



BALITA

Los Angeles Filipino Association of City Employees
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2023



LAFACE WISHES YOU A

happy new year

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Janelle Parra



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LIZ LEE, LACERS
Commissioner

SUSANA REYES, PUBLIC WORKS
Commissioner



HAPPY 2023!

Dear LAFACE Members:

At the end of 2022, I reminisced about how grateful I am.

For the first time in three years, many could take holiday vacations free of worries as COVID vaccines become available to all ages.

I am grateful and proud to be a part of the City of Los Angeles workforce. I am grateful to be a part of Los Angeles Filipino Association of City Employees (LAFACE) and its current all-women Board and Advisers in helping other City employees elevate and advance their careers with the City. I am grateful to LAFACE members for their support and encouragement.

Thank you to the LAFACE Officers and Advisers, members, all our elected officials and supporters for your service and your unwavering support to LAFACE!

Some of LAFACE's key highlights and accomplishments this fiscal year include:

1. Picnic in August 2022 attended by LAFACE members and families.
2. Sr Admin Clerk Exam Preparation Webinar in October 2022.
3. Filipino American History Month and LAFACE's 40th anniversary celebration in October 2022.
4. Financial Wellness Webinar in November 2022.

I look forward to 2023 as LAFACE continues to provide exam preparation training and other cultural activities to its members.

Manigong Bagong Taon!



Coming Soon! LAFACE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT EXAM PREPARATION

ARE YOU READY FOR IT?

WATCH YOUR EMAIL INBOXES

Are you a LAFACE member who submitted an application for the Management Assistant exam?

LAFACE can help you prepare! Watch your inbox to register for LAFACE's upcoming MA exam preparation sessions! (LAFACE will cancel this event if there are less than 30 registered attendees).

WE NEED INSTRUCTORS!!

PAY IT FORWARD

Have the LAFACE exam preparation seminars helped you promote? Would you like to pay it forward? If so, please email education.laface@gmail.com, janelleparra.laface@gmail.com and ellenlinaac.laface@gmail.com

LAFACE needs experienced City employees to help our next generation of leaders succeed! We need instructors to cover the following topics:

- Reading Comprehension;
- Mathematics;
- Analytical Ability;
- Attention to Detail;
- Interpersonal Skills;
- Teamwork;
- Written Communication

KEY DATES:

REGISTRATION DUE
5PM, March 31, 2023

REGISTRATION
CONFIRMATION AND
INSTRUCTIONS EMAILED
April 6, 2023

ADVISORY ESSAY
SESSIONS (TENTATIVE)
April 8, 2023
April 24, 2023
May 1, 2023

QUALIFYING WRITTEN TEST
STUDY SESSIONS
(TENTATIVE)
May 6 & May 23, 2023

REGISTRATION TIPS:

- Make sure to provide your correct email!
- Make sure your membership fees are up-to-date!
- Join LAFACE at laface.us.



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LAFACE SPOTLIGHT: BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSIONER SUSANA REYES

Susana Reyes considers herself an accidental civil servant, but even from the beginning, she was a natural.

"I took the civil service exam. I hated it because it was like taking a SAT test. I was like OK, this is really tough. I didn't study. The results came out and I ranked number 1."

With a civil service career spanning more than three decades, she is now Commissioner Susana Reyes of the City of Los Angeles' Board of Public Works, one of the highest ranking Filipino Americans in the City. She is also an advisor to LAFACE.

Throughout her career, Commissioner Reyes received guidance from mentors who helped her navigate the system at the City and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), where she served as a Human Resources Director and Vice President of the LADWP Board. It's a kindness she returns by providing support to others looking for assistance on how to promote up the ranks.

"I always pay it forward, I have mentored so many people and advised them about their careers in the City."

“

As a commissioner, I am proud to represent and make decisions for the entire benefit of the City. (Filipinos) have someone there who is willing to carry the weight and proudly represent the identity of Filipinos, because representation matters.

”



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Commissioner Reyes (left) with LAFACE President Janelle Parra (right) following the Filipino American History Month celebration at City Hall in October 2022. Below right, she addresses the City Council as Filipino-American comedian Jo Koy looks on.

Cont. from page 4. Commissioner Reyes was recently at LADWP when a woman came up and hugged her. The woman thanked Commissioner Reyes for her guidance and said the Commissioner taught her everything she knows.

“Years ago she was a custodian I mentored. I was in DWP and I was doing some administrative work about hiring. One of the recruitments was for a custodian. She’s now a custodian supervisor.”

She advises City employees to identify opportunities and take them, to be resilient because changes are inevitable throughout one’s career, and to build relationships and help others along the way.

Commissioner Reyes also encourages the City’s Filipino employees to unite to advocate for their needs. “I want them to be more vocal, more transformative, making sure they reclaim our place in front and center. We work hard, we deserve to have our voices be heard.”

In her leadership role, Commissioner Reyes provides a voice for Filipino Americans and their families.

“As a commissioner I am proud to represent and make decisions for the entire benefit of the City. (Filipinos) have someone there who is willing to carry the weight and proudly represent the identity of Filipinos, because representation matters.”





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Cont. from page 5. LAFACE has built a reputation for serving the wider City family, especially through exam preparation and career training sessions, which have helped many City employees rise up the ranks. But there's always room to achieve more.

"LAFACE has a huge potential to be influential," she said.

Commissioner Reyes emphasized the importance of representation and that now is an ideal time to build a pipeline of the next generation of Filipino-American leaders in City government.

"One thing we can look at is identifying Filipino leaders who can rise up through the ranks and be appointed like me, to either the Mayor's office or City Council or a Commission. Because having that representation will influence other Filipino Americans to say, I could be like him or her. I can aspire to be him or her."



Do you have a nominee for a Balita Profile?

If so, please email LAFACE Public Relations Officer Jamie Francisco at jamiefrancisco.laface@gmail.com.

Before you go...

A couple last questions:

What is your favorite Filipino food?

I always like kare kare, especially if you have the bagoong on the side. Of course I love the dessert that's halo halo.

What is your favorite Filipino restaurant?

Kuya Lord on Melrose.

What is your go-to karaoke song?

Bruno Mars – "Count on me," "Marry you," and "Talking to the moon."



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FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH & LAFACE 40TH ANNIVERSARY

On October 7, 2022, the LA City Council declared it Filipino-American History Month and commemorated the 40th Anniversary of LAFACE. The chambers were packed with current and former officers, along with members. The City also honored world-renowned Filipino-American comedian Jo Koy. Afterward, LAFACE held a luncheon in the forecourt catered by ACE. For more photos and a video, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUFM3qDojq0>





RETIREE SPOTLIGHT

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LAFACE Retiree Spotlight: Lina Senatin- Partosa

On the day after the L.A. Riots following the Rodney King verdict in 1992, only three people were at City Hall: Mayor Tom Bradley, Special Assistant to the Mayor William Elkins and Former LAFACE President and founding Secretary Erlina “Lina” Senatin-Partosa. As Mr. Elkins’ Chief Secretary, Lina fielded phone calls that day from around the world.

“Secretaries were calling for them from all over the place, from Europe, from the Philippines, you name it,” she said. They were all “Expressing their support to Mayor Bradley.”



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Her 8.5 years working with the Mayor's Office was her most memorable chapter in a City career that spanned 32.5 years. After serving several departments, her last role was a utility buyer at LADWP. She retired in 2012.

At the Mayor's Office, "I attended so many different affairs, I spoke from the office to the President of the United States. That was the most exciting and most dignified position that I've ever worked for in the City."

Lina (pictured left) was one of the first LAFACE officers when the organization formed in 1982. She also played a critical role in electing LAFACE's first president when there was a tie between candidates Larry Rivera and Chris Abad.

"I was elected first recording secretary of LAFACE. Larry Rivera and Chris Abad had the same number of votes. Board members had to vote to break the tie. The last vote was mine. My vote made Chris Abad the first president of LAFACE," she said.

Lina would go on to serve as Vice-President, then eventually President of LAFACE.

"What's funny is I didn't want to run for president, because my husband was still in the Philippines," she said. Then she went home to the Philippines to visit her husband during the LAFACE election. "When I came back from vacation, they said, 'See you're elected president!'"

The early years of LAFACE were a struggle as the officers worked to increase membership and build funds to operate the organization, she said.

“

To have LAFACE, a minority organization to back you up, it is something. They are an organization that will fight for you, will look out for your mobility and will look after you.

”



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"To start an organization, especially a minority organization like LAFACE is really hard. But we were able to push it through."

During her presidential term at LAFACE, Lina worked with the City's minority organizations to build the training seminars that are now a hallmark of LAFACE's services to benefit other City employees. She said she is proud to be a LAFACE member, especially when it first started. Also, she applauds the organization for reaching its fourth decade.

"LAFACE is known. It is not just a little willy. LAFACE is not a nobody anymore. 40 years? Seldom will you see an organization that's still active like LAFACE."

Why is the survival of LAFACE important?

"No matter what they say, that discrimination is no longer in existence in a workplace, it still is. So to have LAFACE, a minority organization to back you up, it is something. They are an organization that will fight for you, will look out for your mobility and will look after you. You don't realize the importance of an organization until you're in a situation where you need them."

Lina also expressed thanks to dues-paying members for helping with LAFACE's operating costs, which has helped it remain in existence.

"Congratulations for 40 years LAFACE! Hats off to the past and current officers. Continue the good work. I salute you! God bless us all!"

“

Congratulations for 40 years LAFACE! Hats off to the past and current officers. Continue the good work. I salute you! God bless us all!

”



Do you know a LAFACE retiree we should highlight?

If so, please email LAFACE Public Relations Officer Jamie Francisco at jamielaface@gmail.com.



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Philippine Consul General Edgar Badajos (right, with LAFACE President Janelle Parra) attended and provided remarks at the LAFACE 40th Anniversary and Filipino American History Month Celebration.



THE PHILIPPINES
MAKE IT HAPPEN

In August 2022, Eric Elnar, trade commissioner of the Philippine Trade and Investment Center in Los Angeles, spoke to LAFACE members about business opportunities in the Philippines. These included franchising and real estate. To learn more, speak to their team at WWW.PHILIPPINES.BUSINESS.

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