



*A Quarterly Newsletter for the Filipino-American Association of Iowa*

**Meet Our New FAAI Officers and Board of Directors**



*L-R: VP Linda Hurley, Treas. Daff Miller, Pres. Dory Taylor, Sec. Raquel Thomas & Bus. Mgr. Tony Siembieda  
Below: With the Officers are two of the four Board of Directors, Al Snyder and Alma Reed*



**Fil-Am Association of Iowa  
Calendar of Events**

**Annual Hog Roast Picnic**  
*August 1, 2015*  
*1:00-6:00 p.m*  
*Raccoon River Park*  
*2500 Grand Avenue*  
*West Des Moines, IA*

**Halloween Party**  
*Date & Venue to be announced*

**Annual Christmas Party**  
*Date & Venue to be announced*

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Time to Dine, Dance and Celebrate

by Dr. Rosa Inciong-Reyes



The FAAI celebrated its 31st Annual Valentine’s Gala at the Hilton Garden Inn in Johnston last February 14, 2015. This grand party was attended by more than 120 guests all dressed in elegant formal attire. Registration was a breeze with a welcoming table full of delicious caramel apples from Garden of Eatin’ Apples and some beautiful heart-shaped rings from Bejoyful for all the newly registered FAAI members. Both hot and cold delicious hors d’oeuvres and the cash bar catered to the hungry early attendees while others had pictures taken in front of the FAAI logo screen lined with red heart-shaped balloons. DJ IVAN produced a romantic ambience with his music and lights filling the room.

Emcees Janice Lammers and Alma Young started the program after the buffet dinner. Rose Legg sang the Lupang Hinirang and then Doug Cochrane led the Star-Spangled Banner. FAAI Past President Al Snyder welcomed everybody and acknowledged all the guests and sponsors.

The *Filipino Cultural Dance Troupe of Iowa*, a lovely group of talented Filipinas based in Iowa City and Cedar

Rapids performed the Ragragsakan which is a portrayal of Kalinga tribal women singing, “let us fetch water, let us bathe, let us wash!” as they walk along the mountainous rice terraces and balance those baskets on top of their heads. It was such an amazing performance to welcome the guests!

The honorable Atty. Gilbert R. Caldwell III then delivered his very inspirational speech. He was also the inducting officer of the incoming FAAI officers and Board Members. FAAI President Dory Taylor then delivered her brief acceptance speech.

Afterwards, the past FAAI Valentine couple Tom and Marie Schreurs passed on their crowns to the 2015 FAAI Valentine King & Queen Jim & Mindy Rist. They were serenaded by Randy Collins who sang his original composition entitled, No Other Love.

That evening, Joy and Bill Heady, celebrated their 5th wedding anniversary, they received a special token from the FAAI. Another sensation this year was a new set of Awards that Emcees Jan and Alma gave away that night.

(Cont. page 4)

President's Corner

by Dory Taylor



I would like to personally thank everyone who volunteered their time and talents at the past FAAI events this year so far: The Valentine's Party, The Consular Outreach in Des Moines, and the recently-concluded CelebrAsian. I am truly blessed to have so many caring members who tirelessly gave their time, talents, resources and support to our Association.

My family and I were lucky enough to be able to visit the Philippines and represent the FAAI this Spring. We arrived in Manila on the 17th of March, then off to Cebu where we met up with some family members and relatives and hopped a boat to beautiful Bohol where we took a tour of the island; saw the tarsier in Bohol (for the first time) and had a wonderful lunch cruise up the river. Our next stop was Olongapo where we spent the next 2 weeks and enjoyed Subic Bay, the beautiful beaches, snorkeling and the Jungle Safari. The horns of the tricycles and jeepneys filled the air and the friendly people and small vendors filled the streets.

We've brought back souvenir items for the Fil-Am to sell at our events to help raise awareness of the diversity and talents of the people of the Islands.

We were there during Holy Week and were amazed to see hundreds of people stop what they were doing and listen quietly while a prayer was read. The people we talked with were amazed to hear of our Organization.

During my time as your President, I will continue to support the traditional FAAI events- Christmas, Valentine's, and Halloween parties, the Annual Hog Roast picnic, CelebrAsian, as well as the Parol (Philippine Lantern)-making. Also, we will continue to award scholarships as long as we have the funds.

Lastly, rest assured that I will also respect the traditions and culture of the Filipino people.

Salamat Po,  
Dory Taylor  
FAAI President  
Email: adortaylor@live.com

2015 Consular Outreach in Iowa



(Clockwise from top left) A representative from the US National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) speaks to the Filipino community about employees' rights in the US and ways to remedy unfair labor practices; Passport applicants queue up to have their applications processed by consular staff; Consul Alena S. Borra leads the oath-taking of Filipinos who successfully acquired dual citizenship; Consul Borra (seated, 4th from right) and the consular staff with the officers and members of the Filipino American Association of Iowa.

In partnership and collaboration between the FAAI and the Fil-Am Organization of Metropolitan Omaha, the Philippine Consular Outreach event which was held on May 9, 2015 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites was a huge success. More than a hundred Filipinos across the Midwest Region were rendered consular services like passport renewal, dual citizenship and civil registry, and report of marriage and birth. And in behalf of the FAAI Officers and Board of Directors, thank you all for your support to make this happen.



Time to Dine.... continues (from page 3)

Each one received their own sashes indicating their titles and a box of chocolates. Awardees were Danielle Reyes as Face of the Night, Gil & Jeanne Caldwell as Couple of the Night, Jehan Bassenden as Darling of the Night, and Rutchie Heiring as Best Female Dressed who were all awarded by John and Deb Berglund.

The last performance before the open public dancing was Silong sa Ganding, another outstanding performance by the attendees!

Filipino Cultural Dance Troupe of Iowa composed of Jennifer Eicher, Margie Hemley, Hazel Graesser, Anna Ellorren, Dyna Gillick and Grace Mulit. Awesome door and raffle prizes ranging from a coral Coach bag to mini rose plants in lovely cube bags were given away that night.

It was an evening full of romance, fun and much felt LOVE. Not only were there lovers and married couples, there were also at least three mother-daughter teams among the attendees!



## Meet Our New Officers and Board of Directors

**ADORACION (DORY)TAYLOR (President)** is a mother of three adult sons (Erik, Jonathan, and Austin ). She has been a member of the FAAI since 2006 and has been very active along with her mother, Rosie Lane, a senior member of the Association. Before she got elected FAAI president, she was the Secretary for two years and Sgt- at-Arms for a year under Al Snyder and Alma Reed’s administrations respectively.

Her boyfriend, Lawrence Anthony also helps out in many FAAI functions and volunteers his home for many occasions. Dory works for the State of Iowa since 1985.

Lastly, she wants to thank you all for your generous support to FAAI.

**Rosalinda (Linda) Hurley (Vice President)** was born and raised in the Philippines and emigrated to the US in 1986. She settled in Des Moines with her husband for 27 years. They have two daughters. She went to Des Moines Community College (DMACC) and obtained her Commercial Arts studies. She also joined and served the US National Guard for 8 years and was in charge of logistics and supplies in her unit. She’s currently working for Quick Trip as Technician and Customer Service Representative. She has been a member of the Veteran Wars and the FAAI since 1989.

**Daffodil (Daff) Miller (Treasurer)** says she would like to assure the FAAI that she understands, appreciates and respects the importance of the position of a treasurer as a watchdog over the Association’s finances because of her background.

Her education and career that span many years have been largely in Accounting, with Finance playing second fiddle. She passed the CPA exams in the Philippines and in the US as well. Upon graduating from college, she was first an Auditor and later a Management Service staff in SGV-Bacolod. In the US, she enjoyed varied work experiences as a Tax Accountant, Fixed Asset Accountant, Regulatory Finance Manager, and as an Instructor in Introductory Financial Accounting & Corporate Finance.

After a lengthy hiatus as a stay-home mom, she rejoined the workforce in a unique capacity as a general accountant/HR employee, the kind of work combination that only a small business can concoct. With her background, she plans to perform the responsibilities of an FAAI Treasurer with integrity and dispatch. Fully mindful that experience is the best teacher, she will be open to well- informed advice from people before her who have held a treasurer position in the FAAI.

**Editor’s Note:** *As of this writing, the elected Secretary, Raquel Thomas as well as the Business Manager, Tony Siembieda have resigned from their posts.*

**ALVIN “AI” SNYDER JR. (Board of Director)** has served as FAAI President for two years (2013-2014), Vice President under Dr. Ruben Rullan and Alma Reed’s presidency, and a former Executive Adviser under Ms. Reed’s past administration. He has been an active FAAI member since 2006.

Al is blessed with a wonderful family, his wife for more than 7 years and best friend, Aireen Nicolas-Snyder. They have three daughters: Maryen 19, Angelica and Sophia, (turning 6 & 2 years old in July respectively); and two sons: his namesake Alvin, 34 and Rob 27.

He has heard it said, “It is amazing that you think, that with each child, you can’t possibly love anyone as you love them, but somehow you love the next one just as much.” He can say it’s true!

Al and his family are parishioners at the Basilica of Saint John where he completed his Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) to become a Catholic and where he and Aireen were married.

He loves being outdoors with his family, fishing, boating, biking, picnicking, hunting, riding the motorcycle, and visiting with friends.

His career in Electronics Engineering started in Rome Free Academy in New York and continued with four years in the United States Air Force and Rose State College which prepared him for his 29 years as a Broadcast Technical Engineer for KCCI –TV CH8.

He has held several volunteer positions over the years including 12 years as a member of the Pleasant Hill Fire Department serving his last five years as Fire Chief. He is a 29-year member of IBEW Local 347, currently serving as President of the KCCI TV Broadcast unit.

He has also served as a Grand Knight (two terms) and now a Board of Trustee for the Knights of Columbus Council 644 at the Basilica of Saint John where he is blessed to serve as Head Usher for the 10:30 a.m. Mass. “Come Join us”- his invitation.

Al wants to say “Thank You” for volunteering your valuable time, talents, skills and resources to the FAAI.

**ALMA REED (Board of Director)** has been in FAAI for 18 years now. She has served as Secretary for two years; PRO also for 2 years; President for 6 years; and Board of Director (2013-2016). She is very active and has been involved in many different private, government and non-profit organizations here in Central Iowa and in Chicago, IL suburbs.  
(cont. page 6)

*(Meet Our New Officers... from page 5)*

She was elected City official in Carlisle, IA and served the city from 2008-2012. (cont. page 6)

director for two years.

She is also active with Iowa Asian Alliance in the festival planning since 2003, and was a Village Vendor

She received an Iowa Governor's Volunteer Award on July 16, 2010 and was awarded the *National Community Service Hall of Fame* in 2007 in Chicago, IL.

Alma finished a degree in Bachelor of Science in Social Works at the Ateneo de Davao University, Davao City, Philippines. She used to work for Home Instead Senior Care, Inc., Northbrook, IL. Currently, she works for Neuro ScienceCenter in Deerfield, IL.

*"You can do what I cannot do. I can do what you cannot do. But together, we can do great things."* – Mother Theresa.

She said you can email her at [germany1994@aol.com](mailto:germany1994@aol.com) for any questions.

**ROBERTO (BOB) VIDA (Board of Director)** is a former FAAI president and a member of the Association along with his wife, Zen Vida. This is his second term as a Board of Director.

**RICHARD O'BRIEN (Board of Director)** was born in Dubuque, Iowa. He and his wife, Naomi-Basmayor-O'Brien, whom he married in 1996 live in Nevada, Iowa. They joined the FAAI in 1998. **THIS IS HIS SECOND TERM AS A Board of Director for the Association.**

He wished as a long-time project —to *develop a joint-Asian Cultural Center of some sort.*

## LOVE HIM OR HATE HIM

Love him or hate him, he sure hits the nail on the head with this. A few years ago, Bill Gates, gave a speech at a high school graduation about 11 things they did not and will not learn in school. He talked about how feel-good, politically-correct teachings created a generation of kids with no concept of reality and how this concept set them up for failure in the real world.

**Rules:**

1. Life is not fair. Get used to it!
2. The world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something BEFORE you feel good about yourself.
3. You will not make \$60,000 a year out of high school. You won't be vice-president, with a car phone until you earn both.
4. If you think your teacher is tough, wait 'til you get a BOSS.
5. Flipping burgers had a different word for burger-flipping: They call it OPPORTUNITY.
6. If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.
7. Before you were born, your parent weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes, and listening to you talk about how cool you thought you were. So before you save the rain-forest from the parasites of your parents' generation, try

delousing the closet in your own room.

8. Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but LIFE HAS NOT. In some schools, they have abolished failing grades and they give you as MANY TIMES as you want to get a right answer. This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance of ANYTHING in real life.

9. Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summer off and very few employers are interested in helping you FIND YOURSELF.

10. Television is NOT real life. In real life, people actually have to leave the coffee shop to go to jobs.

11. Be nice to nerds. Chances are, you'll end up working for one.

If you read this, thank a TEACHER.

**Editor's Note:**

*This was obtained from a teacher the editor used to work with in one of the schools in Des Moines.*

## Advertise in the LAHI

If you would like to advertise your business in the LAHI, the ads are \$25 per issue or \$75 per 4 issues  
email your request to -

Newsletter Editor Aileen Snyder at  
(515) 333 8696

[ginangsnnyder@yahoo.com](mailto:ginangsnnyder@yahoo.com)

Check us out on:

<https://www.facebook.com/faai1975?ref=hl>



## Angelito Barongan: The Man Behind Barongan Kempo Academy



Grandmaster 10<sup>th</sup> Degree Angelito Barongan, owner of Barongan Kempo Academy at 1111 SE Army Post Road Des Moines, IA, 50315 was born in Quezon City, Philippines on Sept. 25, 1950. He is the only child of Maximo and Nora Barongan. After graduation from high school in 1967, he moved to the US to live with his mother, who has been in the States for about 6 years that time. His family lived in California for a while and went to a vocational school to become a practical nurse. After completion, he started working at Hollywood Community Hospital but then he decided to start college so he enrolled at East Los Angeles City College.

But after two semesters, he decided to enlist with the US Army and was stationed in Fort Ord, California. He was trained as a medic and Light Infantryman. Instead of going to Vietnam, he was sent to West Germany to be a Security Battalion for the Pershing Missiles. He completed his tour after two years in Germany and returned to the United States.

A year after, he moved with his family to Des Moines, IA and joined the Filipino- American Association of Iowa (FAAI) and became one of the pioneer members of the Association after its founding in 1975. In Iowa, he started his first martial arts school located in the Highland Park area, then he opened his second school in High St. in Downtown then moved to West Des Moines.

Bobby used to work during the day at Meredith Printing on the South Side then teach at night three times a week. He later left Meredith Printing and joined the Des Moines Register and Tribune. About a year after, he took the entrance examination for the Des Moines Fire Department and in 1982, he was the first Filipino firefighter hired in the city of Des Moines. During his career, he was a member of the Des Moines Hazardous Material Response Team as a technician, the Trench Rescue, Extrication and EMS crew.

Besides working full time at the Fire Department and running his martial arts school, the Barongan Kempo Academy, he took another job as a Loss Prevention Specialist. He has worked for Montgomery Wards, Target Stores, and Scheels All Sports.

After receiving the rank of a Captain, he requested to go to Station #10 on the Southside to be close to his home and remained there until his retirement.

About five years ago, he was proclaimed Grand Master, 10<sup>th</sup> Degree by the Board of Regents of Unified Kempo Karate Association and was inducted to the Kempo Hall of Fame in Chicago on June 20, 2013. And on October 18, 2014, he was inducted to the US National Martial Arts Alliance Hall of Fame and was awarded the Grandmaster of the Year.

But then, he felt it's time to turn in his badge so, after 32 years in the fire service, he said farewell to his crew on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November last year. He said it has been an honor serving the city of Des Moines.



Filipino-American Association of Iowa (FAAI)

Membership Application

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

First and Last Name/s (Both Spouses) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ FACEBOOK (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Dependent/Children's Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual (\$20/yr.)  
(18 y/o & above)

Family (\$28/yr.)  
(couples & children less than 18)

Senior (Free Membership)  
(62 y/o & above)

Please check areas where you can help:

- Food Committee
- Events Preparation/ Decorating
- Public Relations & Welcoming
- Event clean-up
- Scholarship Program Committee
- Youth development Committee
- Equipment & Photography
- Fundraising/Solicitation (Bayanihan)
- Communications/Media Committee
- Program & Entertainment
- Health & Wellness
- LAHI Staff (contributor/editor)

I agree to abide by the principles and rules of the FAAI as provided by its Constitution and By-laws ratified on Nov. 11, 2012. As a member of the FAAI, I also agree to conduct myself in accordance with the Code of Conduct provided by the Constitution, By-laws and other rules of the Filipino-American Association of Iowa (FAAI).

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: CASH

CHECK #

Make CHECK payable to: **Filipino-American Association of Iowa (FAAI)**  
Mail form and check to : **Dory Taylor**  
10102 Carson St. Spring Hill  
IA 50125

????  
Call Dory Taylor  
515 490 2586



## Bragging Right

Compiled by Alita V. Siasoco

Filipinos deserve to know all of these and be proud to be a Filipino.

1. In the Philippines, Filipinos were introduced to the English language in 1762 by British invaders, not Americans.

2. What is the world's third largest English-speaking nation, next to the USA and the UK? (The Philippines)

3. The USA bought the Philippines, Puerto Rico and Guam from Spain.

4. The antibiotic Erythromycin (brand name is Isolone, after the Philippine region of Iloilo) was co-discovered by a Filipino doctor named Abelardo Aguilar.

5. Marc Loinaz, a Filipino inventor from New Jersey, first made the one-chip video camera. This son of two Filipino physicians scored over 700 on the verbal portion of the Standardized Achievement Test (SAT) before age 13.

6. The Filipino-American dancer, Joyce Monteverde scored a perfect 1600 on the SAT.

7. Eleanor "Connie" Concepcion Mariano, a Filipino doctor was a personal physician of two former US presidents- George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton. She was also the first Filipino Rear Admiral of the US Navy.

8. Besides gracing fashion magazine covers, international supermodel from Manila, Anna Bayle had walked the runways since the 1970's for all the major designers like Calvin Klein, Chanel, Christian Dior, Christian Lacroix, Donna Karan, Gianni Versace and Yves Laurent.

9. Two Filipina beauties, Gloria Diaz (Alita's niece) and

Margie Moran were chosen as Ms. Universe in 1969 and 1973.

10. The Rocky Fellers of Manila was the first Filipino group to land a top hit on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart in the 1960's.

11. Founded by the Spanish Jesuits in 1595, the University of San Carlos in Cebu City is older than Harvard (1636) and is the oldest university in Asia.

12. The University of Santo Tomas in Manila, established in 1611 is Asia's second and the oldest Catholic University in Asia.

13. The first Asian and/or Filipino to snatch America's Pulitzer Prize was Philippines Herald war journalist Carlos P. Romulo. He was also the first Asian to become a UN President.

14. Filipino writer and national hero, Jose Rizal could read and write at age 2, and grew up to speak more than 20 languages including Latin, Greek, German, French and Chinese. His last words before he was executed in Bagumbayan (now Rizal Park) were: "Consummatum est!" ("It is finished!")

15. Honolulu journalist John Griffin in his 1998 visit to Manila wrote: "What's still most impressive to me about the Philippines is the friendliness of the people, their sense of humor...."

16. Last but not least, who does not know Manny "Pacman" Paquiao?



More than 30,000 meals were packed last December 22, 2014 at the Meals from the Heartland packing station in WDM after our FFAI team and other volunteers shared 2 hours of time to pack Mac 'N Cheese bags. It was such a fun and fulfilling experience specially during the Christmas season! The FFAI Team was led by Rosa and Danielle Reyes together with Linda and Gene Hurley, Mary Sherrill, Susan Siasoco, the Eribal family, Al & Aireen Snyder, Dory Taylor, Rosie Lane, Chit & Wally Marantal, Suzanna Creighton, Katrina Venus, Len Castro, Lando Puzon and grandchildren, Kimberly & Jeffrey Roberts.

**Filipino-American Association of Iowa  
OFFICERS**

**President.....Dory Taylor**

**Vice President.....Linda Hurley**

**Secretary.....**

**Treasurer.....Daff Miller**

**Business Manager....**

**Board of Directors..... Al Syder, Alma Reed, Bob  
Vida & Richard O'Brien**

***Editorial Staff and Contributors***

**Editor-in-Chief *Aireen N. Snyder***

**Managing Editor– *Gina Matchinsky***

**Contributors:** Dr. Rosa Inciong-Reyes, Alita Siasoco, and Angelito Barongan

Questions or Comments? lahieditor08@yahoo.com

***\*The editor reserves the right to publish or not to publish an article/s submitted and to edit them for clarity and brevity.***

**In the next issue of Lahi, Danielle Reyes will be the new Managing Editor.**