

HANDBOOK

OF THE

ORDER OF THE

KNIGHTS OF RIZAL

BY:

SIR AVELINO V. TORRES, KGOR
Supreme Pursuivant, 2012-14
Supreme Chancellor, 2014-16

FOREWORD

As I started preparing and collecting hand-outs and reading materials for this Handbook, many ideas and thoughts have entered my mind, as may be beneficial, useful, and of notable importance to my fellow knights.

There are still more and other indispensable articles that ought to be included but the basic references were my primary concern. To the newly initiated knights, this will give you ideas and knowledge about the Order of the Knights of Rizal and other useful information. To the officers and commanders, this will guide you in your meetings, programs, activities, reporting procedures, as well as other requirements and better understanding of the Order of the Knights of Rizal.

There are many challenges to come and we must be prepared for these challenges. In preparing this Handbook, my intention is what could be my best contribution to the Order, a contribution that will be beneficial and valuable to my brother knights. Although this is a very humble piece of work, I have shared my thoughts and ideas with others.

I wish to express my grateful appreciation to my fellow Supreme Council Officers especially to our Supreme Commanders Sir Reghis M. Romero II, KGCR and Sir Jerry C. Singson, KGCR who inspired me to continue and finish this Handbook. To Sir Choy Arnaldo, KGOR who edited and assisted me in its preparation. To the members of the Technical Working Group of the Order and to the staff of the Knights of Rizal Headquarters who shared and gave me the materials that I can include in this Handbook. I also acknowledged the members of my family who is always generous to help me in all of my endeavors.

Above all, I am immensely grateful to our God Almighty for all the guidance and blessings that I have received and those still to come.

Sir Avelino V. Torres, KGOR
Supreme Pursuivant, 2012-14
Supreme Chancellor, 2014-16

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title	Page
Foreword	i
The Knights of Rizal- Mission	1
The Knights of Rizal- Vision	2
The Knights of Rizal- An Organization	3
The Knights of Rizal- What it is Now	4
The Knights of Rizal Has Corporate Powers	5
Code of Ethics of the Knights of Rizal	6
Purposes and Objectives	7
Benefits One Gets From Being a Knight of Rizal	8
What the Knights of Rizal Can Do As An Organization	9
What A Rizalist Can Do as A Member	10
ORGANIZING AND CHARTERING A NEW CHAPTER	
Rules on Organizing a New Chapter and Knighthood Ceremony	12
Qualifications for Membership, Induction and Exaltation	14
Formation/Organizing A New Chapter	14
Termination or Transfer of Membership	15
DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS	
Regional Commander	17
Deputy Regional Commander	17
Area Commander	18
Deputy Area Commander	18
Chapter Commander	19
Deputy Chapter Commander	19
Chapter Chancellor	19
Chapter Pursuivant	20
Chapter Exchequer	20
Chapter Archivist	21
Chapter Auditor	21
Deputy Chapter Pursuivant & Deputy Chapter Exchequer	21
MEETINGS AND CHAPTER ACTIVITIES	
Meeting Requirements	23
Chapter Activities	24
MEMBERSHIP FEES AND OTHER ASSESSMENTS	
Membership Fees and Other Dues	26
Manner of Payment of Dues	27
Price List of Certificates, Medals, Pins, Clothing Materials, etc.	28
DEGREES, RANKS, DISTINCTIONS, AND AWARDS	
Degrees, Ranks & Medals of Members	29
Recommendations for Awards and Conferment	32

SUPREME COMMANDERS (1911-2014)
STANDING & FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEES
CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMME

Calendar of Activities for Two Years Period	51
Regional Assemblies	53
Sample Programme	54

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Programs and Projects of the Knights of Rizal	57
---	----

ORGANIZATIONAL CHARTS

Administrative Organizational Chart	61
Operational Organizational Chart	62
Territorial Division	63

NOTES ON:

The Jose Rizal Model Students of the Philippines	64
National Rizal Youth Leadership Institute	69
The Greatness of Rizal	77
Dr. Jose Rizal, The Sequel to Martyrdom	80
Presentation of Hon. Alfredo Lim, KGCR	82
Are You a True Rizalist?	83
Rizalian Ideology	85
Speech of President Benigno Aquino III at the International Assembly	93

VARIOUS FORMS FOR THE KNIGHTS OF RIZAL

Membership Application Form	96
Membership General Information	98
Certification of Orientation/Seminar of Candidates	99
Report of Chapter Formation	100
Chapter's Recommendation	101
Information Update Sheet (for Chapter)	102
Chapter Annual Report	103
Commendation Form	104
Official Uniform of the Knights of Rizal	105

COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

Chapter History	
Chapter Commander's Challenge	
Area Commander's Challenge	
Regional Commander's Challenge	

MEMOS/CIRCULARS

OFFICERS, TRUSTEES, STAFF

Council of Elders/Advisers	
Supreme Council Officers & Trustees (RY 2012-14)	
Knights of Rizal International Headquarters' Staff	

NOTES... NOTES...NOTES...

THE KNIGHTS OF RIZAL

MISSION

To inculcate and propagate the teachings of our national hero not only to the Filipinos but to foreign nationals as well, to promote the spirit of Rizalian virtues, patriotism and internationalism and engaged in educational, social and cultural endeavors.

VISION

An organization dedicated to the propagation of Rizalian thoughts, ideas and works to the end that peoples regardless of race, creed and religion may emulate Rizal's examples for the benefit of humankind.

AN ORGANIZATION

The Order of the Knights of Rizal is a civic and patriotic organization recognized by law as an instrumentality by which the teaching of our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal may be propagated among the Filipino people and others who may believe in his teachings to the end that they may emulate and follow his example.

Aside from its being a civic and patriotic organization, it is also cultural, non-sectarian, non-partisan and non-racial.

WHAT IT IS NOW

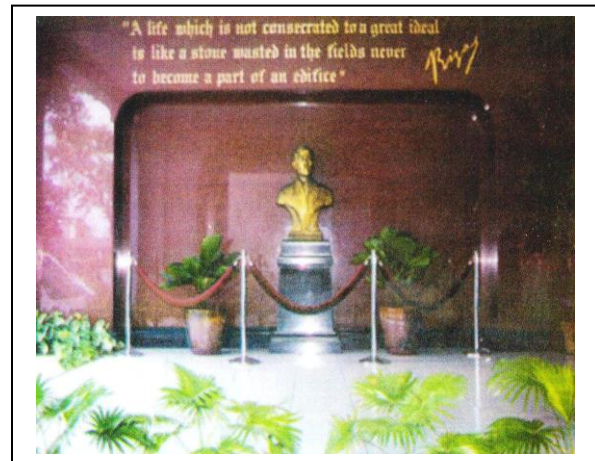
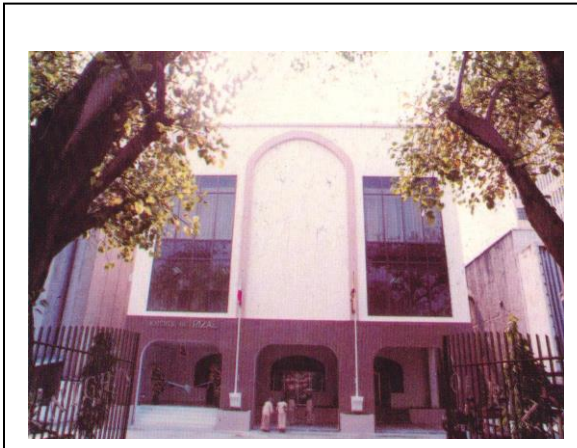
The Order of the Knights of Rizal is directed by the SUPREME COUNCIL with International Headquarters at its own Knights of Rizal Building located at 25 Bonifacio Drive (near Anda Circle), Port Area, Manila, P.O. Box 102 Manila, Philippines. Telephone Numbers: (02) 528-1974 and (02) 521-0141; Telefax: (02) 528-1973; E-mail Address: okorian84@yahoo.com.

The governing board is composed of Council Officers and Trustees elected during the General Assembly convened for this purpose.

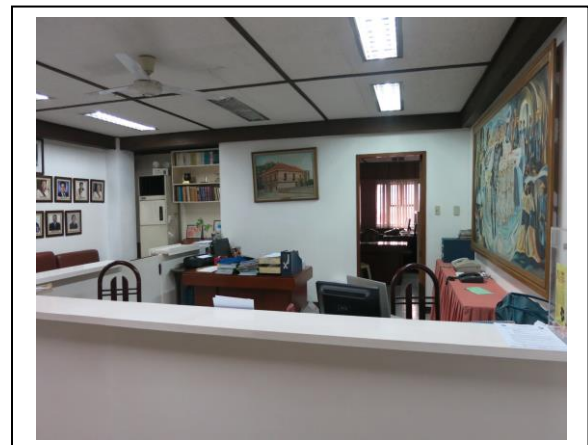
Location Map of the International Headquarters:

Insert Google Map

The frontage of Knights of Rizal International Headquarters and the main lobby...



Knights of Rizal Secretariat Office...



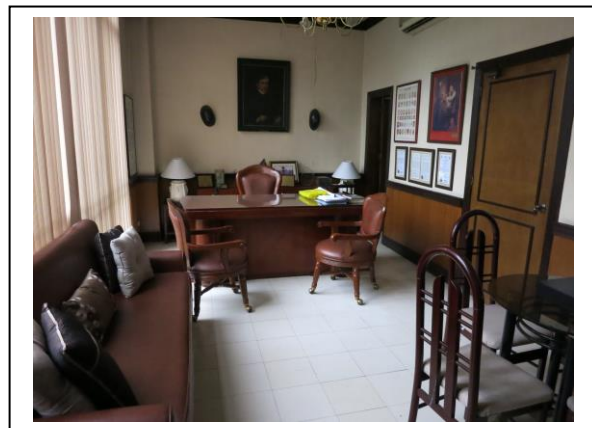
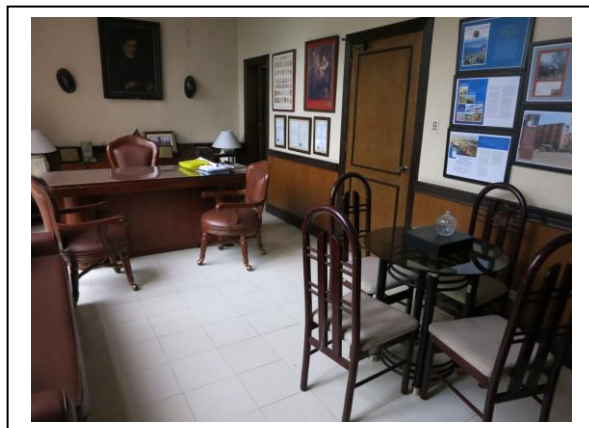
Ceremonial Hall...



Ante-Room and Mini-Library...



Supreme Commander's Office...



CORPORATE POWERS **OF THE KNIGHTS OF RIZAL**

As a legal entity, the Knights of Rizal can exercise corporate powers. Thus, it shall have perpetual succession, with power to sue and to be sued, to hold such real and personal property as shall be necessary for corporate purposes; to solicit and receive public contributions, to receive real and personal property by gift, device, or bequest; to adopt a seal and to alter the same at pleasure; to have offices and conduct its business and affairs in the City of Manila and elsewhere; to make and adopt by-laws, rules and regulations not inconsistent with the laws of the Philippines, and generally to do all such acts and things (including the establishment of regulations for election of associates and successors) as may be necessary to carry into effect the provisions of Republic Act 646 and to promote the purposes of said corporation.

CODE OF ETHICS **OF THE KNIGHTS OF RIZAL**

A Rizalist:

- Loves his country and people;
- Promotes international understanding among peoples and nations;
- Venerates the memory of the nation's heroes by making their ideals his own;
- Values honor as he values his life;
- Strives to do justice to all his fellowmen;
- Finds meaning and purposes in life;
- Upholds freedom at all costs;
- Maintains a tolerant and understanding attitude towards his fellowmen;
- Believes in the value of education as essential to the formation of the character of man;
- Promotes social justice and general welfare;
- Is industrious, self-reliant, persevering and conscious of the plight of the less fortunate;
- Is truthful and honest in thoughts, words and in deeds.

PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES **OF THE KNIGHTS OF RIZAL**

(A) General Objectives:

The purposes and objectives of the Knights of Rizal are as follows:

- To study the teachings of Dr. Jose Rizal.
- To inculcate and propagate them in and among all classes of Filipino people.
- To exhort our citizenry by words and deeds, to emulate and practice the examples and teachings of our national hero.
- To promote among all Knights the spirit of patriotism and Rizalian chivalry.
- To develop a perfect union among the Filipinos in revering the memory of Dr. Jose Rizal.
- To organize and hold programs commemorating Rizal's birth and martyrdom; and
- Wherever possible, to share these ideals with peoples of all cultures.

(B) Specific Objectives:

- To study and spread the ideals, teachings and exemplary life of Rizal among the Youth of the land;
- To organize chapters in any community anywhere in the world and to undertake such programs of activities which will promote individual commitment to the idealism of Rizal and encourage personal involvement in the contemporary problems of the nation, and
- To train and to develop the Youth in character building, citizenship training, democratic leadership, enlightened nationalism and dedicated service to country and people.

Every member of the Order must be familiar with the objectives of the Knights of Rizal. Knowing the objectives of the Order provides a sense of direction for every member. Admission to the Order is not merely a ceremonial rite, it implies duties and responsibilities.

BENEFITS ONE GETS FROM BEING A KNIGHT OF RIZAL

1. A Knight of Rizal brings his life nearest to being a patriot, a lover of freedom and democracy, a defender of his right as a citizen;
2. The studies of Rizal's life and works gives a Rizalist self-fulfillment as a true Filipino grateful and proud of being born in his country, the Philippines;
3. A Knight of Rizal is given a chance to serve his country and people instead of thinking first of other peoples;
4. A Knight of Rizal is exposed to the culture and true history of the country;
5. Knight of Rizal has a chance to meet with his fellow Rizalists and patriots and learn from them the essence of true love of country;
6. Personal development;

WHAT THE KNIGHTS OF RIZAL CAN DO AS AN ORGANIZATION

As a socio-civic patriotic organization chartered under Republic Act 646, the Knights of Rizal can and should undertake the following activities:

1. Conduct radio and/or TV programs and public fora to disseminate the teachings of Dr. Jose Rizal, his life and works. (Rizalism and literature on Rizal can easily be read from Rizaliana Libraries and Rizal Centers)'
2. Initiate and sponsor Oratorical and Essay Writing Contests among the youth in schools on topics related to Rizalian ideals or current issues and concerns to promote love of freedom or democracy;
3. Initiate and sponsor Choral, Art and Painting Contests among the youth and even adults and give awards to deserving artists and performers;
4. Conduct Literary and/or Reading Classes to less fortunate non-schoolers, out-of-school youths and adults;
5. Sponsor and conduct civic action missions among the poor and underprivileged and distribute goods to the indigents or victims of calamities. (This is in keeping with Rizal's ideals of uplifting the poor and destitute);
6. Conduct medical missions especially on corrective surgery and/or medication of eyesight problems;
7. Conduct special classes and sessions for street children;

8. Organize the aged for their upliftment and socialization;
9. Conduct regular monthly special gatherings of people in the community for socialization and familiarization, i.e. dancing sessions, singing contests, dramatic presentations, etc.;
10. Organize a credit and/or consumer cooperatives among the members and cooperators.

WHAT A RIZALIST CAN DO AS A MEMBER

1. Participate actively in all regular and special meetings of the chapter and the area and national assemblies;
2. Pay his regular membership dues and other financial obligations to the Order annually;
3. Secure a copy of the Knights of Rizal manual and study the objectives, rituals of the Rizalisms, and the life and works of Dr. Jose Rizal;
4. Join and support programs conducted by the Chapter;
5. Strive to perform actions worthy of promotion to the next higher rank at least up to KCR;
6. Encourage and recruit members from among his friends, relatives and co-workers;
7. Join patriotic gatherings and help teach love of freedom and democracy to the youth and fellowmen;
8. Live a life of honesty, decency and modesty consistent with Rizal's ideals;
9. Gainfully work for the welfare of others;
10. Wear the KR uniform and medals on all appropriate occasions;
11. Devote at least once a year a day to visit the sick and give to the poor and indigent; and
12. Help organize youth Rizalists for KAPARIZ, and Ladies for Rizal, Kababaihang Rizalistas or Damas de Rizal for women, PATHRI and KAGUNARI for teachers, MACLARIZ for senior citizens.

ORGANIZING

AND

CHARTERING

A NEW CHAPTER

RULES ON ORGANIZING A NEW CHAPTER **AND KNIGHTHOOD CEREMONY**

Guidelines to be used in the organization, knighthood ceremonies, chartering of a new chapter, and reporting of Regional and Deputy Regional Commanders, Area and Deputy Area Commanders and Chapter Commanders worldwide:

CHARTERING A NEW CHAPTER:

1. Invite a group of at least nine (9) prospective members of legal age (at least 18 years old), of good moral character and reputation, who are interested and supporting the ideals and teachings of Dr. Jose Rizal, to join the new chapter;
2. The organizer must orient the prospective Knights about our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, his teachings and principles, the organization and constitutional documents of the Order of the Knights of Rizal and its allowed objectives;
3. Our rules prescribed that the postulants must give testimony of their intention to seek admission to the Order and Rank, of their character and moral conduct and of their willingness to accept the strict discipline of knighthood. The Supreme Commander or his delegated officer will ask the following questions to be and answered by the postulants, thus:
 - a. Have you studied the teachings on the patriotism of our hero, Dr. Jose Rizal?
 - b. Do you promise to conduct to the best of your ability, your life as a good man, in accordance with the principles and idealism of Rizal?
 - c. Are you willing to assume your share of responsibility, to propagate and uphold the doctrines of patriotism taught by Rizal?
 - d. Do you pledge to abide willingly by the Order's by-laws and regulations, and of the Order's duly constituted officers?
 - e. Do you voluntarily pledge to do all of these without mental reservation?
4. After the orientation, and they have declared their intention to join the Order, the prospective Knights should organize among themselves by electing their set of chapter officers and trustees composed of the following:

Commander, Deputy Commander, Chancellor, Pursuivant, Exchequer, Archivist, Auditor, Deputy Pursuivant and Deputy Exchequer;

5. The elected officers must accomplish the prescribed “Report of Charter of a New Chapter Formation” and forward it to the Supreme Commander at the International Headquarters together with the “Application Form” of each candidates for review, evaluation and approval of the Charter by the Supreme Council;
6. Not more than thirty (30) days after receipt of pertinent documents, including payment of all charges (charter fees, membership fees, uniforms, medals, etc.), proposed program, venue, date and time of Knighthood which was properly endorsed and recommended by the Regional or Deputy Regional Commanders, the Area or Deputy Area Commanders; the Secretariat will confirm to the organizer the Supreme Council’s action on the final chartering and knighthood ceremonies subject to the availability of the Supreme Council Officers which in no case can this be earlier than fifteen (15) days prior to the schedule date set for the ceremony;
7. Before any initiation or chartering is to be conducted by the Supreme Council, the following requirements must be first complied with:
 - a. The postulants must have been certified to have undergone orientation/seminar by the Chapter Commander and attested by the Chapter Pursuivant or any other officers authorized by the Supreme Commander;
 - b. The charter and induction fees and cost of medallions of prospective postulants must have been paid and remitted to the Order;
 - c. All postulants must be properly attired in the official Knights of Rizal uniform (with black pants, black shoes, black socks, black belt) during the Knighthood Ceremonies; and
 - d. Knighthood Ceremonies can only be presided by the Supreme Commander or his authorized representative.

Note: This information is based on the Memo sent to all Knights of Rizal Members, approved by the Trustees of the Supreme Council during its special meeting, at which a quorum was present, at the principal office of the Order on the 10th day of December 2004 by Supreme Commander Sir Carmelo T. Gempesaw, KGCR.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP, INDUCTION AND EXALTATION:

The By-Laws of the Knights of Rizal state:- Any person of legal age, of good moral character and reputation, who believes in Rizal and is willing to learn more about him and follow his teachings is eligible for active membership. Application for membership shall be made in writing, screened and favorably endorsed by at least two (2) active members in good standing, by the concerned chapter council and approved by the Supreme Council.

To further enhance the quality of prospective members, all knights to be initiated should have undergone briefing and orientation seminar organized by the chapter, area or region concerned.

Note the old saying:- Once a knight, always a knight. BUT if a newly initiated knight cannot prove himself worthy to be a Knight of Rizal in 6-month period, then the Order can terminate his membership.

All names of the Knights to be initiated as KR, together with those to be inducted as chapter officers (KOR) and to be exalted as chapter commander (KCR), should be submitted to the International Headquarters at least two (2) weeks before the proposed date of induction or elevation.

Additionally, before any Knights will be initiated, inducted and exalted, they should have paid their corresponding fees and other assessments (such as KOR uniforms, medals and certificates) to the International Headquarters. And most importantly, they should come in proper attire, the Knights of Rizal uniform, during the Assembly. If the new member has no uniform yet, allow him to wear White Barong (preferably long sleeves), black pants, black shoes and black socks. Check with the office staff the proper use of uniform and medals. No one will be elevated without the prescribed uniform.

FORMATION/ORGANIZING A NEW CHAPTER

One or more chapters may be organized in a city, municipality or other urban or rural areas provided that it has a clearly definable locality or social sector exists, contains at least the minimum number of members required for the

organization of a new chapter have been obtained, and provided further that a majority of the chapters possessing or sharing the same territory have approved the sharing of territory.

A chapter who has less than the required number of members may join another chapter or form a new chapter by recruiting additional qualified members as required for the organization of a new chapter.

TERMINATION OF A CHAPTER

In the event that a chapter has less than the required number of members or a chapter had been inactive for two (2) years, the Supreme Council may terminate the chapter and the charter certificate will be revoked.

If the chapter for any reason disbands, fails to meet regularly, does not pay their membership dues and other assessments, or otherwise fails to function, the Supreme Council may terminate its membership and revoke its charter.

TERMINATION OR TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Order may be terminated: (a) by death or voluntary resignation; (b) by failure or refusal to pay the annual membership dues, authorized assessments or other valid charges, after having been duly served at least three written collection notices; and/or (c) by the commission of, or involvement in any offense involving moral turpitude, or any misconduct or misbehavior affecting the dignity, integrity and/or reputation of the Order.

A member may transfer to another chapter upon the approval of the prospective Chapter Commander and/or Chapter Council.

A resigned or dismissed member may be reinstated only upon the recommendation of host chapter commander and approval of the Supreme Council.

**DUTIES AND
RESPONSIBILITIES

OF

OFFICERS OF THE ORDER**

REGIONAL COMMANDER
Duties and Responsibilities

As such, you shall be expected to perform the duties and functions enumerated below pertinent to your Area with utmost dedication, effectiveness and efficiency:

1. Manage the affair of the Order of the Knights of Rizal within your Region, and submit to the Supreme Council a report covering the activities of the Region;
2. Determine, in consultation with the Deputy Regional Commander, Area Commanders and Chapter Commanders, knights who may be qualified to be appointed as Regional Commander, Deputy Regional Commander, Area Commander and Deputy Area Commander when so required;
3. Motivate and campaign for enlistment of lifetime members within your area;
4. Motivate and spearhead in the formation of new chapters for the Knights of Rizal, Kababaihang Rizalista, KAPARIZ and other affiliate groups;
5. In the absence of the Supreme Commander and other Supreme Trustees, and upon prior authority of the Supreme Commander, oversee the ceremony for the admission of new members, the elevation to Knights Officer of Rizal or higher and the establishment of new chapters;
6. Ensure that the purposes of the Order are consistently and faithfully accomplished and the Amended By-Laws, resolutions and issuance of the Supreme Council or the Supreme Commander are immediately and properly executed or implemented; and
7. To do all other tasks as may be delegated by the Supreme Council from time to time.

DEPUTY REGIONAL COMMANDER
Duties and Responsibilities

1. As such, you shall assist, with utmost dedication, effectiveness and efficiency, the Regional Commander in the performance of his duties and functions pertinent to your Region; and in his absence, illness, inability or resignation, discharge the duties and functions of the Regional Commander;

2. You may also be given other tasks by the Regional Commander or other superior officers.
3. To do all other tasks as may be delegated by the Supreme Council from time to time.

AREA COMMANDER **Duties and Responsibilities**

As such, you shall be expected to perform the duties and functions enumerated below pertinent to your Area with utmost dedication, effectiveness and efficiency:

1. Call and preside over all Area Meetings and Assemblies, regular and special;
2. Create, with the approval of the Area Council or other area officers, the appropriate committees which may be deemed necessary, and submit to the Supreme Council, through the Regional Commander, a report covering the activities of the Area with such details as may be necessary for complete information and guidance;
3. Motivate and campaign for enlistment of lifetime members within your area;
4. Motivate and spearhead in the formation of new chapters for the Knights of Rizal, Kababaihang Rizalista, KAPARIZ and other affiliate groups;
5. Recommend to the Regional Commander, in consultation with the Chapter Commanders, knights who may be qualified to be appointed as Regional Commander, Deputy Regional Commander, Area Commander and Deputy Area Commander when so required or requested;
6. Assist the Regional Commander oversee the ceremony for the admission of new members, the elevation to Knights Officer of Rizal or higher and the establishment of new chapters in the absence of the Supreme Commander and other Supreme Trustees and upon prior authority of the Supreme Commander;
7. Ensure that the purposes of the Order are consistently and faithfully accomplished and the Amended By-Laws, resolutions and issuance of the Supreme Council or the Supreme Commander, as well as those of the Regional Commander are immediately and properly executed or implemented; and
8. To do all other tasks as may be delegated by the Supreme Council from time to time.

DEPUTY AREA COMMANDER

Duties and Responsibilities

1. As such, you shall assist, with utmost dedication, effectiveness and efficiency, the Area Commander in the performance of his duties and functions pertinent to your Area; and in his absence, illness, inability or resignation, discharge the duties and functions of the Area Commander;
2. You may also be given other tasks by the Area Commander or other superior officers.
3. To do all other tasks as may be delegated by the Supreme Council from time to time.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Duties and Responsibilities

Chapter Commander:

- a) He shall supervise and manage the affairs of the chapter;
- b) He shall preside at all the meetings of the chapter. Call and convene regular or special meetings wherever he deems it necessary;
- c) He shall sign all certificates, diplomas, contracts and other important documents for and on behalf of the chapter;
- d) He shall sign all checks drawn against bank accounts, jointly with the Exchequer;
- e) He shall submit to the International Headquarters a report covering the activities of the Chapter during his incumbency;
- f) Perform such other duties as are relevant to his office or required of him by the By-Laws or the Supreme Council.

Deputy Chapter Commander:

- a) He shall assist the Chapter Commander in the performance of his duties, and in the absence, illness, inability or resignation of the Chapter Commander, shall have the powers to discharge all the duties of the Chapter Commander;
- b) He shall preside the Chapter Lower Prefectural Tribunal, to approve all recommendations for awards, promotions and distinctions, or termination of membership;
- c) He shall work closely with the Chapter Commander for effective administration of the Chapter;

- d) Perform such other duties as are relevant to his office or required of him by the By-Laws or the Supreme Council.

Chapter Chancellor:

- a) He shall act as the ceremonial officer of the Chapter and as such shall assist the Commander/Deputy Commander in all the ceremonies of the Chapter;
- b) He makes or supervises all arrangements concerning ceremonies, rituals, and other activities when the prescribed rituals are to be observed;
- c) He must familiarize himself with the accepted and/or recognized requirements of protocol in order to maintain a smooth flow of the particular activity or ceremony;
- d) He must provide effective assistance to the Commander/Deputy Commander whenever occasions demand the same;
- e) As such, he is the keeper of the accessories for ceremonies (bell, gavel, lamp, blindfolds, etc.);
- f) In the event that both of the above officers are unable to discharge their duties as herein prescribed, the Chancellor shall be the Commander Protempore with the powers and duties of the Chapter Commander.

Chapter Pursuivant:

- a) He shall prepare and publish all orders and resolutions of the Chapter when directed by the Commander;
- b) He must see to it that Minutes of the Meetings and activities of the chapter are properly prepared, recorded and filed methodically;
- c) He must effectively see to it that certificates and citations are properly prepared and given to those entitled to them. He also prepares petitions for awards and promotions;
- d) He shall attend to the records of memberships and see to it that notices are delivered within a reasonable time before every meeting;
- e) He may also perform such other duties as the Chapter may deem fit for him to perform.

Chapter Exchequer:

- a) He shall be the custodian of the funds and properties of the Chapter;
- b) He shall keep an accurate account of all money received and disbursed by him;
- c) He shall deposit all collections and funds of the Chapter;

- d) He shall sign all checks drawn against such funds jointly with the Chapter Commander, when the Chapter thereof authorizes disbursements;
- e) He shall submit monthly to the Chapter a statement of the financial condition of the Chapter;
- f) He shall perform such other duties as are relevant to his office or required of him by the Chapter or Order.

Chapter Archivist:

- a) He shall keep all records, documents and correspondence of the Chapter;
- b) He shall act as Historian and Librarian thereof and make recommendations for the acquisition of such books, relics, or other objects pertaining to Dr. Jose Rizal or of interest to the Chapter;
- c) He must maintain a working relationship to safeguard the interest of the Order in the maintenance, preservation and care of books, records, Rizaliana and other matters given to their care;
- d) He shall coordinate with media for coverage of events and provides press releases, and engage in social media;
- e) He shall perform such other duties as are incident to his office or required of him by the Order.

Chapter Auditor :

- a) He shall review and audit the disbursement and expenses of the Chapter from time to time and shall certify in writing that the financial statements and report of the Chapter Exchequer were audited and reviewed by him;
- b) That the expenses and disbursements as shown therein are duly authorized by the Chapter in accordance with the provisions of the By-Laws.

Deputy Chapter Pursuivant and **Deputy Chapter Exchequer** shall respectively assist the Chapter Pursuivant and Chapter Exchequer in the performance of the latter's duties. They shall also perform such duties as may be assigned to them by the Chapter.

MEETINGS

AND

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

MEETING REQUIREMENTS

Our Fraternal Order is one of the many organizations where we SHOULD have regular meetings and assemblies at least monthly. Area and Regional Commanders should also conduct Area and Regional meetings respectively. And in some of our active chapters, there are numerous special meetings and committee meetings to plan projects and activities.

When we say Meeting Requirements, we think of what is required and needed in the meeting. How are we going to conduct the meeting? What are the requirements needed in the meeting?

- a) **Venue-** Before any meeting notice is sent out, one should decide a suitable place. It should be adequate in size, conducive for the type of meeting to be held and should also have the needed facilities such as an audible sound system, audio-visual equipments, boards, etc. The venue should also be free from external disturbances (like karaoke bars, noisy neighborhood or a dance studio that can disrupt the meeting that may cause the speaker to pause and shout. Or a chemical laboratory that you smell unpleasant odor and everyone's closing their nose).
- b) **Time-** Some of our brother knights and guests are busy, either managing a business or practicing a profession. So you have to decide the right and ideal time so that every one can attend. Some Chapters organized luncheon meetings and others especially from the provinces and other places have their meetings at night after office hours or on weekends.
- c) **Programs & Agenda-** Another very important item in a meeting is a prepared program and agenda. Meetings can be great and fun but can also be boring and unproductive. Therefore, you have to:
 - a. **Be prepared** for the meeting. The needed things and articles like Gavel, Philippine Flag, sound system, etc. should be present. Streamer or tarpaulin for guest or resource speaker should also be taken cared of.
 - b. Prepare an **Agenda**. Call to Order/ Invocation/ National Anthem/ Introduction of guests and visitors/ Pursuivant's Report/ Exchequer's Report/Commander's Report/ Committee Reports/ and other important matters should be ready/ Adjournment.

- c. Set **time limits** for discussions and for the meeting.
- d. Assure **attendance**. (call, text, follow-ups, etc.)
- e. **Fellowship**:- this is the most enjoyable & important. When I first came to an assembly meeting some years ago, I was not so interested in the meeting, I didn't understand what they were talking and discussing. After the meeting had ended, I started to ask questions about the agenda.

There are many ways of improving fellowship:

- a) **Rotation** of seating arrangements so that some new and old members will know each other more;
- b) **Cocktail meetings** prior to a regular meeting or assembly new members are introduced to other members;
- c) **Picnics and outings** so that the members and their families will have a longer time to talk and interact with each other.
- d) **Joint meetings** so that members of other chapters can have better acquaintance with each other;
- f. **Guest Speakers** - To have lively, informative and educational meetings, we need to have some good speakers to talk about our Order or interesting stories about our National Hero, Dr. Jose Rizal.

Finally, continuing membership education, knowledge about Rizalian Values and developing the Rizalian Ideology are very important. It is not only for new members but also for all Brother Knights. Why? This is where we may know more about our Order and about our National Hero. We can also discuss, evaluate, and adopt procedures and measures in the hope that we can improve, get better and expand our Fraternal organization.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

The activities of the Chapter must always be attuned to the objectives and policies of the Order. Needless to say, the Chapters' activities must be in line with the ideals and teachings of our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal. Although conditions existing in one region may not necessarily be similar to another region or community, nevertheless, Chapter activities must gird toward the development and improvement of the Filipino character along Rizalian ideals and concepts. This must be so if we aspire to promote unity and love of country through individual and national discipline.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

AND

OTHER ASSESSMENTS

MEMBERSHIP FEES AND OTHER CHARGES

Membership fees and other charges shall be paid by members of the Order as determined by the Supreme Council. Such fees may be increased or decreased by the Supreme Council as circumstances may warrant.

Unless otherwise changed or modified, the annual fees to be paid by the chapter and members of the Order shall be as follows:

- 1) In remitting a definite portion of the fees collected from its members, each member will be assessed the amount of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00), Philippine Currency, and likewise each member of a foreign chapter of the Order shall be assessed the amount of US DOLLARS TWENTY FIVE (\$25.00), as annual membership dues payable every end of the calendar year (December 31 of each year);
- 2) Each chapter shall collect from its members an annual membership fee and other fees in such amount that the member concerned may be willing or can afford to pay, irrespective of rank and position;
- 3) The excess fees (less the membership fees and other dues remitted to the International Headquarters) collected from the members shall constitute the operating funds of the chapter to be used for its activities and projects, and for the payment of the corresponding chapter fee hereinafter provided;
- 4) A Lifetime Member of the Order of the Knights of Rizal shall be exempted from payment of membership fees, but may offer Donations.
- 5) Payments should be made at the International Headquarters or deposited through Metrobank, Port Area Branch, Savings Account No. 151-3-15151380-0 or Bank of the Philippine Islands, Intramuros Branch, US Dollar Account No. 4954-0143-18, SWIFT CODE: BOIPHMM.

MANNER OF PAYMENT OF DUES & OTHER LIABILITIES **TO THE ORDER**

Please be reminded that it is the Chapter's responsibility to accurately update the chapter membership and to pay membership dues plus other assessments accordingly, so that the records at the International Headquarters will be corrected.

1. The Chapter Pursuivant should update the **Membership Lists** by indicating directly on your report the complete name, rank/position. Lifetime member, home/office address, contact numbers, and e-mail address of each member;
2. The Chapter Exchequer will multiply the number of members on your Updated Membership List by **One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00), Philippine Currency** for local members and **US Dollars Twenty Five (\$25.00)** for foreign members as annual membership dues. Other assessments will be added on your accounts payable (example: if you have ordered KOR Barongs, T-Shirts, jackets, pins, medals, certificates, etc.);
3. Please be sure to make your remittance payable to the **Order of the Knights of Rizal** for the amount you had calculated. If payment is made through the bank, attached a photocopy of the deposit slip on your Updated Membership List (Bank... Account No... as shown in the previous page).
4. Please prepare two (2) copies of the report, one copy goes to the International Headquarters for encoding and filing, and the second copy for your file. Both copies will be stamped "**Received by and Date Received**".

Dues are payable on or before **December 30** every year and your cooperation in promptly submitting your chapter report and payment will be very much appreciated and will avoid future problems and possible suspension or termination of your chapter.

If you have questions or need further information, please contact our International Headquarters, the officer-in-charge of the accounts of all chapters.

PRICE LIST (as of July 30, 2013)

Description	Qty.	Certificate	Medal
I. Certificates/Medals and Pins:			
Initiation – 1 st Degree KR	1	250.00	750.00
Elevation – 2 nd Degree KOR	1	275.00	925.00
Exaltation – 3 rd Degree KCR	1	300.00	1,200.00
Conferment of 4 th Degree-KGOR with Sash	1	500.00	5,000.00
Conferment of 5 th Degree-KGCR with Sash	1	500.00	6,000.00
Laminated ID	1	200.00	
Distinguished Service Award	1	300.00	1,500.00
Distinguished Service Star	1	300.00	1,800.00
Distinguished Service Cross	1	300.00	2,000.00
Other Medals of Recognition	1	300.00	1,500.00
KR Pins	1		500.00
II. Swords With Wooden Box	1	Silver KGOR 6,000.00	Gold KGCR 8,000.00
III. Rizal Bust	1	Resin H-16" 9,000.00	Lahar H-8" 1,000.00
IV. Clothing Materials		Jusi	Santana
Regular Size	1	1,200.00	800.00
Extra Size	1	1,500.00	1,000.00
RTW Barong (S/M/L)	1	1,700.00	1,200.00
RTW Barong XL	1	1,850.00	1,500.00
RTW Barong XXL	1	2,000.00	1,700.00
RTW Barong XXXL	1	2,150.00	2,000.00
V. KR Polo Shirts (All Sizes)		With Collar	Without Collar
Free Size: With Patches	1	500.00	300.00
Black Jacket	1	1,500.00	
VI. Winter Coat		Regular	Extra Size
Made to Order Only	1	5,000.00	6,000.00
VII. Flags & Banner			
Philippine Flag (Satin, for Indoor use)	1		500.00
KOR Flag (Back to Back, Satin mats. w/Tussles)	1		6,000.00
Chapter Banner	1		3,000.00
VIII. Patches			
KR Patch with KOR Logo	1		300.00
IX. Membership Dues			
Local	1		Php P1,000.00
Overseas	1		US \$ 25.00
Lifetime Member	1		US \$ 500.00

Subject to change without prior notice. Inquire with the Secretariat.

**DEGREES OF
KNIGHTHOOD,
RANKS,
DISTINCTIONS,
AND AWARDS**

DEGREES, RANKS & MEDALS OF MEMBERS

There are Five (5) Degrees of Membership in the Order:



FIRST DEGREE – KNIGHT OF RIZAL (KR):

A candidate who is admitted and initiated into the first degree is known as a Knight of Rizal/KR. To qualify for admission to the first degree: one must be of legal age, of good moral character and reputation, who believes in Rizal and willing to learn more about him and follow his teachings. Application for membership shall be made in writing and duly endorsed by at least 2 members in good standing in the Order and approved by the Supreme Council recommended by the chapter concerned.



SECOND DEGREE – KNIGHT OFFICER OF RIZAL

(KOR): A Knight Officer of Rizal is one who has been elevated to the 2nd degree upon fulfillment of the following work requirements: he must have served the Order at least 6 months in the 1st degree and must also be favorably recommended by the chapter prefectural tribunal.



THIRD DEGREE – KNIGHT COMMANDER OF RIZAL

(KCR): A Knight Commander of Rizal is one who has been exalted to the 3rd degree. Any Knight of Rizal, regardless of the degree he is in or of the time he has served therein, who has fulfilled the requirements as may be prescribed by the Supreme Council for the purpose may be exalted as “Knight Commander of Rizal”, upon approval of the Supreme Council. A Knight of Rizal who has been elected as Chapter Commander shall be qualified for exaltation as KCR.

However, any person not a member of the Order, who has distinguished himself by meritorious service which has enhanced the objective of the Order, upon written recommendation to the Lower Prefectural Tribunal of the chapter concerned.



FOURTH DEGREE – KNIGHT GRAND OFFICER OF RIZAL (KGOR): A KGOR is one who had been conferred the 4th highest degree of the Order. Any Knight of Rizal or any person who has performed an outstanding achievement for the Philippines or for the Order, may be conferred the degree of KGOR by the Supreme Council; provided, that any Knight of Rizal who is elected Supreme Council Trustee shall also be conferred the degree of Knight Grand Officer of Rizal.



FIFTH DEGREE – KNIGHT GRAND CROSS OF RIZAL (KGCR): A KGCR is one who had been conferred the highest degree of the Order. Any Knight of Rizal or any person who has performed an outstanding achievement for the Philippines or for the Order, may be conferred the degree of KGCR by the Supreme Council at a Regular or Special General Assembly called for the purpose. After the election and organization of the Executive Officers of the Order, a Trustee elected as Supreme Commander shall be conferred the Knight Grand Cross of Rizal.

AWARDS & DECORATIONS:



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL: A Knight of Rizal or any person who has performed an outstanding achievement for the Order in a series of major activities or projects may be awarded the Distinguished Service Medal upon the recommendation of the Chapter Prefectural Tribunal and approval of the Supreme Council.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE STAR: A Knight of Rizal or any person who has performed an outstanding achievement for the Order may be awarded the Distinguished Service Star upon the recommendation of the Chapter Prefectural Tribunal and approval of the Supreme Council.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS: A Knight of Rizal or any person who has performed an outstanding achievements for the Philippines or for the Order in the furtherance of its lofty objectives may be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross upon the recommendation of the Chapter Prefectural Tribunal and approval of the Supreme Council.



RIZAL PRO PATRIA: The highest decoration within the gift of the Order is given to any Knight of Rizal or any person who has rendered exemplary and outstanding achievements for the Philippines or for the Order consonant with its lofty goals and objectives, either within the country or in the international field. This award is conferred discriminately and only upon the strong recommendation of the Higher Prefectural Tribunal and approval of the Supreme Council.

As a matter of policy adopted in 1986, the Rizal Pro Patria Award is conferred to the outgoing Supreme Commander of the Order.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AWARDS AND CONFERMENTS

Who reviews and approves recommendations for Awards & Conferment?

There are two (2) Prefectural Tribunal Committees in our Order. The Higher Prefectural Tribunal Committee reviews and approves the recommendations relating to proposed conferment of Knight Grand Officer of Rizal (KGOR), the Knight Grand Cross of Rizal (KGCR), and that of the highest award, the Rizal Pro Patria Award. This Committee is headed by the Supreme Commander with those living Past Supreme Commanders of the Order as its members, otherwise known as the Council of Elders.

The Lower Prefectural Tribunal Committee undertakes the screening of prospective members of the Order, conducts interviews and approves the recommendations of those qualified for admission up to the third (3rd) degree of the Order. This Tribunal also approves the recommendations for those deserving of awards and recognitions, such as the Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Service Star and Distinguished Service Cross of Rizal Awards. It is headed by the Deputy Supreme Commander with the members of the Supreme Council as its members. (A Lower Prefectural Tribunal may also be organized at the Region, Area or Chapter Level).

How do these Tribunal Committees assess and approve recommendations?

To properly guide the Committees in their reviews, the following criteria are being considered for each and every specific award:

1) The highest award, the PRO PATRIA AWARD is given to all Immediate Past Supreme Commanders as a matter of policy adopted in 1986 and upon the strong recommendation of the Prefectural Tribunal and approved by the Supreme Commander and Past Supreme Commanders.

2) KNIGHT GRAND CROSS OF RIZAL (KGCR). A Trustee of the Supreme Council elected as Supreme Commander shall be conferred the Knight Grand Cross of Rizal. But for others, before the Tribunal makes a recommendations for approval for the KNIGHT GRAND CROSS OF RIZAL (KGCR), a Knight of Rizal should at least, had been previously conferred the Knight Grand Officer of Rizal (KGOR) and as matter of policy, those who had performed outstanding achievements for the Philippines or for the Order in the promotion of Rizalian values and principles. An Honorary KGCR degree can also

be bestowed on non-Knights who had done exemplary service to the nation or the Order.

3) **KNIGHT GRAND OFFICER OF RIZAL (KGOR)**. A Knight of Rizal who has been duly elected as Supreme Trustee shall be exalted to the fourth (4th) degree with a rank of Knight Grand Officer of Rizal (KGOR). Other recommendations for approval for KGOR are those who have performed an outstanding achievement for the Philippines or for the Order in the promotion of Rizalian values and principles. An Honorary KGOR degree can also be bestowed on non-Knights who had done exemplary service to the nation or the Order.

NOTE: To properly guide the Tribunal, a further criterion for consideration is that a Knight TO be conferred the KGCR OR KGOR, that he had already received recognitions and other distinguished service medals and awards from the Order.

4) **KNIGHT COMMANDER OF RIZAL (KCR)**. Those who had been elected as Chapter Commander, or who had been accepted for lifetime membership and distinguished himself by meritorious service which enhanced the objectives of the Order. An Honorary KCR degree of knighthood can also be bestowed on non-Knights who had done exemplary service to the nation or the Order.

5) Recommendations for **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS** and **MEDALS** are given to a Knight of Rizal who had performed outstanding achievements for the Order in a series of major activities or projects upon recommendations to the Lower Prefectural Tribunal and approved by the members of the Supreme Council.

6) **MEDALS OF RECOGNITION** and **PLAQUES OF RECOGNITION** are given to other deserving Knights and non-Knights of Rizal members who had performed outstanding achievements in one or more major activities and projects of the Order upon the approval of the Supreme Council.

Note: a) Recommendations for awards and conferments will be put on hold and returned if there are incomplete records for review and assessments.

b) No award/rank will be given if the recommending chapter or the Knight is not in good standing.

c) Distinctions are usually not given more than once a year to the same Knights.

**SUPREME COMMANDERS
OF THE ORDER OF THE
KNIGHTS OF RIZAL
(1911- 2014)**

SUPREME COMMANDERS OF THE ORDER OF THE KNIGHTS OF RIZAL

1. **ANTONIO C. TORRES (1911-1937)** – Founder of the Knights of Rizal and the first Grand Commander of the Knights of Rizal. His avowed objective was to insure that the celebration of the birth and the commemoration of the death of our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, would always be conducted in an appropriate manner. His military training and career as Chief of Police of Manila influenced his work in life generally and as Grand Commander. He was born in Manila on September 1, 1885. He rose from a family of jurists. He studied at the Ateneo de Manila and obtained his A.B. Degree in 1901. He was elected City Councilor of Manila in 1928. He was the first Filipino to become Chief of Police of Manila. He spent the remaining years of his life in retirement and died peacefully in Cebu on June 1, 1955.



2. **MARTIN P. DE VEYRA (1937-1942)** – The Grand Commander of the Knights of Rizal before the outbreak of the 2nd World War. He was born in Tanauan, Leyte on November 12, 1883. He graduated from the Teachers' College (Philippine Normal School), and obtained his A.B. Degree from Liceo de Manila. In 1908, he was appointed as a librarian in the Philippine Museum, and as teacher in the Philippine Normal School. He joined the National Guard and was given the rank of Major. He joined Antonio C. Torres and several others on November 16, 1916, to organize a private non-stock corporation which they named *Orden de los Caballeros de Rizal*, which Torres founded five years earlier. As a Grand Commander during his term, a new uniform for the Order was made; a 3rd Degree, Knight Grand Officer of Rizal was added; he also initiated steps to amend the incorporation papers to insure the smooth operations of the Order. When the Japanese entered Manila, he was arrested and executed on April 13, 1942, becoming the first Grand Commander to die in office and the first martyr of the Knights of Rizal.



3. **MANUEL LIM (1947-1950)** – Born in Bautista, Pangasinan on August 6, 1890. He attended Ateneo de Manila where he graduated with A.B. *cum laude* in 1917, then moved to University of the Philippines where he graduated with highest honors as LL.B. in 1921. He was appointed Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals in 1946. The following year he was named Solicitor General. He also became the Secretary of Education. Being an ardent member of the Order, he maintained a lifelong interest in the Knights of Rizal. After Manila was liberated in March 1945, the members sadly discovered that it was impossible to regroup. It was only in 1947 that the Knights were able to hold an assembly to choose new sets of officers. He was elected Grand Commander, re-elected in 1948, 1949 and 1950. He maintained his active membership even after he stepped down in 1951. Lim passed quietly to the next life on November 13, 1981. He was 91 years of age.



4. **JUAN F. NAKPIL (1951-1952)** – He was the Architect in the complete restoration of the house of Rizal's family in Calamba, Laguna and the architectural plan for a 5-storey building (later reduced to a 3-storey building) for the Knights of Rizal Headquarters along Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila. He was the country's first National Artist for Architecture, is also the architect of the Charter of the Knights of Rizal. He was born on May 26, 1899 in Quiapo, Manila. Son of Julio Nakpil, the famous musician and Gregoria de Jesus, the widow of Andres Bonifacio. After he graduated at the Manila High School in 1917, he enrolled in Engineering at the University of the Philippines. When he opened his own architectural firm, he created marvels of modern architecture. It was during the birth anniversary of Rizal, June 19, 1938, when he was formally initiated to the Order together with Jose Figueras and Jose del Prado in the death cell of Rizal in Fort Santiago. He applied his design talent and drew the new insignia for the Order. As a Grand Commander, he created a Committee on Legislation which convinced senators to author a bill granting a legislative charter to the Knights of Rizal. Finally, on June 14, 1951, the president signed the measure into law as Republic Act 646. In 1972, Nakpil was conferred the Rizal Pro Patria Award, the highest decoration of the Order. One year later, he was named a National Artist. Nakpil died on May 7, 1986 leaving a legacy of monuments in honor of the modern Filipino Architect and an even greater contribution to the understanding and appreciation of our national hero, Jose Rizal.



5. **HERMINIO VELARDE (1952-1954)** – Born in 1890, he graduated from the College of Medicine of the University of the Philippines in 1913. He started practicing his profession right after his UP days and became a highly regarded physician and surgeon. Velarde joined the Knights of Rizal in re-establishing the Order which had been forced to close during the dark days of the Japanese occupation. As Supreme Commander, one of his major accomplishments was the approval of the proposed amendments to the By-Laws of the Order. One of the provisions of the new By-Laws was to change the official title of the head of the organization from grand commander to supreme commander. On July 27, 1952, his Supreme Council made representation with Secretary of Education Cecilio Putong to have the two books of Rizal (*Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*) adopted as reading materials in Philippine colleges and universities. After he relinquished leadership of the Order, in 1961, he was elevated to the 5th degree of knighthood, the Knight Grand Cross of Rizal and given the Rizal Centennial Award.



6. **TEODORO EVANGELISTA (1955)** – Born in Baliwag, Bulacan on April 1, 1906, he graduated A.B. *summa cum laude* from Ateneo de Manila in 1926. He pursued further studies in the College of Law at the University of the Philippines. He was appointed as an instructor at the Ateneo de Manila and a professor of Spanish and English at the National Teachers College. He assumed the presidency of the Far Eastern University from 1952 until 1971. He had served many years as a public servant, joined a number of civic and charitable organizations and recipients of awards from different organizations. As Supreme Commander of the Order, he announced the holding of a national portrait competition on Rizal, launching of an annual oratorical contest open to all college students in cooperation with the Department of Education. In recognition of his many



services to the Order, he had been elevated to the fifth degree of knighthood, the Knight Grand Cross of Rizal and conferred the Rizal Pro Patria Award.

7. **HERMINIGILDO B. REYES (1956-1958)** – He was born in the historic city of Malolos, Bulacan on March 31, 1898. He graduated Bachelor of Arts *magna cum laude* in 1914 from the Ateneo de Manila. He was nominated president of Far Eastern University in 1945 until 1946. Reyes continued the programs of his predecessors in the Order of the Knights of Rizal. He published the *Rizaliana* regularly, and annually sponsored national oratorical contests for students. Under him, the Order grew to five chapters (one each in the cities of Manila, Ozamis, Baguio and Quezon and one in the town of Dapitan, Zamboanga del Norte). For his brief though significant contributions to the Order and to the educational and business sectors, he was elevated to the fifth degree of knighthood, Knight Grand Cross of Rizal and conferred the coveted Rizal Pro Patria Award.



8. **SANTIAGO F. DE LA CRUZ (1959-1964)** – As the fourth in the line of educators, he had a colorful educational odyssey, and contributed in equally diverse ways to the programs and Rizalian events of the Order. He was born in Iguig, Cagayan. He graduated Bachelor of Science in Commerce from the University of the Philippines. He studied law at the Philippine Law School and received an LL.B. Degree in 1929. De la Cruz held various teaching positions from 1935 to 1947. He also held managerial positions in government firms and a member of several social and civic organizations. Before he became the Supreme Commander, the Order had a total on only 307 members and 5 chapters. Of these, he founded the Quezon City Chapter. All the chapters were in the Philippines, none abroad. He commenced a drive to bring fresh members and expand the boundaries to new lands. By the time his reign ended in 1964, the Order has 63 chapters with a total membership of 2,400. This number included chapters in foreign countries such as Hong Kong, Tokyo, Kuala Lumpur and Indonesia. In addition, friends of Rizal chapters were started in Washington D.C., Boston, Chicago, New Orleans, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Honolulu and Guam. The Order became global. He labored to expand the membership of the affiliate organizations, the Kabataang Maka-Rizal, the Squires of Rizal and the Kababaihang Rizalista. At the end of the day, a grateful Order elevated De la Cruz to the fifth degree of Knighthood and conferred on him the Rizal Pro Patria Award.



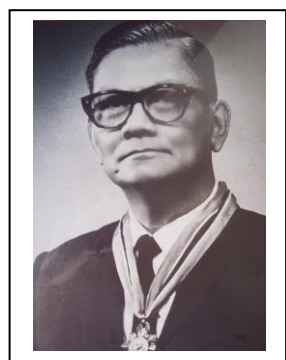
9. **JESUS E. PERPIÑAN (1965-1966)** – He was born on December 1, 1901 in Villareal, Samar. He graduated Bachelor of Science in Education from Siliman University in Dumaguete in 1928. He became assistant director and promoted director of the Bureau of Private Schools. He was a member of some 30 professional and socio-civic organizations. He was figured prominently in important international conferences on education in Southeast Asia and the Far East. During his incumbency, 15 new chapters were organized and the total membership grew to 2, 883. He died at the Veterans Memorial Hospital on November 28, 1969 at the age of 68.



10. **VITALIANO BERNARDINO (1967-1969)** – He was born in Morong, Rizal on January 26, 1908. He graduated Bachelor of Science in Education at the National University in 1933. He became assistant director of the Bureau of Public School in 1963 and Undersecretary of Education in 1966. Listed in Who's Who in American Education and Who's Who in the Philippines, he held a lists of awards and honors. After years of devoted knight, he was elected and became Supreme Commander. He saw to it that the Rizal Quarterly Bulletin and the Rizalist were regularly published. Continued the annual national oratorical contest among students. Initiated a Rizal National Slogan Contest, Rizal Essay Writing Contest, First Rizal Reforestation Training Institute, 3rd Rizal Choral Festival, 8th National Leadership Institute and the Seminar on Student Organization and Programming. Under him, the Bill authorizing the sale by the government of a parcel of land along Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila for one peso was enacted into law as Republic Act 5451 on September 30, 1968. This bill had lingered for 7 years in Congress. In recognition of his services, he was elevated to the 5th Degree and conferred the Rizal Pro Patria Award.



11. **JOSE MA. PAREDES (1970)** – Paredes was born on August 15, 1895 in Bangued, Abra. He obtained his Liberal Arts and law degree at the University of the Philippines, his commerce degree at Jose Rizal College and Master of Laws and Doctorate of Laws at the University of Santo Tomas. He started his long and dedicated career in government. In 1960, he was elevated to the Supreme Court as Associate Justice. In 1970, in an election held at the old Selecta Restaurant, he was voted and chosen Supreme Commander. Under him, the Order counted 3,234 members belonging to 98 chapters. He was married to the former Teresa Padua of La Union and died on October 15, 1977.



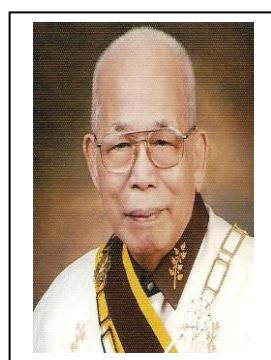
12. **CLAUDIO TEEHANKEE (1971-1983)** – Born on April 18, 1918, Sir Claudio holds the longest, continuous serving Supreme Commander of the Knights of Rizal, a full 13 years. He graduated from the Ateneo de Manila as Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws, both as *summa cum laude*. In 1966, he was appointed by President Ferdinand Marcos as Undersecretary of Justice and one year later, Justice Secretary. In 1968, he was elevated to the Supreme Court as Associate Justice. In 1971, he was inducted into the 3rd Degree of Knighthood as member of the San Juan Chapter, 3 days later, the Knights held their General Assembly and elected him as the Supreme Commander. Year after year thereafter, he was re-elected until 1983. His tenure witnessed the holding of numerous convocations, conventions and forums. He reactivated the Squires of Rizal. When he assumed office in 1971, there were 91 local chapters and 7 foreign chapters with a membership of 3,268. When he stepped down, the Order had 145 local chapters and 11 chapters abroad with 5,229 members. His greatest achievement was the final acquisition and the construction of the Knights Headquarters in Bonifacio Drive, South Harbor. On December 30, 1981, the building was finally inaugurated.



13. **JOSE S. LAUREL III (1984)** – The second son of the late President Jose P. Laurel, he has born in Tanauan, Batangas on August 27, 1914. He took up Pre-Law at the University of the Philippines in 1934. He entered the Imperial Military Academy in Japan and graduated in 1937 receiving a Japanese sword from the War Minister. Became the private secretary of his father during the Japanese occupation. Resumed his law studies at the University of the Philippines and later graduated at Manuel L. Quezon School in 1949. He served the Philippine government in various capacities. He was also engaged in business. In the Order, Laurel served in the Supreme Council for many years and later nominated as Supreme Commander. Under him, membership reached 6,017 sustained by 155 local chapters and 12 in foreign countries. On June 14, 1994, he was Supreme Commander Emeritus, only the second person to be so honored.



14. **JUSTO P. TORRES, JR. (1985)** – He was born on November 1, 1927 in Manila. Though he studied at the San Jose Seminary, priesthood was not his destiny, but law. He graduated Bachelor of Laws in San Beda College in 1953 and Master of Laws from the University of Manila in 1955. He passed the Bar in 1953 with a general average of 85.75% (100% in Mercantile Law). He taught Law subjects in his alma mater and other schools. Torres also branched out into business and other activities. He was appointed by President Corazon Aquino as associate justice of the Court of Appeals in 1987. Nine years later, Pres. Fidel V. Ramos promoted him to Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines. Sir Justo spent much time with Order of the Knights of Rizal, for more than 25 years he occupied various important positions. When he became Supreme Commander in 1985, membership rose to 3,070. The KOR had 97 local chapters and 11 abroad. On March 22, 1987, he was conferred the Rizal Pro Patria Award and dubbed as a “Knight’s Knight”. Later, on April 25, 2003, he was named Supreme Commander Emeritus.



15. **SIMEON C. MEDALLA (1986)** – He was born on March 23, 1923 in Sto. Tomas, Batangas. Medalla wanted to be a priest, but instead became a military officer. He served in the Armed Forces of the Philippines for several years. Became captain (reserve) in 1961; Major in 1962 and lieutenant colonel in 1966. In the Order, he served as Commander of the San Juan and Quezon City Chapters. He was elected in different capacities in the Supreme Council until he became Supreme Commander on April 6, 1986. Two important events distinguished his watch. First, on the strong recommendation of the Knights of Rizal, President Corazon Aquino, issued Proclamation No. 51 declaring December 23 to December 26 of every year as Rizal Week. The second was the payment in full of the 1.5 million pesos indebted of the KOR to the Development Bank of the Philippines incurred in 1981. The debt was originally payable on installment for 15 years, but the Order settled its obligation in only 5 years. He was conferred the Rizal Pro Patria Award on December 30, 1987. Medalla passed to the next life on August 9, 1993.



16. **CONRADO M. VASQUEZ, SR. (1987)** – Born on September 30, 1913. He graduated from the University of the Philippines as Associate in Arts *cum laude* and Bachelor of Laws valedictorian and *cum laude*. Vasquez started his profession in private law practice before he entered the government service in different positions. In 1982, he was elevated to the position of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. In May 1988, long after he had retired from the Supreme Court, President Corazon Aquino appointed him as the first Ombudsman of the Republic of the Philippines. He served the Supreme Council of the Order in various positions, until he was elected Supreme Commander. He continued to organize the usual oratorical contests, essay contests, leadership institutes and other traditional activities of the Knights of Rizal. The Order had 98 local chapters and 10 foreign chapters.



17. **FILEMON H. MENDOZA (1988)** – His enduring love in the judiciary, he spend 36 years of his life sitting on the bench. He started as a justice of the peace 1956 to 1968, and held different positions and finally, Justice of the Court of Appeals in 1992. From 1979 to 1984, he was the commander of the Batangas City Chapter which he himself organized and became the largest membership in the Order. During his tenure, the Order had 58 local chapters and 13 foreign chapters in good standing with a total membership of 3,120. He was instrumental in staging the 1st National Rizal Faculty Congress and in organizing the Kapisanan ng mga Gurong Nagmamahal kay Rizal (KAGUNARI). He died on February 13, 2005.



18. **ANGEL RICA ALVAREZ (1989)** – Born in Noveleta, Cavite on October 1, 1921. He graduated Associate in Arts in 1950 from Abad Santos Law School and Bachelor of Laws from the Philippine Law School in 1954. Became Municipal Judge of Tanza in 1970 and judge of Metropolitan Trial Court of Cavite in 1983. He joined the Knights of Rizal and became Commander of Tanza Cavite Chapter from 1982 to 1983 and elected to different positions in the Supreme Council and Supreme Commander in 1989. He extended the celebration of Rizal Week to barangay levels, giving Rizal Award to Filipino inventors. He changed the name of our publication from Rizal Bulletin to Bagumbayan and initiated the observance of June 14 of every year as Charter Day of the Order. He passed to the next life on October 6, 1994.



19. **ELIAS B. LOPEZ (1990-1991)** – Born on February 28, 1930 in Baguio, a barrio in Davao City. He graduated from the College of Law, University of the Philippines. Elected president of the UP Student Council, a position previously held by Rafael Salas and Marcelo Fernan. He was the first Bogobo to hold public office in Davao as City Councilor in 1955. Elected mayor of Davao City in 1967. Chosen as the Most Outstanding City Mayor of the Philippines for 3 consecutive years (1968, 1969, and 1970). Became Congressman and Assistant Minority Floor Leader of the House of Representatives. As Supreme Commander of the Order, 20 new chapters were organized and more than 15 dormant ones were reactivated. Responsible for the implementing of



lifetime membership in the Order, organization of Kabataang Pangarap ni Rizal (KAPARIZ) on a national level, initiated the search for the Top Ten College Students of the Philippines.

20. **LAMBERTO C. NANQUIL (1992-1993)** – Born on March 5, 1940 in Fortuna, Floridablanca, Pampanga. He earned his Bachelor of Arts, major in English and Philosophy, and Bachelor of Laws Degree at the Manuel L. Quezon University. Twice elected president of Cubao Merchants Association and he was assistant instructor in law and social sciences at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines from 1977 to 1985. He joined the Order of the Knights of Rizal San Juan Chapter and became commander of the Quezon City Chapter. As Supreme Commander, he oversaw the organization of 12 new chapters and reactivation of 5 moribund chapters. Co-sponsored the 2nd Rizal Award for Rural Physicians. Nanquil was a much sought after speaker regarding Jose Rizal and the Knights of Rizal here and abroad.



21. **DEMETRIO L. HILBERO (1994)** – a prominent son of Calamba, Laguna; member of the Philippine Bar; practicing attorney; former technical assistant, Congress of the Philippines; clerk of court and ex-officio sheriff in the Court of First Instance of Laguna; lecturer in commercial law and political science; writer, publisher, editor and author. An ardent Rizalist, he became commander of the Calamba Chapter and Regional Commander for Southern Tagalog. As Supreme Commander, 33 new chapters were founded (23 in the Philippines and 10 abroad). He enlarged the office of the Knights of Rizal in the 3rd Floor to hold several function of the Knights instead of renting commercial establishments.



22. **ROGELIO M. QUIAMBAO (1996-2000)** – Born in Manila on August 25, 1940. He received his secondary education, Associate in Arts and LL.B. Degree from the University of the East and graduate studies at the Ateneo de Manila and the UP Graduate School of Business Administration. Member of the Philippine Bar, student leader and a public servant. Assemblyman for Quezon City from 1978 to 1984. Member of 12 civic organizations including the Knights of Rizal. Elected supreme commander in 1996 and reelected for 5 consecutive years. Under his commandership, the Order marked a period of sustained growth and attainment of a “world class”. He inducted to knighthood several internationally known personalities. He gave the Knights of Rizal Headquarters a new “world class” look. He improved the finances of the Order and left it with almost 10 million pesos. Indefatigable, Sir Roger still serves as a member of the Council of Leaders of the Knights of Rizal.



23. **VICENTE P. PALMON (2001-2002)** – Born on April 5, 1935 in San Juan, Rizal. He took up Aeronautics Engineering at the FEATI University, graduated Bachelor of Laws from the Philippine College of Commerce, Bachelor of Laws from the Manila Law University and Masters in Public Administration at the University of Manila. Dubbed as the “Policeman’s Policeman” and as an officer on the “Manila’s Finest” included his nomination as “Detective of the Year” in 1983. In the Order of the Knights of Rizal, he started as the commander of the Manila’s Finest Chapter. Under his leadership, the chapter grew into one of the largest chapter in the Order. In 1997, he was elected supreme trustee and subsequently, he was elected Supreme Commander.



24. **JESUS B. DAVID (2003-2004)** – Born in Tarlac, Tarlac on December 24, 1942. He was conferred a Bachelor of Science in Commerce at Far Eastern University in 1962. He took up Flying Course at the Philippine Air Transport Service and was issued a Private Pilot License in 1964. As an Accountant, he opened a CPA office in Tarlac. He served as a consultant to various corporations and business establishments. Sir David joined the Knights of Rizal in 1988. Elected commander of the Tarlac chapter in 1994. He was elected to the Supreme Council in 1997 and held different positions until finally supreme commander in 2003. Sir David became supreme commander at an unfortunate time. From 2003 to 2005, there were two factions operated separately but he worked continuously, chartered 9 chapters including the Bahrain Chapter, conducted seminars for out of school youth, a Rizal National Leadership Institute and an area assembly. But Sir David knew that the first and foremost need of the Order was unity, without hesitation, he sat down with Sir Gempesaw for a peaceful settlement. Both spoke and endorsed a peace plan and passed the mantle of leadership to the newly elected officers of the united Order.



25. **CARMELO T. GEMPESAW (2003-2005)** – He is a lawyer, businessman, a public servant and a socio-civic leader. He had his high school and early college years at Rizal Memorial Colleges where he finished Associate in Commercial Science and Associate in Arts. He studied law at the Manuel L. Quezon University in Manila and passed the bar in 1961. He became Legal Assistant in the GSIS Regional Office and Asst. City Legal Officer in Davao City. He was appointed City Secretary of Davao City during the first two terms of Mayor Rodrigo Duterte from 1989-1995. Became City Civil Registrar in 1996-1998. He was an active member and officer of different civic organizations, three of these are closest to his heart- the Rotary Club, Boy Scout of the Philippines and the Knights of Rizal. Became member of the Knights of Rizal in 1988, chapter commander in 1992-1995, Area Commander of Mindanao and became member of the Supreme Trustees from 1995 to 2002. Voted Supreme Commander in Makati City in May 11, 2003 until June 26, 2005. On his first term, he initiated 2,379 postulants and chartered 30 local and 8 foreign chapters, held leadership and organizational seminars, regional assemblies, attended important activities for the Order, staged oratorical, Rizal Quiz Contest and Essay Writing Contest and search for Jose Rizal Model Students. At the end of his term a grateful Knights of Rizal awarded him the Rizal Pro Patria Award. He is now a member of the Council of Elders.



26. **JOSE D. LINA, JR. (2005-2006)** – Born on December 22, 1951 in Masapang, Victoria, Laguna. He took up AB Economics at the University of Sto. Tomas and graduated LL.B. at the University of the Philippines in 1979. After passing the bar in 1980, he joined an association that gave free legal services. President Cory Aquino appointed him Governor of Metro Manila Commission. At age 35, he was the youngest Senator and reelected in 1992. Governor of the Province of Laguna in 1995 and re-elected in 1998. Following the summit for peace and unity, he was elected Supreme Commander of the Knights of Rizal. He was instrumental in rewriting the Order's Constitution and By-Laws to eliminate anachronisms and avoid future misunderstandings and conflicts.



27. **HILARIO G. DAVIDE, JR. (2006)** – He was born in Colawin, Argao, Cebu who believes in what is right and doing it. Widely recognized nationally and internationally as jurist, statesman, scholar and citizen, he received over 30 major awards. Delegate to the 1971 Constitutional Assembly and appointed by President Cory Aquino to the 1986 Constitutional Commission. Chairman of the COMELEC and Assemblyman from 1978 to 1984. Became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines. Presided over the impeachment trial of President Joseph Estrada with total impartiality. He was elected Supreme Commander in 2006 but was abruptly curtailed when he was called upon to represent the Philippines as Ambassador to the United Nations in January 2007.



28. **VIRGILIO ESGUERRA (2007-2010)** – He served as supreme commander 2007-2010 taking over from Sir Davide when he was appointed Philippine Ambassador to the United Nations. It was at his time to consolidate ranks among the knights and increase membership. He reinforced the 3-day Rizal Youth Leadership Institute forum, the Rizal is Alive Forum for high schools, and the contest for the Jose Rizal Model Students of the Philippines. Topnotcher in the Provincial Board Members' election in Rizal in 1992, 1995, and 1998. Longest serving Provincial Administrator of Rizal Province under four governors. Finished *cum laude* his MA in Political Science, he graduated Bachelor of arts and Bachelor of Laws from FEU and MLQU.



29. **PABLO S. TRILLANA III (2010-2011)** – He graduated Bachelor of Arts *summa cum laude* and Bachelor of Laws *cum laude* from San Beda College and placed 2nd in the 1966 bar examinations. Chosen as one of the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines in 1965. Elected delegate to the 1971 Constitutional Convention. Worked at the Asian Development Bank (1976-1994); Undersecretary of Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources (1995-1996); and Chairman of the National Historical Institute (1999-2002). A powerful speaker and prolific writer. On his watch as Supreme Commander, he focused on building up the intellectual resources of the Order. Over the past few years, he suffered a stroke in May 2011 and decided to withdraw from active duty for few months in order to recover fully. Meanwhile, Sir Reghis Romero II has now assumed the responsibility as acting Supreme Commander.





30. **REGHIS M. ROMERO II (2012-2014)** – An astute, socially minded businessman with the Midas touch. He graduated from the University of the Philippines, University of the Asia and the Pacific and the Asian Institute of Management with Degrees in Business Economics and Foreign Service. He founded R-II Builders, Inc. and steered it to become one of the top corporations in the country. His company transformed the Smokey Mountain in Tondo into a Harbour Center with an industrial park, residence and shopping complex. He recently opted for major shares in Air Asia, a new pioneering international airline. He was included in the 2001 Edition of the Marquis Who's Who and was chosen the Most Outstanding Kapampangan for Business with Civic Consciousness and dubbed, the "Wonder Boy of Kapampangan". As a Rizalist, he funded the Rizal Stamp Book, donated life-size statue of Rizal and financed Rizal and Filipiniana books and computers. A strong organizer and promoter of the Rizal Youth Leadership Institute and the Rizal is Alive Forum. Under his mandate, he has led the Order in what is perhaps its most active year, he spearheaded the month of December as Rizal Month, the 150th Birth Anniversary and the Centennial Celebration of the Transfer of Rizal's Urn to Luneta.

STANDING

AND

FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEES

STANDING & FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEES OF THE KNIGHTS OF RIZAL

1. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.** The Committee is responsible for the formulation and adoption of guidelines and policies, control, direction, supervision, coordination, and management of operations, programs and activities of the Order. When the Supreme Council is not in session, it shall have the power to make decisions on day-to-day operations, policy, and program implementation necessary and proper to promote and accomplish the objectives of the Order. The Supreme Commander shall be the Chairman of the Committee and shall have a membership not exceeding five, all of whom are members of the Supreme Council.
2. **FINANCE COMMITTEE.** The Committee shall find ways and means of gathering funds and other necessary resources for the various activities and programs of the Order pursuant to its objectives and attend to such other matters pertaining to collection and audit of all disbursements and programming of the funds of the Order.
3. **ORGANIZATION, MEMBERSHIP AND VISITATION COMMITTEE.** The Committee shall oversee the membership recruitment and retention, organization and visitation, and liaison with Chapters and coordination of their activities to ensure the growth and expansion of the Order. All Regional and Area Commanders and their Deputies shall be members. However, Regional and Area Commanders and their Deputies will not be considered in the determination of quorum during meetings.
4. **PROTOCOL AND CEREMONIAL COMMITTEE.** The Committee shall see to it that the approved rituals and ceremonies of the Order are observed and implemented. It may further make recommendations on the insignia, uniforms, banners, seals and other symbolic paraphernalia to be used or adopted by the Order, and to make such other recommendations for improvement or alteration of the same.
5. **NOMINATIONS AND AMENDMENTS OF BY-LAWS.** The Committee shall promulgate the rules and qualifications of candidates and other matters required under the 2006 Amended By-Laws in connection with elections within the Order. It also provides guidelines on compensation. It further studies, consults and recommends revisions to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Order as well as the rules and regulations of the Order.
6. **PUBLIC RELATIONS, PUBLICITY AND PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE.** The Committee shall gather, edit, collate, compile and recommend to the Supreme Council the publication of all lectures, bulletins, speeches and other scholarly works for distribution and dissemination to all chapters of the Order or to the general public. It shall undertake programs to inform the general public of the activities of the Order and , in the course thereof, promote the objectives of the Order to a wider segment of our society.

7. **BAGUMBAYAN EDITORIAL BOARD.** The Board shall supervise the publication of the Bagumbayan, the official newsletter of the Order under the management of the Editor-in-Chief, to be appointed by the Supreme Commander. The Editor-in-Chief may recruit writers, photographers, artists, and technicians to form a staff. The Supreme Council form the Editorial Boards with the Supreme Commander as ex-officio, the publisher.
8. **LOWER PREFECTURAL TRIBUNAL.** There are two Prefectural Tribunals. The Lower Prefectural Tribunal shall undertake the screening of prospective members of the Order, conduct interviews and make recommendations of those qualified for admission up to the third degree of the Order, Knight Commander of Rizal. The Tribunal may also recommend for approval/ recommendations for those deserving of awards including the Service Awards: Distinguished Service Medal/ Star/ Cross of Rizal. It is headed by the Deputy Supreme Commander with the other Supreme Council as members.
9. **HIGHER PREFECTURAL TRIBUNAL.** The Higher Prefectural Tribunal reviews and makes recommendations relating to proposed conferment of Knight Grand Officer of Rizal (KGOR), Knight Grand Cross of Rizal (KGCR), and that of the highest award, the Rizal Pro Patria Award. Headed by the Supreme Commander, it has for its members the living Past Supreme Commanders of the Order. This Tribunal also nominates the Supreme Commander Emeritus if so highly recommended.
10. **LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.** The Committee shall monitor legal developments in the country as they affect the Order, shall conduct legal research and make studies and recommendations with the end in view of safeguarding the interests of the Order. The Chairman and/or the Vice-Chairman of the Committee shall, in appropriate cases, act as the Legal Counsel of the Order. The Committee shall likewise gather, collate, observe, analyze and examine legislative and public issues as they affect the goals and objectives of the Order in particular and of the country in general to the end that legitimate measures may be taken in keeping with the basic principles of freedom, justice, honor and general welfare. The Committee shall receive and submit to the Board of Canvassers the names of qualified members for nominations to the Supreme Council during the General Assembly and Election of Supreme Trustees. Alternate members will not be considered in the determination of the quorum.
11. **EDUCATION, SEMINARS, LIBRARY AND MUSEUM COMMITTEES.** The Committee shall undertake studies and recommend programs and activities which will develop and improve the educational system attuned to the ideas and principles of Rizal, specifically along character formation, nation building, enlightened citizenship and progressive economic development. It will also provide guidance in the conduct of seminars and public forums along the same lines and develop and maintain a Speakers Bureau composed of members of the Order. The Committee shall likewise supervise and maintain the library and museum of the Order and recommend the purchase and acquisition of books, magazines, other reading materials and paraphernalia for the library to meet the demands for research on Rizal's life, ideas and teachings.

12. **SOCIAL ACTION AND SCHOLARLY COMMITTEE.** The Committee brings into the fore the positive and dynamic Rizalist who is conscious of the plight of the less fortunate of our people. And, therefore, the Committee analyzes the problems of the people and the community, as he tries to alleviate the same to arrest hunger, disease, insecurity, destitution and deprivation by extending legal, medical, dental, psychological, educational and other material assistance, to lessen suffering and thereby promote peace and tranquility in society. The Rizalist then emulates the examples of Rizal in Dapitan as the community worker. This Committee shall also supervise and interview the qualifying examinees/students for their educational assistance subject to the approval of the Supreme Council.
13. **REGULAR EVENTS COMMITTEE.** This Committee shall prepare the appropriate program for the annual observance of Charter Day Commemoration (June 14), Birth Anniversary of our national hero (June 19), Rizal Month Celebration (December 1-30), and Rizal's Martyrdom/Retracing the last footsteps of Rizal, and International and Regional Assemblies.
14. **RIZAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE.** To ensure cooperation, coordination and efficiency, this Committee shall be responsible for the adoption and approval of any or all Rizal Youth Leadership Institute conferences, seminars, workshops, forums, summits, congress or any such similar activity or program, whether the same is international, national, regional, provincial or local in nature or scope. All such activities shall be subject to the control, supervision, guidance and direction of the Committee and the Supreme Council. The Over-all Chairman of this Committee is the Deputy Supreme Commander.
15. **SEARCH FOR JOSE RIZAL MODEL STUDENTS OF THE PHILIPPINES COMMITTEE.** The Committee shall supervise the conduct of the annual search for the Jose Rizal Model Students of the Philippines. It shall see to it that the screening and selection are conducted to the end that the winners truly approximate and exemplify Rizal's leadership and academic excellence and that they shall serve as models to the youth of the land.
16. **COUNTERPART ORGANIZATIONS COMMITTEE.** The Committee shall provide harmonious relationship with the Kababaihang Rizalista, Las Damas de Rizal, Maria Clara ni Rizal (MACLARIZ), Kapisanan ng mga Gurong Nagmamahal kay Rizal (KAGUNARI), Philippine Association of Teachers of Rizal and History, Inc. (PATHRI), Ladies for Rizal, Ladies of the Knights of Rizal, Kabataang Pangarap ni Rizal (KAPARIZ), and the Jose Rizal Model Students of the Philippines Alumni Association (JRMSPAA), said organizations recognized as counterpart organizations of the Order. The Supreme Council may, as it deems proper and necessary, recognize as a counterpart organization any other organization which is dedicated to and interested in promoting the purposes of the Order. Said organizations and the Order shall collaborate and coordinate their activities in pursuance of their common objectives.

17. **COMMANDERS TRAINING PROGRAM COMMITTEE.** The Committee shall supervise the preparation, conduct and all pertinent administration of the Chapter Commanders Training Program of the Order. This program will intensify the Order's campaign to equip the leaders of the Order with the fundamental teachings and principles of Dr. Jose Rizal as incorporated in the By-Laws of the Order. This Committee shall closely coordinate with the Rizal Challenge Contest Committee.
18. **LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE.** This Committee will plan, organize and implement Lifetime Membership Recruitment Program worldwide to encourage lifetime dedication and help increase fund resources of the Order.
19. **OFFICERS BASED AT INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS.** These Officers shall at all times consult the Supreme Commander/ Supreme Council/ Executive Committee on any administrative and operational matters and are responsible, subject to the direction of the Supreme Council and/or Supreme Commander, for the formation of guidelines, programs and operating policies for the direction, coordination, and management of operations and activities of the Order.

The operations of the above Committees, bodies or offices, and appointments thereto, are subject to such other policies and regulations as the Supreme Council and/or Supreme Commander may determine appropriate and promulgate from time to time.

Except as required by the structural/ authority context of a concerned Committee, or body, or office, as in the cases specified in Sections 1, 7, 8, 9 and 19 above, the Supreme Commander may, in the event a Committee is seriously unable to function, appoint or designate three members of the concerned Committees (inclusive of its Chairman or Over-All Chairman as the case maybe, to act as Executive Committee thereof. Said Executive Committee may then act and its policies and decisions shall be valid subsequently revoked or changed by the Supreme Council or Supreme Commander.

**CALENDAR OF
ACTIVITIES
AND PROGRAMME**

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES
TWO YEARS PERIOD
 (Rizalian Year July 2012-June 2014)

June 2012	TRANSITORY PERIOD (Transition from Previous Council to New Supreme Council)
12	Independence Day (NHCP)
14	Charter Day
19	Rizal's Birth Anniversary
July 2012	ORGANIZATIONAL (Assumption of Office of New Supreme Council Officers & Trustees)
3	Establishment of La Liga Filipina (NHCP)
7	Establishment of the Katipunan (NHCP)
	Landing in Dapitan City (NHCP)
	Letter/Appointment of Regional & Area Commanders with Deputies Commanders
	Letter/Appointment of Chairmen & Members of Committees
	Teambuilding & Workshop Seminar
August 2012	MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN (Campaign for Membership and Chapter Formation)
September 2012	OVERSEAS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY (Schedule of Overseas Regional Assembly)
October 2012	COUNTERPART ORGANIZATION & SPONSORSHIP (Formation/Recognition/Re-Organization of Affiliate Organizations)
November 2012	RIZAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP MONTH (Campaign for Youth Membership and Activities)
December 2012	RIZAL MONTH ACTIVITIES
1-30	Rizal Month Activities
2 nd week	Rizal Youth Leadership Institute
30	Rizal's Martyrdom Celebration
31	Last Day of Submission of Membership Report and Last Day of Payment of Annual Dues

RIZALIAN YEAR TWO

January 2013	LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN
February 2013	INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY Schedule of International Assembly
March 2013	OVERSEAS-LOCAL CHAPTERS BROTHERHOOD
April 2013	RIZAL LEADERSHIP MONTH (Campaign for Quality Rizal Leaders)
May 2013	EVALUATION/RESOLUTION
April 2013	RIZAL LEADERSHIP MONTH (Protocol. Flow of Communications: Supreme Council- Regional-Area-Chapter Commanders)
May 2013	EVALUATION / RESOLUTION (Moving forward)
June 2013	RIZAL BIRTH ANNIVERSARY MONTH (Presentation about Rizal or Knights of Rizal)
July 2013	AFFILIATION WITH OTHER Non-Government Organizations
August 2013	MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN (Campaign for membership gain)
September 2013	OVERSEAS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
October 2013	COUNTERPART ORGANIZATION & SPONSORSHIP (Sponsor and campaign for membership in counterpart/ Affiliate Organizations)
November 2013	RIZAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP MONTH

December 2013	RIZAL MONTH ACTIVITIES
1-30	Rizal Month Activities
2 nd week	Rizal Youth Leadership Institute
30	Rizal's Martyrdom Celebration
31 (Mon)	Last Day of Submission of Membership Report and Payment of Annual Dues
January 2014	LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN
February 2014	KNIGHTS OF RIZAL ASSESSMENT MONTH
March 2014	OVERSEAS-LOCAL CHAPTERS TWINNINGS
April 2014	FINALIZATION OF YEAR-END REPORT
May 2014	ELECTION PERIOD
Last Sunday	Election of New Sets of Supreme Council Trustees

REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES: (contact KR Secretariat for schedules)

First Quarter)	
(Between January-March)	- Northern Luzon Region
	- Central Luzon Region
Second Quarter	- Southern Luzon Region
(Between April-June)	- Bicol Region
	- National Capital Region
Third Quarter	- Visayas Region
(Between July-September)	- Mindanao Region
Fourth Quarter	(Choose the dates applicable
(Between October-December)	in your area)

OVERSEAS, AREA & CHAPTER ASSEMBLIES –AS PER SCHEDULE (at least two (2) months before scheduled assembly)

ORDER OF THE KNIGHTS OF RIZAL

Chapter/Area/Regional Assembly

Date/Time/Venue

Part I – Registration/Fellowship

Part II – PROGRAM

Call to Order	...	Chapter/Area/Regional Cmdr. (Convenor of the Assembly)
Invocation/Doxology	...	_____
National Anthem	...	_____
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag	...	Sir _____
Welcome Remarks	...	_____
Introduction of Dignitaries and Guests...		_____
Fraternal or Inspirational Message,	...	Sir _____

Part III – Lunch/Snack Break

Chapter/Area/Regional Reports, if any	
Presentation/Intermission Numbers	Chorale or Dance Group

Part IV – KNIGHTHOOD CEREMONIES (to be led by the Supreme Council)

Initiation of New KR (Members)	(First Degree)
(Response from any new KR)	
Induction of New KOR (Officers)	(Second Degree)
Exaltation of New KCR (Commanders)	(Third Degree)
(Response from new KCR)	

Part V- MESSAGE OF SUPREME COMMANDER/REPRESENTATIVE

Introduction of Supreme Commander...	Sir _____
Speech/Message	... Supreme Commander
Rededication/ Fraternal Sign	... Supreme Commander
Singing of the KOR Hymn	... Sir _____
Adjournment	

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Notes to Program and Assembly:

1) All Assemblies should be properly coordinated with the Area and Regional Commander's concerned, to be forwarded to the International Headquarters at least two (2) months before the Assembly for **scheduling and confirmation**.

2) **Application for Membership** shall be duly recommended by at least two (2) members in good standing of the Order.

3) All knights to be initiated should have attended and undergone briefing and **Orientation Seminar** done and organized by the chapter/area or region concerned.

4) All the names of Knights to **be initiated, inducted and exalted** should be submitted to the International Headquarters at least two (2) weeks before the actual date of Assembly.

5) All Knights to be initiated, inducted and exalted **should have paid** their corresponding fees to the International Headquarters.

6) **Draft of the program** should be submitted to the International Headquarters.

7) If the Supreme Commander is not available during the Assembly, his **Authorized Representative** should be given due recognition and respect.

8) Most important, all Knights should be in proper attire, **KOR Official Uniform** (KOR Barong, black pants, black leather shoes, black socks, black belt).

9) Please contact the Knights of Rizal Staff for any inquiries,
Telephone Numbers: **(02)528-1974/521-0141 or Telefax (02)528-1973.**

THE GREATNESS OF RIZAL

By: Sir Ave V. Torres, KGOR

I'm sure we will feel proud and happy to speak on anything dealing with a hero's life, particularly that of our national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal. His life, his character and his ideals; how he lives, his thought and deeds (*kaisipan at pananaw*), which offers us the best object to study and learn. So the best way to appreciate the character and the greatness of a hero is to know many things about him- his life, his works, and his writings. Maybe some of you have read about heroes of other countries and other great men of history, how they lived, what they did, and how they died- George Washington, Napoleon Bonaforte, Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Mahatma Gandhi, and many other great men.

“Who is Dr. Jose Rizal?” a very simple question but... “how well do you know our national hero?” He was born between 11pm to 12 midnight of Wednesday of June 19, 1861 in Calamba, Laguna. The 7th of the 11 children of Don Francisco Mercado and Doña Teodora Alonzo Realonda. His name was Jose Protacio Mercado Rizal Y Alonzo Realonda. Three days after his birth, on June 22, 1861, he was baptized in Calamba Church by Fr. Rufino Collantes, a priest from Batangas. His godfather was Fr. Pedro Casañas, a priest in Calamba and close friend of the Mercado family. He was named “Jose” because his mother always prayed and a devotee of Saint Joseph or San Jose. Maybe you will wonder where he got the surname “Rizal”. A close friend of the Mercado family who was also a Spanish Alcalde Mayor suggested them to add Rizal in the baby's name since there were many whose surname is Mercado in Calamba and nearby towns.

Unknown to everybody this child was destined to live a life with exemplary achievements. He called for a change for the good and progress of his people. Rizal declared championing the need for education and not revolution. Rizal did not believe in violence; he opposed resistance by arms. He believed that violence definitely cannot settle dispute and mend differences but aggravates. Sadly, his call was denied; the revolution brought enormous miseries. His writings and ideals were angered by the Spanish authorities that he was imprisoned and sentenced to death.

Dr. Jose P. Rizal was executed by Spanish colonial authorities on December 30, 1896 at 7:03 in the morning in Bagumbayan, Manila. His mortal remains were buried outside the Paco Cemetery on the spot where Fr. Jose Burgos was buried 24

years ago. There was no marker, except for his inverted initials “R.P.J.”. No decent burial was given to him.

“Why was Rizal chosen as our National Hero?”. We also honor Andres Bonifacio, Marcelo del Pilar, Juan Luna, Emilio Aguinaldo, Graciano Lopez Jaena and many other men and women of the revolution. Contrary to the opinion of some critics on heroism, participation in an armed movement is not the only measure of a person’s greatness. A national hero is made not solely by his role in a violent struggle. A man becomes a national hero if he achieves accomplishments that the people would admire, so much so that they would place these accomplishments in high regard more than any other fulfillment. Choosing a national hero is not limited to the arena of revolution alone.

In our history records, our independence was ultimately won not solely through blood shed and chaos (*pagdanak ng dugo at kaguluhan*), but more through the non-drastic methods advocated by Rizal. The revolutionist themselves found inspiration in the ideas of Rizal even if they disagreed with his stand on revolution.

Two years after his execution, Rizal was already honored by the Revolutionary Government when Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo declared December 30 as a day of mourning. When Andres Bonifacio organized Katipunan in 1892, Rizal was already regarded as a national leader. In fact, he was the honorary president of the Katipunan. Some Katipuneros themselves confessed to the Spanish authorities that the picture of Rizal was hung inside their meeting room. It was a sign that even during his lifetime, he was already hailed as a rallying point of nationalist movements.

Most of these noble men were called heroes because they were brave. They were really great (*magigiting*), some of them were wise (*matatalino*); a few were both great and wise. Try to read the life of Rizal and it will inevitably lead you to realized that Rizal was both great and wise, and both his greatness (*kagitingan*) and wisdom (*kagalingan/ katalinuhan*) were comprehensive and multi-dimensional. He was great because he suffered (*nagpakahirap*), sacrificed (*nagpakasakit*), and finally died for his country. He was brave, undoubtedly brave; no threat, intimidation, danger, or imminence of death could cow and scare him and swerve him from his chosen path in the pursuit of his ideals (*di kayang takutin*). Certainly, all of you know how valiantly he died, how his nerves were not even disturbed by the fact that in a few moments he was to be shot; and how he refused to die face down.

Then his wisdom, his versatility, his many sided talents- novelist, poet, linguist, physician, sculptor, painter, musician, ... Tell me the name of any other man, living or dead, who similarly possessed or possesses such varied knowledge and capabilities. Nobody- Rizal was incomparable (walang katulad), peerless, singularly (*nag-iisa lamang*) great and wise.

Not only that, there is no better model worthy of emulation who was better than Rizal- there was his love and affection for his parents and relatives –during his absence from his home and country, he wrote his parents and sisters regularly and showed constant concern for them.

The greatness of a leader is determined not only by the drama of his colorful life, but by the relevance of his ideals to the problems of the people who venerate him. This is how good a leader he was. His ideas are being regarded and admired in all times, and are even getting more relevant as years passed by.

At present, the ideals of Rizal are continuously invoked as a pattern for the reform movement. Our government which now seeks to achieve is the very ideal society that Rizal himself try to achieve some decades ago.

All these qualities that I have mentioned of Rizal, made him such a worthy and perfect example to his people of all ages; qualities that are so urgently needed and yet so rarely found this day and age in our country.

And finally, as what Rizal had written in his article “The Philippines, a Century Hence”, *La Solidaridad*, 30 September 1889: “To foretell the destiny of a nation, it is necessary to open the book that tells of her past.”

Thank you. Maraming salamat. Non Omnis Moriar.

(Speech during the Rizal is Alive Forum to some selected high school/elementary students)

PRESENTATION OF HON. ALFREDO S. LIM, KGCR

*(On the occasion of the founding of the
Kataastaasang Kagalangalangang Katipunan ng Mga Anak ng Bayan
in Tondo, Manila, July 7, 2013)*

It is no coincidence that we celebrate two historic events only four days apart and both here in Tondo, Manila: on July 3 we commemorate the establishment of the La Liga Filipina by Jose Rizal at the residence of Doroteo Ongjungco, an ilustrado trader; on July 7, we celebrate the founding of the secret society, the Kataastaasang Kagalangalangang Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan or the KKK by Andres Bonifacio.

This was the culmination of the many papers written by the authors of the Propaganda movement, lobbying for reform and exposing the abuses of the colonial government, some of them published in *La Solidaridad*; and of Rizal's own social novels, the *Noli Me Tangere* and the *El Filibusterismo*.

After his studies and explorations in Spain, Rizal decided, reform and revolution must be fought for on the home ground. "We must go home because the struggle will not be gained here in Spain, but in the Philippines."

Actually, the Liga Filipina was the ideological charter for creating a free nation, encompassing all the islands, providing for mutual self-defense and assistance in times of need, furnishing education both intellectual and moral, promoting agriculture for food and economy, and encouraging trade and commerce for livelihood. The Ligas was timely, thought Rizal, for now the people had to awaken from centuries of abuse and renew their spirits in unity and patriotism, they had to believe in their own capabilities and forge their own future.

Andres Bonifacio joined the Liga, and so did Ladislao Diwa, Deodata Areallno, Apolinario Mabini and Macario Sakay. The Liga gave the foundations for an independent united nation- a certain challenge to the reforms Spain was trying to impose on their Asian colony. Despite the fact that the Liga was an open society, that it worked for the development of a united country, and sought its development, and that *per se* it did not seek revolution or separatism, the documents of the Liga were considered threatening and dangerous to the stability of Imperial Spain.

The colonial government saw Rizal, the writer and intellectual, as an organizer of a seditious movement. So just four days after the signing of the Liga Filipina, Rizal was arrested and exiled to Dapitan in the north of Zamboanga. Although the loss of leadership of the Liga Filipina was taken bitterly, this gave way to the creation of the KKK here also in Tondo, on July 7 the very day of Rizal's departure. And the followers of the Liga, instead of backing down, joined Andres Bonifacio to create the secret Katipunan whose avowed objective was to destroy the colonial power, liberate the Filipino nation and gain independence. Bonifacio continued the struggle and the Katipunan quickly became the kindling flame that fired every island of the archipelago.

DR. JOSE RIZAL

THE SEQUEL TO MARTYRDOM

(Finding the mortal remains and appropriate burial)

Compiled by Sir Carlos Arnaldo, KGCR

(Re-enactment of the transfer of the mortal remains of Dr. Jose Rizal from the residence of Doña Teodora Alonzo to the base of the Rizal Monument at Bagumbayan).

Asuncion Lopez Bantug, granddaughter of Sisa, the sister of Rizal, provides the most complete details concerning Rizal's exhumation in her classic biography *Lolo Jose: An Intimate Portrait of Rizal* (Manila: Intramuros Administration, 1982).

"The previous evening (December 29, 1896), Doña Teodora had gone from one official to another, begging to be given her son's body after the execution. None was moved by her pleas- except for the Mayor of Manila, Don Manuel Luengo, who acted on his own to grant her wish. She and Don Francisco spent the morning of the execution secluded in the house of my Lola Sisa, with whom they had been staying, on and off, since their eviction from Calamba. Lola Sisa had ordered a coffin for her brother and it was sent in a hearse to the Luneta as soon as word came that all was over.

"What was my Lola Sisa's consternation to learn that the body was gone- and nobody able, or willing, to tell her where it had been taken. She hurried to the city cemetery at Paang Bundok (where, in a farewell note, my Lolo Jose had expressed a wish to be buried), but nobody had been taken there. She made the rounds of the suburban graveyards, but none had there been a burial that morning. Other

members of the family were going from one authority to another, begging to be told where the body had been buried, but were met only with silence and a shrug.

“But my Lola Sisa refused to give up. She continued her round of the graveyards and was finally rewarded. At the Paco Cemetery, the old city graveyard no longer in use, she noticed Mayor Manuel Luengo and some army officers inspecting a grave. When they left, Lola Sisa hurried to the site. It was a freshly dug grave and could only be that of her brother. She went to the sexton and persuaded him to mark the grave with small marble slab she carried. The marble slab designed by family friend Doroteo Ongjungco, was inscribed with three letters, R.P.J. – my Lolo Jose’s initials in reverse. The family feared that a more explicit tombstone might prompt the authorities to remove the body and hide it elsewhere, to prevent any public veneration of the Rizal grave. It is said that a guard was placed at the Paco Cemetery to discourage snoopers.

“Two years later, in the turmoil that followed the American occupation of Manila, his family seized the chance to recover my Lolo Jose’s body unhindered by Church or State. Spain had fallen in the Philippines; American troops took over in Manila on August 13, 1898. Four days later, on August 17, my Lola Sisa, accompanied by her daughter Angelica, sculpted Romualdo Teodoro de Jesus, Higino Francisco and Doroteo Ongjungco, went to the Paco Cemetery and had the grave dug up.

“The body was found to have been buried directly into the earth, without coffin. Nevertheless, the clothes were still recognizable, though whatever my Lolo Jose had hidden in his shoes had long rotted away. A vertebra showing a bullet wound was kept in glass and silver cup in Lola’s house.

“The remains were taken to my Lola Sisa’s house, where Higino Francisco and Romualdo Teodoro de Jesus themselves reverently washed the bones. They were later placed in an ivory urn carved by De Jesus. This urn was venerated in frequent public ceremonies during the 1900s, when Rizal began to be honored as the National Hero of the Philippines’, (192-194)

“In 1912, the foundations were laid for a monument at the Luneta that would also serve as the final tomb for the hero’s mortal remains. On December 29, 1912, the urn containing the remains was borne in solemn procession from the family’s house to the Ayuntamiento, the fine Marble Hall that had been a symbol of Spanish sovereignty in the Philippines. (Teodora Alonzo was laid in state in the same location the previous year). In the salon of the Ayuntamiento, the urn was enshrined on a magnificent catafalque surrounded by innumerable floral wreaths,

offerings of the nation. Throughout that night, the Knights of Rizal and other patriotic groups as well as the public kept vigil round the catafalque.” (194)

“Next morning, December 30, 1912- sixteenth anniversary of the martyrdom- the urn was borne to the Luneta on an artillery caisson drawn by six horses. Thousands joined the procession and thousands more lined the streets. At the Luneta, the obsequies were laid by Acting Governor-General Newton W. Gilbert and the two ranking statesmen of the Philippine Assembly, Sergio Osmeña and Mariano Ponce, the latter one of Rizal’s dearest friends. Then the urn was deposited in the center of the base over which would rise the monument...

“The monument they accomplished has become a national landmark, the most visible tribute of the nation to its greatest son. “But neither of his parents lived to see his monument.”

ARE YOU A TRUE RIZALIST?

By Sir Ave V. Torres, KGOR

How can you gauge or measure a true Knights of Rizal? We can proudly say that we faithfully pay our dues and other obligations to the chapter. We also attend its regular meetings. But is it sufficient that you may call yourself a true Knights of Rizal member?

The effectiveness of the teachings of Dr. Jose Rizal, which our Order endeavors to propagate, will always be the measure by which other men judge our Order. The proof of the goodness and greatness of our Order is in our deeds, in the deeds and acts of its officers and members. It is also within our deeds that the Order of the Knights of Rizal is made known to non-members. On the shoulders of each one of us fellow knights, therefore, lies the prestige of our Order.

As we have observed, there are some of those who are Knights of Rizal in name only; they are merely nominal Rizalists. This happened not only in our organization, but from other organizations as well. But I know, we are very fortunate that a number of Knights of Rizal are Knights of Rizal by name and nature. (Look at those members around you, they are here, a true Rizalist, *handang tumulong at dumamay* to propagate the teaching of Rizal).

To a nominal Knights of Rizal, the teachings of our national hero and of our Order mean little. But to a true Knights of Rizal by name and nature, they mean a

lot. He exerts every effort to emulate Dr. Jose Rizal's teachings and tries his best to live a life worthy. He endeavors to be faithful to his country, like what Rizal's philosophy in his love of his country.

While in Hongkong, June 20, 1892, Rizal wrote: "I have always loved my country and I am sure that I shall love her until death, if by chance men are unjust to me; and I shall enjoy the happy life, contented in the thoughts that all that I have suffered, my past, my present, and my future, my life, my love, my pleasures, I have sacrificed all of these for love of her. Happen what may, I shall die blessing her and desiring the dawn of her redemption."

And so to all of us, to be a true Knights of Rizal, is to be faithful to the rules and regulations of the Order and of his Chapter in particular. For the observance of those rules and regulations will eventually be to the best interest of his country and those of mankind. May we all become a true Knights of Rizal by name and nature...

Speech of His Excellency Benigno S. Aquino III President of the Philippines at the International Assembly and Conference of Rizal

(Delivered at the Centennial Ballroom, Manila Hotel on February 17, 2011)

Jose Rizal was a Renaissance man. He was a writer, a doctor, a scientist, a teacher, and a linguist. Had he chosen to live the life of a rich ilustrado without a care in the world, he could have done so comfortably.

And yet our national hero could not ignore what was happening to his beloved Philippines, suffering under the yoke of a colonial power that had oppressed and exploited his people. So he turned his back on a quiet uneventful life and instead dedicated himself to righting the wrongs he saw around him.

I suppose it would belabor the point for me to tell you that what Rizal identified as the cancers of this society have not been fully healed. A quick look at our country will make us realize- there are also many of us who remain hungry, uneducated, homeless, and

deprived of access to basic human rights. After so many revolutions, against so many different tyrants, we are led to question: Have we truly achieved freedom? Is this what our national hero envisioned?

But perhaps the more important question is: Are you, as Knights of Rizal, as citizens of this country, doing what you can to address these problems, the way our national hero once did?

The real reason we are gathered here is not just because of an anniversary, not just because of history, but also because of the fact that we must remember and reignite the ideals that our national hero Jose Rizal gave his entire life to. Today is a reminder of the tasks that lay ahead of all of us.

The Knights of Rizal have done their fair share in this. By encouraging our youth to become new Rizals, to work beyond border, and to innovate across sectors, your annual Rizal Youth Leadership program is just one example of the many ways in which you have fulfilled your part in our collective responsibilities as Filipinos. But again, today's celebration tells us that we must not relent- that you had formed the honor guard in Rizal's burial in 1912, you continue to form the honor guard of his memory. You are supposed to be teachers of his ethics, defenders of his patriotism, and living examples of his belief in civic participation. **You are Knights; complete with ranks and insignia, which are recognized by the Honors Code of the Philippines as official awards of the Republic**, and if you hold strong and continue your dedicated work, and if each and every person in this country does the same, then we will forge further onward into being the Philippines that Jose Rizal once dreamed of, that all of us continue to dream of.

By this I mean: do not waver, do not stray from the straight and righteous path, and know that you are not alone. This is the same commitment I continue to ask of every Filipino I meet, every partner in rebuilding this national. It is also the same commitment I give for the next five and a half years of a leader,

as a citizen of this republic borne out of the sacrifice of so many of our ancestors, among them a doctor from Columba.

One of the famous anecdotes about Rizal is that when the Spanish doctor took his pulse before his execution, the doctor was surprised to see that he was perfectly calm. This is the power of knowing that one is doing the right thing, of having a clear conscience, and we must learn from this. Each and every Filipino must see that the old way of doing things in the darkness of corruption and deceit has been banished by the broad light of day that has shined on this country once more. We have returned to the much older, much more classical, and much nobler ideals of our heroes- the ideals of honesty, transparency, and nationalism. The Filipino people can dream again. Finally, we can stay true to and fulfill the responsibilities that our heroes have passed onto our shoulders. Finally, under this newfound daylight, we can rebuild this country; we can bequeath to our children a Philippines finally rid of the cancer that has plagued it for centuries, a Philippines that is truly free.



COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

ORDER OF THE KNIGHTS OF RIZAL
International Headquarters
Port Area, Manila

CHAPTER OFFICERS & MEMBERS CHALLENGE
Rizalian Year _____

CHAPTER HISTORY:

Charter Date: _____ Where: _____

Number of Members: Highest No.: _____ Lowest No.: _____

Current Membership: _____ Target Membership: _____

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR CHAPTER:

• _____

• _____

• _____

• _____

• _____

• _____

• _____

Signature : _____

Name : _____

Chapter : _____

Date Accomplished: _____

ORDER OF THE KNIGHTS OF RIZAL
International Headquarters
Port Area, Manila

CHAPTER COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE
Rizalian Year _____

If you are a Chapter Commander, identify your Regional and Area Commanders and your Chapter Officers:

(1) Region : _____

Regional Commander : _____

Deputy Regional Commander: _____

(2) Area : _____

Area Commander : _____

Deputy Area Commander : _____

(3) Chapter : _____

Chapter Commander: _____

Deputy Commander: _____

Chancellor: _____

Pursuivant: _____

Exchequer: _____

Auditor: _____

Deputy Pursuivant: _____

Deputy Exchequer: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Chapter: _____

Date Accomplished: _____

ORDER OF THE KNIGHTS OF RIZAL
International Headquarters
Port Area, Manila

AREA COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE
Rizalian Year: _____

If you are an Area Commander, identify the Chapters and Chapter Commanders under your jurisdiction, and your Region and Regional Commander:

(1) **Chapter** : _____
Chapter Commander : _____

(2) **Chapter** : _____
Chapter Commander : _____

(3) **Chapter** : _____
Chapter Commander : _____

(4) **Chapter** : _____
Chapter Commander : _____

(5) **Region** : _____

Regional Commander : _____

Deputy Regional Commander: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Chapter: _____

Date: Accomplished: _____

ORDER OF THE KNIGHTS OF RIZAL
International Headquarters
Port Area, Manila

REGIONAL COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

Rizalian Year: _____

If you are a Regional Commander, identify your Region, your Area and Name of Commanders under your jurisdiction:

(1) **Region** : _____

 Regional Commander : _____

 Deputy Regional Commander : _____

(2) **Area** : _____

 Area Commander : _____

 Deputy Area Commander : _____

(3) **Area** : _____

 Area Commander : _____

 Deputy Area Commander : _____

(4) **Area** : _____

 Area Commander : _____

 Deputy Area Commander : _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Chapter: _____

Date Accomplished: _____