



# **MOKOR**



# **GAZETTE**



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSOURI KNIGHTS OF RIZAL

## **SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI**

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**MOKOR SL CHAPTER:** The Gazette Volume II, Number 1 of June 2015 was sent to 175 contacts around the world by email and included countries of the Philippines, United States of America, Canada, Belgium, Germany, Australia, South Africa, Oceania, etc. The Gazette Volume II, Number 2 will cover the months of July, August and September of the year 2015. The Missouri Knights of Rizal, St. Louis Chapter, had three monthly meetings on the third Sunday of each month, July 19, August 16 and September 2015 with the required quorum. Meetings were held with a prepared protocol and program to follow. To-date, we have sixteen (16) members of good standing, ten (10) being life members. We are actively processing eight (8) applicants for future membership. Our Chapter Commander, Sir Alex Datuin, M.D., KCR, has been very active in spite of a few surgical procedures he had to undergo.

The monthly meeting on July 19, Sunday was held at the Castro's Residence Florida Room in the St. Louis suburbs at 2:00 to 4:00 PM followed with a garden party at 5:30 PM., with the Filipino community invited. Around forty people attended. It was designated as Filipino Friendship Freedom Fiesta. A Philippine oriented cuisine was provided including a fifty pound roast pig known as "lechon". In the month of July, we received a letter of appreciation from Mr. Ken Allison, treasurer of the Inter-Veterans Memorial Day Service Committee, Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery for the chapter's financial contribution. The sponsors were Sirs Juan Castro and Al Katzenberger. The next monthly meeting was held at the home of Sir Al Katzenberger. A quorum was established. Sir Jess Celis brought a American friend interested in the organization and offered the use of their church in Hazelwood, Missouri. This was voted on and accepted as our regular meeting place without any rent. The September 20 meeting was held for the first time at the Church of Christ on 3740 Dunn Rd., Hazelwood, MO 63042 in their basement meeting conference room. Mr. Richard "Rich" Herzig was there earlier awaiting our arrival. The area was excellent for our purpose and spacious with a kitchenette and refrigerator. Lady Aida Castro provided her "Pancit" and Lady Virgie Abinoja, "enfanada". Other foods served included bottled water, soft drinks and snacks from Sir Al. There were 16 attendees, eight Knights, two Ladies and three guests. One of the guest was Dr. Josh Henk, a Chiropractor, a member of the church and has shown interest. Sir Juan presented his report on his Chicago visit, the theft of the Rizal Bust from the Rizal Heritage Center and possible Supreme Commander's visitation in October. The council approved the plane ticket purchase for the visit from New Jersey to St. Louis. The meeting was adjourned for the happy hour. A car pool was made for this commute. Next monthly meeting will be held on October 15, 2015 at Williamsburg Florida Room in the home of Lady Aida Castro as a special event for the "Supremo's" visitation.

**AREA COUNCIL:** The role of the area commander was mostly spent through the use of the e-mail and phone through July to September except of one chapter visitation to Chicago, requested by Sir Willie Buhay, KGOR for a pep talk and fraternal message. Sir Juan prepared an article with a title "A Call To Pride and Dignity". During this time, Sir Randy Datu, KCR, Houston Chapter Commander submitted requests for awards for four Knights. These were held for further study and communications. Sir Jun Colmeneras has emailed his agreement. The Supreme Commander, Sir Jeremias "Jerry" C. Singson, KGCR, requested completion of the KOR List. In our central area, only St. Louis and Texas chapters were able to submit their lists. More effort and persuasion need to be done.

The Chicago chapter visitation on September 11, 2015 was accomplished by a car trip and lodging at the home of Lady Aida's brother, Sir Arsenio Mariano, KOR, an inactive Knight of Rizal. We came in Thursday after a careful comfortable drive. On Friday, September 11, we went to the Rizal Center a distance of 27 miles and met Sir Eli Faypon, Ph.D., KGCR, 1<sup>st</sup> USA Regional Commander, who brought us to the Signature Room at the 95<sup>th</sup> Chicago, John Hancock Center, 875 N. Michigan Avenue. This is a sought after tourist spot, top of the line expensive restaurant in Chicago. One can see the beautiful skyline of city of Chicago and the Michigan Lake. Of course, the food and ambience was excellent. After lunch, we walk to the nearby Newberry Library, where some of Dr. Rizal's original artifact are being stored, preserved and displayed on special request by appointment of at least a month. A library reader card was given to give me free access to the facility. At the library, Sir Rufino Crisostomo, M.D., KGOR, President of the Rizal Heritage Center of Chicago met us to bring the group back to the center for the scheduled conference.

The meeting began at 6:00 PM with a catered delicious Filipino cuisine buffet attended by eight Knights, seven Ladies for Rizal and one lady guest. Among the attendees, were Lady Carmen Estacio, President of the Regional Ladies for Rizal and a recent recipient of the Mokor Rizaliana Woman of the Year 2015, Sirs Eli Faypon, Nitoy Crisostomo, Willie Buhay, Clem Manaois, Raul Fermin and Mariano Santos, KCR, Deputy Area Commander for Chicago, assisting Sir Juan. The presentation "A Call To Pride and Dignity" called on all Knights to go to the basics of the Order by following it's role as the only vanguard to carry on the primary objectives propagating and preserving the image and teachings of our national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal and to abide with protocol and the by-laws. Emphasis was stressed on the importance of monthly meetings with planned programs, the understanding of the awards and promotions in ranks honestly and honorably earned and proudly wearing the uniform with its awards and ranks. At times, disagreement, dissension and hotly contested personal topics may ensue. A plead to calmness and fraternal brotherhood might dissipate the unpleasant situations. After all, no one is infallible, but proper reasoning can prevail.

On Saturday, September 12, we were treated to a sumptuous delicious Filipino cuisine buffet at the Little Quiapo restaurant by the Ladies for Rizal with Lady Carmen. The crispy "pata" and "Kare-Kare" were so tasty. The "Halo-Halo" was so huge, pleasing to the eyes and so good you can't help eating it all. So much pleasant conversation of so many topics came out of the gathering. An enjoyable experience was the outcome.

The Sunday of September 13 was another splendid treat by Sir Eli. From the Rizal Center, we drove quite a distance to go to brunch. He told me that the "Sunday Champagne Brunch" of the Drury Lane Theater and Conference Center, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, is only held once a week on Sunday and need to reserve months in advance to be accommodated. It is Chicagoland favorite facility for business and entertainment. You can drink all the champagne you need as part of the voluminous and delicious buffet.

We left Chicago fully satisfied and entertained. Sir Eli said that all personalities of the Knights of Rizal representing the Supreme Commander and Council are treated this way.

**FUTURE MEETINGS:** October 1, 2015, American Legion monthly meeting, Post 397 at Legion Post in Creve Coeur, MO.

October 15-17, 2015, Special meeting for the first official visitation of a Supreme Commander to St. Louis, Missouri. The first day includes reception at the airport, breakfast at the Castro's home, tour of St. Louis, Lunch at Cuneto's Restaurant, registration at the Frontenac Hilton Hotel and finally special meeting the Area Knights and reception with belated birthday and garden party at the residential home of Sir Juan and Lady Aida Castro. The next day, October 16, Friday, the activities will include breakfast at the hotel, St. Louis City tour, lunch at the hotel for "Bison Burger" and tree planting at the Castro's backyard. October 17, Saturday is departure time for Los Angeles, CA with a pick-up at 5:30 AM.

October 15-17, 2015, Silver Dollar Coin Show at the St. Chales Convention Center, St. Charles, MO.

October 24, 2015, Surprise Party for Sir Dr. Cosme and Lady Linda Cagas, Lincolnland Chapter, Springfield, IL, celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding and 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of Sir Cosme at the Frontenac Hilton Hotel, West St. Louis County.

October 28, 2015, Monthly meeting, Missouri Numismatic Society at the Legion Post, Creve Coeur, MO.

November 5, 2015, Monthly meeting of the American Legion at Post 397, Creve Coeur, MO.

November 15, 2015, Monthly meeting of the Mokor St. Louis Chapter at the Church of Christ, Hazelwood, MO.

November 25, 2015, Monthly meeting of the MNS at Post 397, Creve Coeur, MO.

December 3, 2015, Monthly meeting of the American Legion at Post 397, Creve Coeur, MO.

December 5, 2015, Philippine Medical Association Christmas Party at the Frontenac Hilton Hotel, Linbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO.

December 18, 2015, MNS, Holiday and annual Awards Party at the Bartolino's Osteria, Drury Inn, Hampton, St. Louis, MO.

December 19, 2015, Mokor St. Louis Chapter Rizal Day commemorating the martyrdom of Dr. Jose P. Rizal, meeting and awards ceremony at the St. Louis County Library, Linbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO.

December 26-28, 2015, Houston Texas chapter formation event in Houston, Texas.

**NEWSBITS:** Sir Juan and Lady Aida, their CMA Gallery, the future Casa de Rizal and Library was burglarized on July 12, 2015, around 4-5 AM with the loss of hard to replace lifetime collections of military medals, insignias, swords and knives of American, Japanese, Philippine and Muslim origins, MacArthur's and Ike's Coins and Medals, Spanish-Filipino-American War artifacts, etc. Information have been submitted to many appropriate entities, but so far no sign of the artifacts showing up has occurred. Jack, our eldest son and his wife, Madeline, still live in Boyd, Maryland. Son Mitch just finished his masters and at work. Son Gabe is a freshman in college taking sciences at the University of Maryland.

Sir Les Jenkins and Lady Armella: Sir Les is still in Devon, England on R&R and managing his rental properties. He will be back sometime in October, 2015. Lady Armella has been very busy with volunteer work for the Shop Around The Corner of the Missouri Botanical Garden, traveling around the country with her job and helping manage the disposition of the properties of a recently departed friend.

Sir Al Katzenberger and Lady Barbara: Sir AL was re-elected as financial officer of the American Legion Creve Coeur Post 397, donated financially to the Avenue of Flags, Jefferson Barracks and to the Mokor St. Louis Chapter. He hosted the August monthly meeting at his home. He recently received the Distinguished Service Medal and being recommended for the Medal of Recognition for his attendance at this year KOR International Convention in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, Philippines.

**Sir Steve Erdmann:** Sir Steve was busy in the months of July and September helping set-up annual shows for the MO Numismatic Society and World Coin Club, where he is the President. He submitted his clear and accurate financial statements for the last three months and gave regularly to the chapter's donation box.

**Sir Genny Herbosa and Lady Carol:** He and Carol just attended a September meeting in Oral Surgery Seminar in Washington D.C. Her daughter, Cristina, just graduated from Harvard University, Boston, MA with a BS in Biology, Cum Laude and currently applying for medical schools. She was awarded a research assistantship in Neurology at Washington University School of Medicine and a service learning fellowship by Harvard with full financial scholarship to be performed in the Philippines. He and his family, started by Cristina, have a continuing contribution to Sacred Heart Group, where they regularly send books, clothes and school supplies to the Philippines (Montalban, Ormoc, Leyte). Sir Genny is a busy practitioner in Oral & Maxillo-Facial Surgery with two offices in St. Louis, MO.

**Sir Dan Coleman and Lady Aurora:** Sir Dan just recently became a Life member and Knight Commander of Rizal and worked for the Florida Power & Light for years as supervisor and will be eligible for retirement in April 2016. Wife, Rora, works for the Assurant, Inc. for years as accountant. Son Steuart is on his second year in economics at Florida State University and daughter, Stefanie, on her last year for Associate in Art History at the Miami Dade College and plans on continuing it at FSU.

**Sir Jess Celis and Lady Marietta:** Sir Jess was busy with his many doctor visits and going to his Lake of the Ozark Home for its maintenance and giving his Labrador a chance to swim in the lake, joined by the three dogs of his daughter. You can see how difficult it is to fish when four dogs are swimming around.

**Sir Roger Schmidt:** He helped set-up the annual Show of the World Coin Club in September and continue his volunteer church activities as elder. He attended the chapter meetings regularly and contributed to donation box.

**Sir Mark Scholl and Lady Gina Castro, Esq.:** Sir Mark just recently became a life member and KCR is heavily involved in sports. He participated this year Florida's Strongman Marathon Race consisting of swimming, biking and running and together with wife Lady Gina and son, Soli, get involved in Tak-wen-do (Black Belt) and scuba diving. Soli at very young age has become a black belter and master scuba diver, won many trophies and awards, including academics and math. The last time I heard, he was running for President of the Boy Scouts.

**Sir Joe Castro and Lady Kimberley:** Sir Joe just got his KOR life member and KCR, a CPE in Boulder, CO. He sent me a recent photo of his latest hunting expedition and got a pronghorn antelope. Daughter Meiji will be celebrating her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday next month in October, a junior in art history at the University of Colorado.

**Sir Jerry Castro and Lady Nancy:** Sir Jerry, likewise got his KCR and Life Membership on Rizal Day in St. Louis and active in the medical profession in Spokane, WA as an internist specializing in hyperbaric medicine and wound care. Lady Nancy is busy with practice of physical therapy. Their son, Kyler, was 3<sup>rd</sup> in Math in the State of Washington. Daughter Jenna who loves stage play and with Dad went to Seattle to participate with "Dances With The Stars". She was so scared and refused to go up the stage. To show her how easy it was, her dad, Jerry, dance on stage including "moon walk, etc. Many were surprised an M.D. could dance so well.

**Sir Stephen O'Black:** Sir Stephen, a retired US Navy combat jet pilot and resident of Augusta Missouri has expressed difficulty in commuting to meetings which usually took an hour to negotiate. We hope in the future, we can establish a chapter in their neighborhood around 30-60 miles from St. Louis. He and son, Ben just attended a Boy Scout jamboree outside town.

**Sir Conrad Abinoja and Lady Virgie:** Sir Conrad has been busy with the activities of the medical community, being the Philippine Medical Association president. In spite of the heavy schedule, he

still managed to come to the KOR events and meetings. He was recipient of the KOR Distinguished Service Medal during the 20<sup>th</sup> International Assembly in Vigan, Ilocos Sur.

**Sir Alex Datuin:** Sir Alex has been very busy running the show as St Louis Chapter Commander, a recipient of the DSM award recently, in spite of taking time to get surgery on his right leg and eye. He was always around to give a helping hand. I believed he has completely retired from active practice of Neurology and Psychiatry. He gave updates on most of his weekly tours with the senior group he was affiliated with. He gave an account of a recent river cruise in the Mississippi and Illinois rivers and a top secret military facility in South St. Louis.

**Sir Francis D. Sison and Lady Evelyn:** The ever present, charming and likeable couple and regional commander from Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur and New Jersey, were always at hand to share KOR news, update and sound advices. We will attend the chapter formation events in Houston, Texas, come December 26, 2015. It would be doubly joyful and fruitful if the rumored news of the Supreme Commander's Houston visit materialized.

**Sir Eli U. Faypon:** A constant Advisor and Supporter. An established KOR leader with 38 years of KOR experience. He managed to attend and participate in important events of the Mokor St. Louis Chapter. We were together in the 20<sup>th</sup> Vigan IAC event.

**JMC 10/31/15**

**Edited by Lady Aida Mariano-Castro, M.D.**