



Presidents Message – May 2015



Aloha HSTA-R members,

Welcome to spring in Hawaii. Hurricane season begins in just a few days. Are you ready? Be sure you have a kit packed with water, food, batteries, radio, medicine, blanket, and anything else you might need for a week of comfort.

Remember your pets and their food too. A little prep is worth the prevention of disaster. Now that you are retired, you have the time to get your kit ready and place it somewhere close to the front door.

We took a group of folks to the Delegate Assembly recently. The food was fantastic! The company of other retired teachers was the best! We worked on a few business items, passed out awards for best districts, and had a great celebration. HSTA-R is now 20 years old. Were you there from the beginning? You would be proud of how far we have come over the years.

We have a special 20 year commemorative bag and pen to give those who attend our annual meeting this year. We have less than 100 bags so be sure to get there early when we meet in January/February to get your bag and goodies. This is always a fun day with other retirees both on the east and west sides of the island. All members are welcome!

If you have input to share about next year, now is the time to let me know. The executive board will be meeting soon to lay out the plans for next year's budget and calendar. Let us know your suggestions. This is your organization and we want you to participate fully. Hugs to all of the members. See you again in the fall.

In Service,
Niyati Brown
President

African Safari Boosts Learning

On May 8, thirteen WHCC members joined an adventurous African safari to Kealakekua mauka, courtesy of organizer JoAnn Iwane and her neighbor, Eugene Yap, owner of South Point Safari. Eugene, a retired Konawaena High School teacher, is active in the local and broader community and is a member of the respectable Safari Club International. While promoting sportsmen's right to hunt, the organization abides by a code of ethics and takes actions against poaching.



Eugene has taken numerous clients, including his wife, Konawaena Elementary Principal Claire Yoshida, and their two sons to hunting grounds in Africa and other parts of the world. He retired three times from this career and is presently a consultant.

The first floor of Eugene and Claire's residence is dedicated to an intriguing display of taxidermy specimens as well as replicas of a range of wildlife. Unlike natural history museums fraught with do-not-touch signs, visitors are allowed (with cleansed hands) to feel the skins and furs of rhinoceros, elephant, crocodile, kangaroo, lion, leopard, baboon, buffalo, deer, etc.

The eye-opening tour taught the awe-struck bunch that conservation hunting goes beyond controlling animal populations. Some of his hunting expeditions were directly tied to implementing change and improving lives of the area residents, allowing the construction of schools, clinics, community centers, and nurseries. Eugene explained how the tide of the AIDs epidemic in places like Zimbabwe can be abated through education and support infrastructures funded by the negotiated hunting contracts. The lesson in economics was honed when he helped the group see how hunting some endangered animals increased their value, subsequently leading communities to practice conservation measures of their wildlife.

HSTA-R wishes Eugene continued success in educating the public about a rugged and adventurous segment of society whose outside observers sometimes make erroneous judgments. He has a wealth of captivating stories and even makes the mouths of listeners water as he describes the tasty game he relishes.



The group is grateful to Jo and husband Elbert who hosted a delicious lunch of a variety of salads. It is unfortunate that members who had other commitments missed this outstanding activity.



“LIVE WIRE” Summer 2015

By: Arleen Yoshimura



Many people we know are passing away—some suddenly—and I realized it’s never too early to prepare. Here are some things that we can do—not in any order of importance or urgency.

1. Prepare a “bucket list” & do the things that You want to do in your life
2. Make a Will, Power of Attorney & a Trust as necessary & keep these updated
3. Periodically review your beneficiary designations & revise if necessary
4. Do a Living Will or Health Directive and give copies to the appropriate parties
5. Organize your financial information and keep it current
6. Make a list of where your important information and valuables are located
7. Keep a current list of important people—names, phone #, regular & e-mail addresses, relationships (besides family & friends, include health, legal & financial professionals/institutions)
8. Write down the things you want to share about yourself (life history)
9. Specify your last wishes (final arrangements)

Please be sure that you let at least one or better yet, two people know about all of these things.

I am very grateful for all of my Blessings and Thank God for each day that I Wake up and Welcome the new day. Today is the oldest yet the youngest that you’ll ever be so live it to the fullest while it lasts and remember...Health is Wealth so please take good care. With Love & Humble Gratitude, Arleen

PS: Thank You to Lois Shimizu and Gary Kaku who attended an NEA-R Organizing Conference in Atlanta, GA, for sharing this info from one of the sessions.

Board of Directors Report – Lorraine Hora

1. Membership as of April 13, 2015 – State 5535 (+71), Hawaii 771 (+35), WHCC 237 (+11)
2. Every President and Treasurer has a copy of the IRS letter with HSTA-R’s ID number. Update your bank account by September 1. Check signature card must be re-signed every year and names on the card must be included in the Council/Club Minutes.
3. Each District and Community Club is requested to submit to the State President the most current copy of its Bylaws, the Year End Financial Report, and all the Agendas and Minutes for the year. (Keep financial records for at least 7 years.)
4. Legislative report – Kupuna Omnibus Bill passed from Conference Committee to the Governor. Kupuna Care bill became a Resolution. The Primary Care Resident Doctor Program Funding became a line item in the Governor’s Budget for \$2 million and the Budget was approved.



Lorraine Hora and Stephen Ono were elected as Directors to the HSTA-Retired Board for 2015-17 at the April Delegate Assembly.



HSTA-Retired and HSTA help sort food items at the Letter Carriers Food Drive. Thank you members for donating food items on May 9, 2015.

NEA-R Organizing Conference “Organize, Educate and Lead”

By Gary Kaku and Lois Shimizu

As members on the Hawaii District Council and on state cadres, Gary Kaku and I were invited to join the State Officers to attend this conference in Atlanta, GA in late March. This 3-day conference was attended by about 230 delegates from various states.

We heard several speakers from the National Education Association and others at the national level. The various keynote speakers spoke about the Obama’s Affordable Care Act which is the law of the land but how it’s utilized is different from state to state. A federal lobbyist talked about “Federal Legislative Update”, and another spoke about “The Politics of Aging”.

HSTA-R Hawaii District 2015 General Membership Annual Meeting

By Avis Mortemore

The grounds of the Nani Mau Gardens were once again the backdrop for the 2015 Hawaii District General Membership Annual Meeting. There were 49 members and guests who gathered to sing along with Joe Tanaka on ukulele and Betty Ann Yoshimura’s impromptu round, vote in the

They were all dynamic speakers, but I felt that Laura Feldman, National Comm. to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, stood out by pacing the floor to give her speech and was interactive with the delegates. One of the interesting things she spoke about was factors to consider when to collect social security. She named three: your health, your needs, and your lifestyle. So true!

There were many breakout sessions; one of them was about the Kansas NEA’s Pre-Retirement Seminars. They explained how they organize, schedule and present seminars to members planning to retire within 5-7 years. In Hawaii, the state pre-retirement cadre does a presentation at the Teacher’s Institute Day on their islands, but we don’t bring in speakers as

annual elections, hear newly retired ADRC’s Pauline Fukunaga speak on “Better Choices, Better Health”, raise \$440 in a raffle for KAPA Radio’s “Kako’o I na Keiki Slipper Initiative”, win door prizes, partake in a great buffet and enjoy the camaraderie that retired teachers do so well!!!!

President Niyati Brown announced the results of the election: Council members- Gary Kaku, Ingrid Nishimoto and Betty Ann Yoshimura were re-elected to the Council for 2015- 2017. Delegates elected

they do. They also recruit active members like we do to join NEA-R. Another session was about practical tips on basic estate planning.

It was a great experience attending this national conference. We were also informed that it’s the 80th anniversary of Social Security and the 50th anniversary of Medicare, so we sang happy birthday! This conference was an opportunity for us to hear a few of the NEA-R leaders and to learn about what goes on at the national level. The breakout sessions that we attended were for the most part very informative and beneficial. We also enjoyed exploring Atlanta in ideal weather and spending time with the State Officers!

to attend the Assembly 2015-2017- Gary Kaku, Helen Tanaka, Y. Joe Tanaka, Betty Ann Yoshimura, Jo Ann Iwane, Janet Nishiki and Karlen Ono. A 7th position was added due to the increase in membership. They will join carryovers Bettye Wakabayshi, Stephen Ono, Arleen Yoshimura, Virginia Halliday and Lois Shimizu.

Joe Tanaka and his ukulele accompanied the singing of “Hawaii Aloha” to close the meeting. A fun day for all who attended.



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New HSTA-R members

Hawaii District welcomes new HSTA-Retired members Diane B. Horwitz, Renwick P. Bibilone, Leinaala Y. Ikeuchi, and Judy A. Vuono. Enjoy a less stressful Summer. Hope to see you at our activities.

Hawaii District Council 2014-2016

President - Cynthia Sallee-Brown

Vice President – Avis Mortemore

Secretary – Lorraine Hora

Treasurer – Lois Shimizu

Council At-Large –

Bonnie Burke

Arleen Yoshimura

Myrna Watanabe

Kim Springer

Betty Ann Yoshimura

Gary Kaku

Ingrid Nishimoto

WHCC President –JoAnn Iwane

State Website:

<http://www.hstaretired.org/>

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