

FAAVCO NEWS

BY

MELVIONA G. THOMSON

Good day to our kababayans!

The December Gala/Induction of new officers for 2009-2010 was a success!

First of all, I would like to thank all of the people who supported our calendar/advertisement program and the Executive Committee and Advisors who worked so hard, volunteering their time and effort to ensure for the event to be a successful one.

The December GALA is part of FAAVCO's annual fundraising for educational scholarship development for two graduating seniors of Volusia County Schools (2009) and civic efforts that we extend to the needy fellow countrymen in the Philippines which at this time will be the Aetas in Zambales, Philippines.

MARAMING SALAMAT SA INYONG TULONG! Thank you so very much for your support!

I would say about 240 Filipino-Americans attended the CHRISTMAS celebration and thoroughly enjoyed the exciting evening with planned and surprised entertainment from the **great supporters of FAAVCO**. We imported a live band, "**Evelyn and the Rhythm N Motion**" from Jacksonville, our own **Janggay Dancers** spearheaded by **Maria McMullen**, and **Tinikling, FAAVCO Teen Dancers, and HIP-HOP Dancers** sponsored by **Dr. Rizalina (Babes) Leuterio and Family**.

Dr. Patrick Coggins, Professor of Education at Stetson University, was the keynote speaker; he emphasized the sustenance of the Filipino Culture and the long and continued contribution of the Filipino people into building a progressive county and a strong nation. He was granted an honorary membership for his continuing support FAAVCO.

As the president of the organization, I emphasized my three primary goals: 1. To ensure that the culture and history of the Filipinos are celebrated and shared with all through our many events; 2. To include all Filipino-Americans and their families in our activities so that we can demonstrate that we are truly inclusive members of the community; 3. To provide our youth with advice, educational activities and interactions with role models in our community so that they can set plans and achieve much success in the future. Our youth need to be involved in all of our activities-they are our future leaders who will promote and share the culture of our beloved country.

FAAVCO's Valentine's Day Celebration at Peggy Schnebly was another success!

Even with the conflicting schedule of events of the Daytona Nationwide Series Race, at least 130 Filipino-Americans attended the celebration and enjoyed the festivities with **Sonny Fornoles' music** and **Nannette Ketchum's authentic Filipino dishes**.

Manny Amolat served as the emcee for the night, **Maria McMullen, Myra Ramo and Dr. Rizalina (Babes) Leuterio spearheaded the entertainment** that include: 1. Stylish dance **by FAAVCO Officers** with Orlino Flordeliz and Rick Kennedy; 2. **Exotic Sword dance by Amy Murphy**; 3. Imported From Seminole County, the **tasteful dance by the Seminole Dancers**; 4. The **energetic FAAVCO Teen Dancers**; and 5. **CHA-CHA-CHA, exhibition that was elegantly done by Dr. Rizalina Leuterio and Jerry Lawrence of Jerry Lawrence Dance Studio**. **Rody Santos, donated 2 Daytona 500 tickets for raffle**.

The Executive Committee and the Advisors again worked diligently and energetically to make the event an exciting and joyous one. It was another success!

Our FAAVCO youth have been so involved on this night; the night was focused on the first youth Fil-Am competition to reign as King and Queen of Hearts of FAAVCO. The purpose of the competition is to expose and involve our Filipino-American youth in the organization's cultural events; they will assist in future youth competitions and become leaders for our FAAVCO youth. **Both winners King of Hearts Kevin Lim and Queen of Hearts Jessica Flordeliz will serve as the Reina Elena and Escort at the Flores the Mayo to be held in May**.

Through my eyes, seeing everyone enjoy the festivity, smiling, laughing, enjoying friends, dancing, and eating the ethnic kind of food that we enjoy the most is pure happiness and brings joy to the heart. The togetherness, the friendship and openness of everyone was the intangible gratification one would feel.

Each executive committee member is to be commended for his/her positive attitude, loyalty, dedication and working cohesively for the success of the organization.

Please visit our website at www.faavco.org and provide feedback when you get the chance. Thank you so very much!

P.S.

We found out that under our registration with IRS-our organization is not a 501(C-3) (Religious Organization); therefore, the two winners Kevin Lim and Jessica Flordeliz will be recognized only as the FAAVCO King and Queen of Hearts on Valentine's Day. We are planning to hold the same activity yearly.