



Southern California Chapter

# FASAE SoCal Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 2 October 2010

## Manalansan Resigns as FASAE SoCal President

By Peter Hsu, A.I.A.

On April 27, 2010, an email went out from then President of FASAE SoCal, Dan Manalansan addressed to Officers, Directors and Board of Advisers with the Subject "Resignation Letter". Undoubtedly, the announcement came as a stunner; it was unexpected as it was unprecedented, a first. At the time of his resignation, Manalansan had served a third of his two-year tenure in office, having been elected earlier and sworn in as president of FASAE SoCal, in September 2009. That same year in June, he was also elected to the National Board of Directors for a one-year term in an effort to re-establish a collaborative effort with FASAE National. In the short three-sentence paragraph of his e-letter rest these three keywords why he resigned, and that was "...family comes first..."

Manalansan unmistakable resolution has always been that his moral obligation was to his family and that responsibility comes second to none. That above all else, his life's circumstance and priorities at the time that prompted his resignation was to be with his 13-year old daughter Crystal, in Houston, TX while his ex-spouse left for a serious and debilitating medical treatment in the Philippines. His life changing decision was no small sacrifice, moving to another State meant uprooting his settled life in California for the past 29 years.

It also meant leaving an established network of friends, colleagues, professional affiliates, and a stable and secure job with Monogram Systems. A company he dedicated 23 years of his existence and rose in the ranks from draftsperson, to professional design engineer and for the last five years, as quality manager responsible for the Monogram's Boeing 787 program.

There were no shades of doubt that the entire FASAE SoCal organization understood, approved his decision of leaving, and appreciated his faithful services since 2003 when he first joined SoCal Chapter seven years ago.

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## FASAE SoCal Golf Tournament a Success

By Larry Tortuya, P.E.

Every two years FASAE Southern California Chapter members get together for some "fun-in- the-sun" at the LA Royal Vista Golf Course, located in Walnut California. This year's golf tournament showcased the talent of 12 teams in a four man, best ball scramble format. LA Royal Vista featured its south course for the front nine, and their east course for the back nine.

The first place team, who represented Berg Power Engineers, consisted of Art Barreno, Ven Javier, Ramon Ang, and Rolando Manasan. They finished with a seven under par 65. In what was a very close second place, RBF Consulting, represented by Larry Tortuya, Tom Ryan, Steven Nguyen, and Jeremy Hohnbaum finished with a six under par 66. Our longest drive was won by Mike Melgoza, and the closest to the pin winner was Jason Rodriguez. The putting competition finished in a truly competitive style in four way tie for first place. Bert Tandoc brought home the hardware during a one putt playoff. Congratulations to all of our winners!

FASAE SoCal would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's tournament. FASAE SoCal would also like to wholeheartedly thank all who made donations, especially our three Silver Hole Sponsors, VCA Engineers, RBF Consulting, and Abratique and Associates. Over \$1000 was raised for our prestigious Scholarship Foundation.

Please join us this coming November for our first annual No-Limit Hold'em Poker Tournament. Watch for the upcoming flyer on this next fun event. ■

## FASAE SoCal Attends Fil-Am Networking Event

By Shirley Hernandez, P.E.

FASAE SoCal was invited to a networking event attended by over 200 business and professional leaders. Entitled "The \$88B Niche: Selling to the Filipino American Market," the business dinner event was held at the very popular Hilton Universal City. Balita Media Inc., in collaboration with its sponsors, hosted the celebration and paid tribute to the Filipino enterprise. The event was attended by key decision makers, role models, friends and supporters of the Filipino American community in Southern California, bringing together the crème of the crop of the Filipino community.

One of the highlights of the night was a case study and presentation by Professor Antonio Villegas, Jr., about the Filipino populace, its work force and buying power in America as well as its contribution to the US economy and its comparison to other Asian Americans. Prof. Villegas is a full-time tenured professor at the College of Alameda, teaching business law, statistics, computer programming, media networking and e-Commerce to name a few.

In the event overview, Balita Media wrote, "Filipino Americans are ranked among the most affluent ethnic markets in the US with an

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## FASAE-SoCal Mission Statement

**To advocate and promote the advancement and professional growth of the Filipino American Architects and Engineers for the public good.**

## President's Message

**Joseph Rigonan, Jr., P.E.**  
**Consultant**



When our organization, FASAE So Cal, was established in 1995, the founding members adopted the following Mission Statement: To advocate for the overall advancement and professional growth of the members of the Filipino American Architects and Engineers in their efforts to pursue high standard of professional and business practices for the public good.

During these difficult economic times, our Chapter needs to be creative in providing and serving our members the best way possible to improve their professional education and training. As an association we need to find ways to help our members attain their professional goals.

We strive to support our members, who are our stake holders, by conducting meaningful EIT and PE review classes; providing networking opportunities with our business connections and individuals who are familiar with public and privately funded projects; and employment opportunities in government agencies and private firms.

We find that there is a critical need to convince our members to be active participants and supporters of our activities such as our recently held Picnic Bowling Tournament and our planned first annual "No-Limit Hold-em Poker Tournament" fund-raiser that is scheduled in the near future. Their feedback on our Chapter get-togethers, education programs, and fundraisers will help us plan and fine-tune our goals as an association. We will continue to seek appropriate and effective ways to raise funds to finance for our scholarship programs here and in the Philippines.

We can only grow as an organization if we individually take an active interest in inviting friends and professional colleagues to our Board meetings, fundraiser events, general membership meetings, or any of our social functions, and above all, making them feel that they feel comfortable with this organization. Let us all outreach in order to grow. ■

## Board Treats Dan Manalansan with a Despedida Party

By Peter Hsu, A.I.A.

Last June 10, 2010, the Board of Directors arranged a *despedida* party for Dan and Nilda at the Royal Buffet restaurant in Long Beach. (See report on Dan's resignation in this issue.) Thirteen members including some of their spouses attended to enjoy their company for the "last" time and over a gustatory meal. Each came to offer their good wishes, prayers and Godspeed for their new journeys and challenges ahead.

Those who may or may not have attended thought, including myself, that we would be missing the 4th game of the NBA finals between the Celtics and the Lakers. Yet to our unexpected fortune, surprise and delight, a good-sized flat screen TV conveniently hung on the wall fronting our palettes.

At half time of the Laker game, a short program interposed with testimonials were given on how much Dan and Nilda would be missed, not just as colleagues but as friends, with admiration that he left much if not all behind to be with his daughter's remaining growing years.

Our most senior and venerable advisor, Ali Alimento then presented the plaque to him after reading these inscriptions: *"This plaque is presented in appreciation of your dedicated though shortened service as the 9th President of FASAE SoCal. The Board recognizes the unpredictability of life's circumstances and accepts your values and priorities that family comes first"*.

In Dan's closing remarks of appreciation, he acknowledged the inscribed words reflected his exact sentiment. He also kept the door open that fate may allow them one day to return to Los Angeles, possibly after five years even as they were preparing to leave in 5 days. And although the Lakers disappointingly lost that night, those who went to offer their gratitude and good-byes gained from the event. ■

## Manalansan Resigns . . . . .

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During that period, Manalansan served with energy and enthusiasm as Director, Committee member, Recording Secretary, 2nd VP, 1st VP / President-Elect and President. ■

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Wilfrido B. Simbol, P.E./Isidoro Alimento, P.E.

## FASAE SoCal's Casino Night Fund Raiser

By Larry Tortuya, P.E.

The Filipino American Society of Architects and Engineers - Southern California Chapter members, and their families and friends held a "Casino Night" fund raiser on November 21, 2009. All proceeds from this event were earmarked to support our prestigious Scholarship Foundation, as we enjoyed a night of great fun with even better company.

It was getting late, about 11:30 PM and everyone were gathered around the Poker table and were eagerly waiting, ready to go home. We came to the last deal of the Poker game. I was holding pocket Queens, "A Pair of Ladies" is the term we use in the poker world. Finally, I had a hand that was going to unleash retribution for all the tough luck I suffered since leaving the Mahjong table on a hot streak. Facing a pre-flop raise from the position in front of me, I was forced to go "All in" with what little chips I had left in my stack. To my amazement, we went to the flop three-handed. The flop was 10c,

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## FASAE SoCal's General Membership Meeting

By Shirley Hernandez, P.E.

FASAE SoCal held its general membership meeting (GMM) at an informal dinner at Coco's Bakery Restaurant at 11510 South Street, Cerritos last March 18. The highlight of this event is a presentation made by the honored speaker, Mr. Sonny De Lara about the use of the "ESBI Quadrant Chart" as a valuable tool in business entrepreneurship. The use of the ESBI Quadrant provides a timely guide for the use by employees, self-employed individuals, business owners, and investors. The key points and inter-relationships between each class of ownership is provided courtesy of millionaire Robert Kiyosaki from his "Rich Dad, Poor Dad" book. "ESBI" is an acronym that consists of "E" for employees who have jobs; "S" for self-employed individuals who own a job; "B" for businesses who own a system; and "I" for investors who use money to make more money. Mr. De Lara presented the paths, the advantages and disadvantages of each class of business ownership.

Sonny De Lara hails from San Francisco Bay area, and has 22 years hands-on, high-tech industry experience along with graduate studies in Computer Science from UC Berkeley. He invested many years understanding technology, real estate, business, finance, joint ventures, litigations and the securities market. He was mentored by the well-known author, Robert Kiyosaki and an empowering teacher, Keith Cunningham.

Third in a row, the program committee of FASAE SoCal has been successful in presenting interesting and timely topics during its GMMs. Last year's topic was about Mechanics Lien and was well attended. In 2008 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) in the world of demolition and recovery was featured. At the conclusion of the event, a plaque of appreciation was presented to Mr. DeLara by FASAE SoCal president, Dan Manalansan. ■

## FASAE SoCal's 2010 Picnic

By Berwyn Salazar

The weather was perfect for a summer get-together at John Marshall Park in Anaheim for the FASAE-SoCal annual picnic that was held last July 31. Officers, members and their families shared food, fun, and stories. Everyone who came brought in their home-made goodies. El Presidente Joe Rigonan's pinakbet was a hit as everyone was longing for home cooked Pilipino vegetable dish.

Peter Hsu brought a few pounds of marinated meat cuts and fresh tortilla from a local store. The meat strips were grilled to perfection and were wrapped in slightly-toasted tortilla rounds for everyone's enjoyment. Since it was the peak of summer and watermelon was in season, several families brought different varieties of the sweet succulent fruit.

The games committee did a great job in coming up with creative ways for everyone to have fun and also win a few bucks, if they are lucky. Among the games played were toothpick throwing contest (aka micro javelin throwing), water-filled balloon catching for parent/grandparent and child/grandchild teams as well as for husband and

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Picnic attendees took a timeout from their activities for a group picture.



Both the young ones and the young "once upon a time" had fun at the games.

### FASAE SoCal Attends . . . . .

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estimated spending propensity of \$88 billion". According to the presentation, the Filipinos, second only to Chinese with their number in the 2.8 million range, are about 2.2 million in number here in the United States. The biggest concentration of Filipinos in the U.S. is in the State of California (a little over a million), in the city of Los Angeles (350,000) followed by San Diego (130,000).

Board member Shirley Hernandez represented FASAE SoCal. The event was an evening filled with learning, dining, entertainment, and an opportunity to introduce FASAE SoCal to business and professional leaders of the Filipino community. ■

### FASAE SoCal's Casino. . . . .

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9c, 2h, and I was confident that I was in the lead at this point. However, after an "All in" bet from the position to my right, and a call from the position to my left, I no longer felt confident in my pocket pair. My two opponents and I flipped our hold cards, and the truth was known...pocket kings to my right, and Ac, 8h to my left; I was behind. I watched as the turn was a queen and I took the lead! Only to be crushed by a river jack, that left me at the lowest point of this roller coaster of emotions caused by a friendly game of Texas Hold'em. Such is the game of luck, but at least it was for a truly good cause.

This event was hosted by Ceazar Aguilar and his family, and included a good spread of some of the best Filipino dishes, as well as other temptingly fattening food. We all enjoyed Bingo, Mahjong, and Poker, as we raised money for our future engineers and architects of Philippine extraction in the U.S, and the native born architects-to-be and engineers-to-be in the Philippine schools who are enrolled in the universities in the Philippines which are on our support list. FASAE SoCal would like to thank everyone who participated in this event! ■

### FASAE SoCal's Picnic

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wife teams, banana + ping pong ball race that tested the men's and women's ability to flex their bodies, the ever favorite "pakwan" eating contest, and other games.

It was a perfect opportunity for the old and the new members to get together, and exchange useful information regarding business and opportunities for growth in the industries that they are in. The winners of the recently concluded election were presented to the other members in a very relaxed atmosphere. A business meeting was called to order towards the end of the day to complete the fun-filled afternoon.

Everyone went home with memories to cherish as they look forward to next year's picnic. ■



Everybody wants to have the first bite of Peter's barbeque..



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