

PHILIPPINE NURSES ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN D.C., Inc.

A History to Remember

Marissa Usman was the 12th President of PNAMDC, year 2011–2013. She completed two medical missions and continued to provide free healthcare services in the local community in partnership with other organizations. She conducted three Nursing Educational Seminars to improve the nurses' skills and professional excellence. Actively participated in leadership conferences. PNAMDC has now its Facebook account and Website, in addition to the Newsletter. PNAMDC supports US Medicare Portability to the Philippines. Her leadership was at the forefront when she sought for an apology from DC Council Member Marion Barry for his insensitive, disrespectful and divisive remarks against the Filipino Nurses working in Washington D.C. On May 24, 2012, after a dialogue with Mr. Marion Barry, a press conference was held where he apologized to PNAMDC, to President Marissa Usman and to the Filipino nurses.

Leonora P. Mendoza was the President from 2013 to 2015. She launched the Wellness Initiative, which includes dance exercise and a 3K Fun Walk/Run. PNAMDC is the first PNA Chapter to incorporate Dance Therapy as part of their Educational Program. She embarked on the new global Educational Outreach program in collaboration with Liceo de Cagayan University, Cagayan De Oro City, for the academic development and clinical practice of their nursing students. She completed two Educational Conferences in Virginia with prominent health educators and speakers. She conducted two medical missions to the Philippines one in Iba, Zambales and Cagayan De Oro City, two satellite missions in Bantayan, Cebu and Tacloban City, and delivered relief funds in Daanbantayan, Cebu for the victims of Typhoon Haiyan. Under her leadership, four orphans, who became orphans because of Typhoon Haiyan were adopted with the goal of supporting and monitoring their education and safety. Through her leadership, PNAMDC received a grant from the Philippine Humanitarian Coalition helping orphans for the Prevention of Human Trafficking and the PNA Transformation Award. She created the Trinidad Padama Scholarship Fund in memory of PRO Trinidad Padama. She was instrumental in the design and construction of the PNAMDC Website. PNAMDC 501(c)3

status was reinstated during her term.

Dr. Lorna Imperial-Seidel served as PNAMDC President from 2015 to 2017. As PNAMDC President, she built her legacy on her professional life mission, which was adapted as PNAMDC's mantra: "Leading the Way to Innovation, Excellence Through Health Empowerment, Advancement Leadership, Transformation Healing." She established the organization's Leadership Institute, Humanitarian and Legislative, Education and Research committees. PNAMDC established its first Health and Wellness Outreach Community Fair serving Prince George's County with the American Diversity Group and partnered with Walden University. This laid the groundwork for new strategies, such as online webinars, to provide continuing education to PNAMDC members. Together with the tremendous help from the officers and members, she directed the organization of the successful and well attended 37th PNA National Convention held in Washington, DC on July 20 - 24, 2016. PNAMDC sustained the trenches of giving back to our countrymen with medical missions to Surigao City, Cebu City, and Bulacan. PNAMDC received several awards during her term: Empowerment Leadership Award 2015, Most Outstanding PNA Chapter 2016 and the 2016 Presidential Banaag Award category.

Myrna Joy Arellano served as PNAMDC President from 2017 to 2019. The association's theme during her term was "Nursing with C.A.R.E. (Commitment; Awareness; Respect, and Engagement). She adapted the Healthy Nurse Healthy Nation initiative through the American Nurses Association. She has collaborated with partners from the community in providing lectures on healthy food choices, exercise, and wellness education. She conducted medical missions to the Philippines in Sto. Rosario, Batangas and San Mateo, Rizal. Ms. Arellano was awarded Most Outstanding in Healthcare Profession and Community Service by the Migrant Heritage Commission on June 23, 2018. Increased collaboration with other organizations and community involvement earned PNAMDC a Community Service Award from Maryland Governor on December 4, 2018.