



University of Santo Tomas Nurses Association of America

Thomasian Newsletter

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The President's Message: Ampy Agapay-de la Paz, MS, RN

Greetings to you all from Houston!

The vision to build a strong national USTNAA took another step during the PNAA Annual Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana last June. A group of UST nurses gathered together to elect the new set of officers for the University of Santo Tomas Nurses Association of America (USTNAA). Everyone present felt the need to continue to meet the challenge of unifying the many UST nurses associations across the country under the umbrella of USTNAA. The vision is an excellent idea, but getting the idea to everyone across the big country has been quite a challenge! It will take many of us to embrace this vision and submit to the challenge in order to succeed in this endeavor.

The goal of unification of all UST nurses associations at the state level under USTNAA is not difficult to achieve if every state association is willing to be affiliated as a state chapter to the mother organization, the USTNAA. The elected officers representing the various regions of the country is a necessary step in the nationalization of the organization. Other alumni group such as FEU and UP have been quite successful in nationalizing their alumni association. We can be successful too! To do this, we will need each and everyone of you to support our efforts in putting into reality the vision for a strong and united USTNAA. Currently, there are UST nurses alumni associations in many cities such as Chicago (probably the oldest and biggest which was organized in 1970), Houston, Michigan, California, etc. We can all join our efforts in building a coalition among our individual groups to come up as a unified force.

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USTNAAM Accepts Challenge To Host Second Grand Reunion of Thomasian Nurses: Salome Fadri Fano

The second grand reunion of Thomasian Nurses from all over the United States will be held in Michigan on the last weekend of September 2001. The officers of the USTNAA voted affirmatively to accept the challenge during the last executive meeting in September. The association was presented with this idea when its officers met with the executive board of UST Nurses Association of America (USTNAA) at the PNAA convention in Indianapolis last summer. Accordingly

the Michigan local chapter was chosen to be the host of the forth coming reunion because it is the most organized.

The venue for the big event will be at the Westin Southfield - Detroit in Southfield, Michigan. Several committees have been formed and assignments have been distributed. However, the committees still have many memberships to fill.

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USTNAA Newly Elected Officers

Ampy de la Paz (TX)

President

Ernie Rosas (MO)

President-elect

Merlita Velasquez (TX)

Vice-President

Annabelle Cosas (MO)

Secretary

Martha Cabarios (MI)

Treasurer

Ric Garcia (FL)

Auditor

Lorna Schneider (NY)

PRO

Board Members:

Nelly Cabuslay (CA) Helen Kranzel (FL)

Redempta Knotts (IN) Lita Duncan (OH)

Rose Estrada (NJ) Cece Echon (CA)

Chuchi Estelyedes (IN) Celia Conlu (IN)

Divina Gracia-Grossman (FL)

STANDING COMMITTEES

Budget/Finance Committee:

Chairperson: Martha Cabarios (MI)

Co-Chair: Ric Garcia (FL)

By-Laws Committee:

Chairperson: Ernie Rosas (MO)

Policy & Procedure:

Co-Chair: Rose Estrada (NJ)

Education Committee:

Chairperson: Nancy Hoff (CA)

Co-Chair: Cece Echon (CA)

Membership Committee:

Chairperson: Annabelle Cosas (MO)

Co-Chair: Red Knotts (IN)

Ways & Means:

Chairperson: Merlita Velasquez (TX)

Co-Chair: James Puspos (TX)

Award Committee:

Chairperson: Lorna Schneider (NY)

Co-Chair: Linda Ascio (CA)

Nomination/Election:

Chairperson: Delia Ilores

Co-Chair: Sally Fano

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Together we can accomplish more! We need to get everyone to join our ranks to help us in achieving our mission!

With the new officers in place, the work has just begun. We are getting in gear. We are redefining the By-Laws, the UST logo, creating Standing Committees, and planning for a grand reunion in September 2001 in Michigan. The primary focus right now is getting the membership drive in full gear. These are just a few of the many tasks that need to be done to move the USTNAA forward. We will need your help!

For the benefit of those who will be reading this for the first time, learning the genesis of USTNAA will help. It all started in Las Vegas on February 10, 1995 during the PNAAC convention when a group of Thomasian nurses held an organizational meeting. In July 1998, the first set of officers were elected and inducted during the PNAAC convention in San Francisco. USTNAA Chicago readily embraced the idea, followed by UST Houston. During the PNAAC convention in

February 1997, UST Houston hosted the first USTNAA grand reunion. It was a smashing success! Now as we enter a new millennium, the vision has once again come alive and I hope that we keep the momentum. To succeed, we need every Thomasian nurse to spread the word and actively assist in the building of a national organization we can all be proud of! Can we count on you? Join us and be counted in. Together, we will make a difference for our alma mater, the University of Santo Tomas.

USTNAA EDITORIAL BOARD

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From the Editor:

This newsletter is a biannual publication of the USTNAA. We welcome suggestions/feedback regarding the newsletter. If you've been promoted, presented a lecture/speech at a conference, earned certification, been recognized for an achievement, or received an honor or award, let your colleagues know. If you wish to publish items in the THOMASIAN NEWSLETTER send your manuscripts and information (via mail in a diskette or email) to: Rose P. Estrada, MSN,RNC,CPN. 27 Zaleski Drive Sayreville, NJ 08872. Email : Rpestrada@aol.com. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit, revise or condense article(s) for clarity and space .

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 For a successful reunion, everyone is invited to share their time and effort. Let us join hands together and work for a happy and enjoyable reunion on the last weekend of September 2001.

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Adviser – Dr. Anita Daus

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Join the USTNAA reunion in Michigan on the last weekend of September, 2001

USTNAA Membership Application

Name: _____ Year Graduate _____
First Name Maiden Name Last Name

Address: (Home) _____
 (Work) _____

Area of Specialty: _____

Telephone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (Email) _____

Annual Membership Fee: \$25
 Payable to: USTNAA

Send Membership Fee and completed application to:
 Martha Cabarios
 38941 Marlborough, Sterling Heights, Michigan 48310
 Tel # (810) 264-8569 Email Address: CMCabarios@aol.com