

THE ASSOCIATION'S RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

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The challenges posed by the pandemic has greatly affected us in our whole aspect of life. It has opened our eyes to the thought that, everything is temporary. Change will continue to unravel the many unusual things that we do not foresee, because all of us are stuck to what is the present – present that we thought will last for long. Change is inevitable.

St. La Salle, the universal patron of teachers once said: "In the light of faith, we see things quite differently." We are invited to look at these things positively in the hope that this too shall pass, and as we carry out the mission of providing a human and Christian education to young, especially the poor, we look at these things with the eyes and spirit of faith.

We have held in abeyance activities like face-to-face congress, colloquia, trainings and the like for our administrators and faculty to have them equipped with the current modalities in teaching, as we serve the young to whom we have been sent.

During the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) period, the LASSO and LEAP Superintendents Council, together with the LASSO Secretariat and a commissioned Technical Team (composed of the Web Administrator and the appointed LASSSAI National Youth Federation Coordinator) convened a series of meetings to address the need for training in the new normal set-up.

In the latter part of March, with the help of an avid researcher, Dr. Flordelis Ejercito of the Mindanao Superintendency, LASSO came up with the Lasallian Survey Questionnaire (LSQ) to assist the association in providing a general direction or a ministry map for our schools. The Council deemed it necessary to hear out from the schools to be able to provide the needed assistance.

With the analysis and results of the survey, the Council have decided to come-up with series of webinars that will address the needs of the schools especially in this time of the emerging new normal of remote learning and teaching, and as part of our yearly commitment prior to the opening of schools.

The first ever "LASSO Synchron Training" a webinar on Emergency Distance Learning facilitated by Mr. Jose Ramelle E. Javier, Luzon Superintendent for LASSO Schools and the Director for Administration of La Salle Green Hills, was held last June 10, 11 and 13, 2020. A good number of administrators from our LASSO, ALAS and LEAP Participating schools actively participated in this webinar. There were a total of 111 participants from the LASSO, ALAS and LEAP Participating Schools.

To address legal issues and concerns in the time of pandemic such as: Government Issuances/Advisories from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Department of Education (DepEd) among others. Employee-Employer Relations, Data Privacy, Etiquette in online classes, Student Discipline, a webinar on "**The New Normal and the Legal Standpoint in School Governance**" was held last June

26, 29 and 30, 2020, with Atty. Hilario S. Caraan, LASSSAI Legal Counsel. A total of 114 participants from the LASSO, ALAS and LEAP Participating Schools enjoined in this legal webinar.

On the other hand, the School Heads and Supervisors of the LEAP Participating Schools were given the opportunity to take part in the webinar organized by DIWA Learning Systems on **Moving Private Education Forward: Updates from the Private Education Assistance Committee (PEAC) in the time of COVID-19**. This was made possible with the help of Mr. Armel Espiritu of the DIWA Learning Systems. The session shared the key findings of the PEAC Survey on School Recovery and Readiness of School Operations for SY 2020-2021, and the activities and initiatives of the organization as it co-implements the GASTPE programs of the Department of Education and fulfills its mandate to support the private education sector in light of the unprecedented disruption brought by the pandemic.

With the challenge of providing online instruction in the upcoming school year, upskilling the capacity of our teachers in the design, development, and implementation of the ODL is very much needed. Teachers need to utilize their technological, pedagogical and content knowledge to be able to come-up with compelling learner-centered digital experiences that will achieve the subject outcomes. As such, the Private Education Assistance Committee in partnership with KADA-UNO, an initiative of the De La Salle Philippines in this time of global crisis organized the PEAC KADA UNO: Online Course Design and Management: Guide for Teachers without borders. This program aims to improve the capacity of teachers for ODL and prepare schools for ODL delivery. With the generosity of the Brother Visitor of the Lasallian East Asia District (LEAD), a total of 31 administrators from the LASSO, ALAS, and LEAP Participating Schools were given access to this online course design through the scholarship that was generously extended by Br Armin FSC. De La Salle University – Educational Leadership and Management Department provided for this online course design.

As a sequel to the first LASSO Synchron Training in relation to the use of tools and resources as well as apps for the navigation of online Distance Learning classes, a webinar for the faculty on **“How to Deliver Instructions Remotely”** was conducted by Mr. Noel Menor, a former LASSO Supervisor, now based in the United States of America. It was held last July 16, 17, 18, 2020. A total of 119 participants from the LASSO, ALAS, and LEAP Participating Schools actively participated in this online activity.

Prior to the opening of classes, the LASSO and LEAP Superintendents’ Council deemed it fit to have another webinar on ON SPOTLIGHT: The DL Orchestrator (Understanding the Technology Aspects Lesson Delivery in a DL Environment) was organized. The webinar was facilitated by Mr. Marc Reil Gepaya, Director of the Communications and Resources Unit of De La Salle Philippines last 11 August 2020. There were a total of 90 participants from the LASSO, ALAS, and LEAP Participating Schools who participated in this webinar.

Truly, innovations in technology made it possible for us to realize the mission, that despite having this pandemic, despite having a lot of restrictions to avoid the spread of this virus that threatens us, we are able to connect and aid our schools with their needs. As a

matter of fact, the pandemic has challenged us, but has given us a lot of opportunities to explore other possible options and means on how to be able to effectively carry out the mission. The Association has and will continue to bolster its resolved to succeed in the mission of providing a human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor.