



# BIG BEND FILIPINO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION (BBFAA) CANDIDATES

## Who Are the BBFAA Candidates?

Candidates were asked to send a short bio with a description of who they are, what they have done for BBFAA, and what they will do for BBFAA as a leader.

PRESIDENT	
 <p><b>Sonny Abad</b></p>	<p>Macario “Sonny” Abad lives in Tallahassee with wife Gigi and sons Luis, Matthew and Anton. Sonny served for many years under various Presidential terms as an active participant in the cultural activities and concession, as Chairman for the Philippine Scholarship Fund, as well as observing and learning from each term. In his current term as BBFAA President, Sonny has increased the overall revenue, membership, US Scholarship Grant, Philippine Scholarship availability. His administration has bolstered the Outreach Committee to newly arriving Filipino families to the U.S., and support and funding to Filipino Student Association, cultural organizations. Sonny is seeking to continue for the second term with focus on maintaining the upward growth of the association and a progressive road map.</p>
VICE PRESIDENT Vote for 1 on the Ballot	
 <p><b>Michelle Riley</b></p>	<p>Mabuhay! It’s an honor to serve BBFAA over the years and help leave a legacy in the community. As current VP we have accomplished a lot in gaining grants from COCA and City of Tallahassee, outreach efforts with new nurses, increased membership and scholarships, raised the highest income of \$69K in 2022. If re-elected, I want to continue promoting our cultural heritage for the next generation, the youth to connect with their Filipino roots, and grow our charitable efforts. The effectiveness of a leader is not in the image of your roles but in your actions of making a difference.</p>
<p><b>Lexie Foz</b></p>	<p><i>Lexie Foz did not provide a bio.</i></p>
SECRETARY	
<p><b>Maria Annette Gante</b></p>	<p><i>Maria Annette Gante did not provide a bio.</i></p>

**TREASURER**



**Josephine Bass**

Dedicated, focused and enthusiastic professional with extensive experience in both private and public sectors. I graduated with a degree in Business Administration major in Marketing (minor in Accounting). I left the Philippines in 2002 as a vice president for marketing and operations; currently working for the Florida Department of Corrections as the statewide reentry coordinator. Working with people brings out the best in me, and I am a big fan of sharing knowledge. Strong advocate of every opinion counts and working together thereby building commitment and consensus. I can work alone but I work best around people.

**AUDITOR**

**Joanne Skelton**

*Joanne Skelton did not provide a bio.*

**PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER (PRO)**

***Vacant Position***

**BOARD MEMBERS – Two (2) PAST PRESIDENTS  
Automatically on Board**






**Earl Campos**

Earl Raymond Campos  
  
Board Member 2022-  
2 term President 2018-2021  
Board Chair 2016-2017  
Board Member 2012-2015  
  
Lifetime Member

**Romy Aggabao**

*Romy Aggabao did not provide bio.*

**BOARD MEMBERS**  
**Vote for 5 on the Ballot**

 <p><b>Edward Acoff</b></p>	<p>I am the current vice-chair of BBFAA. My wife Salvacion (Siony) and I have two children Adrian and Emma. We are lifetime members of BBFAA and will continually support it both financially and physically to strengthen BBFAA. My actions will be based on the constitution and bylaws and written policies.</p>
 <p><b>Jun Agbunag</b></p>	<p>Jun Agbunag is a founding member of BBFAA. He was part of the group that created the BBFAA Bylaws and Constitution, which provided a foundation for BBFAA to become a registered 501(3)c nonprofit organization. Jun is married to Melody and, if elected, will provide the Executive Council with sound advice and counsel for continued organizational growth and development.</p>
 <p><b>Gloria Aggabao</b></p>	<p>I am a great candidate to be a board member because I am active, and I have a history with the association and the surrounding areas. I established and ran the first Pageant For a Cause in Tallahassee and competed in the Kissimmee-Orlando Florida for the Regional State Competition. I organized the first Filipino concert starring multi-platinum singer and actress Geneva Cruz. I hosted events with singer-songwriter and actress Sherin Regis. These concerts invited more people to the Tallahassee Filipino community. BBFAA Philippines Scholarship Program and Trinity Catholic School Scholarship Program benefitted from Pageant For A Cause event and the concerts. I am also involved with Filipino communities all over Florida. As a new board member, I will be imparting the knowledge I have learned to further the impact and contribute to the growth of BBFAA.</p>
<p><b>Hosea Battles</b></p>	<p align="center"><i>Hosea Battles did not provide bio.</i></p>
<p><b>Albert Foz</b></p>	<p align="center"><i>Albert Foz did not provide bio.</i></p>

**BOARD MEMBERS (Continued)**



**Nelly Guarda**

Hello Friends!

My name is Nelly Guarda , a daughter of 85 year old Nanay Carmie, wife of Muritz , and the mother of Marc Rynel and Rafael Murin both Nursing Students.

We are all VOLUNTEERS!!!

Our family is in The Choir Service of BBFAA Filipino Mass

- BBFAA Secretary
- Community Outreach Program Chair
- Active in different activities showcasing the Filipino Tradition
- A Nurse by profession
- Master of Arts in Nursing
- Master In Management.
- Psychiatric Nurse -Educator,
- Trainer in Staff Development &DOH
- Licensed Financial Professional

I will continue to voluntarily serve this organization as a board to oversight and guide responsibly in making major decisions, setting policies, that will ensure organization’s success.



**Dave Hager**

A little about myself, I am a former US Navy Nuclear Power and Surface Warfare Officer and a Mechanical Engineering graduate from Rutgers University. My work experience includes serving as an Operations Manager for Proctor and Gamble and later as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) Director for three multinational companies including Danfoss here in Tallahassee. I feel I can serve the BBFAA by providing a broad business perspective and advising the leadership on best practices, fair and unbiased.



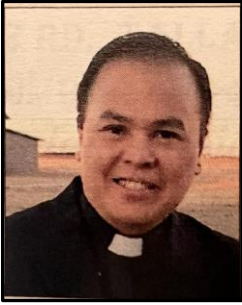
**Manny Hernandez**

Chairman of the Philippine Scholarship Committee; strengthened its operations, applied mission, vision, and strategy articulation, streamlined scholarship applications using online forms, improved scholar engagement, established processes for candidate evaluations, academic requirements enforcement, and fiscal tracking and reporting. Uses available social media platforms for scholar intros and fundraising promotions. Focus is to grow the committee’s capacity to support more scholars beyond the 14 active.

Manny aims to grow BBFAA’s membership and engagement.

DLSU Computer Science grad, a Senior MC Project Manager, is married to Emma, a Senior Software Consultant at Deloitte, and they have 2 children: Diego (Stanford, Northwestern) and Julia (Stanford).

**BOARD MEMBERS (Continued)**



**Fr. Alberic Lazerna**

I serve as the spiritual director of the Fil-Am community. It's consistent and ongoing. It is not just gun smoke and after which it dies a natural death. It's only during my time that BBFAA has regular Filipino Mass in Tagalog that never happened before. I have baptized more than 30 children since the start of my ministry in Tallahassee. I have been present in many of the occasions and events of the Filipinos especially those that do not conflict with the celebration of the Eucharist in my parish. I wish I could be of help to the BBFAA in many facets especially concerning its spiritual growth. Amen.



**Eleonor Lipman**

I have been a BBFAA member 2005 when I moved Tallahassee from Cebu Philippines. With my experience in various civic organizations, I believe I can contribute great ideas to our organization. I practice one Mitzvah a day in my daily life.



**Lally Mosley**

I am Lally Mosley, married to Joey Mosley. We are Lifetime members of BBFAA. Our daughters, Joella and Lauren are members. Inspired by our daughters' participation in the "Pageant for a Cause", I am the Pageant Coordinator for Team Tallahassee for the past 5 years supporting BBFAA candidates raising funds for disadvantaged children in the Philippines. As Event Chair, I spearheaded the various BBFAA events that are instrumental in getting the COCA grant of \$10,000 for 2 years. As Fundraising Chair, I lead the Concession of the biggest Fundraiser of BBFAA by raising \$50,000 for Baseball and Football concessions. I raised \$3,000 from TMH, HCA and Florida Blue for Pista sa Nayon. I bring my leadership skills organizing events as a Board member for 6 years. My hard work and dedication for BBFAA speaks volumes of my active involvement.



**Aileen Ray**

My name is Aileen Ray. Joining BBFAA Board is where I can utilize my skills, my expertise in understanding the organization as a whole. With my leadership experience and knowledge with The Asian Coalition of Tallahassee and currently as the Chairperson, I will share my expertise and help to make this organization to have a better ties not only within Tallahassee Community but to the surrounding as well through diversified Culture and Arts. Thank you.

**BOARD MEMBERS (Continued)**



**Arneil Reyes**

Arneil Reyes, a lifetime member of the BBFAA, is strongly committed to the goals of the Association and to the advancement of the Filipino community in Tallahassee. He served as President for two terms (2008-2009 and 2000-2011). He initiated numerous programs within the BBFAA, including Philippine Scholarship, US Grants, Pista Sa Nayon, and Member Initiative programs which involved the participation of many members of the community. He served as Board Member for several years after his term. He wants to continue to serve as a Board Member to provide institutional knowledge and guidance to keep the BBFAA strong and united.