



WEST SIDE STORY



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ROTARY CLUB OF MAKATI WEST
Vol. 31 RY 2024-2025 | 2,459th Meeting since (1969) | June 19, 2025



Fellowship Night with Anns at PE Dino Dumatol residence June 7, 2025



Today's Guest Speaker:

MR. MANZI KAYIHURA
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN
WILDERNESS RWANDA

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Vol. 51 RY 2024-2025 | 2,459th Meeting since (1909) June 19, 2025



Rotary
Club of Makati West



THE MAGIC
OF ROTARY



Believe in
MAGIC

**Fellowship Night with Anns at
PE Dino Dumatol residence
June 7, 2025**



Today's Guest Speaker:



MR. MANZI KAYIHURA
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN
WILDERNESS RWANDA

www.rcmakatiwest.ph
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MONTHLY ACTIVITIES



LUNCH MEETING

MR. MANZI KAYIHURA
Executive Chairman
Wilderness Rwanda

Date: June 19, 2025/ Thursday
Venue: Dusit Thani Hotel
Time: 12nn-2pm



CLUB AWARDS NIGHT WITH ANNS

Date: June 26, 2025/ Thursday
Venue: Dusit Thani Hotel
Time: 6:00pm onwards

KINDLY RSVP TO VIBER SIGN UP



DISTRICT 3830 HANDOVER CEREMONY

Date: July 3, 2025/ Thursday
Venue: Okada Grand Ballroom
Time: 5:00pm onwards

KINDLY RSVP TO VIBER SIGN UP



CLUB ASSEMBLY

PRES. DINO DUMATOL
President, RY. 2025-2026
MRA Offshore Corp.,

Date: July 10, 2025/ Thursday
Venue: Dusit Thani Hotel
Time: 12nn-2pm



56TH INDUCTION & HANDOVER CEREMONY

Date: July 17, 2025/ Thursday
Venue: New World Hotel Makati
Time: 6pm onwards



TODAY'S PROGRAM

12:15 PM Call to Order
PRES. GERRY LAPERAL

12:45 PM President's Time
PRES. GERRY LAPERAL

Invocation
RTN. SCOTT MOORE

Introduction of Guest Speaker
RTN. VICTOR DIZON

Philippine National Anthem (video)

1:00 PM Speech
MANZI KAYIHURA
Executive Chairman
Wilderness Rwanda

12:30 PM RC Makati West Hymn

Introduction of Visiting Rotarians & Guest:

Token of Appreciation

Introduction of Personalities at the
Presidential Table;

Moderator
PP AL THOMSON

Committee announcement

THIS WEEK'S CELEBRANTS



Jun 5
PP RUY MORENO
Birthday



Jun 7
SPS. CRISTINA KERN
Birthday



Jun 9
SPS. VANESSA LEDESMA
Birthday



Jun 10
RTN. RJ LEDESMA
Birthday



Jun 12
PP MON GUERRERO
Birthday



Jun 14
RTN. ALEX FLORO
Birthday



Jun 17
RTN. JUN LAGMAN
Birthday



Jun 4
RTN. SED HODGENS & SPS. NUBIA
Wedding Anniversary



Jun 7
PP LITO JIMENEZ & SPS. NIKKI
Wedding Anniversary



Jun 8
PP BOBBY CABRAL & SPS. CHARI
Wedding Anniversary



Jun 8
RTN. JUN CUARESMA & SPS. ALFE
Wedding Anniversary



Jun 15
PP FRANCO DEL ROSARIO & SPS. TERE
Wedding Anniversary



Jun 21
PP GIL CHUA & SPS. GIGI
Wedding Anniversary



GUEST SPEAKER MANZI KAYIHURA

EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, WILDERNESS RWANDA

Manzi is the Executive Chairman of Wilderness Rwanda, and the co-founder of Thousand Hills Africa, a leading Destination Management Company in the region.

Returning to Rwanda from Germany where he spent 14 years, Manzi a former CEO of Rwanda's national airline is an international airline and travel management professional with over 30 years' experience in the industry and 21 years in senior management/ownership positions.

Manzi has brought his exceptional market insight, and significant skills in marketing, analysis, planning, and negotiation to the development of the Rwandan travel and tourism industry and is actively involved in the sector.

As a pioneer in ultra-high-end tourism in Rwanda, Manzi is a partner in Imizi Ecotourism Development Ltd, the holding company for the luxurious Bisate Reserve, Bisate Lodge and Magashi Camp.

Manzi was a member of the Tourism Working Group responsible for defining Rwanda's tourism strategy. He is a founding member and past Chairman of the Rwanda Tours and Travel Association, and is a former Chairman and founding member of the East African Tourism Platform. He sits on the Board of Directors of Akagera Aviation, and is on the Board of Trustees of Aegis Trust.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Service Above Self

Dear Zesters,

Can you believe it? Just 14 more days stand between us and the official close of this incredible Rotary year on June 30, 2025. It feels like just yesterday we were kicking things off, full of zest and big plans. Time truly does fly when you're busy making a difference, doesn't it?

As we tick down these final days, my heart is overflowing with gratitude for each and every one of you. This year has been a testament to what a group of dedicated individuals, united by the spirit of "Service Above Self" can achieve. We've seen lives transformed through Gift of Life, vision restored through Gift of Sight, and mobility regained through Gift of Mobility. Our community health initiatives, like BCCS and the HIV Awareness Caravan, have reached hundreds, making a tangible impact where it's needed most. None of this, truly none of it, would be possible without your unwavering commitment, your generous hearts, and your readiness to roll up your sleeves.

You truly are, the **magikeros** of Rotary.



The Unseen Heroes: Our Secretariat

And speaking of unwavering commitment, I want to take a moment to shine the brightest possible spotlight on the true backbone of our club: our Secretariat. From the smallest detail to the largest undertaking, they are the silent, steady engine that keeps RCMW running. Think about it: every meeting organized, every communication sent, every record meticulously kept, every project detail supported – that's them. They handle the labyrinth of compliance, the endless coordination, and all the unseen work that allows us, the members, to focus our energy on what we do best: serving our communities. Their professionalism, their incredible efficiency, and their sheer dedication are simply unparalleled. To every single member of our Secretariat, from the bottom of my very grateful heart, thank you. You are, quite literally, indispensable.

Upcoming Events and Looking Forward

As we approach the end of the year, please take note of these important upcoming events:

1. June 19, 2025 | 12nn - 2pm | Thursday | Dusit Thani Hotel: Thursday Lunch Meeting with Mr. Manzi Kayihura, Executive Chairman, Wilderness Rwanda.

We are honored to host Mr. Kayihura, an international airline and travel management professional with over 30 years of experience, including a tenure as CEO of Rwanda's national airline. As a co-founder of Thousand Hills Africa and now Executive Chairman of the Wilderness Rwanda Board, Mr. Kayihura has been a true pioneer in high-end tourism, actively developing

Rwanda's travel and tourism sector. He'll share insights on growing conservation tourism and making a positive impact on wildlife and communities. This promises to be a fascinating discussion on global adventures and purposeful travel.

2. June 26, 2025 | 6 PM | Thursday | Dusit Thani Hotel: Club Awards Night & Fellowship.

This is our opportunity to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our club and recognize the outstanding contributions of our members throughout this Rotary Year. It's a night of camaraderie and reflection on a year well-spent. Bring your own Booze! Kindly RSVP in the RCMW Viber Sign-up.

3. July 17, 2025 | 6 PM | Thursday | New World Makati Hotel: 56th Induction & Handover Ceremony.

Mark your calendars for this significant event as we formally welcome our new leadership and reflect on the continuity of RCMW's legacy of service.

Story time... The Parable of the Two Presidents

Once upon a time, there was a coup d'état. All said and done, the outgoing president left the incoming president two letters. The outgoing president told the incoming president, "If you ever run into trouble, open the first letter."

Months passed. The new president faced a burgeoning economic crisis. The national debt spiraled, unemployment soared, and public unrest simmered. Desperate, he remembered



the letters. With trembling hands, he tore open the first envelope.

Inside, a single, concise message read: “**Blame me.**”

Relieved, the president immediately launched a public campaign, detailing the financial mismanagement of the previous administration.

He held press conferences, gave speeches, and published reports, all meticulously pointing fingers at the policies of the ousted leader. For a time, it worked. Public anger shifted, and the immediate pressure on the new president subsided.

But as the months turned into a year, the fundamental problems remained. The economy showed no real signs of recovery, and the public, tired of hearing the same excuses, grew restless once more. Approval ratings plummeted, and murmurs of discontent turned into open protests. The president found himself in a deeper predicament than before, his initial reprieve long forgotten.

With no other options, and the nation teetering on the brink, he remembered the second letter. He had always been hesitant to open it, saving it for the direst of circumstances. Now, with a heavy heart and the weight of the nation on his shoulders, he reached for the final envelope.

He broke the seal and unfolded the single sheet of paper within. It read: “Prepare two letters.”

As my term concludes, I want to be unequivocally clear: any faults, any shortcomings, any missteps during this Rotary year are mine and mine alone. The triumphs, the countless lives we’ve touched, and the incredible spirit of this club belong entirely to you, my fellow Zesters. I am immensely proud of what we’ve accomplished together.

And to our incoming President, Dino Dumatol: you have been an outstanding leader this past year, and I have the utmost confidence in your vision and capability to lead RCMW to even greater heights. You’ve already had the same number of board meetings as I have, and your term has not yet begun. You don’t have to write any letters, my friend – unless, of course, they are professing your undying love to First Lady Mitch!

Thank you, Zesters, for an unforgettable year. Almost.

With the deepest appreciation,

Gerardo Oliverio “Gerry” V. Laperal
President, RY 2024-2025
Rotary Club of Makati West



Featured Guest of Honor and Speaker on August 7, 2025
Dr. Mahar Lagmay invited by Rtn. Sec. Jing Lapus



Dr. Mahar Lagmay is a highly respected geoscientist and advocate who bridges rigorous academic research with real-world disaster resilience. Through leadership in Project NOAH and the UP Resilience Institute, he strengthens both scientific understanding and public readiness against natural hazards in the Philippines.

Geologist and executive director, Project NOAH

The head of Project NOAH drives science-based disaster management in the Philippines.

As a renowned Filipino geologist and a key figure in disaster management, Mahar Lagmay has been known for his leadership in Project NOAH or Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards, the country's premier disaster prevention programme. With a DPhil degree from the University of Cambridge and over 70 peer-reviewed publications, Lagmay's extensive research on natural hazards, such as typhoons and landslides, has been instrumental in shaping disaster risk reduction strategies in the Philippines. His advocacy for using scientific data to inform government policies has revolutionised the nation's approach to disaster preparedness, earning him international recognition, including the Plinius Medal from the European Geosciences Union.

Under his guidance, Project NOAH became a model for integrating science into disaster risk management, emphasising proactive measures over reactive responses. Armed with a wealth of knowledge in geology and disaster science, his recent endeavours have taken him deep into the heart of devastation, tackling the challenges posed by the 2013 Bohol Earthquake and the formidable Yolanda/Haiyan Supertyphoon. His works with global organisations, including the World Bank, have aligned Philippine disaster strategies with international standards, making him a pivotal figure in the global conversation on disaster resilience.

Lagmay's work continues to inspire a shift in how the government addresses natural disasters. It highlights the importance of scientific evidence in policy-making and ensures that disaster risk management in the Philippines remains forward-thinking and comprehensive.



Rotary Satellite Club of Makati West Zest volunteered to Project: Liter of Light - A hand build solar lamps for energy-poor communities at Fuller Hall, AIM Makati on June 15, 2025





Rtn. Kai Yarra (RCMW Chief of Staff) participated in the 21st Asia Pacific Regional Rotaract Conference (APRRC) in Mongolia

Never did I imagine setting foot in the “Land of Eternal Blue Sky” and witnessing the vast, open landscapes of Mongolia. This marked my third Asia Pacific Regional Rotaract Conference (APRRC) experience—and I can confidently say it was the best one yet. The conference was rich with unique traditions and cultural immersion that reignited my passion for volunteerism and opened up meaningful fellowship and networking opportunities for future collaborations.

My journey began with a 22-hour layover in Beijing, where I was fortunate to take advantage of the free transit visa and enjoy a half-day city tour. I explored the Temple of Heaven, Qianmen Street, and Tiananmen Square—an unexpected cultural bonus before heading to Mongolia.



On June 6, we were warmly welcomed by Mongolian Rotaractors at the airport and escorted to the Premium Bolor Camp Resort, located outside Ulaanbaatar—our official home for the next four days. APRRC is an annual gathering of Rotaract leaders from ten countries: the Philippines (with 34 delegates, only two from District 3830), Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Australia, Thailand, Japan, and South Korea. Each country is given the chance to present their local efforts that contribute to the worldwide growth of Rotary. I have also met the District Governor of 3450 which Mongolia belonged to, DG Nigel Lo, of Rotary Club of Hong Kong. He personally welcomed some of us in the hotel lobby and made sure everyone was comfortable and taken care of during check-in.

With the formalities completed on the second day of the conference, one of the activities I was most looking forward to was participating in the service project. It was a meaningful experience to contribute to Mongolia’s national “One Billion Trees” campaign, aimed at combating desertification—a small yet fulfilling way to leave behind more than just a footprint.

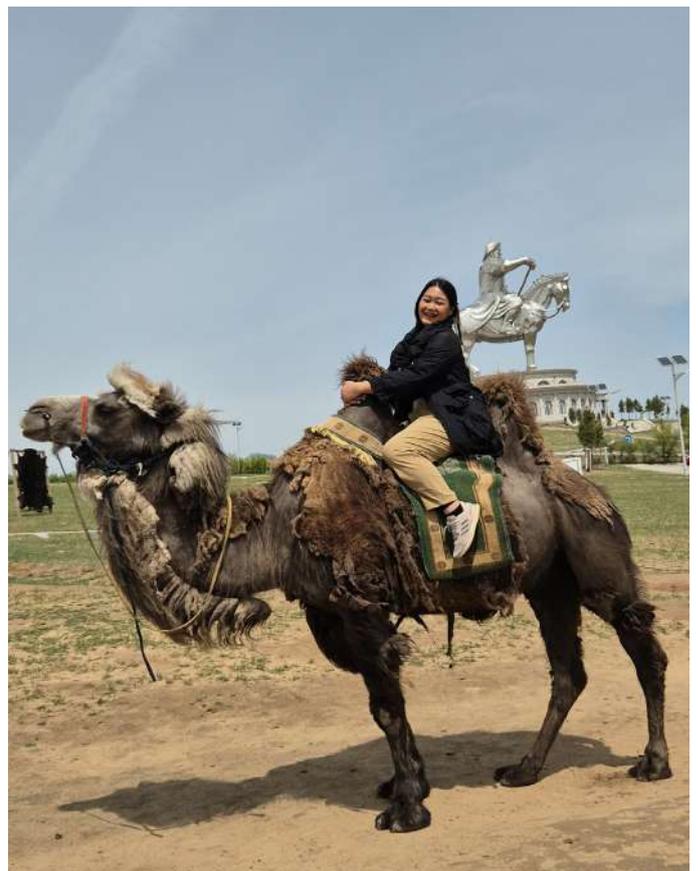
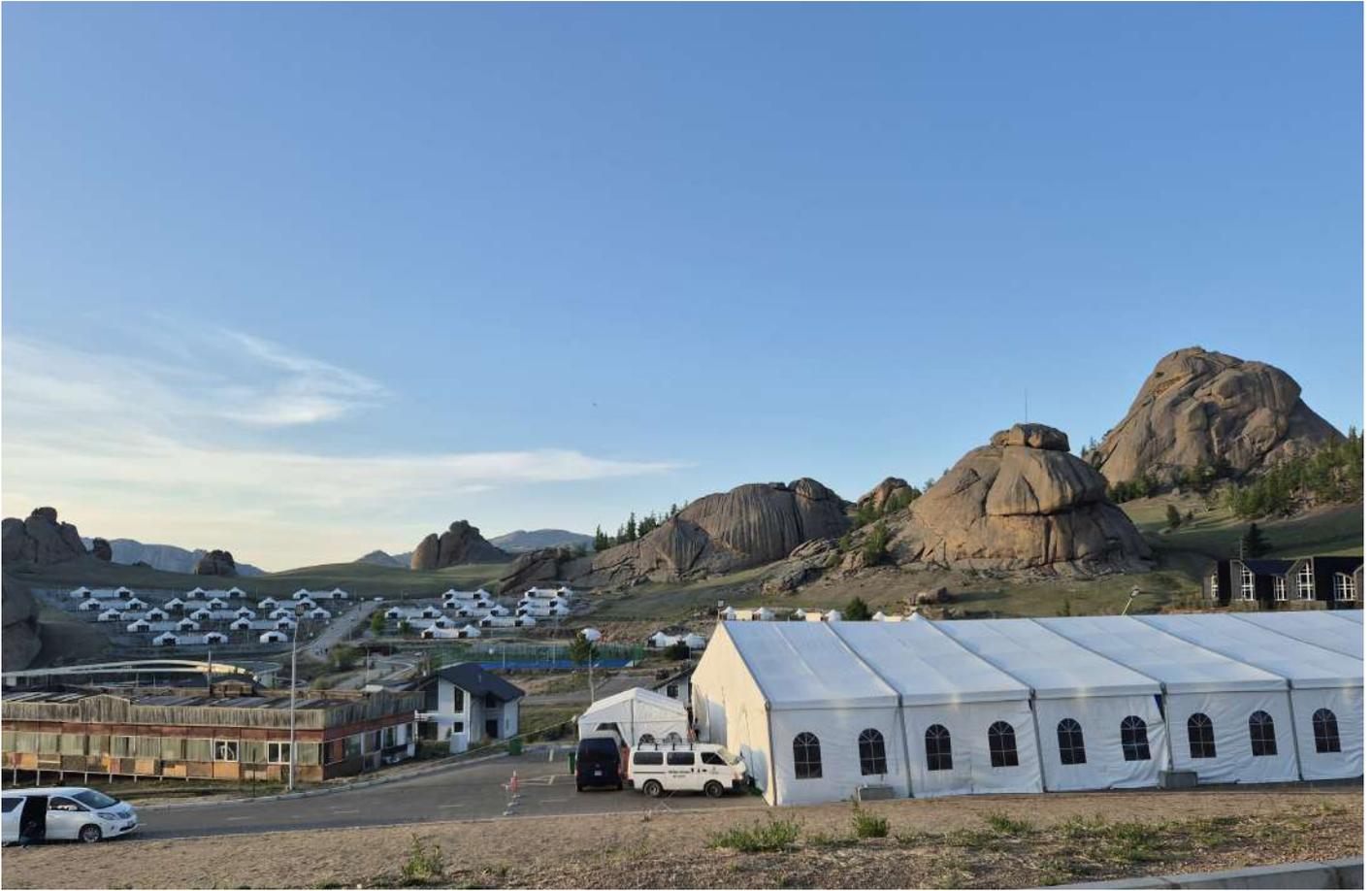
Our Mongolian hosts also prepared an enriching cultural immersion day. We arrived at a mini Naadam site, where we witnessed a breathtaking live show portraying the legendary friendship and rivalry of Genghis Khan and Jamukha—childhood friends who later became bitter enemies. Their story, often remembered as a mix of loyalty, loss, and destiny, powerfully illustrates how personal relationships can shape the fate of nations. It was my first time watching a performance where the entire cast was on horseback, and it made for an incredibly moving and unforgettable storytelling experience. Live-action horseback performances at their finest!





I ended my Mongolia trip with a visit to one of its most iconic landmarks—the towering Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue, a symbol of pride and heritage for the Mongolian people. Standing at 40 meters tall, the statue was awe-inspiring, not just for its scale, but for what it represented: resilience, leadership, and the enduring legacy of a nation shaped by one man’s vision. While there, I had the chance to hold a majestic golden eagle, a proud tradition of the Kazakh people in western Mongolia, and ride a Bactrian camel, native to the Gobi Desert. It was the perfect ending to a journey that deepened my appreciation for culture, history, and the power of connection through service and fellowship. Adding to one of the best parts of the trip was seeing some Rotaractors I had previously bridged to our Rotaract club for joint projects.

I just want to say a big thank you to President Gerry Laperal and the generous members who contributed to making this trip possible through your support. It truly means a lot. I’m proud to add this unforgettable experience to my growing Rotary journey.





Fellowship Night at PE Dino Dumatol Residence in Southwoods, Laguna on June 7, 2025





THE WEEK IN REVIEW

May 29, 2025



Dir. Lars Wittig as Moderator



Rtn. Christophe Lejeune as Invocator



Pres. Gerry Laperal in his President's Time



Pres. Gerry Laperal introduces the guest of honor



Mr. Sono Advani in his speech



Mr. Sono Advani received a Gift of Life Certificate from the Club



WEST SIDE STORY





WEST SIDE STORY







The Paul Harris Fellow Major Donor Level 1 recognition was awarded to PP Eric Angeles





TICKETS HERE

All tickets purchased before June 26th will be entered into the **Golden Duck Draw** to win **\$1,000!!**



The Golden Duck will be drawn on June 27th and is still eligible for the **\$5,000** grand prize on July 26th!!

1 in 300 Chance to Win \$5,000

All proceeds benefit Gift of Life International to heal more little hearts

300 ducks will race to the finish line

\$100 per duck

Grand Prize: 1st duck to the finish line wins \$5,000!!

2025 Gift of Life International Duck Race will be 'Live' on

Gift of Life International Facebook and Instagram on

Saturday, July 26th @ 3:00pm EST

Gift a Lucky Duck to a special Dad this Father's Day and give the gift of life!





WEST SIDE
STORY

Rotary 
Club of Makati West

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

56TH INDUCTION & HANDOVER CEREMONY

JULY 17, 2024 | 6PM | THURSDAY
NEW WORLD MAKATI HOTEL

ATTIRE
MEN: DARK SUIT & TIE
WOMEN: BLACK LONG GOWN





Please contact Treas. Judd Balayan as the delegation head
or the Secretariat for the RC Honolulu West visit

The Rotary Club
of West Honolulu

75th Anniversary Celebration

OCTOBER 16, 2025

GOLF | Klipper Golf Course
Marine Corps Base Hawaii
Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii 96863



OCTOBER 17, 2025



**SISTER CLUB
WELCOME
DINNER**

Honolulu Elks Lodge 616
2933 Kalakaua Ave.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

OCTOBER 18, 2025

DAY TOUR | Bishop Museum
1525 Bernice St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817



**75th ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION
DINNER** | Ala Moana Hotel by Mantra
410 Atkinson Drive
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814



Roundtrip transportation will be provided to the events listed above.
Event start times and transportation details to be sent when finalized.
Any questions:
email: westhonolulurotary@gmail.com or contact your respective sister club liaison



Rotary 
Club of Singapore West

65TH
ANNIVERSARY
& Installation of
President Kong Chee Hoh
& Board of Directors RY25/26

**2
JULY**

Welcome Dinner
Grand Ballroom

Singapore Island Country Club (Island Location)
Attire: Smart Casual / Rotary Attire

**3
JULY**

65th Anniversary & Installation Dinner
Carlton Hall

York Hotel Singapore
Attire: Formal

R.S.V.P.

Recommended Hotel: York Hotel Singapore

JUNE IS



"Don't adventures ever have an end? I suppose not. Someone else always has to carry on the story." - J.R.R. Tolkien, The Fellowship of the Ring



www.rotary.org



Missed out on past events?
We've got them in archives you can
access in just a few clicks.



55th Induction & Handover Ceremony

[Click to explore >](#)

WEST SIDE STORY

[Click to explore >](#)



Project Photos

[Click to explore >](#)

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RY 2024-2025

Officers, Directors & Club Advisers

President	Gerardo Oliverio V. Laperal
Vice President	Lauro S. Leviste II
Secretary/ PE	Christopher Dino C. Dumatol
Treasurer	Judd B. Balayan
Director	Epifanio V. Delos Santos
Director	Wilson Goh
Director	Davy Lim
Director	Lemarc B. Limosnero
Director	Jose Conrado Poblete
Director	Charlie S. Rufino
Director	Lars Wittig
Sgt.-At-Arms	Monsour del Rosario Mark Sambar
Ex-Officio Dir.	Juan Antonio T. Carlos
Club Adviser	PRID Guiller E. Tumangan
Club Adviser	IPDG Antonio Juan C. Tambunting III
Club Adviser	PP Carmelino P. Alvendia, Jr.
Club Adviser	PP Dennis D. Decena
Club Adviser	PP Noel A. Laman
Club Adviser	PP Jose Teodoro K. Limcaoco
Club Adviser	PP Amando Jesulito V. Jimenez
Club Adviser	PP Lorenzo T. Ocampo
Club Adviser	PP Roque S. Tordesillas
Club Adviser	PP Fernando Martin O. Peña
Club Adviser	PP Enrico V. Angeles
Club Adviser	PP Ramon Jose F.L. Guerrero
Club Adviser	PP Edgardo G. Balois
Club Adviser	PP Aurelio Paulo R. Bartolome
Club Adviser	PP Victor L. Vital
Club Adviser	PP Ruy Y. Moreno
Club Adviser	PP David R. Caldwell
Club Adviser	PP Enrico B. Tensuan
Club Adviser	PP Alasdair J.W. Thomson
Club Adviser	PP Gil G. Chua

Honorary Members

Hon. Secretary Albert del Rosario (+), Dr. Sol Alvarez
Mr. Rob Raylman, PDG Joey Benedicto and PDG Leo de Guzman

THE WEST SIDE STORY STAFF

Secretariat: Shekinah Yarra
Jameson Manlangit



Thank you for
your continuous service.

[Click here to see the list of payees.](#)

Remain part of our cause by
sending your dues & donation to:

ROTARY FOUNDATION
OF MAKATI WEST, INC.

ACCOUNT NO: 001680053572
BRANCH: AIA TOWER VALERO
BANK NAME: BANCO DE ORO (BDO)

ACCOUNT NO: 0011192572
BRANCH: MAKATI-MAIN BRANCH
BANK NAME: BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
ISLANDS (BPI)

If you have paid but don't see your name on
the list of payees, please send proof of
deposit to the Secretariat:

jamesonrcmw@gmail.com
kai.rcmw2@gmail.com

Stay up to date with club happenings via

<http://rcmakatiwest.ph>
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