

IMPORTANT DATES IN CHAPTER'S HISTORY PAMET NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

- In the early 1970's, a group of Filipino medical technologists namely Lucio Raymundo, Ben Sanchez, Jose Ballesteros and others passed the California State Board examinations. They got together to form a professional group called Filipino Medical Technologists Association of America (FMTA). Shortly after the founding of this organization, Leonor Espiritu, a medical technologist from Chicago moved to Oakland. Being new in the area, she learned about the FMTA. During her inquiries, she found out that the organization's membership was limited only to licensed Filipino medical technologists. According to the organization's constitution and by-laws, members had to be licensed because the organization's name clearly stated "Medical Technologists of America". Opposed to this requirement, Leonor went to the Employment Development Department in Alameda County to get a list of Filipino medical technologists in the bay area so that she could challenge this organization's limitations.
- Sometime in 1975, Leonor, fondly called "Nonie", called 10 people for a meeting that would become the first of many at her apartment on Howe St., Oakland, CA. The following 5 people showed up: Elizabeth Rabara (Zapata), Alice Llamado (Ventanilla), Tita Lozares, Tessie Manalili (Cruz) and Elizabeth Daco (Dequinia). A few more medical technologists from the EDD list were called and an appointment was set up to meet with the officers and members of the FMTA. Through Nonie's hard work and enthusiasm, the FMTA made an addendum to their membership stating that any medical technologist of Filipino descent can be a member of the FMTA. Lucio fondly called Kuya Ray, microbiology supervisor spear headed the review classes to help the unlicensed medical technologists pass the California State Licensure Examinations.
- 1975 -1978 - FMTA becomes active in the community by joining the Filipino Community Civic organizations in San Francisco offering glucose testing at health fairs.
- 1978 - Year of crisis. FMTA challenged a policy proposed by the Advisory Committee to the Laboratory Field Services, the agency that oversees clinical laboratory profession. The policy required all foreign-trained medical technologists to go back to school before taking the state licensure examinations. The implication of the policy was that foreign education is inferior to US education. The FMTA's position on this policy was that a degree in the Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology from the Philippines should be more than sufficient to satisfy the requirements for licensure. The FMTA recommended having more training programs and state-sponsored review classes. The organization was successful in their challenge to the Laboratory Field Services and the policy did not pass.
- 1980 - Activities come to a halt. Most of the newly licensed Medical Technologists began to focus more on building up their professional careers and their growing families.
- August 1988 - Efforts begin to rebuild FMTA by recruiting new members from San Jose up to Sacramento. Nonie, Dan Dominguez, Lito Cahatol, and Mercy Dones were instrumental in organizing meetings with different groups to participate in the planned membership drive. Dan spent many hours of contacting different hospitals and other facilities to be informed of their activities. A-well-organized summer picnic at Alameda Park started the initial discussion and plans to mobilize. In December 1988, the First Christmas Ball was coordinated by Dan, Nonie and a few of the original FMTA members. This event was the first get together of all licensed and unlicensed medical technologists in the Bay Area since the late 1970s. The next 2 months was an extensive All-Out Membership Drive. And on March 11,1989 - The First Membership meeting was held and an Election of Officers was conducted.
- On April 1, 1989, the general membership voted to become a chapter of PAMET-USA, Inc. to be known as:

**Philippine Association of Medical Technologists-USA, Inc.
Northern California Chapter (PAMET NOR-CAL)**