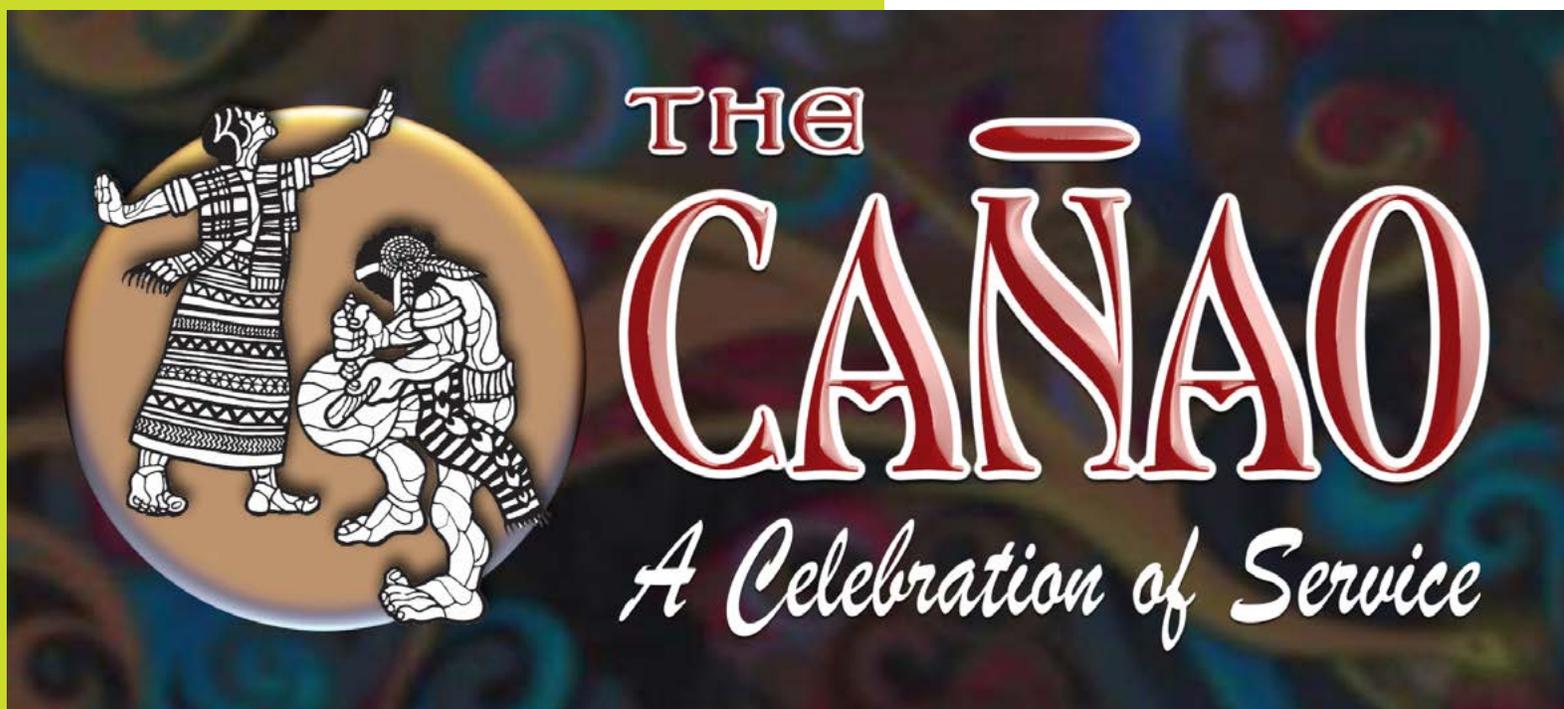


Rotary Club of Baguio



OFFICIAL CLUB BULLETIN
Volume LXXVIII - Issue 29
Saturday, 21 March 2026

JHOMER C. SAMORANOS
Guest of Honor & 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



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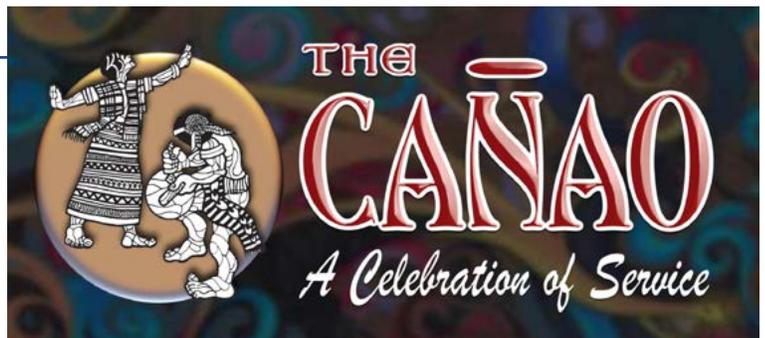
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THE CAÑAO & NEW EMBLEM

Symbolizing 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.”



P PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SERVING TOGETHER

Last Saturday's meeting, March 14, was what I would call **PP Veeh's finest moment**—a simple yet meaningful segment that allowed us to reintroduce ourselves and know each other beyond our usual Rotary roles. Inspired by that moment, allow me to share a little more about myself.

My journey in medicine has always been guided by the aspiration to become a **"Five-Star Physician."** This means being not only a clinician, but also a teacher, researcher, administrator, surgeon, and social mobilizer—all in one.

I am an OB-Gynecologist and Family Physician, a surgeon who delivers life—both naturally and through Cesarean section. I have served as a teacher in one of the country's leading medical schools, eventually retiring as a Professor. I have chaired OB-GYN departments in institutions connected with SLU, the Department of Health, and LGU hospitals in Pangasinan, and served as a training officer and member of POGS CREED.

In research, I was honored with the **Gawad San Luis Presidential Award for Excellence in Research**, with the support of PP Veeh. I also contributed to Dr. Ragasa's Textbook in Obstetrics. In administration, I served as Medical Director of Hi-Precision Diagnostics Baguio and Training Officer of the SLU School of Health OB-GYN Department.

Yet among these roles, the **social mobilizer** in me finds its fullest expression in Rotary. Today, I serve as the **82nd President of the Rotary Club of Baguio**, now in my 18th year as a Rotarian.

When I became President, I realized something simple: the President writes in the bulletin—whether people read it or not. But beyond that, the role itself is far from simple. Leading a Rotary

club and fulfilling the **Seven Areas of Focus** is a shared responsibility. No President can do it alone. We rely on our Vice President, Secretary, Board of Directors, advisers, and every committed Rotarian.

I may not fully understand corporate management styles, but I understand one principle from medicine: **"First, do no harm."** In medicine, we strive for healing, though outcomes are not always within our control. In Rotary, we balance time, service, and financial support—through The Rotary Foundation, PolioPlus, and our various humanitarian efforts.

One thing I have come to truly appreciate is writing this **President's Message**. If I may treat *The Cañao* as my pulpit, it allows me to reflect on our club, our fellowship, and the attitudes that shape us.

Being President is a unique challenge. You work with many personalities, encourage participation, remind members, and ensure that the club continues to move forward. It is very different from my life as a physician, where systems and structures are more defined.

And yet, in this difference, I find something deeply meaningful. I feel not only the challenges, but also the quiet support—the silent approval of many members who continue to believe in what we do.

To all of you who support our club in your own ways, whether seen or unseen, I offer my sincere thanks. You know who you are. Your presence, your commitment, and your belief in Rotary make this journey worthwhile.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, and for making this experience as President of the Rotary Club of Baguio truly meaningful.



PRES. JOE URSUA

RCB President
RY 2025-2026





MEMBERS' ROSTER



HONORARY MEMBERS

- PP Angeling Palma
- PP Loreto Panglinan
- PDG Seiichi Morita
- PDG Dai Bong Yu
- PDG Teo Kwan Swee
- PDG Chul Min Choi

NAME

CLASSIFICATION

Dir. Mariver Agayas -----	COMMUNCTN/MEDIA- Correspondent
Rtn. Nancy Alabanza-----	FOOD INDUSTRY- Meat Processing
PP Vicenia Balajo -----	HEALTH CARE- Obstetrics & Gynecology
PP Marilyn Barredo -----	BANKING/MONEY- Information Technology
PE/Dir. Reymund Barrios -----	MKTG/SALES- Animal Feeds
PP Ricardo Bondoc Jr.-----	SOCIAL SERVICE- Entrepreneurship Dev
Rtn. Katrina Bosantog -----	GOVERNMENT- Judiciary
PP Arnel Cabanisas-----	MGMT/ADMIN- Executive Mgmt
Rtn. Evangeline Cacho-----	FOOD INDUSTRY- Catering
Dir. Lorena Cachola -----	SERVICES- Personal Care
PP Anita Calabias -----	INSURANCE- Entrepreneurship
PP Mia Joy Cawed -----	LEGAL – Judiciary
PP/EIC Rafael Chan-----	ARCHITECTURE- Green Building
PP Dionisio Claridad -----	HEALTH CARE- Administration
Dir. Benedicto Grajo -----	SERVICES- Incognito Pest Control
Dir. Emylou De Guzman-----	FOOD INDUSTRY- Finance Manager
Rtn. Ericson De Guzman -----	PUBLIC RELATIONS- Consumer Welfare
Rtn. Dwight Dulnoan -----	MINING- Exploration
PP Mary Leilani Fabi -----	COMMUNCTN/MEDIA- Telecom
PP Chris Fernando Faelnar -----	ENGINEERING- Electrical Engineering
PP Cyrus Fagar-----	ENGINEERING- Civil Engineering
PP Elizabeth Fernandez -----	LEGAL- Criminal Law
Rtn. Glenliel Flores -----	CONSTRUCTION- Comm'l/Resid'l Contracting
Rtn. Jeffrey Isip-----	INSURANCE- Risk Management
PP Gormito Kaur -----	MARKETING/SALES- Retail Sales
Rtn. Ailyn Kindipan-----	EDUCATION-Art
PP Ben Ladilad-----	AGRI/FORESTRY- Research & Development
Rtn. Estela Landayan-----	EDUCATION- Secondary
PP Alfredo Laygo-----	EDUCATION- Medical
PP Evangeline Maranan-----	MGMT/ADMIN- Special Events
PP/Aud. Alma Teresa Mendalla-----	BANKING/MONEY- Regional Operations
PP Ali Morales-----	BANKING/MONEY- Bank Manager
Rtn. Cornelio Naguit Jr. -----	HEALTH CARE- Geriatrics
PP/Sec. Ma. Corazon Ocampo-----	EDUCATION- Consultancy/Entrepreneurship
Rtn. Levy Lloyd Orcales -----	GOVERNMENT- City Legislation
Rtn. Krashemae Padilla -----	COMMUNCTN/MEDIA- Videography
PP Christopher Peralta -----	HEALTH CARE- Diabetology
Dir. Eduardo Ramos -----	SERVICES- Memorial Admin
Rtn. Ruth Rillera -----	HEALTH CARE- Nurse
Dir. Arlene Joy Sumalag-----	ART & DESIGN- Handicrafts
PP Benito Sunga-----	HEALTH CARE- Urology
PP Alberto Talco -----	ENGINEERING- Civil Engineering
Dir. Glaizazette Tan -----	SERVICES- Dorm Administration
Rtn. Ronald Carlton Tan-----	REAL ESTATE- General Practice
Pres. Jose Ursua-----	SCIENCE/TECH- OBGyne Sonology
Dir. Emmanuel Velasquez -----	MKTG/SALES- Management
Rtn. Anecita Viernes -----	FOOD INDUSTRY- Preserved Items
IPP Jesusa Villanueva -----	GOVERNMENT- Deeds Examination
Rtn. Harly Wasing -----	ENTERTAINMENT- Announcer
Rtn. Peter Wasing -----	ENTERTAINMENT- Journalist
PDG/PP Linda Winter-----	HEALTH CARE- Dentistry



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES FOR MARCH

MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

19 – Pres. Joe Ursua
27 – PP Anet Calabias

MOST RECENT EVENTS & ACTIVITIES:

Weekly – Mental Health Help Desk in Baguio City Jail (male and female dorms)
Participants: Rtn Bong (lead)

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES:

22 March – Purple FAM RUN, a cluster project, 5:30 AM @City Hall

10-11 April – District Conference (DISCON 2026), Hotel Supreme Convention Plaza, Magsaysay Avenue, Baguio City

ATTENDANCE

14 MARCH 26

WE MISSED YOU LAST MEETING:: PP Jun, PP Arnel, Rtn. Vangie, PP Anet, Rtn Eric, PP Lani, Rtn. Glen, Rtn. Jeff, PP Ali, Rtn. Levy, Rtn. Kacey, Rtn Jojo, Rtn. Tonton, Dir. Noel, Rtn. Annie, Rtn Harley

EXCUSED: Rtn. Ike, PP Chris F, PP Cy, PP Libby, PP Ben, PDG Linda, PP Lily, PP Alfred, PP Benny, PP Bert

MAKE-UP: Rtn. Bong, Dir. Glaiza, Rtn. Kat, Rtn. Benedict, Dir. Eduard, IPP Susan, PN Lou, Dir. Arlene

ON-LEAVE: Rtn. Ruth, Rtn. Ailyn

GUESTS: PP Salvador Royeca (GHS), Mr. Nathaniel Felipe, Ms Maria Vida Ragma

Rotakid: Jacob Cachola



PP CORA OCAMPO
RCB Secretary
RY 2025-2026



GUEST OF HONOR & SPEAKER

FOR A CLEANER AND HEALTHIER BAGUIO

In every thriving city, there are professionals whose work often happens behind the scenes but whose contributions profoundly shape the health and well-being of the community. **Engr. Jhomer C. Samoranos**, a **Registered Sanitary Engineer**, is one such individual—quietly ensuring that Baguio’s environmental infrastructure continues to function safely and efficiently for the benefit of its residents.

Currently serving as **Engineer II at the City Environment and Parks Management Office (CEPMO) of Baguio City**, Engr. Samoranos brings with him nearly a decade of dedicated experience in **municipal sewer network management and environmental infrastructure maintenance**. His work focuses on the critical systems that safeguard public health and environmental sustainability—areas that many citizens may seldom see but rely upon every day.

Engr. Samoranos began his service with CEPMO in **2017 as Engineer I**, where he gained valuable hands-on experience assisting in the maintenance and inspection of the city’s sewer network. Through diligence and steady professional growth, he soon assumed greater responsibilities. Since **2018**, as **Engineer II**, he has been entrusted with supervising a technical team tasked with the comprehensive maintenance and improvement of Baguio’s sewer systems.

In this role, Engr. Samoranos oversees the planning and implementation of **preventive maintenance programs** designed to keep vital infrastructure operating smoothly. His work involves conducting field inspections, assessing system conditions, and coordinating with different departments to promptly address emerging concerns. Through careful planning and attention to detail, he helps ensure that the city’s sewer networks function efficiently while meeting strict **environmental and safety standards set by national regulatory agencies**.

Beyond the technical aspects of engineering, Engr. Samoranos recognizes the broader purpose of his work. Properly maintained sewer systems play a vital role in protecting public health, preserving the environment, and supporting the city’s long-term sustainability. In this sense, his work contributes quietly but significantly to maintaining the quality of life that Baguio residents cherish.

Engr. Samoranos earned his **Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Sanitary Engineering** from the **University of Baguio**, and in **2016** he successfully passed the **Sanitary Engineering Licensure Examination**, becoming a registered professional under the Professional Regulation Commission. Demonstrating his commitment to continuous learning, he is currently pursuing a **Master of Science in Environmental Science at Benguet State University**, with a focus on **terrestrial ecosystems management**. This advanced study reflects his desire to integrate engineering solutions with broader ecological awareness—an increasingly important approach in modern environmental management.

Known among colleagues as dependable and collaborative, Engr. Samoranos brings both technical competence and teamwork to every project he undertakes. His ability to coordinate with various stakeholders while supervising field operations reflects a professional who understands the importance of cooperation in public service.

Through his dedication to engineering, environmental protection, and community well-being, **Engr. Jhomer C. Samoranos** exemplifies the quiet yet essential work of those who keep our cities functioning safely and sustainably. His story reminds us that behind every clean environment and healthy community are committed professionals working diligently—often without fanfare—to make it possible.



JHOMER C. SAMORANOS
Sanitary Engineer
CEPMO



R IN RETROSPECT

WATER, WISDOM & SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

In observance of **Water and Sanitation Month**, the Rotary Club of Baguio gathered on 14 March 2026, for a meaningful and well-paced meeting that combined learning, fellowship, and renewed commitment to service. Guided by Program Coordinator PP Chris Peralta, the meeting commenced promptly at 12:30 pm, with President Jose Ursua calling the assembly to order.

PP Atom Medalla led the invocation, setting a reflective tone for the afternoon. This was followed by the singing of the *Pambansang Awit*, the Rotary Hymn, and the Four-Way Test—anchoring the gathering in shared ideals and purpose.

The program then moved directly to its centerpiece with the introduction of the Guest of Honor and Speaker, PP Salvador Royeca, ably presented by PP Diony Claridad. His presence signaled an afternoon of learning on a topic both timely and vital to the city.

In his talk, “*Water Updates in Baguio City*,” PP Budz Royeca provided a clear and comprehensive overview of the city’s current water situation. He highlighted the growing gap between supply and demand, driven by population growth and increasing tourism. The city’s heavy reliance on groundwater sources, he explained, has led to depletion and increased vulnerability, especially during dry seasons intensified by climate change. Water rationing, access limitations, and concerns on water quality—particularly the pollution of key waterways such as the Balili River—were also discussed.

Equally important were the solutions presented. These included groundwater recharge initiatives, exploration of new water sources, and the promotion of rainwater harvesting systems. PP Budz emphasized that water conservation is not merely a recommendation, but

a shared responsibility—essential for environmental protection, public health, and sustainable urban development.

An engaging open forum followed, with at least four Rotarians actively participating in the discussion. Questions reflected genuine concern and curiosity, further enriching the conversation and deepening everyone’s understanding of the issue.

PP Raffy Chan delivered the Club Response, succinctly affirming his personal knowledge on the prompt response given by the BWD on water concerns, and in addressing the city’s water challenges.

With the Guest Speaker’s segment concluded, the meeting transitioned into its regular fellowship program. Entertainment was led by Dir. Lorena Cachola, who encouraged members to participate in a lively sing-along with actions—bringing laughter and energy to the room. The raffle, facilitated by Rtn. Nancy Alabanza, added excitement, with her authentic Baguio longganisa prizes delighting the lucky winners.

The *Finest Moments*, led by PP Veeh Balajo, proved both engaging and reflective. Members were invited to share their Rotary experiences and identify areas where they could contribute more meaningfully, accompanied by a light fine—making the segment both thoughtful and interactive.

During Members’ Time, there was a strong sense of unity as members expressed their support for the upcoming Rotary term. President’s Time followed, with Pres. Joe reminding everyone of key upcoming events, including the District Conference on 10-11 April 2026 at Newtown Plaza Hotel, and introducing the names of the upcoming District Governors Nominee Designate.



PE REYMUND BARRIOS
RCB Member since 2008

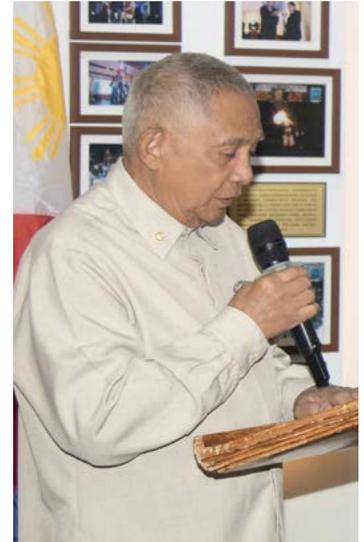
The meeting concluded in true Rotary fashion with the singing of the RCB Hymn and *Pilipinas Kong Mahal*, reaffirming both club pride and love of country. President Joe Ursua then formally adjourned the session.

It was an afternoon that blended awareness and action—reminding all present that while water sustains life, it is collective responsibility that sustains the future.



R RETROSPECT SCENES

SCENES WE LIKE TO SEE :



14 MARCH 2026 MEETING

Retrospect Photos By:
Rtn. Peter Wasing



PHILIPPINE FLAG & NATIONAL ANTHEM

Fellow Rotarians, as we gather in Baguio under the banner of service above self, it is worth pausing to ask a simple question: where did our national symbols come from, and what stories do they carry into every meeting, every project, every Cañao we celebrate?

The YouTube video “The Philippines: Episode 7 – Origin of the National Symbols” offers an engaging overview of how our flag, and national anthem took shape over time. Its broad storyline aligns with mainstream scholarship: our symbols did not appear overnight; they passed through revolution, colonization, prohibition, and, finally, official recognition in law.

Take our flag. Designed under Emilio Aguinaldo and first unfurled in Kawit, Cavite, on 12 June 1898, it bears the white triangle of the Katipunan, a golden sun with eight rays for the first revolutionary provinces, and three stars for Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. The blue and red fields echo both revolutionary ideals and international influences. Historians confirm these origins, though they continue to debate details such as the exact shade of the original blue and the mix of inspirations from American and Latin American flags.

The video rightly highlights that this is an “active” flag. When the red field is flown on top in horizontal display, or on the right in vertical display, the nation is officially in a state of war. That feature is rare among the world’s flags and reminds us that the same symbol that waves in our peaceful RCBaguio gatherings also once flew over battlefields and campaigns for independence.

Our national anthem, “Lupang Hinirang,” likewise has a layered history. Composed in 1898 by Julián Felipe as an instrumental march, it first carried no words at all. The Spanish poem “Filipinas” by José Palma was later set to Felipe’s music.

But those who are as old as us (the Baby Boomers), we will never forget that during our early schools days, we sang the Philippine National Anthem in English. And started with the following lyrics: “Land of the morning, Child of the sun returning, With fervor buring, Thee do our souls adore...” And only in the mid-20th century did the officially sanctioned Filipino lyrics take their present form. Today, the Flag and Heraldic Code requires that it be sung in Filipino and within prescribed tempo and form. Far from being mere formality, this discipline is a way of honoring the journey from revolutionary march to national prayer.

For us in the Rotary Club of Baguio, these stories are more than trivia. They remind us that symbols gain dignity from the lives lived under them. Every time we stand for the anthem, or display our Philippine flag beside the Rotary wheel, we participate in a long continuum of sacrifice, aspiration, and shared memory.

May we honor these symbols not only with correct protocol, but with daily acts of integrity, service, and fellowship worthy of the history they represent.

In doing so, we quietly help write the next chapter of Philippine history, one project at a time, here in our beloved highland home in Baguio.



YOUTH AND THE FUTURE OF RCBAGUIO

There is a quiet but powerful truth in Rotary: if we wish our service to endure, we must invest not only in projects — but in people. And among the most important people we invest in are the young.

Within our beloved Rotary Club of Baguio, we often speak of legacy. We recall our charter year, 1938. We honor our past presidents. We celebrate milestones. Yet the truest measure of our legacy will not be found in plaques or archives, but in the young leaders we nurture today through Interact and Rotaract.

Rotary has always understood this. Rotary International established Interact to engage high school students in service and leadership, and Rotaract to empower young professionals and university students to grow in fellowship and civic responsibility. These are not auxiliary clubs. They are extensions of Rotary's heart.

In Baguio — a city of schools, universities, and vibrant youth culture — this mission carries special meaning. We are surrounded by energy, creativity, and idealism. The question is not whether the youth are capable. The question is whether we, as Rotarians, are intentional in mentoring them.

Interact teaches young people the joy of service early in life. It introduces them to structured projects, teamwork, and ethical leadership. A student who experiences the fulfillment of helping a community today is far more likely to become a servant-leader tomorrow.

Rotaract deepens this formation. It provides a bridge between youthful enthusiasm and mature responsibility. In Rotaract, young adults plan projects, manage resources, and engage in meaningful dialogue about social issues. They are not merely learning to serve;

they are learning to lead.

And here lies the meditation for us, fellow Rotarians: mentorship is not automatic. It requires presence.

When we attend their events, when we invite them to our meetings, when we listen to their ideas without condescension, we send a powerful message — *you belong here*. When we entrust them with real responsibility, we affirm our confidence in their capacity.

We must also remember that the relationship is reciprocal. The youth do not only receive from us; we receive from them. Their digital fluency, their fresh perspectives, and their fearless optimism remind us that service must evolve. They challenge us to communicate better, think more inclusively, and act more boldly.

If Rotary is to remain relevant in the decades ahead, it cannot rely solely on tradition. It must cultivate continuity. Interact and Rotaract are not optional programs; they are Rotary's living bridge to the future.

Imagine our club twenty years from now. Who will be seated at the head table? Who will design the next signature project? Who will carry forward the Rotary ideals in Baguio City? The answer is being formed today — in classrooms, in campus meetings, in youth-led service initiatives that we support.

As members of the Rotary Club of Baguio, let us recommit to walking alongside our Interactors and Rotaractors — not as distant sponsors, but as engaged mentors and partners.

For in shaping young leaders, we are safeguarding Rotary's tomorrow.

And in guiding their hands in service, we ensure that the flame of "Service Above Self" continues to burn brightly in our City of Pines.



PP RAFFY CHAN
Cañao Editor-in-Chief
RY 2025-2026

PROGRAM FOR TODAY

REGULAR MEETING at the BCC Wolfson Room

Saturday, 21 March 2026

TIME	PORTION	IN CHARGE
12:00 nn	Fellowship	
12:30 pm	Call to Order-----	Pres. Joe Ursua
	Invocation-----	Rtn. Vangie Cacho
	Pambansang Awit-----	(Everyone)
	Rotary Hymn -----	(Everyone)
	Four-Way-Test-----	(Everyone)
1:20 pm	Introduction of Visiting Rotarians & Guests (VRG)-----	Dir. Glaiza Tan
	Entertainment -----	PP Cora Ocampo
	Raffle -----	Dir. Benedict Grajo
	Finest Moments -----	PP Chris Faelnar
1:40 pm	Members' Time-----	(Anyone)
1:50 pm	President's Time-----	Pres. Joe Ursua
1:55 pm	Introduction of GHS -----	PP Mia Cawed
	Guest of Honor & Speaker (GHS) -----	Jhomer Samoranos, CEPMO Sanitary Engineer
	Topic: Water Conservation and Management	
	Open Forum	
	Club Response -----	PP Bert Talco
2:30 pm	RCB Hymn-----	(Everyone)
	Pilipinas Kong Mahal-----	(Everyone)
	Adjournment-----	Pres. Joe Ursua
	Program Coordinator-----	PP Alfred Laygo
	Retrospect-----	Rtn. Ailyn Kindipan
	Imagers-----	PE Reymund Barrios and Rtn. Peter Wasing

PARTICIPANTS FOR NEXT MEETING

SPECIAL OUT-OF-VENUE MEETING at the Baguio City Hall

Saturday, 28 March 2026, 8am to 3pm

Program Coordinator ----- PP Cora Ocampo
 Invocation ----- AVP
 Welcome Remarks ----- PP Chris Faelnar
 Inspirational Talk ----- Mayor Benjie Magalong
 VAWC Overview----- Ms. Liza Bulayungan
 RA 9262 Salient Features ----- PP Mia Cawed

HEALTH BREAK
 Barangay Officials D&D ---- Atty. Victoria Dines
 PNP Roles ----- PMaj. Marcy Grace Marron
 VAMC Responses/Services---- Ms. Ellen Dayag
LUNCH
 Full details ----- to follow

MARCH IS WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE MONTH

