



# SRA & GAD Newsletter



Issue No. 2 May-Jun 2011

A bi-monthly publication of the SRA and GAD Focal Point

## SRA CELEBRATES SILVER ANNIVERSARY

THE Sugar Regulatory Administration celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 15-17, 2011 with a bang. The activities formed to cap the grand event proved to be unforgettable for everybody.

On the morning of June 15, a special program took place at the SRA Social Hall which was preceded by a mass. RD&E Manager Ferdie Corpuz served as the emcee. No less than Administrator Regina Bautista-Martin delivered the key note address to the

delight of the audience which included employees and high-profile guests from the sugar industry.



*The Mocha and Mauve Teams pose for a souvenir shot before the games officially started.*

The gracious lady administrator congratulated the agency for withstanding all the challenges it faced the last 25 years and is positive that it will still be able to overcome whatever stumbling block that gets into its way in the next years.

Apart from Adm. Martin, Undersecretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat of the Department of Agriculture also attended the affair in

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## SRA-GAD Visits the Handmaids of the Lord Community

**IT'S** always a humbling experience to be an instrument (in your own little way) in changing other people's lives even just for a moment. The experience becomes even more meaningful when these individuals are really in dire need---those who are part of the underprivileged sector of the society.

More than the material gifts, it's the show of concern to their plight which makes the happiness they feel invaluable. Taking time out to visit, talk and listen to their stories gives them the assurance that they're not



*SRA-GAD officers happily distribute bags of grocery items to HOLD members.*

isolated; that there are still those from the outside world who are willing to comfort them in the best way

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**THE** Sugar Regulatory Administration has endured the many challenges over the past quarter century. The land reform that resulted to land fragmentation which counteracts economies of scale in sugarcane production, the imposition of more trade liberalization on sugar during the Ramos regime, skyrocketing input prices, decreasing land hectareage, labor shortage... all these have lowered sugar production, yet, the SRA has always managed to persevere.

This past month, I had the opportunity to reflect back on my own career in SRA. My thirty-three years with the agency seems special if I may say so. I started quite early since I was just nineteen years old when I joined PHILSUCOM (now SRA).

I've been privileged to enjoy some truly mind-blowing experiences since joining the SRA family. Learning how to be the shock absorber of your superior; developing the power of sense of judgment and balance; and most importantly, meeting and getting to know many of the men and women who make the sugar industry stand firm after all these years, make my stay truly valuable and unforgettable.

I can honestly say that up to this day, I still look forward to coming in to the office every morning and hope I'm still around to witness SRAs' 50th anniversary as well.



**IT'S** our second issue. It's definitely a nice feeling to know that many liked our initial offering. It motivated us to make the follow-up which we hoped would be as worth-reading as the first one.

Through this newsletter, we hope to inspire and affect our target readers. Especially with our featured stories on SRA's Silver Anniversary and SRA-GAD's outreach program. Both have human interest elements. While the former highlights merriment and the value of camaraderie in special events being celebrated, the latter stresses the meaning of sharing, how it becomes more meaningful when you give to those who badly need it. Purple Box discusses the essentials in women's driving while in Ripples the natural rule of symbiosis is the main theme. Meanwhile, Viewpoints tries to shed light on the importance of gender equality in nation-building.

It's not easy to weave the content of this second issue but seeing the finished product puts a smile not just on our face but heart as well. It's all worth the effort. We hope you enjoy reading in the same manner we enjoyed preparing the whole edition just for you.

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**(SRA Celebrates Silver . . . from page 1)**

behalf of Secretary Proceso Alcala. In her message, Ms. Puyat pointed out that it's no easy feat to reach 25 years and it's already a big success for SRA to continue standing firm in the passing of times. She also expressed her faith on the agency to carry out all its positive plans and accomplish more in the coming days.

Everyone present during the program, especially those who have been with SRA for a considerable length of time already couldn't help but get nostalgic when an AVP (audio-visual presentation) was shown chronicling the agency's history: from its fragile beginnings to its progressive present.

All past administrators were given spotlight on said AVP as well as employees who bagged awards and made SRA proud. Ditto for scholarship grantees, who were sent both in the local and foreign shores to acquire new knowledge and advancement in their field of specialization. Loud rounds of applause and warm cheers could be heard signifying the crowd's approval of what they see on the AVP.

In line with SRA's silver anniversary, loyalty awardees were cited. Four employees who are celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> year of service in SRA this 2011 were called on stage and given recognition. These were: Isabelo Rigotti, Jr. (Data Entry Machine Operator IV), Ismael Braga (Agriculturist II), Joel dela Piedra (Utility Worker II) and Glorioso Gonzales, Jr. (Driver II).

Before the program officially came to a close, some select SRA employees exhibited their terpsichorean prowess through a special production number. After this, lunch was served.

The afternoon part was most enjoyable as a program was also held to kick off the start of the annual sports fest in line with SRA's silver anniversary. Adm. Martin officially opened the start of the competition. Chief Agriculturist Dina Padilla-Fernandez and Carolina Pedalizo of the Technical Services Division acted as the emcees.

Employees were officially grouped into two colors: Mocha and Mauve. Before marching towards the SRA Social Hall, the two groups assembled first at the lobby of the annex building wearing their respective

colorful uniforms. The official logo printed in the uniform was the big winner of the logo-making contest which was opened to every interested party, weeks before the actual celebration. It contained the anniversary theme: SRA Beyond 25.

Chosen manager for the Mocha team was Atty. Raul Labay of the Legal Department while RD&E Manager Ferdie Corpuz was his counterpart for the Mauve team.

The audience was in awe when the two groups presented its respective cheer dance spot number, which was part of the categories to be contested. Adm. Martin, along with SRA Board Member Pablito Sandoval and PNB manager (SRA branch) Ms. Bella Pilar Panganiban comprised the panel of judges. In the end, they gave their nod to the Mocha Team for its innovative, suave and clear interpretation.

The next two days saw lots of SRA employees displaying their top-notch skills in the various sports events lined-up: obstacle course relay (indoor and outdoor), shooting, table tennis, dart, chess, dama, bowling and volleyball. Except for the obstacle course relay (indoor and outdoor), the Mocha Team dominated all the events.



***Both the Mauve and Mocha teams brought the house down in their respective cheer dance presentations.***

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## SRA LOYALTY AWARDEES

NAME	POSITION	YEARS in SERVICE
Garcia, Roberto Simon	Sugar Prod. and Reg. Officer III	42
Arevalo, Reno Cantojos	Audio-Visual Operator	38
Infante, Eduardo Dumagat	Information Systems Analyst III	38
Mendoza, Antonina Serrano	Sugar Prod. and Reg. Officer III	38
Pascua, Corazon Guerrero	Accounting Specialist II	38
Pineda, Zenaida Nacu	Secretary I	38
Evangelista, Lila Perdido	Secretary I	37
Gelera, Lydia Rosillas	Senior Sugar Prod. and Reg. Officer	37
Malicdem, Aleth Perez	Budget Officer III	37
Ordas, Presentacion Alanes	Chief Sugar Prod. and Reg. Officer	37
Aquino, Emerito Doblón	Science Aide	36
Burcer, Alicia Manabat	Supervising Agriculturist	36
Guevarra, Marcelino Mansarate	Chief Science Research Specialist	36
Rombo, Perlita Joseph	Senior Bookkeeper	36
Valiente, Erlinda Garcia	Data Entry Machine Operator	36
Alejandria, Adriano, Jr. Castillo	Utility Worker II	35
Belen, Nina Exconde	Planning Officer III	35
Delos Reyes, Marilou Cabañero	Chief Sugar Prod. and Reg. Officer	35
Santos, Jessica Manabat	Executive Assistant III	35
Taroy, Melchor Arcilla	Human Resource Management Officer I	35
Campomayor, Pedro Saberon	Driver II	34
Castro, Mercedita Pasamba	Supervising Sugar Prod. and Reg. Officer	34
Eugenio, Leonila Del Rosario	Sugar Prod. and Reg. Officer II	34
Ignacio, Aida Florencio	Deputy Administrator	34
Protesta, Jocelyn Enverga	Senior Prod. and Reg. Officer	34
Rigotti, Josephine Cayanan	Cashier I	34
Vidal, Milagros Ambrocio	Sugar Prod. and Reg. Officer	34
Boyero, Corazon Diamante	Internal Auditor V	33
Corpuz, Fernando Historiador	Department Manager III	33
Dela Cruz, Dolores Rubin	Budget Officer V	33
Estanislao, Susana Daguio	Science Aide	33
Fabia, Daisy Corazon Nieves	Department Manager III	33
Garcia, Maria Luisa De Jesus	Senior Sugar Prod. and Reg. Officer	33
Livara, Eduardo Bedana	Driver II	33
Madrid, Priscila Villadelrey	Administrative Officer V	33
Mata, Rebecca Calilung	Information Tech Officer I	33
Santos, Rosendo Manahan	Sugar Prod. and Reg. Officer	33

## SRA LOYALTY AWARDEES

NAME	POSITION	YEARS in SERVICE
Cervantes, Corazon Mendoza	Administrative Officer IV	32
Fabian, Rolando Tagod	Science Aide	32
Velasco, Lincoln Cortez	Driver II	32
Abacan, Leilani Sabroso	Planning Officer IV	31
Apacible, Nenita Arante	Sugar Prod. and Reg. Officer III	31
Icalia, Myrna Calo	Sugar Prod. and Reg. Officer III	31
Malagkit, Luisito Cruz	Supervising Sugar Prod. and Reg. Officer	31
Padilla-Fernandez, M. Dina Ayson	Chief Agriculturist	31
Serona, Noe Valencia	Senior Sugar Prod. and Reg. Officer	31
Tolentino, Andre Reyes	Senior Sugar Prod. and Reg. Officer	31
Luces, Darna Moraña	Cashier II	30
De Andres, Elvira Sevilla	Clerk III	29
Abiertas, Betty Ocsavo	Science Aide	28
Tasis, Ma. Natalia Recitas	Supervising Sugar Prod. and Reg. Officer	28
Valencia, Lilia Uncad	Cashier II	28
Villaflor, Rolando Salazar	Bookbinder II	28
<b>SILVER AWARDEES</b>		
Braga, Ismael Benban	Agriculturist II	25
Dela Piedra, Joel De Leon	Utility Worker II	25
Gonzales, Glorioso Jr. Galvan	Driver II	25
Rigotti, Isabelo Jr. Pantanilla	Data Entry Machine Operator IV	25



***SRA Adm. Martin and DA Undersecretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat congratulate the employees cited as Silver Loyalty Awardees.***

**(SRA-GAD visits the Handmaid . . . from page 1)**

they can.

This is exactly what the SRA-GAD officers felt when they went to the Gawad Kalinga site located in Tungkong Mangga in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan on July 19, 2011. The group went to the hilly site, notwithstanding the rough and bumpy road they had to trek.

Part of their outreach program, they visited the Handmaids of the Lord (HOLD) community (which is under Couples for Christ) in the said location and distributed bags of grocery items to its members comprised mainly, of single mothers, separated women and widows.

The SRA-GAD officers who took time out to go to the place to personally hand over their modest presents to the group's chosen charity were: Raffy Mundo, Cora Boyero, Dolly dela Cruz, Marco Soriano, Rebecca Mata, Michael Lester Chavez, Evelyn Estanislao and Joseph Peter Gonzales. They were accompanied by Ms. Aurora Eborra who is a coordinator for HOLD as well as Work with the Poor and Couples for Christ.

The bags of grocery items included the basics: rice, coffee, noodles, bread, etc. Actually, the amount used to buy said products came from the proceeds of the SRA-GAD's sponsored ballroom-dancing party last Valentine.

Happiness and excitement were written all over the faces of the HOLD beneficiaries (who reached 50) as the SRA-GAD officers mingled and talked to



*SRA-GAD officers happily mingled and obliged for a souvenir photo with members of the Handmaids of the Lord community.*

them. Said officers also obliged to have their pictures taken with the HOLD community.

Needless to say, the project is indeed a much-appreciated effort on the part of SRA-GAD since most of the HOLD members' sources of income are laundry-washing, banana stick-making, farming and animal stewardship. At least, the bags of grocery items they distributed are essential additions to every recipient's stock in their respective abode.

But more than the material gifts, it's spending some quality time with these people which make the project more worthwhile. The inspiration and happiness they felt out of the visit are immeasurable. At least, for a moment, they had this feeling of belongingness, that they are not alone and that their life stories are heard no matter how simple, shallow or inane these are.

This is the reason why they're looking forward to SRA-GAD's promise of visiting them again sometime soon.

**(SRA Celebrates Silver . . . from page 3)**

On the afternoon of the last day (June 17), a bingo social was held which was participated in by a huge number of employees. Tickets were pre-sold with the amount of P5,000 as the grand prize.

SRA Dep. Adm. Aida Ignacio wanted everybody to enjoy the closing ceremonies so an informal party was held at the Social Hall in the early evening of the same date. Eating, dancing, table games and parlor games were in full flow.

It was indeed one unforgettable celebration for the SRA family. The three-day affair showcased the warm, sincere and homey relationships existing in the four corners of the agency.



# "Confidence & Safety: Driving's Main Challenges"



## Naive but Brave

DRIVING is a special skill one has to learn by heart whether he or she has a car or still contemplating to have one. It's because if you know how to drive, you can share your driving skills with your family and friends in case of emergencies, or when you just simply want to have a joy ride.

Here in SRA, we have a number of women, the likes of Malou delos Reyes, Maru Gamera, Prescy Ordas, Dama Luces, Ng2x Fernandez, Armi Cajulao, Maricar Dunton, Elsa Manangan, Bel Plaza, Rosalie Agosto, Rechie Mata, Cathy Pamintuan and Deputy Administrator Aida Ignacio who are gifted with driving skills and whom we can rely on when giving a ride.

Much as I would like to say that generally, women drivers are as good or sometimes even better than men on the road, I admit that there are women drivers like me who are naïve but brave while on wheels.

After a few years of no actual driving practice which contributed to loss of self confidence, I told myself that in spite of being naïve, I must be braver than ever to face the road. Thanks to a "big angel" who gave me a *segunda mano* automobile that's good enough for me and who encouraged and trusted me this much to take the wheels on the road.

Many times, being brave is having to choose the hard path instead of the easy way. It is when you are in a narrow road while driving your car but believing that you'll get to your destination safe and sound, well and whole.

It is important to note though that as far as safety is concerned, both men and women drivers should be careful and courteous while hitting the road.

## While on the Road

As much as possible, never drive alone. Give your friends a ride. When driving, be it city driving or out-of-town trips, tag a companion along. Always lock the door. You'll never know when the "devil" will attack. Be aware of the surroundings. Check out the nearest gasoline stations, food outlets and have your cellular phone charged or bring along a car charger.

Learn some of the basics like changing a tire and jumpstarting a battery so you won't feel helpless or rely on strangers.

Do not over take when you are uncertain. It saves many lives and properties. Be a defensive driver.

While driving my way to work, a passenger jeep was suddenly backing and unfortunately, I was at its tail end. To avoid him from bumping my front rear I moved to my right side which was open and clear but since he wasn't able to step on his breaks, it still swiped the back side of my poor Honda.

On matters such as this, even if how careful you are, once the lightning strikes, you just can't help but take things easy and keep your composure. It's hard to engage into a fight while on the road.

## Have a regular car check

Before leaving the house or office, be sure that your car is in good condition. Choose a good mechanic. It is almost like having a good doctor to advise you about your health condition. Have a trusted mechanic to keep your car in shape.

I have a mechanic who was referred to me by a good friend. Sometimes, I don't understand what my *mekaniko* is talking about but he would patiently explain things to me which made me more comfortable and trusting to him. It only takes a little explanation, patience and understanding to make things light and easy.

## Always be prepared

Having a car means probably half of your life would be spent with it. So when you get on your wheels, be sure you are prepared for anything especially in cases of emergencies to avoid situations where you might risk yourself and your passenger's safety.

Whether you are a male or female driver, it's important to keep a few items in your car for emergency purposes:

- Have at least three (3) gallons of water you can use if you are thirsty, for rinsing or for your car's cooling system when it's overheating;
- Tool kit with screw driver, pliers and a hammer to be able to get out, open or break anything if the need arises;
- A Car charger to power up your cp;
- Extra Cash;
- Pen and note pad. A writer always has a pen and a pad. A driver should also do the same in case you would take down an important information or leave a note in case you will leave your car to look for help if your car breaks down;
- First Aid Kit in times of little injuries;
- Work gloves. You will never know when something is hot or cold or just anything that is difficult to hold with your bare hands;

**(Confidence and Safety . . . from page 7)**

- Always bring snack items like biscuits or bread in case you get caught in the traffic or get stranded by flood or other natural calamities.

Prepare extra cash

Consider car insurance, registration, maintenance and some other sidelights when the unexpected things happen on the way. These are sweet little headaches since it would mean additional expenses for the family. So while you can, spare some cash for these and just delight yourself with the good things that your car provides you.

While on the road, what matters is to drive safely even while others can't. Do not mind bully drivers. They are not worth your attention. By doing so, driving with care becomes an opportunity to be sensible on the road, be attuned to your needs and to also care for other people's lives, properties and safety. At the end of the day when you say your prayers, it becomes definitely rewarding.

Happy driving! Be safe.



**Birthday Celebrants for the Month of July**

Joseline S. Constantino	July 2
Alan F. Buque	July 7
Rodrigo S. Navarro	July 9
Rolando P. Silang	July 10
Joey M. Bariring	July 17
Arthur R. Saludes	July 17
Josefina E. Zaratan	July 19
Johana S. Jadoc	July 23
Ernesto M. Ortaliz Jr.	July 23
Ma. Teresa S. Quiban	July 25
Magdalena D. Palanca	July 28
Presentacion A. Ordas	July 31
Vivian R. Ramos	July 31

**For the Month of August**

Rosaline R. Agosto	August 6
Edgar V. Aclao	August 8
Luis M. Marajas	August 10
Adel V. Catuira	August 10
Marie Stella W. Patatag	August 12
Nina E. Belen	August 16
Maria Luisa D. Garcia	August 16
Clariza V. Amantillo	August 18
Emerito D. Aquino	August 18
Isabelo P. Rigotti Jr.	August 19
Marco D. Soriano	August 20
Rogelio T. Genzola	August 21
Zenaida E. Tubiera	August 22
Fernando H. Corpuz	August 22
Melchor A. Taroy	August 24
Elizabeth M. Porciuncula	August 24
Myrna C. Icalia	August 25
Sarah Jean V. Pangarotan	August 26
Ellen Rose G. Oblefias	August 29

*Words of Wisdom*

**THERE'S NO CHALLENGE YOU CAN'T FACE**

Challenges make us stronger,  
 They push us to try harder,  
 They allow us to be brave,  
 They offer us courage.  
 They engender hope in us,  
 And sometimes we go farther than we ever  
 dreamed possible. . .  
 Just by believing that we can.

- - - Ashley Rice





By Joseph Peter R. Gonzales

## REALIZING OUR NEED FOR OTHERS

As a kid, I used to hear the saying, "Two heads are better than one." That it's better to rely on another person in accomplishing things. Because by doing things together, more will be attained, considering that everything is times two: the effort, inspiration, drive and action. At a young age, my mom inculcated in me the value of teamwork and how it amazingly brings out the best results in any endeavor one enters in life.

As I grew older, the more I appreciated the idea of sharing your abilities and gifts with others. Not only does it shorten the process to achieving your goals, but also tests your capacity to adjust with various human behaviors. Let's face it, no matter how noble or sincere our intentions are, there will still be oppositions or criticisms that will be hurled upon us. Sometimes, it makes us blow our top. But the essential lesson here is learning how to blend well with other people who share the same goal with you.

Again, the cliché: "No man is an island." True. Life is too short not to realize our need to co-exist with our fellow human beings. Sometimes, it's our pride which hinders us from giving our fair share in the game. Especially if we know we have the ability to solve things alone. But we ought to remember that not all the time it works. There will always be an instance when we'll need assistance from other individuals.

Actually, it's not really hard to cooperate. Yes, that's the magic word. Cooperation, like faith can simply move mountains. Especially these days when everything is fast-paced and everyone's living a rat race whether you're an office employee, student or housewife, sharing our exceptional gifts and talents without questions or conditions makes things done easier and in the end, everybody's happy. It's truly heart-warming to

attain success knowing that everyone in the team did his or her own part whole-heartedly and sans any apprehension.

Success is not a result of just one person's efforts. It's the culmination of many people's contribution, whether big or small. We may not realize it at first, but it will dawn on us later that in one way or another, other individuals have played a part in ensuring our triumph. So, the credit is not exclusively ours.

In this temporal world, everyone and everything contributes to all the good and positive things happening around. The rule of symbiosis is evident. One more thing, isn't it fun and enriching to work with others towards the fulfillment of one dream? The feeling of unity and belongingness brings us security and inner peace. One of the worst feelings is to be alone and surely, no sane person will like to be in such state.



## What is the role of gender equality in a nation's growth and progress?



"Gender equality is the key to a country's progress because it yields higher growth outcomes and lower poverty state."

"This equality between men and women in any given country can be assessed in four key measurements: 1) educational attainment; 2) health and survivability; 3) economic opportunity; and 4) political empowerment."

"In those countries where the gap is closer to being closed, greater productivity and economic competitiveness are experienced."

Narciso Cabalquinto, Supply Officer III  
Admin and Finance Department

"Gender equality can translate to progress if both men and women will be able to work hand-in-hand without any pressure both in the home and work front. If this is achieved, there's no really way but for the country to move forward and achieve eventual progress!"

Marylou Namuco, SPRO II  
Licensing and Monitoring Div.

"Gender equality is truly a determinant factor in a nation's progress and growth. Discrimination against women is a big hindrance to economic prosperity."

"The empowerment of women through awareness of rights, better access to resources and education play a key role in the advancement of economic development. Economic growth is brought about by gender equality in the work force and social relationships."

Maribel Labanza, SPRO III  
Regulation Department

"Definitely, gender equality plays a big role in a nation's growth and progress. There's an old saying which goes, "Two heads are better than one." This holds true both in the family and office setting, in particular. When it comes to decision-making, it is better to consult the matter to both genders for they

can give various ideas which can be beneficial in the overall scenario."

Josephine Rigotti, Cashier I  
Admin and Finance Department

"Actually, gender equality promotes better understanding of men and women's roles. It provides both sexes equal opportunities in everything. Basically, this makes a person appreciate his or her self-worth more, leading to a more satisfied and fulfilled existence. Generally, contented citizens constitute a great community which translates to a productive and progressive nation."

Zyrus Montiel, Agriculturist II, RD&E

"No less than the constitution recognizes the role of women in nation building; hence it ensures the fundamental equality of women and men before the law. It is already an accepted fact that when a man and woman are in partnership to do or perform a certain endeavor, the outcome is more of a success."

"Since equality of men and women is guaranteed under our law, a shared responsibility arises. Women are now given the same access that of men's. This contributes to a nation's strong future."

Marco Soriano, Legal Researcher III  
Legal Department

"Gender equality has a huge contribution in a country's growth and progress. Women are as talented as men. They too can do outstanding work so why deprive them of equal opportunities for self-advancement? These days, it's no longer about who's the stronger sex but rather, the great product resulting from the combined efforts of both men and women."

Max Pelle, Supervising Agriculturist  
Extension Services Division

