

As Scouting is worldwide, so should Alpha Phi Omega be worldwide...and we are. There are over 200 chapters of Alpha Phi Omega in the Philippines, the first of which was established in 1950 by Librado I. Ureta at Far Eastern University in Manila. While there are some differences between US and Philippine chapters, we proudly share the same commitment to Leadership, Friendship and Service.

This past May, a delegation from APO-USA attended the APO-Philippine National Convention in Tagatay City near Manila.

The US delegation was led by Past National President Wilfred Krenek, who currently serves as Vice Chair of the International Council of Alpha Phi Omega (ICAPO).

Additional members representing the US were:

- Ed Richter, Leadership Development Program Director
- Fred Heismeyer, Immediate Past President
- Beth Tom, a Board member from 1998 through 2006
- Mel Gonzales, Gamma Beta alumnus and President of the Librado I. Ureta Foundation
- Jeff Schwartz, Lambda Mu alumnus and Ureta Foundation Board member
- Rosemary Riedy, Lambda Mu alumna and Ureta Foundation Board member

Special thanks to Beth for coordinating arrangements for the trip and to Mel for his invaluable advice.

Prior to the Convention, approximately 40 APO alumni participated in a medical/dental mission, bringing much needed services to the area around Tagatay City. Then, almost 1,000 delegates participated in the APO-Philippine National Convention. Similar to the USA Convention, the agenda included legislation, elections and selection of the May 2009 site.

The Convention also included an ICAPO meeting at which:

- Vice Chair Wilfred Krenek reported on APO-USA accomplishments including that National Service Week 2006 produced 400,000 hours of service, touching over 40,000 and raising \$50,000.
- Delegates reported on progress toward establishing Alpha Phi Omega in Canada and Australia. While progress is slow, efforts continue.
- Beth Tom was elected ICAPO secretary.

It is an honor to celebrate our Brods and Sis from APO-Philippine chapters. Their commitment to the Fraternity has made Alpha Phi Omega a formidable force throughout the Philippines. I look forward to the day when Alpha Phi Omega has such a high profile in the U.S. that every student attending a college or university walks in aware of our existence. We are not there yet but the good works our student and alumni members do every day is building a strong foundation. Keep up the good work and keep spreading the word.