PPS BICOL CHAPTER: FACING THE PANDEMIC HEAD ON (March – September Activities)

by: Dr. Janeta Froyalde and Dr. Michelle Semana

It has been a difficult 2020 for everybody. The restrictions brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic made it hard to conduct activities, but despite that fact, the PPS – Bicol Chapter moved on and tried their best to serve the Filipino child.

March - July 2020, the PPS-BC, headed by incoming Chapter President Dr. Janeta Froyalde, spearheaded a fund drive to provide the Bicol Medical Center pediatric patients and companions with essential items such as food and personal hygiene kits since there was difficulty in going around the city with shops and restaurants closed.





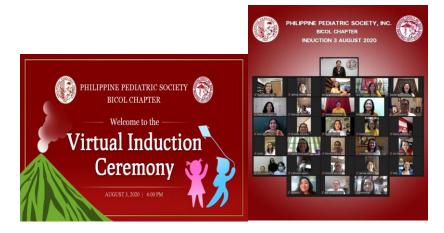
Last June 23, 2020, Dra. Ja Froyalde guested in 4 different radio programs (Home Radio, DWLV 91.9 BBS FM, Bombo Radyo and DWNX) to talk on "Iwas Lason Tips sa Panahon ng Covid" in commemoration of National Poison Control Week.



In celebration of Nutrition Month last July, PPS-BC had a feeding program in the BMC Pediatric Ward. A total of 45 children were fed with Goto with Chicken last July 28, 2020.

August 3 saw the virtual induction of the new set of Officers and Board Members for the PPS – Bicol Chapter. PPS National President Dr. Jocelyn Eusebio presided the installation of Dr. Janeta Froyalde as Chapter President and the following: Dr. Myla Baturiano as Vice President, Dr. Michelle Semana as Secretary, Dr. Merla Ricafort as Treasurer, Dr. Venia Alvarez as Asst. Treasurer. Also inducted were the Area Representatives: Dr. Agatha Realuyo for Albay, Dr. Marissa Obal for Camarines Norte, and Dr. Eva Ortile for Sorsogon. Lastly, the Board of Directors were

also inducted: Dr. Arelene Calleja, Dr. Erlita Cledera, Dr. Mary Ann Cyril Mesalucha, Dr. Amelita Palima, and Dr. Ruby Yangco.





Every Friday at 8:00-9:00 am, a radio program entitled "Kalusugan Mahalaga sa Oras ng Pandemya" was launched by PPS-BC and 91.9 BBS FM last August. This radio program is aired and can be watched thru FB live stream. This activity enabled the chapter to impart their knowledge concerning children's health. The initial radio telecast was August 7 in celebration of Global Breastfeeding Week. So far, topics discussed were the following: Tuberculosis in Children (August 14), Incidence of Severe Malnutrition in the Bicol Region (August 21), Dengue Fever (August 28), Bronchial Asthma (September 4), Effects of Gadgets in Children (September 10), Pneumonia (September 18) and Diarrhea (September 24).



The PPS-BC also launched an activity called "Ayuda sa Eskwela," a donation drive that would help public school teachers cope with the demands of online schooling for the children was also launched during the last week of August. Members of the chapter distributed bond papers, computer printers, ink, disinfectants to more than 30 public schools around the Bicol Region for the past two months of August and September.



The chapter lost one of its pillars in Dr. Acelita Llorin on September 18, 2020, due to Pancreatic Cancer.



Finally, Chapter President Ja Froyalde had a meeting on September 25 with the Department of Education Naga City and the Local Government Unit on various projects that would benefit school children, such as preventing teenage pregnancy, drug addiction, and mental health.

