to pursue the degree when exams were scheduled on Saturdays.

She currently works as a Trust Administration Assistant at Loma Linda University Foundation.

Melwida was born in Guinayangan, Quezon, Philippines, the 6<sup>th</sup> of 11 children.



# Best Performing Chapter



## La Sierra Chapter

For over a decade, the La Sierra Chapter has been a steadfast supporter of AUP and AWESNA, actively contributing to their collaborative initiatives. The following is an update from Chapter President Lucy Fernando.

The La Sierra Chapter is a small but close-knit group of alumni, most of whom are in their 60s—affectionately known as the “Goldenaires.” While some members face health challenges and other personal concerns, we remain a joyful and spirited bunch, cherishing the camaraderie, friendship, and fond memories of our days at the old Baesa campus of Philippine Union College.

Despite our group being small, we have some chapter activities and projects.

A few years ago, we sponsored a room at AUP College of Theology in memory of our past president, Armando Espiritu, and donated a van to be used for missionary work.

We are involved and support the WORTHY WORKING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT (WWSSP). This project has been created and designed mainly to render financial (tuition) assistance to Promising' worthy working students in the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP), who have taken much longer than the standard four years to complete the requirements towards obtaining a college degree, because the student has been unable to take a full academic load every semester due to poverty and other limited factors, thereby requiring the student to carry a part-time academic load while simultaneously working for his/her daily sustenance and subsistence.

Clear and specific criteria are used in selecting recipients for the scholarship. Students must be prescreened and recommended by the committee and are required to maintain a minimum overall GPA of 2.0 (equivalent to a C), though higher academic performance is preferred. Each year, we can support several students through this program. The designated coordinator provides a report every semester on those who have benefited from the scholarship. Annually, we send between \$2,000 and \$3,000 to assist the selected students.

Another meaningful activity some of our members participate in is a weekly Bible study group held at our home every Friday at 6:30 p.m. We begin with a light supper, followed by a study of a book of the Bible. It's a time we all look forward to—growing together in faith and enjoying warm fellowship with one another.



## Our Sunset Years

*By Eleanor Gensolin Velasco  
PUC Alumna  
High School Class 1960*

Why the term Sunset Years? Sunset signals the end of the day. It signals the end of the workday and rest from daily activities. As the sun goes down the horizon, darkness does not happen suddenly. Before darkness comes, a spectacular show of colors is displayed. One of the most colorful sunsets I have experienced was driving from Orlando to Avon Park some years back. Right about sunset, there was a dazzling display of spectacular colors on the horizon for several minutes. I was in awe. I considered myself privileged to have witnessed such a beautiful happening. Our old age is akin to sunsets.

The colors we see in the sunset symbolize a variety of things, such as love, compassion, reliability, joy, enthusiasm, trust, and loyalty. These attributes describe our Color Family. We are in our sunset years, but we are not ready to sink below the horizon, out of sight of those who need us. We are ready and willing to help enhance the atmosphere around for others by praying, encouraging, sharing our talents, showing kindness, expressing hospitality, and visiting the sick and lonely.

There are many Bible references about aging. Psalm 73:26 says, “My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.” Isaiah 46:4 says, “Even at your old age and gray hairs I am He who will sustain you. I have made you, and I will carry you. I will sustain you and I will rescue you.” Psalm 30:5 – “For His anger lasts only a moment, but His favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.”

We all have different experiences growing up, but the two constants we all share in our lives are our Christian upbringing and PUC, where the Color Family started. There’s no question our parents brought us up the best they could, and our student days in PUC (the school that trains for service) greatly augmented that training.

In the movie “Fiddler on the Roof,” Tevye sings the moving song, “Sunrise, Sunset,” that mentions “swiftly fly the years. One season following another laden with happiness and tears” (Lyrics by Roger Witaker). This is so true.

As we spend the rest of our sunset years, we can still be productive. God gives us life to live to the fullest. The psalmist says, “They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing” (Psalm 92:14, NKJV). In Psalm 71, we read a devout man’s prayer, “Oh God, You have taught me from my youth, and to this day I declare Your wondrous works. Now also when I am old and gray-headed, O God, do not forsake me until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come.

## Cascadia Chapter

### Transforming Lives and Healing Hearts in British Columbia

*By Rachel Pedernal, President; Inspire Ministries Clerk*

The Cascadia Chapter witnessed powerful expressions of faith in British Columbia--one through the life-changing message of a 4-day spiritual revival, and the other through a united outpouring of love in the wake of tragedy. Together, these moments remind us that God's power transforms lives and His love heals even the deepest wounds.

#### **Filipino Adventists in BC Celebrate Lives Transformed During 4-Day Spiritual Series**

The nine Seventh-day Adventist Filipino churches in British Columbia, Canada, experienced "The Power of God to Change" presented by our BC Conference President Brad Thorp, who is also the Discover Hope channel speaker.

The 4-day series, which started on November 13, covered the topics on God's Power to Change Politics, World Order, and Personal Lives and culminated on November 16, 2024 at Deerlake SDA School, emphasizing the Biblical "Pentecost."



There were 6 precious souls who decided for baptism, publicly acknowledging Jesus as their personal Saviour. It was truly a blessed day, nourished with good food, uplifting music, prayers, and sweet fellowship.



## Transforming Lives and Healing Hearts in British Columbia (Cont.)

Above all, Luke 15:7 says, "I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

### From Mourning to Ministry: Filipino-Canadians Rally in Love After Deadly Festival Incident

For the first time in Vancouver, Canada, a different sadness can be felt on the evening of April 26, 2025, when a vehicle rammed at the Lapu-Lapu Festival, "killing 11 and injuring about 32 people" (News by Wikipedia). The occasion of festivities was meant to be joyful to celebrate the Filipino-Canadian community.

It was indeed a very unfortunate tragedy. The news reached worldwide and was received with deep sorrow. They sent their kind wishes tied with their sincere sympathies.

Immediately, our church family, alumni, and friends gathered and collaborated with the city to offer comfort, prayers, and support. We have never experienced this kind of unity, as we were doing vigils, singing, giving testimonials, and sharing our different ethnicity and cultures. We felt no barriers but oneness, determined to keep the strength, and together, resolved towards remedy and cure.

Love is God's ultimate character, and it is the only language understood by all kindred, tongue and nation, drawing everyone who is needing care, compassion, restoration, and forgiveness, during these moments of grief. A few of our volunteers decided to give away plants to our area, to those who are willing to grow and nurture a seed in memory of the fateful event. The neighborhood responded so well, they freely gave offerings, lovingly wrote their prayers, and also gladly took the Happiness Digest (Steps to Christ) for the healing process to begin.





## Transforming Lives and Healing Hearts in British Columbia (Cont.)

So, in the midst of pain, we were able to get new contacts and tried to foster them, until a beautiful friendship ministry blossomed. And these gatherings became impactful with the kind gesture of the newly elected MP Chak Au (Richmond) and his wife, who came, shared their condolences, and thanked everybody promoting health, wellness, and Christian values.

Ellen White (Signs of the Times, Jan 1888) emphasized that true religion is rooted in love, both for God and for others. She believed that loving the Lord with all one's heart and one's neighbors as oneself is the essence of true religion. This love, she taught, should be expressed through acts of kindness, mercy, and service to others. To reach this high standard of character should be the absorbing purpose of every soul.



The volunteers were the ones doubly blessed during that time of giving, sharing, praying, and meeting. For sure, we will be OK as we continue to trust and believe that there's no sorrow on earth that heaven cannot



At the heart of AWESNA is a culture of:

**Unity** – celebrating diversity while standing together in shared purpose.

**Teamwork** – leveraging collective strengths to achieve meaningful impact.

**Service** – prioritizing outreach, compassion, and healing in all endeavors.

**The Link 2025** <https://puc-aupawesna.org>

## Loma Linda Chapter

### Grit of Loma Linda Chapter: Classroom Edition

By *Welmie Guerra, President*

How can I stay connected with my dear Alma Mater, AUP? A question that lingers in my mind for years. AUP had been a central part of my life. It fashioned me, honed my skills and equipped me with greater service. Profoundly, I desire a “payback”.



Year 2022, Loma Linda chapter needs a president. I pondered and thoroughly processed the proposal. Will I consider the call? I visualized the demands of leadership, its accountability and enormous responsibility. Upon reflection, I consented to the challenge.

From then on, along with my fellow committed officers, namely: Roger Bitanga, Amy Galang, Anavel Bitanga, Nida Halversen, Armand Zabala, Euly Sharifi, and Lee Cerdenio with our amazing team of advisers, Eppie Manalo, Lita Laoyan, Perida Tongpo, and Crisly Penaflores, we brainstormed and collaborated on how we can mobilize resources, generate revenue and appeal for funds from our generous alumni.



Zoom is our constant and normal meetings. Our target is \$50K for a new classroom for AUP’s AWESNA Building, College of Arts and Humanities. We agreed we will complete the task during our term of office. That means in three years, we should have the classroom ready and functional. Our maxim: “Whatever it takes, we will raise \$50K”.





## Grit of Loma Linda Chapter: Classroom Edition (Cont.)

“Whatever it takes” meant (1) cooking and selling what we cooked, e.g. *pancit*, *turon*, *bilo-bilo*, on every special event at Loma Linda Filipino Church. Sometimes we looked like deli makers in a fast-food, (2) at Christmastide, with guitar and maracas, we sing Christmas carols to those benevolent alumni whom we sent solicitation letters, and (3) hosting a ticketed benefit concert with the Philippine Meistersingers.



Last February 2025, we sent AUP \$9,000.00 as our remaining balance for the naming right of Loma Linda Chapter classroom. For two years and five months, we reached the target. In retrospect, I was astonished we were able to accomplish such a feat. Indeed, “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts” (Zechariah 4:6). God makes the payback through His grace and the grit of Loma Linda Chapter.



## Los Angeles Chapter

**Serving with Compassion. Leading with Faith.**

*By Angie Corrales, President*

### **A Year of Faith in Action (January - December 2024)**

The LA Chapter remained unwavering in our mission to serve with compassion, faith, and purpose. This year was marked by unforeseen challenges, yet our members rose to every occasion, bringing hope to the hurting and support to the underserved. Whether it was fire relief, homeless outreach, or women's empowerment, our chapter served as a light in times of need.

### **FIRE RELIEF & EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

#### ***Support for Firefighters***

When destructive wildfires swept through our communities, our local firefighters bravely worked around the clock. The LA Chapter stepped in to support their tireless efforts by providing:

- Daily Sack Lunches
- Cold Drinks, Coffee, and Snacks
- Moral and Spiritual Support



#### ***Relief Fair for Fire Victims***

In partnership with the Conference Women's Department, we joined a Relief Fair that provided displaced families with essential goods and spiritual care. We also extended personal care to one of our own. When the son of a chapter member lost his home, we gathered for prayer and meal preparation, then delivered:

- Comfort and Devotional Support
- Financial Assistance for Temporary Housing and Resettlement



### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH & HOMELESS MINISTRY**

Throughout 2024, we continued our ministry to the homeless and jobless in Van Nuys and North Hollywood, consistently providing food, prayer, and presence.



## Serving with Compassion. Leading with Faith. (Cont.)

### Monthly Outreach

- 200 Sack Lunches per Month, including:
  - o Sandwiches
  - o Fruits
  - o Snacks
  - o Bottled Water
- Grocery Bags with prayer and encouragement



### Summer Expansion

As other programs paused due to funding cuts, we expanded our efforts:

- 300 Sack Lunches Prepared and Distributed

Despite shelter closures and layoffs, our chapter became a reliable source of food and hope, offering a consistent, compassionate presence that the community deeply values. Our dependable presence brought not only sustenance but also dignity, hope, and connection.

### WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT & CHURCH EVENTS

The chapter actively participated in church-hosted tea parties and women's gatherings aimed at strengthening spiritual growth and outreach.

- Promoted leadership among women
- Encouraged evangelism to the unreached
- Supported fellowship and mutual encouragement

### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & CHAPTER GROWTH

We are deeply committed to growing our membership and building future leaders. This year, we:

- Collaborated with prospective leaders across generations
- Mentored and empowered new members
- Promoted unity beyond status and specialization

Our goal remains clear: to build a vibrant, intergenerational alumni family united in mission.

### LOOKING AHEAD: SUMMER 2025 & BEYOND

Our upcoming goals include:

- Hosting summer fundraisers to support the 2025 alumni convention
- Contributing to AUP's ongoing projects and mission

*"It only takes a spark to create a fire that will burn endlessly – bringing glory to our Maker and alma mater."*

To all who serve with love and lift others through grace—thank you. May our collective efforts shine ever brighter for AUP, our communities, and the world.

## Hawaii Chapter Elects New Officers

*By Elizabeth M. Role, Vice President, AWESNA*

The AWESNA Hawaii Chapter successfully conducted its officer elections on July 12, 2025, affirming its commitment to strong and consistent leadership. Four officers from the previous term were reelected, reflecting the members' trust in their capable service and confidence in their leadership and commitment. Leading the team once again is Melva Manzano, who was reelected as President. Joining her in continued service is Brenda Dolormente, also reelected as Secretary. Both Moises Medrano and Romy Viloso previously served in officer roles and are now continuing their contributions as trusted advisers.

Here is the full slate of officers for the 2025–2028 term:

**President**

Melva Manzano

**Vice President**

Marceliza Luwalhati

**Vice President for Membership**

Erlinda Bayaca

**Secretary**

Brenda Dolormente

**Associate Secretary**

Marjian Precious Agdeppa

**Treasurer**

Carolyn De Guzman

**Public Relations Officer (PRO)**

Melody Cadiente

**Advisers:**

Ricardo Calla Jr.

Romy Viloso

Moises Medrano

David Madrid



AWESNA recognizes the outstanding leadership of President Melva Manzano, especially her effective coordination of the 54th AWESNA Convention held in Hawaii in 2024. Her organizational skills and dedication were instrumental to the event's success.

AWESNA also extends special appreciation to Marjian Precious Agdeppa, who, even before assuming office, selflessly and tirelessly provided transportation support for delegates during the 2024 convention—from airport pickups to hotel and venue transfers.

The AWESNA Hawaii Chapter looks forward to a fruitful term ahead, inspired by the energy, experience, and unity of its newly elected leadership team, remaining committed to fostering fellowship, service, and spiritual growth among its members.

Congratulations to all the new officers and advisers! May God bless your leadership and the journey ahead.



# Chapter Reports

## SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CHAPTER

### The Mission and Ministry of AWESNA's Youngest Chapter

*By Esther Liongo-Ong, President*

Being distinguished as AWESNA's youngest chapter, officially established in August 2021 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the San Gabriel Valley Chapter humbly embraces the motto "small but quietly accomplished." Despite the challenges posed by geographic distance among members, which often makes gathering difficult, our shared mission—to extend our talents and blessings to those in need—continues to unite and inspire us.

#### Summary of Activities (2024–2025)

##### 1. Weekly "Sprinkles of Blessings" Ministry

Led by Leah Digman, this initiative delivers cupcakes weekly to hospitals, care homes, schools, churches, and surrounding communities, offering simple joys in the form of sweet treats.



##### 2. Sandwich and Pizza Ministries

Coordinated by Constantino and Carissa Totalca, the Sandwich Ministry made a meaningful impact during the Valencia Medical Mission in February 2025. The upcoming Pizza Ministry will serve the homeless population in Los Angeles during the upcoming holiday season, continuing our outreach to those most in need.



##### 3. Theme and Logo Contest

In collaboration with the Fine Arts Department of the Adventist University of the Philippines, we launched a creative contest to develop the official theme and logo for the medical mission trip. Winners and participants were recognized with awards for their artistic contributions.



##### 4. Student Support Partnerships

In partnership with the Advent Health Foundation, BGM-TFM Foundation, and the Canlas and Villanueva families, we supported working students at the Adventist University of the Philippines through care packages containing groceries, toiletries, and cash gifts.



## The Mission and Ministry of AWESNA's Youngest Chapter (Cont.)

### 5. Student Scholarship Program

Four educational scholarships were awarded to students enrolled at Davao State University, Manila Adventist College, Central Philippine Adventist College, and Adventist University of the Philippines, affirming our commitment to educational empowerment.



### 6. Community Health Fair Participation

Chapter members volunteered at community health fairs hosted by Adventist Health White Memorial, assisting local SDA churches in the Los Angeles area through health screenings and patient education services.



### 7. Ongoing Support for AWESNA Medical Missions (2020–2025)

Since 2020, members—most notably Dr. Gabriel and Angie Lopez and the Liongco and Ong families—have faithfully supported AWESNA's Community Affairs and Medical Mission initiatives through generous financial contributions.

## Appreciation

### Inspiring Change, Touching Lives: Recognizing Our Community Affairs Pillars

On behalf of the AWESNA family, we extend our deepest gratitude to Dr. Esther Liongco-Ong and Ms. Angeline Manalo-Lopez for their exceptional leadership and unwavering dedication to AWESNA's Community Affairs from 2020 to 2025. Through visionary programs like Kalusugan ay Kayamanan, Bigasan sa Barangay, and values education for children, they empowered communities with knowledge, health, and livelihood.

Their efforts led to major medical missions serving over 10,000 patients—including the 2025 Valencia City outreach that united global volunteers to care for nearly 3,000 individuals. Their partnership with AUP strengthened community extension work and earned national recognition from CHED, contributing to prestigious awards and accreditations. Through servant leadership, they have embodied AWESNA's mission to share God's love in transformative ways.

We praise God for their passion, the bridges they've built, and the hope they've sown. May their legacy continue to inspire excellence, humility, and faith in service.

– Elizabeth M. Role, AWESNA Vice President



## Valencia City Medical Mission 2025

*By Esther Liongo-Ong, Chair of Community Affairs  
& Angeline Manalo Lopez, Co-Chair of Community Affairs*

From February 19–22, 2025, the PUC-AUP Alumni of Western North America (AWESNA) conducted a major medical mission in Valencia City, Bukidnon. This compassionate initiative united volunteers from both the United States and the Philippines to deliver vital healthcare services and community support to nearly 3,000 individuals. Services rendered included medical and dental care, minor surgeries, chiropractic treatments, laboratory diagnostics, health education, spiritual counseling, and the distribution of essential supplies to underserved populations.

### Opening and Education Support Initiatives

The mission officially began on February 19 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly established CL Pasco IT Learning Center and Library Room at Valencia City Adventist Elementary School (VCAES). This facility—generously donated by the Pasco Family—aims to enhance student access to digital and print educational resources. The library collection was enriched with ten copies of Nature’s Touch, and 212 students received water containers, hand fans, and chocolates. Additionally, the school benefited from a significant

donation of educational supplies through the generosity of the Advent Mission Foundation and Adventist Health White Memorial. To support the upcoming Summer Spiritual Retreat, a variety of canned



and packaged food items were donated to VCAES and the Valencia City Seventh-day Adventist Church. That evening, a cultural welcome dinner at Valencia Hotel showcased traditional Manobo attire and performances, celebrating the rich local heritage and warmly receiving all mission volunteers.

### Large-Scale Medical Outreach

On February 20, the Valencia City Gymnasium transformed into a hub of healing and hope as the medical mission team provided comprehensive healthcare to over 2,000 individuals. Services included general medical consultations, dental extractions, circumcisions, cyst and wart removals, laboratory tests (lipid panel, blood glucose, HbA1c, thyroid panel, urinalysis), 12-lead ECG screenings,

## Valencia City Medical Mission 2025 (Cont.)

Pap smears, chiropractic therapy, deep tissue massage, and haircuts. Patients also received prescription medications, vitamins, and health education materials. The day's activities were rounded out with spiritual care



sessions, all made possible through the dedication of AWESNA volunteers, the support of generous donors, and close collaboration with local partners.

### Indigenous Community Outreach

On February 21, the mission team extended its services to the Manobo Tribe in Banlag, a community rich in culture and tradition. Volunteers engaged in meaningful cultural exchanges and delivered lectures on personal hygiene and spiritual care. Fifty-one families received grocery packs, toiletries, and vitamins, while children enjoyed free haircuts. Nearly 200 adults and children were served nutritious meals—traditionally presented on banana-trunk plates—and joyfully experienced ice cream and cake, a first-time treat for many. This meaningful outreach was further enriched by the Sandwich Ministry of Constantino and Carissa Totalca, who distributed 300 sandwiches, and by Sam and Miriam Liongco, who shared chocolates with the children, who received them with great delight.

### Sulads Deaf Literacy Center Visit

Another heartfelt highlight was the visit to the Sulads Deaf Literacy Center in Malaybalay, Bukidnon. AWESNA volunteers were deeply moved by the remarkable talents, joy, and enthusiasm of the hearing-impaired children.

A touching gift-giving ceremony brought many to tears as the team presented nearly ₱65,000 in donations to support the students' participation in the upcoming SSD Pathfinder Camporee at Mountain View College. Basic school supplies were also provided to aid their educational journey.





## Valencia City Medical Mission 2025 (Cont.)

### Support for Local Church and Student Beneficiaries

The AWESNA team revisited the Kapangahan Seventh-day Adventist Church, a structure originally supported during Dr. Alfonso Miguel's presidency. A Vespers Service highlighted the need for repairs due to flood damage, prompting an appeal for renovation support.

On Sabbath, February 22, AWESNA volunteers joined worship services at Mountain View College, with Dr. Jose Manalo delivering the Divine Worship message. In the afternoon, a team led by the Daquila Family and Pastor Manny Vitug facilitated the Adventist Youth (AY) program.



In line with AWESNA's educational advocacy, ten graduating students were awarded ₱5,000 each as a graduation gift, sponsored by Leah Digman. The college's Marketing Department, led by Sir Jhon Lee and Pastor Jim Adil, hosted a special lunch for the volunteers.



### Recognition and Closing Ceremonies

The Central Mindanao Mission capped the mission week with a Recognition Night honoring the invaluable contributions of the volunteer team. All participants received certificates of appreciation and commemorative tokens.

The 2025 Valencia City Medical Mission stands as a profound testament to AWESNA's enduring legacy of service, compassion, and cross-cultural partnership. The experience left lasting impressions of gratitude, unity, and shared purpose among all who took part.



## Serving Communities, Empowering Lives: AWESNA-AUP Partnership Highlights

*By Esther Liongco-Ong, Chair of Community Affairs  
& Angeline Manalo Lopez, Co-Chair of Community Affairs*

The initiative to support the Community Extension Services Programs of the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) was born during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. This partnership has since led to significant accomplishments, including recognition from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).



From 2020 to 2025, AWESNA has consistently provided financial support to the University's annual community programs.

Below is a summary of key initiatives:

### 1. “**Kalusugan ay Kayamanan**”

- Promoting the Eight Laws of Health: nutrition, exercise, water, sunlight, temperance, air, rest, and trust in God

*Facilitated by:* Students of BS Nutrition & Dietetics and BS Medical Laboratory Science

*Activities:* Free blood sugar, lipid, and urine tests; cooking demonstrations featuring nutritious snacks (e.g., lemongrass-based recipes)

*Beneficiaries:* 37 community residents of Barangay Puting Kahoy, Silang, Cavite

### 2. “**First 1,000 Days ni Baby Pahalagahan: Tulong-Tulong sa Pagpapasuso Para sa Malusog na Kinabukasan**”

- Educating mothers on the importance of breastfeeding and infant nutrition

*Facilitated by:* Students of BS Nutrition & Dietetics, BS Nursing, MS Nursing, and Public Health

*Beneficiaries:* Barangay Health Workers, pregnant and lactating mothers in Puting Kahoy, Silang, Cavite



## Serving Communities, Empowering Lives (Cont.)

### 3. “Malusog na Pangangatawan Ating Alagaan, Kaalaman ni Mommy ay Dagdagan”

- Empowering parents with knowledge on child nutrition using Pinggang Pinoy

*Facilitated by:* Students of BS Nutrition & Dietetics

*Activities:* Demonstrations of simple, nutritious meals for children

*Beneficiaries:* 17 parents and 80 children in Pabahay, Puting Kahoy, Silang, Cavite

### 4. “Bigasan sa Barangay”

- Promoting community entrepreneurship through a rice retail project

*Facilitated by:* Students from the College of Business

*Support:* Financial aid and training to augment the capital of a basic commodity store, funded by AWESNA

*Beneficiaries:* Selected residents of Puting-Kahoy, Silang, Cavite

### 5. Medical Mission Trips

- Providing free medical, dental, surgical, and chiropractic services, along with health education

*Facilitated by:* AUP Faculty and students from the College of Medicine

*Locations & Years:*

- o Lucban, Quezon (2020)
- o Puerto Princesa City, Palawan (2022)
- o AUP Campus (2023)
- o Pangasinan (2024)
- o Valencia City, Bukidnon (2025)

*Beneficiaries:* Over 10,000 underserved patients across the Philippines

### 6. Modular Values Education Program

- Helping children avoid vices such as smoking, drinking, and drug use through values-based education

*Facilitated by:* AUP Academy faculty, staff, and students

*Beneficiaries:* Grade 6 students of Tartaria West Elementary School, Silang, Cavite

### 7. Book Shower, Values Education & Gift-Giving

- Sharing God’s love through books, values lessons, and gift-giving

*Facilitated by:* Students of Bachelor of Library & Information Science and AUP Libraries

*Beneficiaries:*

- 25 Mangyan families at Talipanan Mangyan School
- Mangyan students at Talipanan Mangyan Elementary School, Barangay Aninuan, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro



## Serving Communities, Empowering Lives (Cont.)

### 8. International Cultural Immersion and Community Extension Programs

#### a. Myanmar-Thailand Refugee Camp Program

- Contributing to the psycho-social, health, and economic development of displaced students

*Facilitated by:* Students of Psychology, Fine Arts, Development Communication, Languages, Music, Theology, Dentistry

*Beneficiaries:* 205 students of Maelakloh Christian School and 210 students of Nan Bo Den Learning Center, Mae Sot, Thailand

#### b. Follow-up Program: August 2023

- Conducted in collaboration with the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS)

#### c. “God HEALS” Program – June 14–22, 2025

- An international cultural immersion and community service program with focus on:
  - o Health
  - o Education
  - o Arts
  - o Life Skills
  - o Spiritual Enrichment

### Recognition and Impact

2023: AUP received First Prize in CHED’s International Community Engagement Award, earning a point toward its Autonomous Status five-year renewal until 2027.

2024: AUP received Third Prize, securing another point for 2027’s renewal cycle.

These awards helped achieve Level 3 and 4 program accreditations and strengthen applications for Centers of Development and Excellence. AUP aims to secure First Prize again in 2025, with the awards ceremony scheduled for December.



## Lijauco Earns DMA (Choral Conducting) Degree

*By Eppie Manalo, Fundraising Coordinator*



**Ramon Molina Lijauco, Jr.**, adjunct professor at Adventist University of the Philippines and conductor of AWESNA Mass Choir for two consecutive terms, earned the Doctor of Music Arts (DMA) in Choral Conducting degree on July 25, 2025 at St. Paul University, Manila, Philippines.

An alumnus of Philippine Union College (now Adventist University of the Philippines, Bojo earned the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (1994) and the Bachelor of Music, Music Education, major in Conducting (1997), respectively; Master of Music (Choral Conducting, summa cum laude) in 2019; and the DMA in Choral Conducting (magna cum laude) in 2025 from St. Paul University, respectively.

Ramon Lijauco Jr. is one of the Philippines' foremost conductors, widely recognized for his dynamic leadership, musicality, and unwavering commitment to excellence. A multi-talented artist—respected as a conductor, composer, and instrumentalist—he has gained international recognition for his artistry and vision, representing the country with distinction on the global stage.



Known for his tireless work ethic, Ramon combines technical mastery with a passion for mentorship, shaping the next generation of conductors and musicians through his inspiring guidance and example. His boundless energy, kindness, and dedication to his craft have made him not only a respected figure in the music community but also a beloved mentor and role model.

As a musician, Bojo's exceptional talent and skills have been shared leading and mentoring students, singers, and choral conductors, who are now Christian service-oriented conductors. Major roles he has performed include: Conductor and Musical Director, AUP Ambassadors, The Philippine Meistersingers; SUANPLU CHORUS, Thailand; PAGCOR Voice Symphony; Music Consultant PAGCOR Entertainment; and Adjunct Professor, AUP.



## Lijauco Earns DMA (Choral Conducting) Degree (Cont.)

Bojo has also interacted with and shared his expertise in various organizations as: Vice President and Board Member, Philippine Choral Directors Association (2023– Present); Board Member, Treble Choir Association of the Philippines (2019–Present); Co-Founder, Thailand Society for Choral Excellence (2013–Present); Member, Philippine Choral Association| (2017– Present);

Member, International Federation for Choral Music (2022–Present); Assembly Member / Adjudicator, National Music Competition for Young Artists (NAMCYA, 2012–Present).

Through his music journey, Dr. Lijauco has exemplified excellence, evidenced by major awards he and his group have received: US Congressional Merit of Excellence (1999) 4<sup>th</sup> World Choir Games, Xiamen (2006) Category Winner and Champion for Gospel and Spirituals; Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod at Wales, United Kingdom, Choir of the World 2011; Luciano Pavarotti Trophy/Ani ng Dangal, Music (2012) – Philippine Congressional Proclamation, contribution to music and culture (2012); 8th World Choir Games at Riga, Latvia (2014)–2 Gold Medals; 2nd Corfu International Festival & Choir Competition at Corfu, Greece (2018)–3 Gold Medals and 3 Category Winners, Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod at Wales, United Kingdom (2019)–First Prize and Open Category Winner; Jayne Davis Prize (Most Outstanding Conductor), Ani ng Dangal, Music (2020); 39th International May Choral Competition “Prof. Georgi Dimitrov, Varna Bulgaria (2023)–Gold Medal; 55th Tolosa Choral Competition, Spain (2024) Participant.



Dr. Bojo has also faithfully served AWESNA as mass choir/music director for two consecutive terms (2019-2025). During AWESNA’s 50th-year convention, he was recognized as Most Outstanding Alumnus.

A powerful witness to Seventh-day Adventist Christian education, Dr. Bojo has testified to what God can do through his people who submit to His plan and use their talents to honor Him and bless others. Congratulations and more adventures with the Master Musician, Dr. Ramon Lijauco!



# VIGNETTES on It's a Small World

By Honesto C. Pascual, PUC *Pre-Med 1965*

Disneyland opened its gates to the public 70 years ago on July 17, 1955. One of its popular attractions is the boat ride around the world with the song, "It's a small world after all... playing in the background.

On the lighter side, let me relate short stories of chance encounters showing that we live in a small world. If any of you try to remember hard enough, you too can come up with instances of similar stories.

## **Vignette #1**

It was 1948; I was five. My grandparents (Tatang and Inang) took me with them to live in Aniban, a small barrio in Cavite, just across the border from Rizal. Tatang was serving as the district pastor for Central Luzon Mission for a year. We stayed with a local family near the church. Across from the house was the elementary school.

During our stay there, the mother of the family gave birth to twin boys. It was my first time to see a placenta when the midwife had it carried out of the house; it was in a white porcelain-coated basin. We kids stared at the bloody mess, wondering what it was.

A few years ago, Ching and I were invited to the wedding of a friend's son here in Southern California. To my pleasant surprise, the bride's father was/is one of the twins. Uncle Twin was there too. As it turned out, they live in the Loma Linda area, half an hour's drive from us.

The Advinculas and Beroncals are their cousins. They have the same grandma, the matriarch in the house.

As an aside: the second-grade teacher in the school learned from my playmates that Tatang and I spoke English with each other. Just because of that, she wanted me to enroll in 2nd grade. I did not. If I did, I would have graduated from 6th grade at 9 and high school at 13.

## **Vignette #2**

It was Thursday, shortly before noon, September 3, 1989. SS President Cleveland slowly sailed under the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, CA to dock in one of the piers. Among the more than a thousand passengers were my older brother, Joemie, and me. After clearing customs and immigration, we inched our way to where my mother and stepfather were waiting. With them were Dr. Guy and Mrs. Hazel Jorgensen who graciously offered to drive and use their car to meet us. It was about a 2-hour drive despite much less traffic and no freeways as we know them now. During the drive, Dr. Jorgensen,



## VIGNETTES on It's a Small World (Cont.)

who was a chemistry professor at Pacific Union College, assured my brother and me of a job at the chemistry laboratory for the next couple of weeks or so until classes commenced. Dr. Jorgensen was a widower who married Hazel Sevrens, a widow. If memory serves me right, they knew each other decades before when they were students. Hazel eventually married O. F. Sevrens. The two of them sailed to Manila in the 1920s with the Philippine SDA Academy in Pasay as their destination. Unfortunately, he passed away during their stint as missionaries after the transfer of the school to Baesa. He was buried in the Cementerio del Norte in Manila. Mrs. Hazel returned to the States. Do you remember Jackson-Sevrens Memorial Hall in PUC? He was the Sevrens in that duo.

### Vignette #3

It was July 1962. The General Conference of the SDA held its quadrennial session in San Francisco, CA. R. R. Figuhr was re-elected to his third and final term as president. After introducing himself to the president during one of the breaks, he remembered Tatang. “*Kamusta po kayo, kapatid na Pascual?*”

Tatang had worked with him in Central Luzon in the 1930s. He learned to speak basic conversational Tagalog. In one of their trips, they had Sabbath lunch in one of the local homes. There were not too many drinking vessels, so a cup was passed around to sip water from. When it came to RRF's turn, he sipped from the lip of the cup directly above the handle, where no one usually sips from. After passing the cup to the next person, another man across the table remarked to him, “We had the same idea. I also sipped from that part of the cup.” [in Tagalog]. They had a big laugh.

### Vignette #4

We lived in Angwin, about a 2-hour drive from San Francisco. Following the 1962 General Conference [GC] meetings, we were hosts to a few guests from the Philippines who wished to take a tour of Elmshaven, E. G. White's last residence, about 7 miles from Angwin. In one of our visits there, I read the name of a tour guest from Independence, Missouri. The name and hometown were familiar to me. The EGW house is two-story, but it is not a large house. I hurried through the various rooms until I saw a familiar face. I shed off my shyness and approached the young lady. I asked, “Are you Diana Cachero from Independence, Missouri?” “Yes,” she replied. I introduced myself and told her I am a friend of Benjamin Campomanes, my classmate in grade school. She remembered Ben. They became pen pals through The Junior Guide. Ben had shown me her picture. And I remembered her face; I still do. She's mestiza.



## VIGNETTES on It's a Small World (Cont.)

### Vignette #5

Roy Puen's mother, Jessie La Madrid-Puen, was a close friend of my mother. They remarried about the same time in 1959 to Ilokano men who loved to grow vegetables. They traded produce, some of which ended up on our dinner table. Dr. Ruth La Madrid was a close friend of my mother, too. When it was time for her two sons to go to the US in 1958, she asked my mother to be their traveling guardian when they sailed from Manila to San Francisco. My mother matched her with Felix Drapiza, and they got married. In 1995, the couple served with Ching and me in the Eliseo Bautista Medical Mission to PUC.

Bertha La Madrid was a med tech and a physician like me. In 1968, we both worked at the Children's Hospital laboratory in Los Angeles. Years before, in 1959, she gave Raymond Puen an old car, which we drove from Angwin to Los Angeles during Christmas break from school. He, my brother Joemie, and I took turns driving overnight. We made it there despite several pit stops. The car did not make it back to PUC. It was abandoned in LA.

Solomon La Madrid had a shop in the Grace Park area when I was in grade school. It was from him that my grandfather bought a rebuilt bicycle. Tatang had Levi Abejar's father paint the bike. He painted it red with white trims. On the head tube, he painted "Pascual Bros." In 1970, one of his sons, Reuel, was our neighbor in the Glendale area. In one of our medical missions, another son, Archie, a surgeon, served with us in 1999.

### Vignette #6

I started a medical practice in Corona, California, in July 1977 after four years of residency and fellowship. Through the years, I have encountered patients I had not expected to see. Whenever I had a Filipino patient, I asked where they were from in the Philippines. One time, as soon as I entered the exam room, before I could say my usual greeting, the patient said, "I attended your parents' wedding in PUC." [They got married in 1937.] Following that encounter, one of her daughters and one of her sons became my patients. The daughter's husband was our next-door neighbor in Baesa when I was of preschool age. Another son and his family sang with us in the Family Singers in the 1980s.

Another encounter was with a grade schoolteacher. When I asked where she was from, she said she was from the Visayas, but her last residence in the Philippines before her emigration was Baesa, Quezon City. She taught in the public school there.

There were two other times when I had two new patients from Baesa; one was my brother's classmate in elementary and high school, and the other was the widow of a man whose house was three houses from ours across Baesa Road.



## VIGNETTES on It's a Small World (Cont.)

In September 2014, we went on an Alaskan cruise. At one of our stops, I took a walking tour of the little town. Ching decided to rest on the ship. As I was approaching the heart of town, I witnessed a motor vehicle accident kitty-corner from my location. A pedestrian was hit by a sport utility vehicle as it was making a right turn. I hurriedly crossed the street and found the victim still lying on the pavement. A woman was standing close to him. When I got there, I said, "I am a doctor; is there anything I can do to help?" The woman turned around and said, "Doctor Pascual, I just saw you in the office two weeks ago. This is my husband." They allowed me to do a quick examination; he seemed alright. As a precaution, I advised them to go to the urgent care facility in town for possible X-rays. Since he was not badly hurt, they chose to just wait till their return to Corona. He remained my patient until I retired.

### Vignette #7

A few years ago, we were waiting for the Sabbath worship to start. It was the GC session in San Antonio, TX. There was a group of people looking for seats. They found the seats next to us. Jesse and Beth Role, with their children, were those people.

### Vignette #8

Earlier this month, July [2025], by serendipity, our granddaughter, Sophi, and her second cousin, Samantha, were invited to the same wedding in Tennessee. The last time they saw each other was two decades ago when Sophi was a toddler, and Sam a preschooler. Sophi served as a student missionary in Guam in 2023, where she became friends with the bride. Sam's boyfriend is a friend of the groom.

*It is a small world, indeed.*



Volume 55

# The Link

The Official Publication of PUC-AUP Alumni of  
Western North America

# 2025

*Serving with pure passion for generations...*



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## A Legacy of Service, Leadership, and Growth

### 2022–2025 Term Overview

AWESNA has made significant strides in its mission of service, leadership, and support during the 2022–2025 term, as reflected in this comprehensive report.

Under the leadership of Dr. Jose Manalo, AWESNA has remained true to its commitment to community outreach, alumni engagement, and educational support.

### Medical Missions Touch Thousands

Dr. Esther Liongco-Ong, AWESNA Community Affairs Chair, organized three impactful medical missions:

- **Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) – July 2–4, 2023**  
Over 1,100 individuals received medical, dental, and wellness services, while 150 students were treated to a semi-formal banquet and received gifts including cash, clothing, and toiletries.
- **Northern Luzon Adventist College/Select Barangays – February 24–28, 2024**  
In Capas, Tarlac, and Sison, Pangasinan, 1,008 individuals received medical and dental care and health education, and, in a unique gesture of support, goats were donated to help families build sustainable livelihoods.
- **Valencia City, Bukidnon – February 19–22, 2025**  
Nearly 3,000 individuals benefited from a range of services, including surgery, chiropractic care, and spiritual counseling. Dr. Manalo also delivered the sermon at Mountain View College's Divine Worship.

### AUP Community Projects

AWESNA donated \$4,000 to support community extension services at AUP, continuing its tradition of giving back to its alma mater.

### Annual Conventions and Major Milestones

AWESNA hosted three conventions to strengthen alumni bonds during the term:

#### June 30 – July 2, 2025 (AUP and Taal Vista Hotel)

- The House of Delegates session culminated in a historic decision to allocate proceeds from the sale of AUP land toward constructing the AUP Teaching Medical Hospital. With the approval of the AUP administration, a naming ceremony was held on July 2 at AUP, during which the College of Arts and Humanities Building was officially named the AWESNA – Alfonso P. Miguel, Jr. M.D. Building. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was also conducted as part of the event.

#### August 30 – September 1, 2024 (Honolulu, Hawaii)

- The 2024 convention brought together alumni and friends for a time of fellowship, spiritual renewal, and mission-focused collaboration. Hosted at the Sheraton Waikiki Beach Resort, the event featured AUP and AWESNA reports, major committee updates, and inspiring worship services, reinforcing the shared commitment to AWESNA's goals.

## A Legacy of Service, Leadership, and Growth (Cont.)

### August 29 – 31, 2025 (San Francisco, California)

- The 2025 convention held at the Hilton San Francisco Airport Bayfront hotel marked a significant leadership milestone with the ceremonial turnover of responsibilities to the newly elected officers. Delegates and attendees celebrated the achievements of the outgoing administration and warmly welcomed the new leadership team. This transition reflected AWESNA's commitment to continuity, growth, and dynamic service within the alumni network.

### Advancing Education through Fundraising

Significant funds were raised for scholarships, including a \$30,000 allocation, and additional contributions to the College of Arts and Humanities Building. A room in the AWESNA building was named after the Loma Linda Chapter, recognizing their continued support.

### Chapter Engagement and Leadership Development

Chapter rallies and elections were successfully conducted in Central Valley (August and December 2023), Northern California (January 2024), and Hawaii (July 2025), showcasing vibrant alumni involvement.

### Thought Leadership and Alumni Networking

AWESNA leaders answered the call to support educational initiatives. Dr. Jose Manalo and Fundraising Chair Dr. Eppie Manalo were featured speakers at a leadership seminar hosted by the North Philippine Union Conference on February 22, 2024. The event focused on biblically rooted communication principles and leadership development for alumni in the education sector.



**2022-2025 AWESNA BOARD OF OFFICERS' REGULAR MEETING**



**2022-2025 AWESNA BOARD OF OFFICERS' FINAL MEETING (AUGUST 3, 2025)**



Throughout the 2022-2025 term, all official meetings of the AWESNA Board of Officers were graciously hosted at the residence of Dr. Mike and Lucy Fernando, located in Alta Mira Way, Riverside, CA. The Fernandos' warm hospitality provided a welcoming and consistent environment that contributed significantly to the productivity and fellowship of each session. The Board expresses its deepest appreciation for their generosity and unwavering support --- **Elizabeth M. Role, AWESNA Vice President**

# AWESNA 2025



## TURNING POINT



*Speaker*

**Pastor Dem Robles, DMin**

Emeritus Ordained Minister  
Pacific Union Conference

Join us as we celebrate **AWESNA**  
**55th Annual Convention**

AUGUST 29-31, 2025  
HILTON SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT BAYFRONT  
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