

RAO UPDATE

For all it's not news that 2020 has been a very difficult year. Not just physically but also mentally. We have had to endure being locked in and down. We have all had to adjust to the "new norm" whatever that is. The good news is the RAO continues our pledge to "Help our Hero's". We have had to think out of the box, and find ways to continue to provide the best service possible. Through our efforts our members have been able to get the mail, meds, and checks, and assistance that are so needed. We have such great admiration for the team that dedicated their time and efforts on behalf of our RAO family. During an extended period we were the only RAO in the Philippines that was able to continue to provide service without endangering our members and staff. We are very proud of our accomplishments in this area and the understanding of our membership in these times. All businesses are struggling and many have had to close their doors, and many will never return. The cost of doing business has taken a huge jump. To that end, we find to remain solvent, we will with great reluctance, be forced to raise the dues slightly in 2021. The additional costs associated with the China Virus, protecting our membership and staff, coupled with the loss of a number of members through death and those returning to the U S, and the devaluation of the dollar, has contributed to our having to take this action. We are and will continue to find ways to reduce our costs and at the same time continue great service and even add to how we provide those services.

Effective 1 Jan 2021 yearly dues will be P3700 and \$77.00 respectively. Those who wish to renew early, can save a little based on the following schedule; if 2021 dues are paid in Oct, dues are P3400, Nov P3500 and Dec P3600. We also will begin a lifetime membership for the first 50 members who enroll, at P12,000. This membership will be for your lifetime and is transferable to an immediate family member of your choice. For those who have already renewed for 2021, this special membership will be prorated based on what you have already paid.

We have a number of members who have for whatever reason not been able to pay dues for 2020. They have been advised that maintaining their FPO box address is in jeopardy. Those who are in this category, are currently required to pay P3800 to maintain their address and services. Effective 15 Oct that will increase to P4000 and interest added each month as long as dues remain unpaid. After 15 October we will begin to return any mail for these addresses, as the mail room is becoming too small to store these meds, packages and mail. We understand some members are having a difficult time in getting to the RAO and have provided a variety of ways to pay the dues for 2020, such as deposit to our BPI acct, western union, courier and the like. We value your membership, and enjoy your friendship and you being a member of the RAO family. We pledge to continue thinking out of the box, throughout this period of confusion. Please stay safe and healthy. God bless us all.