

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Oct. 29, 2017

Media Room, KCCC

Good afternoon! So happy to see you all.

We see familiar faces, who have supported us graciously through many rough times and good times – The Bayanihans are here, The Filipino Seniors, KCCC Board of Directors, Cooksville Lion's Club, The past chairmen of KFCO, and The Mapuans.

We see new faces full of enthusiasm, who are adding to the strength & talents of KFCO, the different groups of dancers whose presence has enhanced the spirit of our events... The Giggle Gang, Love to Dance, Merry Loopers, and the New Argentine Tango.

Great to have you here! Your presence means a lot to us, so thank you so much, for joining us.

I am Rodel Meier, and in behalf of the Kalayaan Filipino Cultural Organization Executive Council, we warmly welcome each one of you here at the General Membership Meeting of KFCO.

Every two years, KFCO elects a new set of officers and today we will nominate and elect a new group to lead this organization for the next couple of years. We welcome and specially thank the COMELEC – meaning the Committee on Election – who will be monitoring our election process - they are past Chairmen – Danny Bitanga, Ralph Bunag & Ruffy Romano.

We also want you to have an enjoyable time with us, so we are offering some merienda to make sure no one feels hungry. We love you all, and please feel at home.

With this happy note, we will proceed with our agenda this afternoon, so may I shall ask every one to please stand while our Business Manager – Maria Guiao steps forward and lead us in prayer.

Earlier on, we distributed the minutes of last year's General Membership Meeting. We hope you took the time to read it. Any questions about the minutes? If there is none, will someone make a motion to accept this report. Thank you, it has been seconded. I declare the motion carried.

For the benefit of our friends who have joined us recently, we start our report with a brief touch of our history and how KCCC is very much related to us. The better you know of our story, the better your understanding is of both organizations. Although our names are similar, our functions, purpose and set up are different.

Kalayaan Organization was founded in February 28, 1983. Kalayaan, meaning freedom. The primary purpose of the organization is to unite Filipinos in commemorating the declaration of Philippine Independence on June 12, 1898 - and through this celebration, we try to keep our traditions and culture fresh, for us and for the next generations after us.

In 1995, Kalayaan was registered in Ontario as a non-profit organization under the name Kalayaan Filipino Cultural Organization. KFCO for short. The next year, the Constitution and by Laws was framed and ratified (to approve, to give official sanction to) to include the establishment and maintenance of a Filipino Community Centre. With a seed money of \$120,000 from KFCO, this 3-unit office space where we are now, was bought and KCCC was born. (How this seed money was generated is a remarkable story by itself). It was decided then, that it will be called Kalayaan Cultural Community Centre - KCCC for short.

KCCC is registered as a charitable organization, it has it's own Board of Directors, that maintains and manages this community centre. We are both Kalayaan, but with different functions.

We support KCCC as a sister organization, and together, we serve the community thru meaningful programs and activities.

So in behalf of both Kalayaan Organizations, we appreciate your presence in sustaining us to exist. You are part of Kalayaan, and Kalayaan represents our culture with honor in the community. Kalayaan is your Community Center - we come here to enjoy, to laugh, to celebrate, to dance and keep fit. It is a place to unite us.

Now the report.

KFCO focuses on three major events every year namely: The Kalayaan Gala Night, The Kalayaan Picnic and The Philippine Festival Mississauga.

Each event has its own major challenges. The Gala is a fundraising event, and the two other events are free public events.

The Kalayaan Gala Night is focused on commemorating Philippine Independence. This year, we held the Gala at the Mississauga Convention Centre. We also wanted to honor our past Chairmen of Kalayaan, and eleven of them came for a memorable reunion. They opened the Gala by marching in with the Philippine and Canadian flags. Each one was honored for their contribution of leadership, including the chairmen who were not able to attend, and the ones who sadly have passed away. It was a meaningful touch of KFCO history, shared with old and new members. Sadly, just recently, we lost another important figure in our list of Chairmen, Jean Jovellanos, who contributed significantly in the formation of Kalayaan. We will miss her greatly.

The Kalayaan Picnic has continued this year through the leadership of Pons & Zeny Canonizado, with the undying support of the Filipino Seniors leading the opening parade and enacting a historical play created by Vangie Alcasid, the president of the Filipino Seniors of Mississauga. It is a whole day of entertainment led by the Josie De Leon school of performances and various dancing groups. It was a hot day and the picnic ended with a sweet note... an ice cream treat for everyone.

On a thankful note: The week before the Picnic, Pons got so sick, Zeny rushed him to St. Joseph's Hospital and was diagnosed with brain aneurysm. In the nick of time, he was saved. It was a worrying situation, and it was also a miracle, and by God's grace, Pons is recovered, doing well and is back here with us.

The name Philippine Festival Mississauga, replaces the former Fiesta Ng Kalayaan.

Philippine Festival Mississauga held at The Celebration Square, has steadily gained the City's approval as one of the favorite cultural festivals that Mississaugans love and enjoy. Our strong cultural presence visibly stands out among many ethnic groups in the Peel Region and beyond. Our audience count this year is in the 18,000 for two days. The Philippine Festival has its own Committee that plans & works on many deadlines and KFCO is the organization that supports this huge undertaking. Our Financial Report is one of the first that needs to be submitted and scrutinized by the City.

Thanks to our hardworking treasurer Josie Salac – for her commitment in preparing our financial statements.

Thanks to the outstanding leadership of Linda Carin and Resty del Rosario and the strong partnerships of Fiesta Filipina Dance Troupe, The Culture Philippines Dance Troupe, The Toronto Paskuhan Group, KCCC, the Musika Mississauga, and the strong support of TFC – The Filipino channel, who provides our guest artist from the Philippines.

The two-day festival welcomed 12 visiting dignitaries on the opening day, plus a special visit of Chief Brian La Forme of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nations, on the second day as part of our celebration of Canada’s history.

This year, we saw an incredible increase of high school volunteers who helped manage the Children’s Village. We have approximately 65 volunteers helping out in the festival. The Culture Division of the City approved a grant of \$15,000 to help pay the rent of Celebration Square with the services of City staff. We feel fortunate to have a beautiful and well designed public facility, with free public parking around.

Our operating fund comes from major sponsors, vendors & rental of booths, and we work within our budget.

The dinner/dance in the Spring and two Bingo events this year has supplemented a bit to our income. We plan to add more Bingo events for next year for added funds.

We usually have a reserved fund of three thousand, but this year we used this reserve fund to cover the cost of the picnic. For next year, we plan to add more Bingo events to recover our reserve fund.

Our simplified financial report is next and is presented by our treasurer Josie Salac, it has been reviewed and audited by Rey Urbano, our auditor.

I now give the floor to our treasurer.

** (The floor is open for questions on the financial report).

** (Pons stood up and made a remark about the picnic statement, about collectibles, Etc. which surprised us all Josie remarked that she will have to adjust the report if Pons has unreported collectibles.)

** (Close the treasurer’s report - and lively discussion – move on to next agenda item which is the acknowledgement of outgoing officers and election of new officers.)

Our success as an organization is shared among the 10 officers who work closely together on each project to the best we can.

I would like to ask our Executive Council to come quickly forward to the front and join me please. (Babeth rounds up everyone ahead of time) (acknowledge each one)

Here is our Executive Council. Pls. wave your hand as your name is called.

Eula - our helpful vice chairman

Rene – our secretary for 4 years

Josie - our beloved & patient treasurer

Fe – our hard working vice treasurer – also everyone’s helper

Maria – an amazing leader and our Business Manager

Pons – our determined Picnic organizer

Babeth – our writer and reporter for two terms

Rey – our young & smart auditor – is out of town

Ruffy – our advisor and father of Kalayaan

We are a team that relied on each other, covered for each other without hesitation. Our term has come to an end – and a new, elected team will take after us.

You all contributed countless hours of volunteer work to shape our events with fun and memorable times. Thank you very much for your valuable services.

** Before we go, can I request the present KCCC Board of Directors to please join us here quickly. We have a small donation for you. (bring up Estring, etc. if present.)

** Presentation of cheque of \$3, 600, to KCCC, Charity Roda accepted cheque. From the Philippine Festival Committee and partners, we are honored to give you this cheque of \$3,600 to support Kalayaan Centre.

(While the officers of both organizations are all in front.... Acknowledge office space.)

In February of this year, we sent a formal letter to the KCCC Board of Directors requesting a small space to put a filing cabinet and table as an official office location.

We are glad to announce that this request has been granted. Our office is located inside the Library Room , and we thank the KCCC Board of Directors for allowing us an office space right here at the Centre.

** Applause for the acknowledgement

*Presentation of proposed amendments.

I'd like to call on Rene Sevilla to take the floor as we present the proposed amendments to the CBL –(Constitution & By Laws).

I am giving the floor to the COMELEC – for the election process.

New elected Executive Council:

Eula Rulloda - Chairman

Val Mape - Vice Chairman

Secretary - Fely Castello

Asst. Secretary - Becky Cruz

Treasurer - Fong Tsaur

Asst. Treasurer - Fe Tabago

Auditor - Josie Salac

Rene Sevilla - PRO

Marilyn Palileo - Business Manager