

FALEO

Filipino Officers Picnic

Law Enforcement association hosts second annual summer gathering.

Story by Christian Buado, Investigator, California DMV; Photos by Noelle Kauffman, Club Counselor

On Aug. 25, the Los Angeles chapter of the Filipino American Law Enforcement Officers Association (FALEO) held its second annual picnic at the Cerritos Regional County Park. Well more than 100 attendees, members, family, friends, and special guests enjoyed the warm summer day with fellow Kababayans in law enforcement.

During the picnic, FALEO-LA was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the Los Angeles Philippine Consulate General Mary Jo Aragon, who was a special guest. Also present were Cerritos Councilman Mark Pulido, Artesia Councilman Victor Manalo, Carson Councilman Elito Santarina, and other local government officials.

The picnic was also visited by the highest Filipino ranking municipal Police Officer,

Assistant Chief Cesar Solis of the San Diego Police Department. Chief Solis stated he was excited to be at the picnic and sees a future FALEO chapter in San Diego.

As it was a Filipino party, members shared their favorite dishes during the picnic. Two eight-foot tables overflowed with a variety of Filipino favorites, enough to feed an entire company of Police Officers, twice! In the tradition of Filipino feasts, a large Lechon was donated by the Costales Family, Camalaniugan High School Association and Camalaniugan Circle USA.

Attendees of the picnic enjoyed games for all ages, including a fitness challenge by fitness coach and Krav Maga Instructor Lizen Yumang-Gilligan (www.lizenfit.com). Competitors in two-person teams competed against each other in push-ups, sit-ups, box jumps, squats, and an "Officer Down" scenario. The winners,

Deputy J.R. Gonzales and Academy Recruit Byron Costales, both from the LA Sheriff's Dept., received tickets to Raging Waters, courtesy of the Club. Other activities included a water balloon toss, a hula-hoop competition, a piñata for children, and much more. Members also were given tickets for a chance to win different prizes, including movie tickets, gift cards and Disney merchandise. The grand prize, two tickets to Disneyland, went to Officer Carlos Gonzales, Airports.

Guests from San Diego to San Francisco enjoyed a whole day of fun in the sun with FALEO-LA. Special thanks go to FALEO-SF member Brother Lawrence Lagarejos, who attended with his family, and CHP Officer Christian Baldonado, for his participation.

Special recognition goes to Willy Baello Realty, and Maria Rongavilla for the Gift Giveaway donations.



From left: Special guest Los Angeles Philippine Consulate General Mary Jo Aragon awards FALEO LA with a Certificate of Appreciation to Officer III Peter Trance, Airports, 13 years of City service, Club Member, and FALEO-LA President.



Officer II Christian Costales, LAPD, 5 years of City service, Club Member, FALEO-LA Sergeant at Arms.



Officer Jordan Espiritu, Airports, 7 years of City service, Club Member, and FALEO-LA Sergeant at Arms; and Officer II Christian Costales, LAPD, 5 years, Club Member, and FALEO-LA Sergeant at Arms.



From left: Officer Will Lara, Airports, 4 years of City service, Club Member, FALEO-LA Director; and Dep. Sheriff J.R. Gonzalez, LA Sheriff's Dept., 6 years of public service, Club Member, and FALEO-LA Sergeant at Arms.



From left: Jamis Bickel, Customs and Border Protection, 6 years of public service, Club Member, FALEO-LA Director; and Sgt. Pauline Panis, LA Sheriff's Dept., 17 years of public service, with their daughter, Nikki Ocean.



From left: Hailey, guest; Marvin Jaramilla, LA Sheriff's Dept., 14 years of County service; and Officer Arldwin Flores, LAPD, 14 years of City service, Club Member, and FALEO-LA Treasurer.



Special guest Los Angeles Philippine Consulate General Mary Jo Aragon addresses FALEO board members.



Artesia Councilman Victor Manalo.



Maria Rongavilla, 20 years of City service, Club Member, with her son, Kai.



Brent, Federal District Officer, 3 years of public service, with parents, Ramon and Connie.



From left: Ronie Diancin, DHCS for the state, 12 years of public service with spouse, Jamie; baby, Avery; and son, Jack.



From left: Officer II Christian Costales, LAPD, 5 years of City service, Club Member, and FALEO-LA Sergeant at Arms; Marlene, guest; Sheriff Byron Costales, LA Sheriff's Dept., less than one year of service; Mae, Christian's cousin; Etta, Christian's mother; Kaye, Christian's niece; and Bryan, Christian's nephew.



Picnic potluck!



From left: Mike Sarno, State Parole, 6 years of public service; and Officer Wes Sarno, LAPD, 9 years of City service.



Officer Arldwin Flores, LAPD, 14 years of City service, Club Member, and FALEO-LA Treasurer; with his wife, Mildred.



Top, from left: Brenda Goodwin, guest; and Joann LaCount, spouse of Frankie LaCount, Public Works/Sanitation, Club Member, with Jordan and Naviana.



Middle: Officer Carlos Gonzalez, Airports, 6 years of City service, Club Member, with his wife, Nisa, and children, Tray and Ciara.



Christian Buado, Investigator for California DMV, 7 years of public service, Club Member, and FALEO-LA Secretary; with his mom, Christina.



From left: Asst. Chief Cesar Solis, San Diego Police Dept., 31 years of public service; and Vito Herrero, guest.



Officer III Peter Trance, Airports, 13 years of City service, Club Member, and FALEO-LA President; with his wife, Janette, and daughter, Sarah.



Kids play in the moon bounce.