

# Rotary Club of Baguio



OFFICIAL CLUB BULLETIN  
Volume LXXVIII - Issue 15  
Saturday, 08 November 2025

PP ALI MORALES  
Club Honored Speaker



Baguio City, Philippines  
R.I. District 3790, Club No. 16863  
Chartered on 21 February 1938

The Rotary Club of Baguio  
meets every Saturday  
at 12:30 to 2:30 pm  
at the Baguio Country Club



INTERACTIVE LINKS  
<https://rcbaguio.org>  
<https://canao.rcbaguio.org>  
Email: [canao@rcbaguio.org](mailto:canao@rcbaguio.org)

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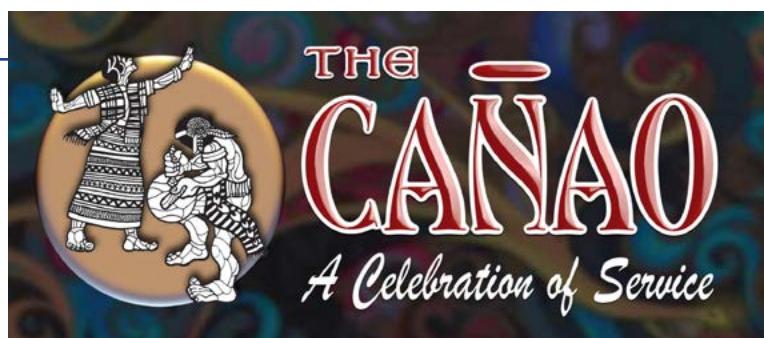
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## THE CAÑAO & NEW EMBLEM

**S**ymbolizing unity, joy, and gratitude, "Cañao" (pronounced kan-yau) is a traditional dance from the Cordilleras in Northern Luzon of the Philippines, celebrated during feasts and gatherings.

Our new emblem shows a male and female in ritual dance within a native gong—honoring abundance, much like how we celebrate service and fellowship in Rotary. Truly, "A Celebration of Service."



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## THE HEART OF ROTARY

We now find ourselves entering the **fourth month of the Rotary Year** — and what a meaningful month it is! November is **The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Month**, which, to me, represents the very essence of Rotary service. It reminds us that those who give, gain the most; those who serve, grow the deepest. This is the true spirit of **“Service Above Self.”**

I encourage everyone to register early for the upcoming **District TRF Banquet on 22 November** at the Royce Hotel in Clark, Pampanga. It will be a wonderful occasion to renew our commitment to Rotary's noble causes, strengthen fellowship with other Rotarians across the district, and celebrate the power of giving.

Last 25 October, we enjoyed a particularly **inspiring meeting** with **Mr. Ferdie Balanag**, Director of the Montañosa Film Festival. This was already his second visit as our Guest of Honor and Speaker — thanks to our hardworking **Speaker's Bureau of RCB!** Once again, we learned how the art of cinema can mirror our culture, tell our community's stories, and share with the world who we are as Baguio people and as Filipinos.

On **01 November**, we paused for All Saints' Day to honor and remember our dearly departed. But just before that, I was happy to represent our club during the **Cluster 1C “End Polio Now”** activity held on **26 October** at Burnham Park's Rose Garden. Together with our sister clubs in Baguio, we danced to the rhythm of Zumba and joined the lively walk to raise awareness and strengthen Rotary's continuing fight to end polio worldwide. It was a vibrant

reminder that, united, we can indeed make a difference.

This coming **Saturday, November 8**, let us all look forward to hearing from our very own **PP Ali**, our resident **TRF Guru**, who will speak about the life-changing work of The Rotary Foundation. May his insights enlighten and inspire us to give from the heart. And yes — I hope you bring your contributions, big or small. Every peso we give brings hope and healing to communities around the world.

As we continue to move forward through Rotary Year 2025–2026, I encourage everyone to **keep attending our weekly meetings**. Your presence brings warmth and life to every gathering. Without you, our fellowship would not be complete.

We shall soon hold another **Board Meeting**, so I ask our Board Members and Committee Chairs to prepare their inputs and project updates. Together, we shall keep our plans focused and our service vibrant.

Special thanks go to **Director Ben Grajo** for spearheading our **Anti-Dengue Campaign** at Happy Hollow Schools. This activity stands as another meaningful contribution under Rotary's **Disease Prevention and Treatment** focus. Thank you, Director Ben, and all who helped make it possible.

Christmas is just around the corner — and isn't it wonderful to think that soon, we will again gather in joy, fellowship, and celebration of another blessed Rotary year?

With gratitude and Rotary pride,  
Pres. Joe Ursua



**PRES. JOE URSUA**

RCB President  
RY 2025-2026

# F FEATURE PAGE

## NOVEMBER: GRATITUDE AND REFLECTION TIME

Every month in the Rotary Club of Baguio brings us a reason to pause, reflect, and celebrate the lives of our fellow Rotarians. November, the penultimate month of the year, carries with it a sense of gratitude and quiet reflection. For our November birthday celebrants, this season is symbolic: a time when the year begins to wind down, when the blessings of the past months are counted, and when anticipation builds for the joys yet to come.

In the Philippine setting, November is a month deeply rooted in memory and thanksgiving. It opens with All Saints' and All Souls' Days, reminding us of the ties that bind us to those who came before us. Families gather to honor loved ones, and communities come together in prayer and remembrance. This spirit of reflection and gratitude sets the tone for the entire month, making birthdays in November especially meaningful. For our celebrants, their personal milestones are touched by the collective spirit of appreciation and reverence that marks this season.

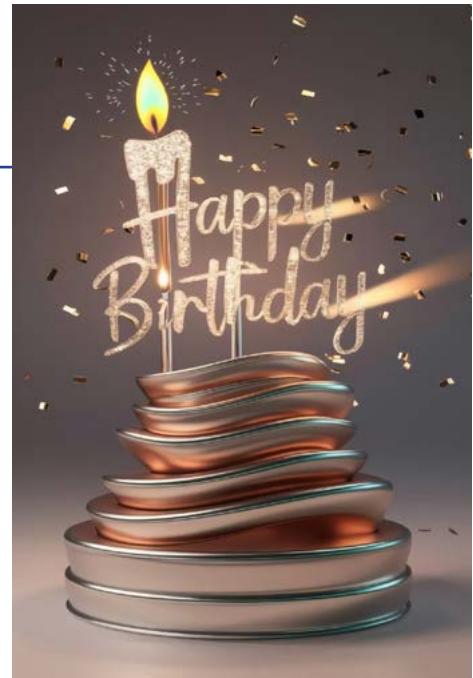
Science and tradition both lend intriguing insights. Some studies suggest that those born in November may possess unique strengths in adaptability and resilience. They are thought to be steady yet imaginative, practical yet full of warmth. In many ways, they embody the character of the month itself—reflective but hopeful, measured but forward-looking. Just as November bridges the solemnity of remembering with the anticipation of the holidays, November-born individuals often carry a balance between seriousness and joy.

Within our Rotary family, these qualities shine through in the lives of our November celebrants. Their presence enriches our fellowship, not only with laughter and camaraderie but also with quiet wisdom and grounded leadership. They remind us that service is most powerful when it springs from gratitude, and that Rotary is strongest when it combines heartfelt remembrance with purposeful action. In their birthdays, we celebrate not only their lives but also the very values that sustain our club: reflection, appreciation, and service above self.

History, too, notes many notable figures born in November—individuals whose vision and resilience helped shape their communities and, in some cases, the world at large. In the same way, our November celebrants demonstrate how each life, lived with integrity and generosity, can leave ripples of goodness that extend far beyond the self. They show us that while November may be a time of endings and conclusions, it is equally a season of hope and preparation for what lies ahead.

As we honor our November-born members, we do so with hearts full of gratitude. Their lives remind us that every day is a gift, and that service and fellowship are best celebrated when rooted in thanksgiving. May this special month bless them with health, happiness, and countless opportunities to touch lives.

Indeed, November is a month of gratitude—and in celebrating our November celebrants, we are reminded that the spirit of Rotary is, at its core, an enduring expression of thankfulness.



### OUR NOVEMBER-BORN MEMBERS



Dir. Vell Agayas  
November 05



PP Ali Morales  
November 10



PP Baby Kaur  
November 11



PP Bert Talco  
November 15



PP Gigi Maranan  
November 30

# SECRETARY'S UPDATE

## EVENTS & ACTIVITIES FOR NOVEMBER

### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

05 – Dir. Vell Agayas  
 10 – PP Ali Morales  
 11 – PP Baby Kaur  
 15 – PP Bert Talco  
 30 – PP Gigi Maranan

### MOST RECENT EVENTS & ACTIVITIES:

24 October – FREE ANTI-DENGUE Program, Happy Hallow Elementary and Child Development Center at 4:00 pm

PRESENT: Dir. Benedict and INCOGNITO Team

### UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES:

<none>

### 25 OCTOBER 2025 ATTENDANCE

#### WE MISSED YOU LAST MEETING:

Rtn Nancy, PP Jun, PP Arnel, PP Anet, Rtn Eric, PP Lani, Rtn. Jeff, PP Atom, Rtn Levy, Rtn. Kacey, Rtn. Jojo, Rtn Annie, Rtn Harley , Rtn Peter

**EXCUSED:** PPP Mia, Rtn. Ike, PP Chris F, PP Cy, PP Ben, Rtn Lily, PP Chris P, PP Benny, PP Linda

**MAKE-UP:** Dir. Vell, PN Reymund, Dir. Lorena, VP Lou, Dir. Eduard, Rtn. Tonton, Dir. Benedict, Rtn. Bong, Dir. Glaiza Dir. Noel

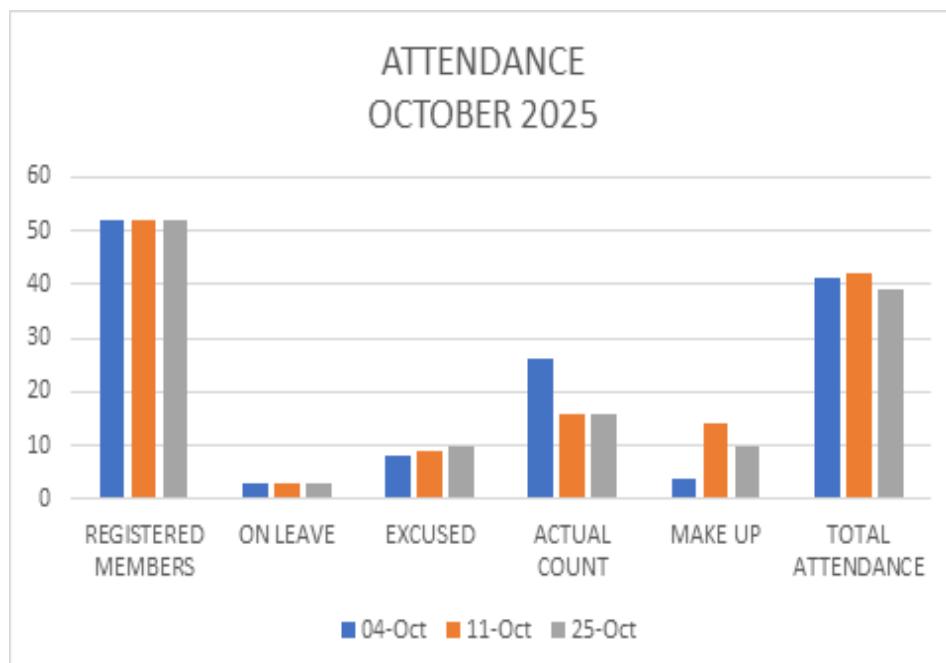
**ON-LEAVE:** Rtn. Ailyn, Rtn. Ruth, PP Baby

**GUESTS:** 4 guests of PP Libby and GHS Ferdie Balanag



**PP CORA OCAMPO**

RCB Secretary  
RY 2025-2026





# CLUB HONORED SPEAKER

## PP FRANCIS "ALI" MORALES

A true example of steadfast leadership and dedicated service, **Rtn. Francis Ali B. Morales** has built an inspiring career grounded in excellence, perseverance, and community spirit. His life's journey reflects how determination and heart can turn humble beginnings into a legacy of success and service to others.

Born and raised in Baguio City, Ali began showing initiative early in life—as a high school newsboy delivering newspapers by bicycle in Lamut, Ifugao. From those modest roots, he went on to earn a **Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy from Saint Louis University**, where he was a consistent **Dean's Lister** and recipient of the **Far East Bank Scholarship Foundation Grant**. He later pursued advanced studies at the **Asian Institute of Management**, finishing **Top 2 in his class**, and completed numerous financial management and investment certification programs that enhanced his professional competence.

Ali's professional path is marked by over three decades of excellence in the banking industry. Rising through the ranks—from bookkeeper to **Vice President and Cluster Head of BDO Unibank's Baguio Session Road Branch**—he has earned admiration for his integrity, strategic leadership, and unwavering commitment to customer trust. His early years with **Far East Bank & Trust Company** and **Equitable PCI Bank** honed his discipline and strengthened his skills in both financial management and organizational leadership.

Within Rotary, Ali's service story is equally distinguished. He first joined the **Rotary Club of San Fernando, La Union**, serving as **Club Service Director**, before transferring to the **Rotary Club of Baguio** in 2000. Over the years, he has held several key positions—including **Scholarship Program Chair, Vocational Service Director, Treasurer**, and most notably, **President for RY 2022–2023**. His

Rotary journey has always been defined by commitment, teamwork, and the desire to make a tangible difference in people's lives.

Under his capable and inspiring leadership, the Rotary Club of Baguio earned an impressive **29 awards** from District 3790, including recognition as the **Top Club in All Areas of Focus, Outstanding in Membership Development**, and **Top Club in TRF Total Giving**. The club achieved record-breaking contributions to The Rotary Foundation, with **USD 23,668 in total giving**, making RY 2022–2023 one of the most remarkable and impactful years in the Club's history.

Now serving as **Chairman of The Rotary Foundation**, Ali continues to exemplify the true spirit of "Service Above Self." His dedicated stewardship ensures that the Club's generosity continues to uplift lives—fueling Rotary's mission of advancing peace, improving health, supporting education, and promoting community development. Through his guidance, RCBaguio has maintained its distinction as one of the top-giving clubs in the entire district, a testament to his focus and quiet yet effective leadership.

Beyond Rotary, Ali is known for his humility, kindness, and disciplined work ethic. He is married to **Maura Gloria Lorenzo-Morales** of Cauayan, Isabela, and they are blessed with a son, **Francis Jan Lorenzo**, whose youthful enthusiasm and curiosity inspire his father's own sense of hope and purpose.

From newsboy to banker, mentor, and now one of Rotary's pillars in Baguio, **Rtn. Francis Ali Morales** remains a shining example of dedication, perseverance, and the power of service-driven leadership—an inspiration to both Rotarians and the wider community he continues to serve so well.



**PP ALI MORALES**  
RCB Member since 2000

## A CINEMATIC AFTERNOON OF FELLOWSHIP

It was another fine Saturday at the BCC Wolfson Room, where members of the Rotary Club of Baguio gathered for a meeting filled with warmth, inspiration, and camaraderie.

The program began promptly at 12:30 pm, with Pres. Joe calling the meeting to order. Program Coordinator PAG Gigi Maranan smoothly guided the day's proceedings, setting the tone for what would be another meaningful afternoon. Rtn. Kat then led the invocation, her words heartfelt and sincere, followed by the singing of the *Pambansang Awit*, the Rotary Hymn, and the Four-Way Test.

IPP Susan took the floor to introduce our visiting Rotarians and guests, warmly welcoming everyone in true Rotary fashion.

Entertainment came next, and the room was soon filled with music as PP/Sec Cora rendered two beautiful songs. Her soulful voice drew appreciative applause and brought smiles to all, proving once again that music has a way of connecting hearts.

Adding to the fun was the much-anticipated raffle segment, where newly appointed Dir. Arlene stood in as Raffle Queen on behalf of VP Lou. With her cheerful energy, she kept everyone excited as she called out winners of flashlights, handheld fans, and colorful food containers—simple yet practical tokens that always bring delight.

Dir. Benedict then took over as Fine Master, infusing humor and lightheartedness into the proceedings. His lively interaction with members made for an enjoyable segment that underscored the fellowship spirit that defines every RCB meeting.

During Members' Time, PP/Treas. Marilyn presented the September Financial Reports for both the General and Community Funds. PP/Sec. Cora proudly shared that the SLU Rotaractors had completed a successful clean-up of our adopted M. Roxas Park, which now looks more inviting than ever. PP/EIC Raffy, meanwhile, presented the enhanced and

reimagined RCB website—giving emphasis to the newly completed Blog pages.

President's Time followed, with Pres. Joe expressing his gratitude to everyone who participated in the recent Declutter/Trade Fair fundraiser. He shared that, together with IPP Susan, he had signed the Memorandum of Agreement for the M. Roxas Park project with Mayor Magalang, marking another milestone for the club. He also highlighted upcoming events such as the TRF Banquet and End Polio Activity, and extended appreciation to Dir. Benedict for spearheading the Anti-Dengue Fumigation in Happy Hollow.

PP Raffy then introduced the Guest of Honor and Speaker, Mr. Ferdie Balanag, a respected theater and film director. His talk, "*The Role of Regional Cinema in Shaping Communities*," shed light on how storytelling through film can influence culture and inspire change. He shared his experiences directing musicals and documentaries during the pandemic, where performances were streamed online instead of before live audiences. Mr. Balanag, who is also involved with the Montanosa Film Festival, proudly spoke of Baguio's growing reputation as a filming destination.

An engaging open forum followed, with Rtn. Glen and PP Libby expressing interest in his work and in attending future film screenings. Mr. Balanag invited members to upcoming free workshops and promised to share schedules with the club.

PP Libby, in her warm response, thanked Mr. Balanag for his inspiring presentation and noted how initiatives like these provide meaningful, creative pursuits for the youth.

Pres. Joe then presented the Club's Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Balanag, after which everyone rose for the singing of the RCB Hymn and *Pilipinas Kong Mahal*.

As the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m., members gathered for cheerful photo opportunities—capturing yet another Rotary afternoon filled with learning, laughter, and friendship.



**PP MARILYN BARREDO**

RCB Treasurer  
RY 2025-2026

# R RETROSPECT SCENES

SCENES WE LIKE TO SEE :



## 25 OCTOBER 2025 MEETING



## RCB HISTORY: SEVENTH DECADE (1998-2008)

The Rotary year 1998-1999, under **Engr. Rene "Rene" Ronquillo**, began with strong international fellowship. Seven Rotarians traveled to Japan for the anniversary of sister club RC Matsubase. They also attended a meeting of RC Tokyo Josai, which generously extended additional support to the RCB scholarship fund—an enduring symbol of friendship and goodwill.

In 1999-2000, **Loreto "Lito" Pangilinan** led with energy and dedication. The club earned the Governor's Award of Excellence, was named Most Outstanding Club in Area 1, and received the RI Presidential Citation. RCB was recognized for exemplary performance across all avenues of service. The club bulletin also won second place in the district competition.

**Erlindo "Earl" Tesoro** presided in 2000-2001. After much deliberation, regular meetings were permanently moved to the Baguio Country Club. Highlights included two toilet projects for Quezon Elementary School, participation in the Asian Presidential Conference in Manila, and a brotherhood agreement with RC Mutya ng Pasig.

**Dr. Alfredo "Alfred" Laygo**, in 2001-2002, worked under the theme "Mankind is Our Business." His year featured the formation of RC Baguio Sunrise, hosting RYLA, a fundraising Halloween Dance, vocational awards, and the hosting of a GSE Team from Texas. His administration received ten district awards, including Outstanding Club and Outstanding President.

**Dr. Horatio Christopher "Chris" Peralta**, in 2002-2003, carried the theme "Sow the Seeds of Love." Membership rose to 56 with strong attendance. The club completed six toilet projects funded by a Matching Grant with RC Matsubase, and held seven medical-dental-legal missions serving over 2,500 patients. RCB also sponsored an Interact Club in Dalupirip, hosted a GSE Team from Newcastle, Australia.

**Linda "Linda" Winter**, in 2003-2004, emphasized action and strength. With 64 members—the club's all-time high—her term included a citywide clean-up drive, a youth study exchange, six medical missions, hosting a GSE Team from Brazil, and the successful fundraising concert "Divine Diva Live" with Zsa Zsa Padilla. Thirteen district awards, including Top Club in TRF contributions.

German Rotarian **Helmut "Helmut" Schlaaff**, in 2004-2005, championed fellowship, often asking "Are you happy?" Projects included micro-financing in Tuba, participation in the Asia Pacific Rotaract Conference, and hosting RYLA 2005. Nine awards, including Outstanding Club and President, were conferred.

In 2005-2006, **Terrence Michael "Mike" Pearson** stressed fellowship and proper decorum in meetings. His "Team 101" concentrated efforts in Barangay Luding with sanitation, literacy, day-care, and livelihood projects. The club also hosted GSE Teams from the USA and Taiwan, and earned eight District awards.

Frenchman **Gérard "Gérard" Audineau**, in 2006-2007, implemented four major Matching Grants—for feeding, Braille resources, computers, and a water distribution system. Under the theme "Lead the Way," he strengthened youth programs, medical missions, and TRF support. Truly a very successful year which concluded with multiple awards, including an RI Significant Achievement Award.

**Architect Rafael "Raffy" Chan**, in 2007-2008, inaugurated the RI Club Leadership Plan (CLP) under the theme "Rotary Shares." Innovations included Quarterly Grand Fellowships, six medical missions, and the launch of the Ten Outstanding Young Athletes (TOYA) Awards. This year, ended with over twenty accolades including Most Outstanding Club Award, Outstanding Club President Award, Top Awards in All Avenues of Service and the Outstanding Club Bulletin Award.



**Rene Ronquillo**  
1998-1999



**Loreto Pangilinan**  
1999-2000



**Erlindo Tesoro**  
2000-2001



**Alfredo Laygo**  
2001-2002



**Horacio Christopher Peralta**  
2002-2003



**Linda Winter**  
2003-2004



**Helmut Schlaaff**  
2004-2005



**Terrence Michael Pearson**  
2005-2006



**Gerard Audineau**  
2006-2007



**Rafael Chan**  
2007-2008

## THE INVOCATION AGENDA

One of the most beautiful traditions in Rotary meetings is how we begin—with an **Invocation, or what some may also call a Doxology**. At first glance, this may seem like a simple opening ritual, but in truth, it carries with it a deeper purpose. The Invocation is an act of humility, a reaching out for guidance, wisdom, and strength as we gather to deliberate on matters of service, fellowship, and community.

From the very onset, our Club has recognized that this **Invocation must be ecumenical**. It should be **inclusive, not tied to one particular denomination**, but respectful of the diversity that exists within our membership. This approach allows every Rotarian and guest, regardless of their faith or persuasion, to feel welcomed and represented.

I recall a time in our club's history when one of our members, was a devout Muslim. Had he been assigned to do the Invocation, he would have addressed Allah with reverence and sincerity—though expressed in a different way. That moment never happened but remains in my mind as a testament to Rotary's spirit of openness and mutual respect.

Of course, not all Invocations are truly pleasant and meaningful. At times, they can become **too formulaic**, repetitively invoking blessings for the guest speaker, the guests, the officers, and the members, almost in checklist fashion. While well-intentioned, such prayers run the risk of sounding monotonous, or worse, disengaging the very audience they are meant to inspire. An Invocation should uplift, not drone; it should inspire reflection, not become mere background noise.

It was with this in mind that during Rotary Year 2007–2008, one of our past presidents introduced an innovative change. Instead of the usual Invocation, he opted for **something fresh and thought-provoking**—a short audio-visual presentation, aptly called **“Reflection Moments.”** These were brief yet meaningful segments that set the tone for the meeting, offering inspiration through images, words, and music. **The concept allowed us to pause and reflect, to set aside the rush of daily life, and to enter the meeting with open hearts and minds.**

This shift highlighted an important truth: whether through prayer, reflection, or meditation, **what matters most is the spirit in which we begin our gatherings**. The Invocation is not a mere item on the agenda to be rushed through. Rather, it is **an opportunity to draw strength from values we hold dear—service, fellowship, compassion, and integrity**. It reminds us that Rotary is not only about projects and programs but about people, and the shared ideals that bring us together.

As we move forward, perhaps we can continue to re-imagine the Invocation agenda—not as a rigid format, but as a living tradition that adapts to the times while staying true to its purpose. **Whether spoken aloud in prayer, offered silently in thought, or expressed creatively through reflections, let it always serve as a unifying force** that prepares us, as Rotarians, to serve above self.

In this way, each Invocation—however it is delivered—becomes a gentle reminder that Rotary is not just about what we do, but why we do it.



**PP RAFFY CHAN**

Cañao Editor-in-Chief

RY 2025-2026

# PROGRAM FOR TODAY

## REGULAR MEETING at the BCC Training Center

### Saturday, 08 November 2025

TIME	PORTION	IN CHARGE
12:00 nn	Fellowship	
12:30 pm	Call to Order	Pres. Joe Ursua
	Invocation	PP Baby Kaur
	Pambansang Awit	(Everyone)
	Rotary Hymn	(Everyone)
	Four-Way-Test	(Everyone)
1:20	Introduction of Visiting Rotarians & Guests (VRG)	Rtn. Lily Landayan
	Entertainment	Dir. Lorena Cachola
	Finest Moments	PP Chris Faelnar
	Raffle	Rtn. Jeff Isip
1:40	Members' Time	(Anyone)
1:50	President's Time	Pres. Joe Ursua
1:55	Introduction of Club Honored Speaker	Rtn. Levy Orcales
	Club Honored Speaker (CHS)	PP Ali Morales
	Topic: The Rotary Foundation	
	Open Forum	
	Club Response	PP Mia Cawed
2:30	RCB Hymn	(Everyone)
	Pilipinas Kong Mahal	(Everyone)
	Adjournment	Pres. Joe Ursua
	Program Coordinator	Rtn. Kat Bosantog
	Retrospect	VP Lou de Guzman
	Imager	Rtn. Peter Wasing

## PARTICIPANTS FOR NEXT MEETING

### REGULAR MEETING at the BCC Wolfson Room

### Saturday, 15 November 2025

Program Coordinator	PP Bert Talco	Introduction of GHS	Rtn. Lily Landayan
Invocation	PP/Sec. Cora Ocampo	GHS	
Introduction of VRG	Rtn. Kaycee Padilla	Topic:	
Entertainment	PE Reymund Barrios	Club Response	PP Atom Mendalla
Raffle	Dir. Arlene Sumalag	Retrospect	Rtn. Ailyn Kindipan
Finest Moments	Rtn. Tonton Tan	Imager	Rtn. Kat Bosantog

NOVEMBER IS ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH