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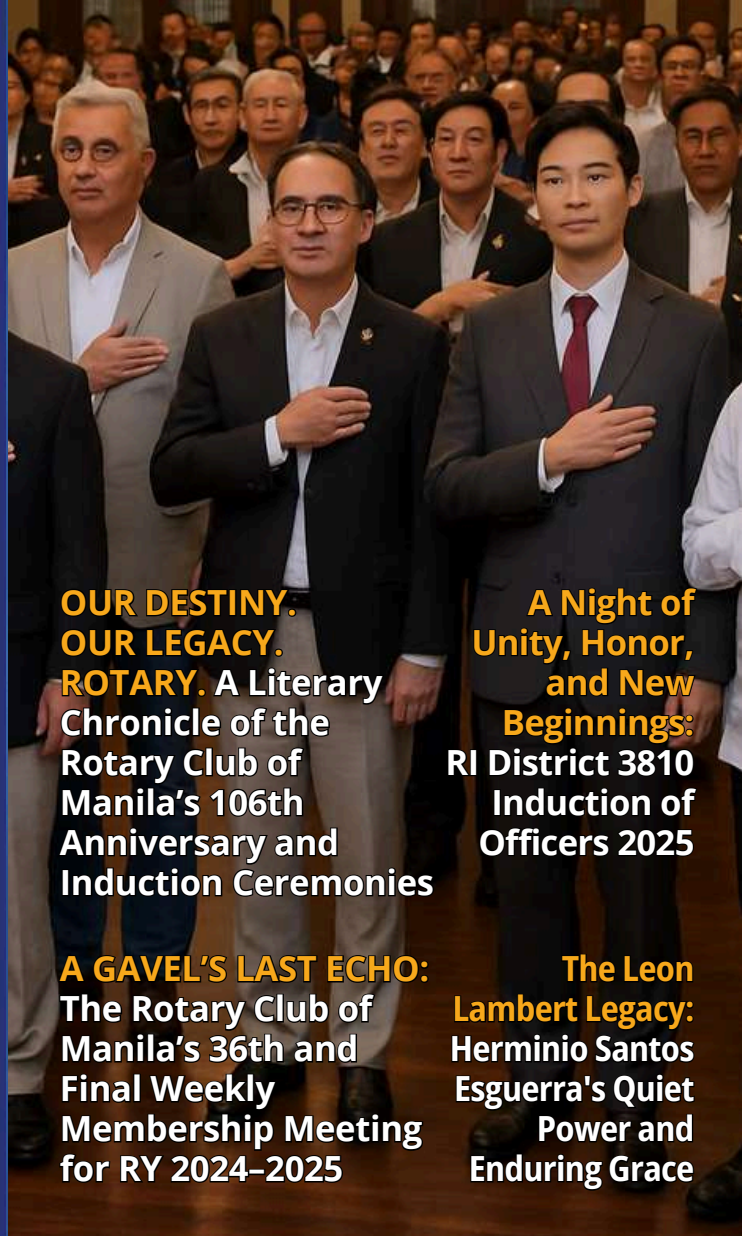
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The First Club Assembly for R.Y. 2025-2026



**OUR DESTINY.
OUR LEGACY.
ROTARY.** A Literary
Chronicle of the
Rotary Club of
Manila's 106th
Anniversary and
Induction Ceremonies

**A Night of
Unity, Honor,
and New
Beginnings:**
RI District 3810
Induction of
Officers 2025

A GAVEL'S LAST ECHO:
The Rotary Club of
Manila's 36th and
Final Weekly
Membership Meeting
for RY 2024-2025

**The Leon
Lambert Legacy:**
Herminio Santos
Esguerra's Quiet
Power and
Enduring Grace

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PROGRAM

Club Assembly
1st Weekly Membership Meeting
Rotary Year 2025-2026
Thursday, July 10, 2025, 12:30 PM
Manila Polo Club

Moderators: **SEC. ANTONILO "Anton" D.C. MAURICIO**
and **BLA CARLOS "Caloy" G. SERAPIO**

PART I

12:00 NN Registration
12:30 PM Call to Order | **PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA**
Invocation | **DIR. RAMI CHAHWAN**
Philippine National Anthem | **AVP**
Rotary Club of Manila Hymn |
RCM WF Music Choral
The Four (4) Way Test |
DIR. EDWIN H. HERNANDEZ

Birthday Celebrants

June 28 PVP Manny Dy
Rtn. Nando Gaspar
June 30 PP Archit Bartolome
July 10 Rtn. Ingmar Bertelsen

Maligayang Bati / Happy Birthday Song
RCM WF Choral

PART II

12:55 PM President's Time | **PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA**

Prologue and Dialogue

Special Messages

RTN. DELFIN "Del" N. LORENZANA

Program Chairman

RTN. JOHN NICO "Nico" P. VALENCIA

Fellowship Program Chairman

PD AMADO "Amading" D. VALDEZ

Program Committee Member

Presentation of Survey Results

DIR. JASON M. BOGOVICH

Open Forum

President's Remarks | **PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA**

2:00 PM Adjournment

EDITORIAL

Reginald T. Yu
Editor-in-Chief



THE first Club Assembly of the Rotary Club of Manila for Rotary Year 2025–2026, held during the new administration’s inaugural regular weekly membership meeting, was not just another gathering — it was a bold reaffirmation of our shared commitment to honesty, accountability, and continuous improvement.

In a world that too often avoids difficult conversations, we chose the path of truth-telling. We gathered not merely to celebrate new beginnings or echo lofty aspirations, but to engage in a candid and constructive exchange — one that placed our Club’s strengths, shortcomings, and the realities of change under a common light.

There was no sugar-coating, no sidestepping. The issues raised —

whether on membership engagement, project relevance, internal systems, or the evolving identity of RCM in the 21st century — were real and timely. They were spoken not with malice, but with the sincere hope of a stronger, more vibrant, and more inclusive Rotary Club of Manila. This is the mark of a mature organization: one unafraid to look at itself in the mirror and ask, “How can we do better?”

And that spirit was reciprocated by the newly-inducted Directors and Officers, whose presence at the Assembly was more than symbolic. They came not as mere functionaries, but as stewards ready to listen, to learn, and to lead. Their willingness to hear the membership out — not behind closed doors, but in open forum — reflects the kind of transparent and participatory leadership our Club both needs and deserves.

The conversations were passionate. At times, they were uncomfortable. But they were necessary. For it is only by surfacing long-held frustrations, exchanging divergent perspectives, and engaging in respectful debate that an institution like ours can continue to evolve. Growth is not born out of comfort — it is born out of dialogue,

dissent, and the resolve to do what is right, even when it is hard.

Let this Club Assembly be remembered not only for the questions it raised, but for the answers it inspired — not just from those on the dais, but from every Rotarian who chose to speak up, show up, and believe that we can, and must, be better.

This is the essence of “Service Above Self” — to put our Club, our mission, and our legacy above personal convenience or pride.

And so, as we embark on this new Rotary Year under the banner of Unite for Good, may we remain steadfast in our unity, bold in our vision, and humble in our willingness to listen. Because the most enduring legacy we can build is not merely in monuments or awards — but in the kind of Club we leave behind for those who will one day sit where we do now.

Together, let us shape a Rotary Club of Manila that is not only the First in Asia — but also first in courage, first in excellence, and first in heart.



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Associate

RENZO NIÑO M. ROSALES
Associate

KEITH MATTHEW R. CAMACHO
Associate

JOAQUIN ANTONIO S. DILLERA
Associate

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AT the outset, let me express my deep appreciation to this year's BALITA Editor-in-Chief, PVP Reggie Yu, for once again accepting this huge and important role. With EIC Reggie and his team managing our weekly newsletter, we can be assured of a Balita newsletter with impeccable quality, one that our Club can truly be proud of.

I also like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to everyone who attended the 106th Anniversary Celebration and Induction Ceremony that was successfully held at the Solaire Grand Ballroom on July 3. It was such a joy to see so many Manila Rotarians, with spouses and children, all enjoying a great night of fellowship and revelry. Truly, everyone's presence made our first meeting for Rotary year 2025-2026 a memorable, meaningful and magical event. Hopefully, the great attendance that we had last July 3 will be replicated and sustained in the weekly meetings throughout the year.

As you know, we kicked off this brand new Rotary Year with an activity at Hospicio de San Jose on July 1. We had



Raoul C. Creencia
President

speakers on the importance of addressing malnutrition, the imperative of oral health care, and the basics of handwashing hygiene. Our Club thereafter donated various ABBOTT nutrition products, as well as toothpaste and toothbrush packages. We also treated all residents of Hospicio for lunch. It was service in action, anchored on duty, and fueled by commitment. It was a day that was meant to set the tone for the year. It was a day to remember.

On July 5, I and a good number of Manila Rotarians attended the District Handover Ceremonies, where we witnessed the formal unveiling of a new chapter, a new theme (Unite for Good), and a celebration of the just completed magical year. The following day, July 6,

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

the Rotaract Clubs of District 3810 had their District Learning Seminar, and I was invited to speak before this well-attended gathering of young leaders. It was an opportunity for me to interact with this year's active members, including Rotaract Club presidents. Indeed, it is always fulfilling to share some thoughts and impart some advice to our Rotaractors.

Today, we are back at the Manila Polo Club for our weekly meeting. Dubbed "Prologue and Dialogue", we are having our first Club Assembly, which I hope will be both positive and productive. Your RCM Board and the Program Committee headed by Chair Del Lorenzana recognize that a Club is essential for ensuring alignment, engagement, and readiness of all our members to carry out our goals and service projects. Today, we should



frankly, yet constructively and respectfully, discuss all our concerns for the betterment of our beloved RCM. Through this essential club activity, we hope that all members are informed, aligned, and empowered to serve effectively during the Rotary year.

I hope that all of us are raring and excited to engage and participate in our various projects and activities. I hope that we are all excited to meet and greet our brothers in this club; for as a membership organization, we need to also nurture our fraternal bond with the amazing gentlemen who all share and live our motto: service above self.

Let this be the year when we all purposively become a force for good.

Let this be the year when we all UNITE FOR GOOD!





A GAVEL'S LAST ECHO:

The Rotary Club of Manila's 36th and Final Weekly Membership Meeting for RY 2024–2025

by PVP Reginald T. Yu

THE air at the Manila Polo Club that Thursday afternoon held a quiet gravity — not heavy, but reverent. Beneath the soft clinking of cutlery and hum of familiar greetings, one could sense the pulse of a club nearing the end of its annual odyssey. This was not just any Thursday. This was the Rotary Club of Manila's 36th and final Weekly Membership Meeting for Rotary Year 2024–2025 — a gathering not of farewells, but of fulfilled covenants.

At precisely 12:30 PM, President **Eduardo “Jujut” V. Enriquez III** called the meeting to order. No theatrics, no grand flourish — just the confident voice of a man who had carried the weight of tradition with grace and grit. By his side stood Incoming Club Secretary **Antonilo “Anton” D.C. Mauricio**, today's program moderator, whose steady hand orchestrated a well-paced flow of ceremonial and spontaneous moments alike.



The invocation, led by RCMFI Chairman **Reginald “Reggie” T. Yu**, was more than a prayer—it was a benediction for a Rotary year marked by impact, tempered through storms, and lit by quiet victories. As the **RCM World Famous Music Chorale** rendered the Philippine National Anthem and the Rotary Hymn in rousing harmony, the chamber softened into reflection. Director **Teddy Kalaw** followed with the Four-Way Test, grounding the day in



the club’s unshakable moral compass.

It was a moment of lightness when Rtn. **Chito Tagaysay** was serenaded with the birthday song by the Chorale, his smile wide as the room lifted its spirits. In Rotary, even the smallest celebrations carry weight — they remind us that people, not programs, are at the heart of service.

But the heart of the day belonged to the awardees.



President Eduardo “Jujut” V. Enriquez III called the meeting to order.



RCMFI Chairman Reginald “Reggie” T. Yu led the invocation.



Incoming Club Secretary Antonilo "Anton" D.C. Mauricio served as the moderator.



Director Teddy Kalaw delivered the Four-Way Test.

CLUB AWARDS

5 Years of Rotary Service



PVP Reginald T. Yu, BLA Hansel Joseph Michael Tillmann, and Rtn. Juan Dayang

10 Years of Rotary Service



Rtn. Steve Mommaerts

20 Years of Rotary Service



Rtn. Daniel Go, PD Arsenio Locsin, and Rtn. Wilfredo Peliño

25 Years of Rotary Service



Rtn. Jose De Venecia Jr. (represented by Mr. Aldwin Requejo) and PD Sixto T. Benedicto

30 Years of Rotary Service



Rtn. Henry Villarica (received by PD Bebot Pineda)

35 Years of Rotary Service



Rtn. Romeo Nones

40 Years of Rotary Service



PD Patricio F. Pineda, Jr.

Best Attendance



Rtn. Carlos Serapio, PDG Vicente Carlos, PD Oscar Del Rosario, PDG Rodolfo Bediones, and Pres. Eduardo Enriquez, III

Star Rotarian of the Year: Secretary Delfin Lorenzana

With his trademark wit, former Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana stepped up and asked the room, “What is a Star Rotarian?” The answer, as he later shared — gleaned humorously via ChatGPT — was a composite of what he modestly claimed not to be: a bringer of new members, an indefatigable leader, a beacon of positive energy.



Star Rotarian of the Year, Secretary Delfin Lorenzana



Rotarian Delfin Lorenzana

Yet by the end of his speech, no one doubted that he was precisely that. He described the “Star Rotarian” as the gold standard of club life — someone indispensable, consistent, and inspiring. With a smile, he said, “I sincerely hope that I will live up to these criteria.” Unbeknownst to him, in the eyes of his peers, he already had.

Rotarian of the Year: Programs Chair Carlos “Caloy” Serapio

If Lorenzana’s speech was laced with humor, Caloy Serapio’s acceptance was pure heart. “Service is its own reward,” he declared early on, echoing the soul of Rotary with quiet conviction. At 75, having never joined a civic organization until now, Caloy confessed he found in RCM not just a platform, but a home.



Rotarian of the Year, Programs Chair Carlos “Caloy” Serapio

With warmth and candor, he invoked Fiddler on the Roof — a metaphor on tradition as balance, on the need to remember where we come from lest we lose ourselves. And when he spoke of those who supported his journey — Jeff Lord, Ms. Lhea, Jonathan, Ricky, Anna, and more — it was not lip service. It was gratitude sharpened by memory.



Programs Chair Carlos “Caloy” Serapio

He called the Rotaractors his “Augmenting Force,” and with fond teasing described the “late” Ralph Joseph as “always late.” The room laughed, but beneath it all, one could sense this was not just a speech. It was a love letter to a club that had changed him.

Leon J. Lambert Award: PP Herminio “Hermie” Esguerra

When Past President Hermie Esguerra stepped forward to accept the highest award the Rotary Club of Manila can bestow, he did so with solemn humility. “Leon Lambert’s legacy is not only our history, it is our inheritance,” he said.



Leon J. Lambert Awardee PP Herminio “Hermie” Esguerra

His 13-year journey with the Club was distilled into a testimony that honored

both pain and purpose. “There were moments of profound impact,” he acknowledged, “and moments that tested our unity.” But in true Rotarian fashion, he reminded his peers that leadership isn’t about applause — it is about resilience, bridge-building, and integrity in the face of division.



PP Herminio “Hermie” Esguerra

His call to “build and not break, to heal and not harm, to unite and not divide” fell like an anthem, uniting everyone in a shared reminder that legacy is not in what we achieve — but in what we sustain together.

Valedictory Address: RCMFI Chair Reggie T. Yu

With precision and poetry, Chair Reggie Yu delivered his final address — a tour de force of gratitude and stewardship.

His message painted a mosaic of a Foundation that didn't merely fund projects, but breathed life into them. From ₱2 million for Hospicio de San Jose, to emergency aid for typhoons Egay, Odette, Carina, and Kristine, to compassionate initiatives for fire survivors, prisoners, and even stray animals — RCMFI under his helm became a beacon of calibrated kindness.



RCMFI Chair Reggie T. Yu delivered his valedictory address.

He proudly announced PCNC's fresh three-year accreditation and DSWD's commendation, not for himself, but for the board and staff who carried the weight beside him: Amy Babiano, Jonathan Lagarto, Anna Kun Toledo, and a battalion of trustees and volunteers. His gratitude was detailed, heartfelt, and complete.

"To my successors," he said, "I pass the torch with joy and full confidence... because at RCManila Foundation, we don't just serve — we stand together."

Final Address: President Eduardo "Jujut" Enriquez III

Then came the voice that had anchored the Club through a year of quiet storms and thunderous change.

President Jujut Enriquez, in his final address, invoked Hemingway: "Be prepared to work without applause." The quote hung in the air, not as a lament, but as a guiding light — a mantra that defined his leadership.

He outlined the three pillars of his presidency: safeguarding the Club's legacy, embracing transformation, and upholding the Object of Rotary. He acknowledged that the year had its share of controversy, of hard decisions, but he assured the room: "We acted with integrity. Not for popularity, but for principle."

His words rang not with bitterness, but with a seasoned understanding. He saw change not as threat but as necessity. "Transformation doesn't mean losing our identity," he said. "It means respecting our traditions while opening the door to innovation."



President Jujut Enriquez delivered his final address.

As he turned over the gavel to President-Elect Raoul Creencia, Jujut didn't list his achievements — he honored the journey. He had parked his ego, walked the road, and now left behind not just a report card, but a living model of what Rotary leadership could be.

At 2:00 PM, the meeting was formally adjourned. But in truth, the Rotary year had ended not with the stroke of a gavel, but with the soul of a gathering that reminded every Rotarian present: service, in its purest form, is the applause that matters most.

And somewhere, between the laughter of friends and the soft strains of the Chorale's final notes, a new Rotary chapter quietly began.





OUR DESTINY. OUR LEGACY. ROTARY.

A Literary Chronicle of the Rotary Club of Manila's 106th Anniversary and Induction Ceremonies

by PVP Reginald T. Yu

THERE are nights that simply mark time. And then there are nights that mark history.

Such was the evening of **July 3, 2025**, when the Grand Ballroom of **Solaire Resort and Casino** in Parañaque City shimmered in stately elegance, brimming not only with tradition but with transformation. Beneath cascading chandeliers and surrounded by the gleam of crystal and camaraderie, the Rotary

Club of Manila, Asia's oldest and most storied Rotary club, commemorated its **106th founding anniversary** — a milestone measured not by the passage of years, but by the depth and breadth of its enduring service to humanity.

But this celebration of more than 300 guests and Rotarians was not merely a look backward; it was a gaze forward — bold, purposeful, and deeply stirring. Alongside the homage to a century of



legacy came the solemn **Induction of the Club's new Board of Directors and Officers**, as well as those of the **RCManila Foundation, Inc.** It was a night when torches were passed — not with resignation, but with resolve; a night when duty met destiny, and legacy welcomed leadership anew.

As the luminaries of public service, business, and civic life converged — from senators and secretaries to past presidents, pillars of philanthropy, and promising young Rotarians — the evening unfolded with pageantry and promise. But at its heart pulsed something deeper: an invisible but powerful thread of purpose, that unmistakable Rotary creed of *Service Above Self*.

The highlight of the evening came in a moment as moving as it was historic. For the first time, the Rotary Club of Manila's **World-Famous Music Choral** performed the Club's newly minted theme song, "*Our Destiny. Our Legacy. Rotary*," composed by no less than President **Raoul Creencia** himself. With its stirring lyrics and hair-raising orchestral arrangement, the anthem



punctuated the end of President Raoul's inaugural address and electrified the ballroom with its resounding call to unity and service. The audience rose to their feet in a spontaneous, thunderous ovation — not only in applause, but in affirmation of the vision it carried.

Yet the evening was not only marked by grandeur and gravitas, but also by grace. Later in the program, in a touching and tender moment that captured the soul of the occasion, President Raoul was serenaded once again by the Chorale — this time, with the timeless 1936 Jerome



Kern and Dorothy Fields ballad, *"The Way You Look Tonight."* As he shared a dance with his wife, **Atty. Mylene Marcia-Creencia**, the room melted into quiet awe and delight, a scene so evocative it seemed to belong more to cinema than ceremony — an affirmation not only of service and leadership, but of love and partnership.

This was not a celebration for celebration's sake. It was a reaffirmation — of purpose, of promise, of people who choose every day to serve not for applause, but for impact. As past glories were remembered and new banners were raised, the spirit of the evening made one thing clear: the legacy of the Rotary Club of Manila is not only alive — it is evolving.

This is the story of that night — a night not merely of transition, but of transformation. A night where songs were sung, vows renewed, and futures forged. A night where hearts beat not only with pride in the past, but with passion for the future.

A night that reminds us who we are — and calls us ever more deeply to who we are meant to be.

This is the story of *Our Destiny. Our Legacy. Rotary.*



A New President at the Helm

As the ceremony reached its solemn crescendo, **Atty. Raoul C. Creencia** — inducted as the 106th President of Asia’s first and most storied Rotary Club — delivered a stirring inaugural address *impromptu*. With poetic cadence and oratorical clarity, President Raoul reminded the gathered Rotarians why they do what they do.

“Why are we in Rotary?” he asked, inviting each one to reflect not just on the **what** of their work, but on the **why** of their calling. He declared that this year’s

guiding theme — **“Our Destiny. Our Legacy. Rotary.”** — is not mere wordplay, but the philosophical compass of the Club’s service journey.

“Destiny is not about fate — it is about purpose,” he declared. “Legacy is not just what we leave behind — it is how we live our lives every day.”

His message resonated deeply with Rotarians, old and new alike. He spoke of partnerships forged and renewed, including memoranda of understanding with institutions such as the Anti-Red Tape Authority, Philippine Red Cross,



President Raoul C. Creencia — inducted as the 106th President of Asia's first and most storied Rotary Club — delivered a stirring inaugural address impromptu.

JCI Manila, DUALTech, and more — each a brick in the edifice of collective impact. Two new sister clubs — Rotary Club of Lipa South and RC Kandaya — were also welcomed into RCM's expanding network of fellowship.

He urged unity — not as a rhetorical flourish, but as Rotary's necessary lifeblood. "Disunity," he warned, "is anathema to Rotary." And as the evening closed, he unveiled an original anthem — a composition entitled "**Destiny. Legacy. Rotary.**" — performed by the world-famous RCM Chorale, encapsulating the spirit of this new chapter.

The Chairman's Legacy

Equally compelling was the address of **RCMFI Chairman Alexander "Alex" Cureg**, who succeeded past chairman Reggie Yu. Cureg shared his heartfelt commitment to not only continuing the Foundation's mission but elevating it with a visionary proposal — the creation of an **RCMFI Legacy Endowment Fund**.



During his address, RCMFI Chairman Alex Cureg reaffirmed his commitment to the Foundation's mission and proposed the creation of an RCMFI Legacy Endowment Fund.

"This fund," he said, "will make our Foundation more sustainable and responsive... better equipped to meet the demands of the Rotary Club of Manila."

Leading by example, Chairman Alex

and his wife Anna pledged **₱500,000** to launch the Fund, matched by a ₱500,000 donation from Past Chair Lito Sibayan. Other early contributors included Rtn. John Simon, Past Directors Philip Ong and Ner Lonzaga, and Rotarians Hermie Esguerra, Boy Guevarra, and Willie Peliño — all demonstrating the deep well of generosity that defines RCM's culture of giving.

Chairman Cureg closed his speech with two iconic exhortations: JFK's **"Ask not what your country can do for you..."** and Gandhi's **"Be the change you want to see in the world."** With these timeless words, he beckoned every Rotarian to look inward — and then to act outward.

A Statesman's Charge

When **Former DFA Secretary and RCM Past President Alberto "Bert" G. Romulo** stood to deliver the keynote message and conduct the formal charging of officers, the ballroom hushed. Here stood a man whose life has mirrored the Rotary ideal — a man of diplomacy, integrity, and steadfast leadership.

He honored the Club's historic achievements and called its current leaders to be worthy heirs to a century of greatness. "You are not only inheriting a legacy," he said, addressing President Raoul and the incoming officers. "You are shaping what that legacy will become."



Former DFA Secretary and RCM Past President Alberto "Bert" G. Romulo honored the Club's historic achievements and called its current leaders to be worthy heirs to a century of greatness.

He invoked the names of Rotary Manila giants who also served as statesmen — Gil Puyat, Carlos P. Romulo, Emilio Abello, Eduardo Romualdez — reminding the present generation that history looks kindly on those who serve with courage, and judges harshly those who merely coast.

"Let your term be marked by action that speaks louder than words," he said with conviction. "Serve with honor. Lead with purpose."

Romulo's closing message — poetic in its cadence — asked the Rotarians to renew their dedication to the 4-Way Test, to the enduring principles of "Service Above Self," and to the dream of a brighter, kinder world.

The District's Endorsement

From the wider Rotary landscape came **R.I. District 3810 Governor Mary Mei Rodrigo**, who graced the event with her own message of celebration and continuity. With sincerity and pride, she paid tribute to both the outgoing and incoming RCM Presidents and affirmed her full support for the Club's initiatives.



R.I. District 3810 Governor Mary Mei Rodrigo graced the event with her own message of celebration and continuity.

“Your 106-year journey,” she said, “has shaped the Rotary landscape not only in the Philippines but across the region.”

Referencing this year's international Rotary theme — **“United for Good”** — DG Mary Mei emphasized that collaboration is the key to meaningful change. “Let us journey together,” she said, “toward creating lasting impact in the lives of those we serve.”

A Century Plus Six: Still First, Still Forward

The Rotary Club of Manila stands not just as Asia's first Rotary club, but as a living testament to what an institution built on ideals can become. Its 106th year does not signal a slowing down — but a rising to greater heights. What began in 1919 as a fledgling circle of visionaries has now become a beacon of Rotary service and leadership across continents and generations.



The night at Solaire — adorned with speeches, songs, pledges, and pride — was not only an induction. It was a reaffirmation.

A reaffirmation of **destiny** — that Manila's Rotarians are called not merely to serve, but to lead.

A reaffirmation of **legacy** — that what was built yesterday must be lived today and extended tomorrow.

And most of all, a reaffirmation of **Rotary** — that eternal fellowship of leaders and dreamers, whose shared goal is not recognition, but relevance.

Indeed, as the final chords of the RCM Chorale's original anthem echoed across the ballroom, one truth stood clear:

“Ours was first to be — that’s our legacy. Our destiny, our legacy... Rotary.”









PROTOCOLS having been observed, I wish to recognize all our esteemed guests, friends, partners, and fellow Rotarians who are all here. Good evening to you all!

I am awed and inspired by everyone's presence. It is a busy week, a busy Thursday, yet you chose to be here. So let me ask: WHY exactly are we here? Why do we do the things we do? Specifically to my fellow Rotarians: Why are we in Rotary? We have surely been asked that question several times. Tonight is a good time to once again look into our WHY. Every day, in fact, is a good day to redefine, redefine, and reinforce our WHY.

When I was elected in October last year, I wrote a one-pager, some sort of a Guiding Principle for 2025, highlighting our club's Destiny and Legacy. I presented this to the incoming Board, which was warmly received and adopted. I wrote the Council of Past Presidents a week later, I reiterated the 2025 vision -- redefining our destiny, and reclaiming our legacy.

Tonight, allow me to highlight these three words – Destiny. Legacy. Rotary. Separately, each word is powerful on its own.

But together—they tell our story.

Destiny is not about fate. It is about purpose. The Rotary Club of Manila was born of a calling -- to serve, lead, and to uplift. From the moment our

Inaugural Address | President Raoul C. Creencia

charter was signed in 1919, from the moment our Club became the first in Asia, our destiny was set -- to be a force for good.

Legacy is not just what we leave behind - but also how we live our lives every day. It is not built merely on what we have done, *it is built on why we do it. For over a century, our Club has blazed



the trail, left its handprints on history, and pursued impactful projects anchored on our why.

And then there is Rotary — the bond that ties us together; a global movement of people of action; a fellowship of doers, thinkers, givers, and builders. Rotary is where service becomes impact. Where friendship becomes leadership. It is here in Rotary where I met these amazing men in our Club, who despite their heavy professional commitments,

still have time and make time to serve. It is here in Rotary that I befriended these self-effacing individuals who serve the community with dedication and passion. It is here in Rotary where I met my amazing classmates, united chosen Presidents who have all the heart to render service above self.

In the past couple of years, we have been encouraged to serve to change lives, to imagine Rotary, to create hope, to spread Rotary's magic. This year, we are called upon to **UNITE FOR GOOD**. You will surely agree with me that this exhortation has come at a perfect time. With everything that is going on around us, the concept of, and the call for unity becomes more compelling than ever.

My RCM brothers, my fellow Rotarians, let us unite and remain united.

Let us unite for our club and for our District.

Let us remember, only when we are united can we truly and collectively imagine Rotary with a magical ability to create hope and change lives. Only when we unite for good can we be a force for good.

So this Rotary year, let us take that extra step to meaningfully unite – to forgive, to move on, and to act as one.

Inaugural Address | President Raoul C. Creencia

Remember, disunity is anathema to Rotary.

Two days ago, we kicked off the year by invoking Divine guidance and strength at the Hospicio de San Jose, where we also had our malnutrition, oral health care, and WASH projects and orientation. RCM and Hospicio's partnership will be strengthened this year.

And speaking of stronger partnerships, earlier tonight, we signed various MOAs and MOUs to strengthen existing partnerships, forge new ones, and reactivate former allies in service. The agreements are with –the Anti-Red Tape Authority – represented by Secretary Ernesto Perez (ARTA Director-General), Philippine Red Cross – represented by Chairman Richard Dick Gordon; World Surgical Foundation Philippines – represented by its President Dr. Lester Suntay and Chairperson Arlene Keh, Philippine Retailers Association – represented by its President Ms. Alice Liu, Chairman Bob Claudio, and Board Director Lorenzo Formoso, InnovationPH – represented by Marc Christian Gulle (Administrator) and Grace Fernandez (President), PETA-Asia – represented by Ms. Ashley Fruno, JCI Manila – represented by

President Jan Adrian Padiernos and EVP Eikon Conrad Javaluyas, DUALTech Foundation – represented by Messrs. Jerry Muhi, Jose Jacob, and Leo Calderon, and WASH Education Pty Ltd – represented by Engrs. Kathy Faigal and Engr Ira Manuel.



We also signed two Sister Club Agreements with Rotary Club of Lipa South, represented by its President Joseph Vicente Lim, and Rotarian Rene Policarpio; and with RC Kandaya – represented by its President Lolit Escano, PP Fema Adizas, IPDG Caroline Adrade.

Yes, tonight, we celebrate these alliances. And as we stand at the intersection of history and hope --

Inaugural Address | President Raoul C. Creencia



We say yes to stronger partnerships,
We say yes to meaningful projects,
We say yes to more service above self,
We say yes to more fun-filled fellowship activities, and
We say yes to a better world because of what we do.

My RCM brothers, our club is Asia's First, and therefore we are Asia's oldest, Let us also make it the boldest – in service, passion and heart.

As we welcome a brand new Rotary year, let us not just mark the passage of time – let us honor a journey that began over a century ago. Let us remind ourselves that service is not an obligation, it is our identity. Let us remind ourselves that leadership is not a

position that we seek, but a promise that we keep. Finally, let us remind ourselves that the future is not a destination we wait for; it is a direction that we build.

So let us unite, join hands, and build a new direction.

Let us build a memorable Rotary Year together.

Destiny. Legacy. Rotary. I conclude this message with a composition that brings focus to these three powerful words. Joining me here to share this song with you is the Rotary Club of Manila World Famous Chorale. May each word and each note that we sing bring forth the hope, aspirations, and inspiration that I wish to share with you tonight.



Our Destiny. Our Legacy. Rotary.

Music and Lyrics: Raoul C. Creencia

I.
here we are
with united sense of purpose
hand in hand
in our bold and selfless service
let's not fail to see
this was meant to be
life in Rotary
that's our destiny.

II.
we are one
a committed band of brothers
and much more
we unite for good and others
we will always be
One Club, One Rotary
ours was first to be
that's our legacy.

Chorus I:
and now we're here to seize the day

unite for good, yes, come what may
our history, one century of service to humanity
we share a common destiny
let's mark our legacy.

[Repeat II & Chorus I]

Bridge:
United we will always be
In serving our community
Let's proudly wave the flag of Rotary.... Rotary!

Chorus II:

unite for good and seize the day
let's be of service, come what may
it's Rotary, it's you and me
Manila was the first to be
this is our common destiny
let's stamp our legacy.

Our destiny, our legacy, ROTARY!

PP Alberto G. Romulo's Message at the Rotary Club of Manila's 106th Anniversary and Charging of New Officers



TODAY, we celebrate an important occasion — the 106th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Manila, the first and oldest Rotary Club in Asia. This is more than a celebration of longevity; it is a tribute to generations of Rotarians who have upheld the ideals of Service Above Self; who believed that true leadership is grounded in action, compassion, and commitment to others.

In 106 years, we have seen the world change in ways unimaginable — wars and peace, crises and recovery, pandemics and progress. Yet through it all, the Rotary Club of Manila has stood steadfast, adapting to the times while holding firm to our mission of service, fellowship, and ethical leadership. From pioneering community-driven programs to addressing pressing social needs, our legacy is written not in words, but in deeds and in the lives we have touched and served.

As we honor our past, we also look to the future — and tonight, we place that future in the capable hands of our **newly elected officers**, led by our President Raoul Creencia.

To our new officers, this is your moment. You are not only inheriting a legacy — you are shaping what that legacy will become.

You stand on the shoulders of giants who were once men who dared to dream big.

These giants were once Presidents of the Rotary Club of Manila just like President Raoul Creencia is now.

Senate President Gil Puyat was Manila Rotary President in 1940 and 1945,

Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Romulo was Manila Rotary President in 1935,

Executive Secretary Emilio Abello was Manila Rotary President in 1961, and

Finance Secretary Eduardo Romualdez was Manila Rotary President in 1953.

All these past Presidents of the Rotary Club of Manila were still active in Rotary

PP Alberto G. Romulo's Message

during my presidency. In 1978 when we celebrated Rotary's Diamond Anniversary in Asia and in the Philippines.

President Raoul Creencia you are among the past Presidents of Rotary Club of Manila who were giants in their own time. This is a challenge to you President Raoul to be a giant like them – in the world of service.

Just like when I was RCM President 48 years ago, you will face challenges, yes — but you will also find opportunities to ignite change, inspire hope, and innovate the way we serve. You have the full support of this great club behind you. We believe in your mission. We trust in your integrity. And we are excited for what you will achieve. Your chosen theme for our Club – **Our Destiny. Our Legacy. Rotary** – is truly inspiring and reflective of your sublime vision for this Rotary year.

As officers of the Rotary Club of Manila — the cradle of Rotary in Asia — you carry not only the hopes of your members, but also the proud legacy of over a century of leadership, fellowship, and compassion. Remember, you are not merely assuming titles... you are embracing **responsibility** — to your club, to your community, and to the enduring

ideals of Rotary. You are now the standard-bearers of “Service Above Self.”

Let your term be marked by action that speaks louder than words, by service that goes deeper than slogans, and by a spirit that transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary.

Serve with honor. Lead with purpose. And may your year be remembered as one of lasting impact.

And to all my fellow Rotarians, as we celebrate this milestone, let us renew our commitment to serve, to lead with humil-ity, and to embrace the spirit of Rotary.

May the Rotary flame burn ever brighter through your leadership President Raoul.

Today, let us again dedicate ourselves to the ideals of Rotary – to the Four-Way Test and to “Service Above Self”.

Let us continue to pursue this vision
Let us continue to pursue this dream
Until in God's chosen time
We attain our vision
We achieve our dream.

Godspeed.

DG Mary Mei V. Rodrigo's Message District Governor, RI District 3810



IT is a distinct honor to be with you tonight as we celebrate two meaningful milestones—the 106th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Manila, the First in Asia, and the handover of leadership from Immediate Past President Eduardo “Jujut” Enriquez to your new Club President, Raoul Creencia.

To witness this tradition of transition and continuity in a Club of such heritage and impact is truly inspiring. The Rotary Club of Manila has, for more than a century, exemplified service, leadership, and innovation. You have shaped the Rotary landscape not only in the Philippines but across the region.

To President Raoul, congratulations as you take on this vital role. I look forward to supporting your leadership in the coming year. And to IPP Jujut, thank you for your dedicated service and the meaningful accomplishments under your term.

As your District Governor, I am excited to journey with you in Rotary Year 2025–2026. Our theme, Unite for Good, reminds us that collaboration strengthens our mission and brings lasting change to those we serve.

Thank you for inviting me to share in this special occasion. I am truly grateful.

Mabuhay ang Rotary Club of Manila.
Mabuhay ang Rotary International
District 3810.



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RCM Members' Attendance Report
RY 2025-2026

ATTENDANCE REPORT
July 2025

JULY 2025	July 03, 2025 ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA 106TH ANNIVERSARY & INDUCTION CEREMONY
MEMBERS PRESENT	90
MEMBERS PRESENT %	42%
MAKE UP ATTENDEES	0
EXEMPTED	6
ON LEAVE	0
Total Active Members	84
Total # of Members	215
TOTAL %:	39%
ROTARACTORS	20
MEDIA	0
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	0
DG, DGE, DGN, PDG	0
GOHS / GS	0
VISITING ROTARIAN	75
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	102
TOTAL ATTENDEES	287



LIST OF ATTENDEES
July 3, 2025

1	Acosta, Crispiniano G.	46	Lonzaga, Reinerio C.
2	Albaña, Michael Jaey C	47	Lopez, Antonio S.
3	Angara, Marius	48	Lopez, Arthur M.
4	Aragon, Joshua Reuben	49	Lorenzana, Delfin
5	Aventura Jr. Avenilo L.	50	Macatoman, Abdulgani M.
6	Balanay, Aries B.	51	Manalaysay, Cesar P.
7	Bartolome II, Arsenio M.	52	Mangalile, Senen T.
8	Bediones, Rodolfo P.	53	Martinez, Ronald
9	Benedicto, Sixto T.	54	Mauricio, Antonilo DC
10	Bogovich, Jascn M.	55	Mauricio, Francisco Robert DC.
11	Buendia, Carlos C.	56	Mommaerts, Steve
12	Carlos, Vicente J.	57	Montel, Juan Manuel C.
13	Carranceja, Arvin Arik B	58	Nones, Romeo C.
14	Castro, Karlo Eugene Josef M.	59	Núñez, Jr., Jose A.
15	Cenica, John T.	60	Obrado, Daniel Calzado
16	Chahwan, Rami	61	Ong, Phillip L.
17	Chan, Robert Sy Jr.	62	Ozaeta, Miguel Antonio L.
18	Cid, Dean Y.	63	Palacios, Albert C.
19	Co, Val Constantine L.	64	Pascual, Abraham F.
20	Creencia, Raoul C.	65	Payumo, Felicitio C.
21	Cureg, Alexander P.	66	Pineda, Jr. Patricio F.
22	Cutler, John Michael	67	Pineda, Jr., Jesus M.
23	Del Rosario Sr., Oscar A.	68	Pizarra, Jordan M.
24	Egan, Brendan W.L.	69	Preysler, Jr., Fausto R.
25	Eldebs, Issem	70	Ra, Ingill
26	Enriquez III, Eduardo V.	71	Ramos, Claver P.
27	Esguerra, Herminie S.	72	Recto, Philip H.
28	Esquivias, Joaquin Pablo A.	73	Reynolds, David J.
29	Fajardo, Beda G.	74	Rodriguez Sr., Joaquin C.
30	Fernandez, Antonio Jaime Jose V.	75	Roxas, Michael D.
31	Garcia, Herbert Joey	76	Serapio, Carlos G.
32	Garcia, Paul Joseph M.	77	Sibayan, Joseito H.
33	Go, Henry S.	78	Simon, Juanito A.
34	Gonzales, Jonas R.	79	So, Warren S.
35	Gonzalez, Michael Raymond L.	80	Talusan, Ferdinand E
36	Guevara, Jr., Domingo S.	81	Tamano, Shalimar H.
37	Guevara, Ricardo S.	82	Tan, Lawrence Li
38	Hernandez, Edwin H	83	Tee, Teddy Jr. B.
39	Ibuyan, Benedict Julius F.	84	Valdez, Amado D.
40	Katigbak, J Alfonso L	85	Valencia, John Nico P.
41	Klebs, David	86	Vazquez, Evaristo Jr.
42	Lacambacal, Alvin D.	87	Villarica, Henry R.
43	La'O Emilio. Gonzales	88	Yordanov, Stefan
44	Lazaro, Juan Miguel G	89	Yu, Reginald Tieng
45	Locsin, Arsenio Z.	90	Zaldarriaga, Felix Francisco S.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Meeting of the Incoming Board and Executive Officers



A meeting of the incoming Board and Executive Officers was held on June 26, 2025 at the Board Room of Assistant Internal Auditor Mike Roxas at Moore, Roxas Tabamo & Co. Present were President Raoul Creencia, Directors - Jason Bogovich, Edwin Hernandez, Hans Palacios, Warren So, Secretary Anton Mauricio, Internal Auditors Nick Locsin, Mike Roxas, Treasurer PJ Garcia, Assistant Treasurer Karlo Castro, and Board Legal Adviser Caloy Serapio.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Preparations for RCM's 106th Anniversary Celebration



THE RCM World Famous "WF" Chorale held its final rehearsal on July 1, 2025, at 6:00 PM at the Elks Club in preparation for the 106th Anniversary Celebration and Inaugural Meeting on July 3, 2025 at the Solaire Resort, Aseana, Parañaque.



Staff meeting with President Raoul C. Creencia to finalize preparations for the 106th anniversary and inaugural meeting.



OUR DESTINY. OUR LEGACY. ROTARY

New Rotary Year Kick-Off Activity at Hospicio de San Jose



THE Rotary Club of Manila kicked off the Rotary Year 2025–2026 with an inspiring event at Hospicio de San Jose on July 1, 2025, under the motto "*Unite for Good.*"

Guided by RCM's 2025-2026 principle, "**Our Destiny. Our Legacy. Rotary.**," the event showcased Rotary's commitment to

three key areas: disease prevention and treatment; water, sanitation, and hygiene; and maternal and child health.

The activities included an inaugural Mass, educational sessions on oral hygiene and handwashing, comprehensive malnutrition screenings, and a community lunch, fostering unity, health, and lasting positive change.



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION,
AND HYGIENE



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH

New Rotary Year Kick-Off Activity at Hospicio de San Jose



President Raoul Creencia delivered his welcome remarks at the kick-off event of his administration for RY 2025-2026.



Dr. Gamaliel G. Tayao, Head of Medical Affairs for Nutrition at Abbott Philippines, delivered his welcome remarks.



Sister Martha Gamolo, Administrator of Hospicio De San Jose, delivered her welcome remarks.



PD/Chair John Cutter delivered a message on the importance of oral healthcare.



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION,
AND HYGIENE



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH

New Rotary Year Kick-Off Activity



Turnover
ceremony of
donations from
the Rotary Club
of Manila and
Abbott
Philippines to
Hospicio De San
Jose





DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION,
AND HYGIENE



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH

New Rotary Year Kick-Off Activity at Hospicio de San Jose

Hospicio de San Jose Tour



Rotary



THE FOUR-WAY TEST

of the things we think, say or do

- I. Is it the TRUTH?
- II. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- III. Will it build GOODWILL
& BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- IV. to all concerned?

Russell-Hampton Co. Item #R89805M



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

A Night of Unity, Honor, and New Beginnings: RI District 3810 Induction of Officers 2025

SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia | July 5, 2025

by Reginald T. Yu



THE SMX Convention Center in Mall of Asia bore witness to an awe-inspiring celebration of leadership, service, and fellowship as Rotary International District 3810 held its District Handover and Induction Ceremonies. Amid the splendor of a meticulously orchestrated program, the event brought together Rotarians from Manila, Pasay, Cavite, and Occidental Mindoro in one grand occasion that heralded the new Rotary Year 2025–2026 with purpose and passion.

A Night of Unity, Honor, and New Beginnings: RI District 3810 Induction of Officers 2025



Opening with Meaning and Magic

The program commenced with Welcome Remarks by PDG Joyce Michelle L. Ambray, Chairman of the District Handover & Induction 2025, who warmly set the tone for an evening that promised reflection, renewal, and celebration. This was followed by an artistic segment titled “The Magical Year”, highlighting the outgoing term’s achievements presented by the Magical Irresistible Presidents from Mindoro, Cavite, Pasay, and Manila.

A special diplomatic message from H.E. Wallace Minn-Gan Chow, Ambassador of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, added an international dimension and

affirmed the ties between Rotary and global goodwill.

Dining, Harmony, and Unity

The festivities transitioned into a sumptuous banquet as the Parade of Waiters Dinner began, transforming the venue into a lively space of camaraderie and joy. A heartwarming song serenade by Rtn. Janina Lorelei of RC Manila 101 uplifted spirits, followed by an intermission performance by the vibrant cultural ensemble BUGANDA.

A significant highlight of the evening was the Renewal of Sisterhood Agreements among RI Districts 3661, 3650, and 2820 — solidifying Rotary’s commitment to

A Night of Unity, Honor, and New Beginnings: RI District 3810 Induction of Officers 2025

international partnerships. Messages from visiting guests and the exchange of tokens of appreciation further underscored the global character of the event. The segment concluded with an electrifying performance by the Singing Queens, earning rounds of applause from the captivated audience.

Induction of Officers: A New Era Begins

The formal Induction and Oathtaking Ceremonies followed, led by District Governor Mary Mei V. Rodrigo, officially ushered into her role for Rotary Year 2025–2026. The ceremony was administered by the respected PDG Leody “Odie” Tarriela, a pillar of the district’s leadership history. In a deeply personal gesture, DG Mary Mei was introduced by her beloved grandchildren — Samantha Marie, Ayesha Jazmine, Kirsten Hailee Mae, and Mary Alessandra — a moving tribute to the values of family and generational service.



DG Mary Mei was introduced by her beloved grandchildren.

DG Mary Mei then delivered her Inaugural Address, calling on all Rotarians to embrace the year’s guiding spirit: “Unite for Good.”

Following this was the Induction and Charging of the United Chosen Presidents, led by PDG Ernesto Yuyek, a mentor to many in the district. PDG Tranquil Salvador III, Chairman for Membership, then presided over the Presentation and Induction of New Members, emphasizing Rotary’s continuous growth and relevance.



DG Mary Mei delivered her Inaugural Address.

Celebrating the Engines of Service

The spotlight then turned to the Management Committee and Operations Team, who were formally inducted as critical enablers of the year’s plans. The hall came alive with the energy of the United Chosen Team’s Batch Song and Dance Performance,

A Night of Unity, Honor, and New Beginnings: RI District 3810 Induction of Officers 2025

a visual and musical expression of Rotary's collective joy and commitment.



Induction of PP Hermie Esguerra as District Secretary General



Induction of IPD Albert S. Alday as Special Assistant to the District Governor-Manila with the rank of Senior Deputy Governor



Induction of Dir. Mike Albaña as District House Committee Chairman with the rank of Senior Deputy Governor



Induction of PVP Reggie Yu as Senior Deputy Governor for Governor's Monthly Letter

Induction of IPS Aries Balanay as Senior Deputy Governor for Online Tools and Website



A Night of Unity, Honor, and New Beginnings: RI District 3810 Induction of Officers 2025

The arrival of the Guest of Honor and Speaker, **Hon. Imelda Gallardo Calixto-Rubiano, Mayor of Pasay City**, was introduced by **District Governor Nominee Elmer Francis A. Pasion**. In her inspiring speech, Mayor Imelda spoke of civic duty, responsive governance, and the vital role of Rotary in supporting community transformation.



District Governor Nominee Elmer Francis A. Pasion introduced the Guest of Honor and Speaker



Guest of Honor and Speaker, Hon. Imelda Gallardo Calixto-Rubiano, Mayor of Pasay City

Shortly after, **DSG Herminio S. Esguerra** introduced the Keynote Speaker, **Hon. Francisco “Isko” Moreno Domagoso, Mayor of Manila**. His keynote was both stirring and practical, calling on leaders to live lives of service rooted in empathy, responsibility, and action.

Honors, Reflections, and Final Salutes

The ceremonial induction of the **Chairman of the Council of Governors** capped the evening's leadership rites. **PDG Joyce Michelle L. Ambray** took her oath as the incoming **Chair for RY 2025**, administered by Past RI Director Guiller Tumangan and witnessed by fellow governors past and present.



PDG Joyce Michelle L. Ambray took her oath as the incoming Chair of the Council of Governors for RY 2025-2026.

A Night of Unity, Honor, and New Beginnings: RI District 3810 Induction of Officers 2025

Tributes of appreciation continued with the **Recognition of TRF Donors**, led by **SDG James Tan**, and the **Honoring of a new Arch Klumph Society Member**, led by **PRID Rafael Garcia III**, with **COS George Ng** lending a dignified presence. These recognitions affirmed the philanthropic spirit that sustains Rotary's global humanitarian work.



Recognition of TRF Donors



Honoring of a new Arch Klumph Society Member

DG Mary Mei Rodrigo delivered heartfelt Closing Remarks, reaffirming her vision for a year anchored on service, inclusion, and impact.



DG Mary Mei Rodrigo delivered her Closing Remarks.

Fellowship and Joyful Conclusion

As the formalities concluded, the program eased into a time of fellowship, live music, and raffle bonanza, led with flair and fun by DGN Elmer Francis A. Pasion and Lady Peaches, Chairs of the Fellowship & Raffle Committee. It was a festive and fitting close to an evening that captured the heart of Rotary — one of service, friendship, and hope renewed.

The 2025 Induction of Officers of RI District 3810 was more than a ceremonial transition — it was a powerful reaffirmation of Rotary's enduring legacy and future promise. United in purpose, the district stands ready to Unite for Good and make a lasting difference, one act of service at a time.

A Night of Unity, Honor, and New Beginnings: RI District 3810 Induction of Officers 2025



Immediate Past President Jujut Enriquez narrating his experience as a Magical Irresistible President during the portion reserved for the representative Magical Irresistible Presidents last July 5, 2025 during the Handover and Induction Ceremonies of Rotary International District 3810.

A Night of Unity, Honor, and New Beginnings: RI District 3810 Induction of Officers 2025





The Rotary Club of Manila, led by President Raoul Creencia, attended the District Handover and Induction Ceremonies on July 5, 2025 held at Function Room 5, SMX Convention Center, MOA.



PEOPLE

THE LEON LAMBERT LEGACY

**Herminio Santos Esguerra's
Quiet Power and
Enduring Grace**

By Reginald T. Yu



THERE are lives that speak through accolades — and then there are lives, like that of Herminio “Hermie” Santos Esguerra, that speak through action, consistency, and quiet grace. On the grand occasion of the Rotary Club of Manila’s RY 2024–2025 Club Awards Ceremonies, the Club conferred its highest honor — the Leon J. Lambert Lifetime Achievement Award — upon one of its most revered, generous, and quietly transformative leaders.



The Rotary Club of Manila's Global Grant Rotary Vision Care Project, under the leadership of PP Hermie Esguerra, benefited over 1,000 students, teachers, and non-teaching personnel from various public schools in Manila.

With this conferment, PP Hermie achieves an extraordinary and unmatched distinction in the Club’s storied history: he is the only Rotarian to have received all three of RCM’s highest honors — the **Star Rotarian of the Year**, the **Rotarian of the Year** (*not once, but five times*), and now, the **Leon J. Lambert Lifetime Achievement Award** — a trifecta of excellence forged not by ambition, but by service.

Named after the Club’s venerable Charter President, the Leon J. Lambert Lifetime Achievement Award is reserved for those whose service defines legacy — not only within the halls of Asia’s First but across the broader civic landscape of the nation. In PP Hermie, the Club recognized not just a man, but a movement.

A Giver Without Expectation: The Chair Circle Arch Klumph Rotarian

As Chair Circle members of the Arch Klumph Society, PP Hermie and his partner, **PDG Joyce Michelle L. Ambray**, have contributed over US\$500,000 to The Rotary Foundation — placing them among Rotary’s most elite donors. Yet to those who know him well, this monumental gift came without fanfare.

“It’s not about the amount,” he often says. “It’s about what it enables.”

Indeed, that has always been his creed: to empower, not to boast; to uplift, never to upstage.



PP Hermie Esguerra is an AKS Trustee Circle Member

The Centennial Architect

In 2019, PP Hermie was entrusted with the herculean task of chairing the **Centennial Gala Night Celebrations** of the Rotary Club of Manila — a moment a century in the making. Under his thoughtful and meticulous guidance, what could have been a mere commemoration became a masterstroke of legacy.

Held at the Grand Ballroom of Okada Manila, the Centennial Gala assembled the greatest number of RCM Past Presidents in one room — an unprecedented gathering that honored the

past while boldly signaling the future. It remains **the most iconic celebration in the Club's living history**. It was also during this event that the Centennial Roster of RCM members was unveiled.

Leadership in Crisis: The Pandemic Years

That same year, PP Hermie was elected Vice President of RCM, and in Rotary Year 2020–2021 — during the darkest days of the pandemic — he served as the Club's Chairman of the Weekly Membership Meeting. With physical gatherings impossible, he pivoted to the

The Leon Lambert Legacy: Herminio Santos Esguerra's Quiet Power and Enduring Grace



PP Hermie Esguerra chaired the Centennial Celebration of the Rotary Club of Manila, the most iconic celebration in the Club's living history.

digital realm, leading weekly Zoom meetings without fail. In a world slowed by lockdowns, PP Hermie ensured that RCM never missed a beat.

But one of his most resounding gestures came on June 1, 2020, when he personally **donated ₱5 million to the City of Manila to help build a COVID-19 testing facility at Sta. Ana Hospital.** It was the single largest personal donation received by then-Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso — a testament to PP Hermie's belief that real leadership is measured not by titles, but by timing.

Just as notably, with a keen sense of vision, PP Hermie began *Rotarizing* the future. He proactively enrolled many promising new members in the **Rotary**

Leadership Institute (RLI) course. “We need to build now for what’s to come,” he would say. True enough, many of these RLI-trained Rotarians are now serving as frontline leaders in RCM — a living legacy of PP Hermie’s foresight.



Reluctant but Resolute: The Revival of RCMFI

In 2020, ailing and terminally ill Rob Sears, then Chairman of the RCManila Foundation Inc. (RCMFI), made a heartfelt request: that PP Hermie succeed him in leading the Club's fledgling foundation. Out of deference to Rob's faith in him, PP Hermie accepted — though reluctantly at first.

What followed was nothing short of a resurrection. Backed by personal resources, PP Hermie revived the Foundation. He appointed seasoned Rotarians to strategic posts, restructured the Foundation's Constitution and By-Laws to comply with SEC requirements, and most impressively, **secured accreditation from the Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC)** — a badge of credibility and transparency, leading to obtaining the much-coveted BIR Donor's Tax Exemption certificate which opened the floodgates for more entities to consider the foundation as their tax shield.

Today, the RCMFI is not only a fully operational nonprofit but also the official fundraising arm of the Club — an enduring legacy rooted in PP Hermie's quiet but resolute leadership.

As Chairman of RCMFI, PP Hermie Esguerra also spearheaded a groundbreaking partnership with the Rotary Club of Manila, Philippine Dental Association, and the MMDA through the **"We Vax as One"** campaign. Under his leadership, RCMFI played a vital role in expanding the nation's COVID-19 vaccination efforts by mobilizing and training volunteer dentists and Rotarians as vaccinators. The initiative, formalized through a Memorandum of Agreement signed on November 11, 2021, also involved the DILG, helping extend vaccination coverage to key provinces such as Rizal, Bulacan, Cavite, and Laguna — demonstrating his belief that health protection should know no boundaries.

Today, the RCMFI is not only a fully operational nonprofit but also the official fundraising arm of the Club — an enduring legacy rooted in PP Hermie's quiet but resolute leadership.



Rotary Club of Manila, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Department of Health, and Philippine Dental Association signed a Memorandum of Agreement for the "We Vax As One" project

The Leon Lambert Legacy: Herminio Santos Esguerra's Quiet Power and Enduring Grace



The Pasig River Clean-up and Rehabilitation Project was RC Manila's flagship project under PP Hermie Esguerra.

A President of Quiet Power

When PP Hermie assumed the presidency in Rotary Year 2022–2023, the Club was still finding its footing in a post-pandemic world. What followed was a transformational term that rewrote the narrative of leadership — not with spectacle, but with soul.

Under his watch, **RCM launched and completed over 170 projects and more than 80 joint initiatives with other clubs**, spanning all seven areas of Rotary's focus:

from medical missions and maternal health programs to education, environmental protection, and livelihood support for society's most vulnerable.

Among his signature achievements was the **Pasig River Environmental Project**, in which the Club **donated 395 floating trash traps** to the DENR's Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office. This initiative — executed in partnership with government — was both strategic and symbolic, protecting 18 esteros along a 27-kilometer stretch of the river.

“These barriers will help restore the Pasig River to its pristine condition,” PP Hermie declared. It wasn’t just a cleanup — it was a call to consciousness.



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office (DENR-PRCMO) awarded the Rotary Club of Manila with a Plaque of Recognition and PP Hermie Esguerra with Executive Choice Award.

PP Hermie’s brand of leadership was not only structural — it was personal. It reached out and restored lives through tangible, high-impact health missions that remain etched in community memory.

Through the **“Save the Sight of Children” Project**, RCM — in partnership with RC Singapore, RC Kowloon West, DepEd, Physicians for Peace, and The Rotary Foundation — brought vision care to 15 public schools in Manila, providing eye screening and eyeglasses to thousands of students. “When a child sees clearly,” PP Hermie said, “he can dream clearly too.”

Complementing that was a deeply compassionate project for retinoblastoma survivors. In cooperation with the Seven Lakes Lions Club of San Pablo City, RCM provided **over 30 indigent pediatric cancer survivors with eye prosthesis**. “Ang tingin sa kanila, normal sila,” PP Hermie said. “They will gain confidence.” It was a mission not of vanity — but of dignity.



Over 30 pediatric cancer survivors benefited from the eye prosthesis project

Then came the **Cleft Surgery Mission 2023** in collaboration with Operation Smile, where RCM provided **over 60 cleft lip and palate surgeries** for children born with this common congenital condition at the Sta. Ana Hospital in Manila. In changing their faces, RCM changed their futures — giving these young people not just new smiles, but new beginnings.

His term also marked the triumphant return of the **Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)**, hosted by RCM for the



The Rotary Club of Manila hosted the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) 2023 for the first time in 31 years.

first time in 31 years. The event reintroduced Rotary values to a new generation of emerging leaders.

Elevating the Club's public advocacy, PP Hermie oversaw the production of a **three-minute advertorial film on the Four-Way Test**, subtitled in various dialects. Designed for both local and global audiences, the film offered a practical illustration of Rotary's timeless principles: truth, fairness, goodwill, and mutual benefit.

Internally, his reforms were just as impactful. He **digitized Club archives**, **introduced committee performance reviews**, and **aligned governance with Rotary International standards**. He **revitalized Thursday luncheons**, transforming them into thought-leadership platforms graced



PP Hermie oversaw the production of an impactful and engaging Four-Way Test advocacy campaign with subtitles in several languages, reaching a worldwide audience through our sister clubs in Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, and Japan.

by diplomats, cabinet secretaries, business leaders, academics, Rotary International and Zone 10A Rotarian trainers and guest speakers, as well as civil society advocates.



Some of the awards received by the Rotary Club of Manila during the District 3810 Awards Night

These reforms bore fruit. During his term, RCM received an unprecedented **43 District Awards**, the **Rotary International Platinum Citation**, and the coveted **Overall Most Outstanding Club and President** distinction — crowning PP Hermie's term with honors rarely seen in recent memory.

PP Hermie's commitment to environmental stewardship earned further recognition when the **Rotary Club of Manila's Pasig River Clean-Up and Rehabilitation Project (Reviving Pasig**



River through Floating Trash Barriers), implemented during his term, won **Second Runner-Up** in the Search for the **Most Outstanding Environmental Project** by the **Philippine Rotary Media Foundation, Inc.** Awarded in June 2024, the project not only garnered accolades but also secured a cash prize of Php200,000.00, which was transferred in full to RCM to support the Club's ongoing environmental programs.



The Pasig River Clean-Up and Rehabilitation Project won Second Runner-Up in the Search for the Most Outstanding Environmental Project by the Philippine Rotary Media Foundation, Inc.

His term also saw the Rotary Club of Manila shine on a larger stage. At the **Rotary Zone 10A Public Image Awards** for RY 2022–2023, the Club submitted 10 entries across eight categories. The Club's efforts were rewarded with multiple distinctions: **Third Place in the Best Broadcast Media Category, Third Place in the Best Online Media Category, and First Place in the Best Facebook Page Category.** These accolades reflected his dedication to amplifying Rotary's message and values through innovative and impactful communication.



RC Manila won Third Place in the Best Broadcast Media Category, Third Place in the Best Online Media Category, and First Place in the Best Facebook Page Category of the Rotary Zone 10A Public Image Awards for Rotary Year 2022-2023.

PP Hermie's contributions to Rotary's mission extended far beyond the Club. During Rotary Year 2022–2023, District 3810 was officially included in the prestigious **Million-Dollar District of Rotary International**, a milestone achieved in large part due to his

significant contributions. This recognition not only underscored his commitment to Rotary's mission but also inspired others to follow his example of selfless giving.

Finally, one of the most groundbreaking milestones during the presidency of PP Hermie was the historic chartering of the **Rotary Club of Manila Phenomenal Dentists** — a pioneering initiative that marked the establishment of the **very first cause-based Rotary club in the Philippines**. Designed to answer the call of R.I. President Jennifer Jones' challenge to organize a cause-based club, this trailblazing club was envisioned to unite dental professionals under the shared banner of humanitarian service.



The Rotary Club of Manila Phenomenal Dentists was chartered on December 9, 2022.



All told, his presidency did not shout. It hummed with integrity. And long after the applause faded, what remained was a Club that had rediscovered its rhythm — and its relevance.

A Foundation for the Future

Not content with leaving a legacy behind, PP Hermie chose to extend it forward. In 2023, together with his partner — **PDG Joyce Michelle L. Ambray**, herself a legend in Philippine Rotary — they established the **Hermie and Joyce Foundation**, which now provides grants to smaller clubs with impactful community projects.

Together, they exemplify a model of Rotary partnership: united in love, service, and the steadfast pursuit of leaving things better than they found them.



Marking Another Milestone for RCM, the First Secretary-General of RI District 3810 emerges

Just when we thought PP Hermie's Rotary journey had reached its peak, he surprises us once again. For RY 2025-2026, RI District 3810 Governor Mary Mei V. Rodrigo has appointed him as **the very first District Secretary-General in the long history of District 3810** — a role that affirms the Rotary Club of Manila's continued leadership and relevance in shaping the future of Rotary in changing times.



PP Hermie Esguerra was inducted as the very first District Secretary General in the long history of District 3810.

The Light He Left Behind

As PP Hermie received the Leon J. Lambert Lifetime Achievement Award, he did so not as a man seeking recognition — but as one who had already given far more than he received. His was never a path of praise — it was one of purpose.

He did not raise his voice — but his vision resounded.

He did not seek applause — but he earned respect.

He did not build monuments — but moved lives.

In PP Herminio S. Esguerra, the Rotary Club of Manila found not just a leader, but a lodestar.

A compass for service.

A mirror of Rotary's truest values.

And through every project, every meeting, every quiet gesture of generosity, he reminded us all: that greatness is not in what we accumulate, but in what we awaken in others.

In honoring him, we honor the very best of who we are.

And the very best of what Rotary can become.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES



Special Assistant to the District Governor - Manila Senior Deputy Governor Albert S. Alday and District Secretary-General Hermie Esguerra attended the Food Tasting and District Handover Meeting on June 27, 2025 at Meeting Rooms 5 and 6 at SMX Convention Center, SM Aura, BGC, Taguig City.



District Secretary-General Hermie Esguerra and Special Assistant to the District Governor - Manila Senior Deputy Governor Albert S. Alday as part of the Management Committee group during the National Anthem Audiovisual Shoot of Rotary District 3810 for RY 2025-2026 last June 28, 2025 at the Lakbay Museo of Rtn. Lance Tan, Ayala Manila Bay, Parañaque City.



Special Assistant to the District Governor - Manila Senior Deputy Governor Albert S. Alday, as part of the Manila area attending the National Anthem Audiovisual Shoot for Rotary District 3810 last June 28, 2025 at Lakbay Museo, owned by Rtn. Lance Tan, Ayala Manila Bay, Parañaque City.



District Secretary-General Hermie Esguerra, Special Assistant to the District Governor - Manila Senior Deputy Governor Albert S. Alday and Senior Deputy Governor for Website and Online Platforms Aries Balanay attended the First Management Committee Meeting of RI District 3810 for RY 2025-2026 last July 1, 2025 at Meeting Rooms 5 and 6, SMX Convention Center Mall of Asia, Pasay City.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES



District Secretary-General Hermie Esguerra and Special Assistant to the District Governor - Manila Senior Deputy Governor Albert S. Alday attended the Handover Dance Rehearsal of Rotary International District 3810 for RY 2025-2026 last July 1, 2025 at F1, SMX Convention Center Mall of Asia, Pasay City.



District Secretary-General Hermie Esguerra and Special Assistant to the District Governor - Manila Senior Deputy Governor Albert S. Alday participated in the National Anthem Audiovisual Shoot of Rotary District 3810 for RY 2025-2026 last June 28, 2025 at the Lakbay Museo of Rtn. Lance Tan, Ayala Manila Bay, Parañaque City.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES



President Raoul Creencia attended the District Opening Kick Off Project, Unite for Good to Change Lives, consisting of multiple projects in one venue covering all seven Areas of Focus of Rotary, last July 2, 2025 at the Cuneta Astrodome, Pasay City.



President Raoul Creencia with RC Pasay President Atty. Eric Pasion



President Raoul Creencia and Special Assistant to the District Governor - Manila Senior Deputy Governor Albert S. Alday at the Wheelchair Distribution Booth of the District Opening Kickoff Project.

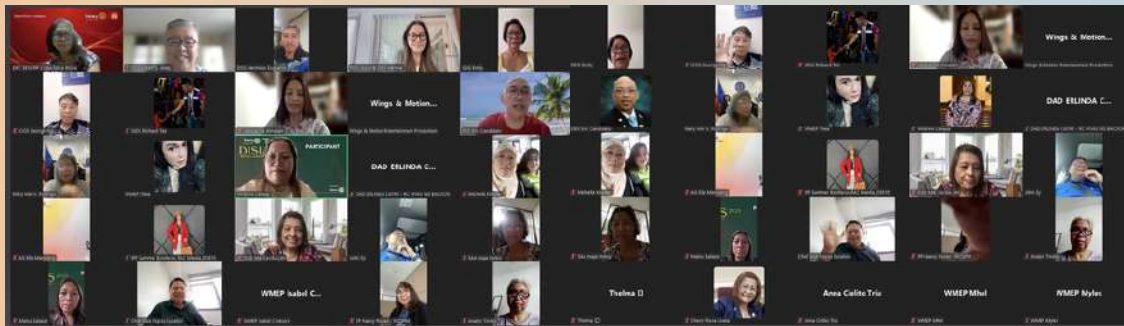


Special Assistant to the District Governor - Manila Senior Deputy Governor Albert S. Alday together with Past District Governor Ernesto Yuyek as well as members of the Management Committee led by District Governor Mary Mei V. Rodrigo, District Governor Nominee Elmer Francis Pasion and District Executive Secretary Eric Candidato in a photo opportunity with Pasay City Mayor Rtn. Imelda “Emi” Calixto-Rubiano during the District Opening Kickoff Project, Unite for Good to Change Lives,

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

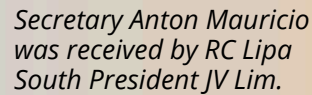
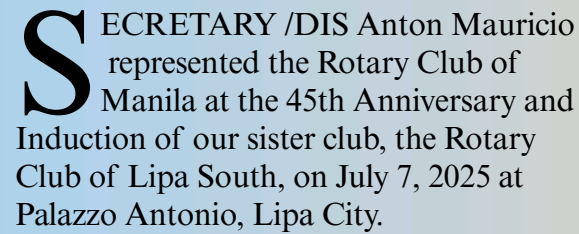


District Secretary-General Hermie Esguerra and Special Assistant to the District Governor - Manila Senior Deputy Governor Albert S. Alday together with the Management Committee of Rotary District 3810 led by District Governor Mary Mei V. Rodrigo in a group photo during the District Opening Kickoff Project, Unite for Good to Change Lives, which covers all seven (7) Areas of Focus of Rotary, last July 2, 2025 at the Cuneta Astrodome, Pasay City.



District Secretary-General Hermie Esguerra and Special Assistant to the District Governor - Manila Senior Deputy Governor Albert S. Alday, both members of the District Management Committee (MANCOM), attended the Final District 3810 Handover Meeting presided over by Past District Governor Joyce Michelle Socorro L. Ambray, District Handover Chairperson, last July 4, 2025 via Zoom virtual platform.

Rotary Club of Lipa South's 45th Anniversary and Induction Ceremonies



INTERCLUB RELATIONS

Rotary Club of San Pablo City's 76th Handover and Induction Ceremony

IPP Jujut Enriquez represented the Rotary Club of Manila at the Rotary Club of San Pablo City's 76th Handover and Induction Ceremony held at Villa Escudero Plantations and Resort on July 1, 2025.



*IPP Jujut Enriquez
with UCP Aliazas*



*IPP Jujut Enriquez
with PP Roberto
"Bobby" Mariño
Azores*

YOUTH SERVICE

Rotaract District 3810 District Learning Seminar



PRESIDENT Raoul C. Creencia was invited to deliver an inspirational message and speak on RI youth protection policy at the Rotaract District 3810's District Learning Seminar held at Bacood Elementary School on July 6, 2025.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Rotary Club of Manila Welcomes International Sister Clubs with Dinner in BGC



The Rotary Club of Manila hosted a welcome dinner for visiting Rotarians from international sister clubs, the Rotary Club of Bangkok and the Rotary Club of Kowloon East, at Lore Restaurant in BGC, Taguig City.



Pres. Raoul Creencia and Pres. Kay Wai Ming George, Jr. from RC Kowloon East



From left: Pres. Raoul Creencia, RC Kowloon East Pres. George Kay Jr., AG Abdullah Alawadi (RC Bangkok) and son, Sam Alawadi, and Rtn. Albert S.C. Poon, Rtn. Langiao Sheng (RC Kowloon East), and VP Ricky Guevara



From left: PIA Nick Locsin, Dir. Edwin Hernandez, PDG Rudy Bediones, PD Issam Eldebs, DG Jackie Rodriguez, PDG Vince Carlos, STAR Rtn. Dean Cid. Not in the pic: Rtn. Caloy Serapio and Dir. Hans Palacios



ROTARY'S AREAS OF FOCUS



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION,
AND HYGIENE



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

RCMANILA FOUNDATION, INC.

DSWD Conducts Annual Monitoring and Evaluation for RCMFI Compliance



THE Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) Project Development Officer 1, Mr. Allen Fil D. Santos, conducted the annual monitoring visit and evaluation. The purpose of the visit was to assess RCMFI's compliance with the Department's standard indicators and requirements for renewing its license to operate, which will expire on November 18, 2025.

RECOGNITION CORNER



Philippine Consulate General in New York Wins Best Organization Award from DFA Secretary Tess Lazaro

THE Philippine Consulate General in New York headed by Rtn. Senen Mangalile received the Best Organization Award from DFA Secretary Tess Lazaro during the celebration of the 127th Foundation Day of the DFA. The Consulate was nominated by Rtn. Babe Romualdez, Philippine Ambassador to the USA, for its steadfast dedication and remarkable achievements in promoting Philippine interests in the Northeastern United States, strengthening multifaceted bilateral cooperation, and exemplifying

the highest standards of diplomacy, service, and international collaboration.



FELLOWSHIP

IPP Jujut Enriquez Hosts Thanksgiving Lunch with RCM and RCMFI Secretariat



IMMEDIATE Past President Jujut Enriquez hosted a Thanksgiving Lunch with the RCM and RCMFI Secretariat on June 27, 2025, at Emerald Restaurant in Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

APPRECIATION

Office Chair Donation from Assistant Secretary Arick Carranceja



WE extend our gratitude to Assistant Secretary Arick Carranceja for generously donating five office chairs to the Rotary Club of Manila office.

FELLOWSHIP

Aleco Breakfast Fellowship



ALECO breakfast fellowship, hosted by Assistant Secretary Paco Magsaysay, was held on July 7, 2025.

Present were (seated, from left) PD Pepo Nuñez, PD Jun Hallare, RCMFI Past President Willie Peliño; (standing, from left) Asst. Secretary Paco Magsaysay, former member Past President Francis Juico, former member Eric Severino, former member Past Secretary Jorge Salazar, Secretary/DIS Anton Mauricio, PP Ebot Tan, PP Archit Bartolome, PP Jackie Rodriguez, PT Chito Tagaysay, PD, and Beda Fajardo.



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