**By Janella Puyot, RN, BSN, CCRN**

**PNAGF Celebrates Strong Membership**

What makes us want to belong to a group? Why do we want to be a member of PNAGF? Some of us are known as a devoted member of PNAGF serving others. Some did hesitate to join our organization. On the other hand, most of us did ask ourselves a big question, why do we want to be a part of PNAGF. What does it have to offer?

I became a PNAGF member in 2009 as I vaguely remember, a past officer of PNAGF, Tita Ravi RN met me in an elevator as I was pushing my patient in a wheelchair to another floor at Bay Pines Medical Center. She introduced herself and followed me around the hospital until she got to know me a little bit. Being friendly and a nice person was my first impression of her. That day was a life changing path for me as a professional Nurse. A few weeks later, I met her again at the same elevator. I could not hide from her. I said to myself here comes this lady again! This time she was very persuasive and adamant that I joined PNAGF. She was passionate about her cause. She invited me to attend a meeting and the rest is history. As a member, I also recruited my BFF Orpha Mineque RN to join PNAGF and lots of nurses to join me. Orpha became a great asset to the organization and later became a President. After becoming an active member of PNAGF, I became an executive board member and held other leadership positions within this organization. I was at one time a recording secretary and presently the corresponding secretary of PNAGF for 2016-2018.

I am also the chairman of the membership committee. Our job as a committee, is to grow our membership and do everything possible to retain our members and help to collect membership dues. I have the honor to submit our members to PNAA this year which is quiet a tedious job.

I’d like to report that our members have doubled during this term. Our highest recruiter goes to Elsie Barlow RN. I am very proud to announce that our PNAGF chapter belong to the PNAA 100%-membership Club which means that we are one of the 8 chapters that have met or exceeded the membership goal to date.

PNAGF received a special recognition for being in the Top 3 Chapter based on the volume and percentage of members at the National Convention.

 We started with 32 members 2 years ago and to date we are soaring to a high of 75 active and non- active members. We strongly encourage our members to keep inspiring other nurses to join our group. PNAGF has accomplished a lot of fun filled activities in the past and there are more to come. I had a lot of questions when I joined PNAGF.

Today, I’d like to thank Tita Ravi RN for being at the right place at the right time. Everything happens for a reason. Me being introduced to PNAGF has changed my future. I found myself quite busy with balancing my family life, my full time job as a staff nurse with the VA , with the rest of my other extra-curricular activities but being a member of PNAGF has taught me the value of community service and team work. I had the pleasure to travel and I’ve been to many places to broaden my educational horizon by attending seminars and in services sponsored by our PNAA and PNAGF educators. I have met so many friends and people that cared for one another. And last, but not the least, I am proud to be become a part of this non-profit organization, and I wish to help more nurses understand our goals and mission. That is to promote a positive image of nursing to the community , to unify and strengthen friendships among Filipino and American Nurses in the Gulf Coast area, to promote professional career advancement and leadership of Filipino Nurses through educational programs and promote our culture and traditions through socio-cultural participation in the community.



**Shine PNAGF Shine!**

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