



HSTA-R
Maui District

Keeping in Touch

Hawaii State Teachers Association - Retired
October 2013

Volume XVI Issue 2



President's Message

Sharmen Graydon
HSTA-R President Maui District

“To have a friend, be a friend.”

Remember that advice offered in your childhood when you needed help?

It is still true and applies to us as retired state employees. Our pension and health care coverage are benefits defined by the collective bargaining agreements between our union and the State of Hawaii. The agreements are funded by the legislature. It is within the power of the legislature to alter or amend certain of those benefits.

Our medical coverage is a combined benefit from the State and Medicare, if you are 65 and older. The Congress of the U.S. has the power to change that benefit.

So we need our state and federal representatives and senators to be our friends. We, in turn, need to see that they know and understand our issues as seniors. We need to have them be well informed advocates for us. It is our obligation to be vigilant and vocal participants in the legislative process.

The **Public Access Room (PAR)** at the State Legislature has made it very easy for citizens to be participants in the process. Anyone with access to a computer or a smart phone can communicate with legislators and track bills as they are introduced and are acted upon.

HSTA-R Maui District is offering a training session with the staff of **PAR** on December 10 at a location

to be announced. I urge you and your friends to join us for this interactive session as we prepare for the upcoming legislative session in January. Decisions will be made there that can affect our quality of life. Please call or e-mail me for further details and to reserve a spot at the session. sharmen@maui.net
572-4756

Sharmen

Message from VP Steve Harman

I am a recent retiree who taught vocational education at Baldwin High School for the past fifteen years. During that time I served as a member of the legislative committee, the membership committee and was a member of the board of directors. I am presently the vice president of HSTA-R and serve on the retirement issues committee along with Sharmen Graydon, Linnea Francis and Debby Takahashi.

Are there any concerns as a retiree that you would like addressed by your union? **The HSTA-R is looking for member concerns to address during the coming year.** Many concerns are ongoing, but there may be new ones or ones you are personally interested in. Please let us know so that we may bring them up to the Retirement Issues Committee when we meet on Oahu. **If you can let us know at the next general meeting or by e-mail, we can begin to put together a list.**

Going along with this request, please give us your priorities for the legislature to address. We will have organized lobbying at the State Capitol once the legislature is in session. **We really want your concerns to be addressed at that time.** The sooner we get them, the more information we can give our representatives before we actually lobby them in person.

Steve

HSTA-R MAUI ANNUAL LAHAINA OUTING

Friday – December 13, 2013
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

PARADISE GRILL
Kaanapali Beach, Maui
Patio Balcony Lanai
[No elevator available]

MENU

Paradise Shrimp Cocktail
Chicken Caesar Salad
5 oz grilled Mahi Mahi

or

5 oz all natural range-fed broiled Rib Eye
Mashed Potatoes
Dessert provided by HSTA-R

\$10 for NEW HSTA-R Members
\$15 for HSTA-R Members [Tax & Tip Included]
\$25 for Guests

HSTA-R is providing a MEO bus or you may drive yourself.

9:30 AM	Bus leaves from War Memorial Stadium near LL Field #3
9:45 AM	Bus pick up at the Maalaea Ocean Center
1:00 PM	Bus returns from Lahaina

Optional: Bring a wrapped white elephant gift - \$5.00 max.

Bring two or more canned goods for the Food Bank.

RSVP by Sunday, December 1, 2013 by replying to Nelson Chung nelsonsnchung@gmail.com or calling Brenda Wong **661-3366**

- Please indicate your choice for lunch.
- Please indicate if you will be riding the bus and if you want to be picked up at the Maalaea Ocean Center. Please provide your cell number.

Update your e-mail or mailing address by contacting Nelson Chung.

P O Box 1535, Kahului, HI 96733-1535
nelsonsnchung@gmail.com

Upcoming Dates

November 21, 2013 – Council Meeting
December 10, 2013 – PAR Training Session
December 13, 2013 – General Membership Meeting
Annual Lahaina Outing
January 23, 2014 – Council Meeting
February 13, 2014 – General Membership Meeting
Elections
April 25, 2014 – Delegate Assembly
May 8, 2014 – Council Meeting
May 22, 2014 – General Membership Meeting

Volunteers for the Sugar Museum

The Alexander & Baldwin Sugar Museum is seeking volunteers to assist with its Education Program. Docents (tour guides) lead Maui's elementary school students on 20 minute educational tours of the museum on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM, during the school year. Training is provided.

For more information, or if you are interested in this opportunity to connect Maui's school students to the island's rich cultural heritage, please contact Holly Buland at 871-8058, or email at sugarmus@maui.net.

Benefits of volunteering at the Sugar Museum include:

- Stipend for travel to and from Museum
- Free Museum admission for you and your family members
- 4 Bango Passes for free admission for your friends and/or visitors
- Appreciation Luncheon
- 20% off in the Plantation Store Gift Shop
- Sharing the history of sugar and plantation life with future generations.

The Alexander & Baldwin Sugar Museum is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and presenting the history and heritage of the sugar industry and the multi-ethnic plantation life it engendered.

Volunteers for Pu'u Kukui Library

Pu'u Kukui School is looking for volunteers to help process and shelve library books when they become available. Please contact librarian Jan Yoshizu if you are interested in helping. **727-3000**.

Elections

Elections will be held at the February 13, 2014 General Membership Meeting. The following is a list of vacancies for 2014/2016. The term is for two (2) years.

President
Vice President
Council Members [3]
Delegate Assembly Members [4]
Delegate Assembly Alternates

If you would like to run for office or nominate someone (with his/her consent), please contact one of the members of the nomination committee listed below.

Linnea Francis **244-5985**
Flo Nakama **244-4069**
Lydia Furomoto

Volunteering at Pu'u Kukui School

I would really encourage you to volunteer at Pu'u Kukui School. The teachers have gotten things off to a good start, but with 24 children in a class, you can imagine they could use some help. So if you can give two hours of your time, it would be much appreciated. You can listen to children read, help them learn to print, unstop their glue bottles, sit one-on-one with a child. You don't need to feel you are "locked" into a set schedule. Times are flexible. Apply those great teacher skills you possess. Please contact Debby Takahashi if interested. **298-6711**

Debby Takahashi

Helping at HSTA Teacher Institute Day

The HSTA Teacher Institute Day will be held this year on Thursday, October 17, 2013 at Maui High School from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. HSTA-R will be in charge of the voter registration form distribution. If you are interested in helping, please contact me. **572-4756** sharmen@maui.net

Sharmen

Sage PLUS Program

HSTA-R Members were treated to a very informative presentation by Pamela Cunningham at the General Membership Meeting on September 25 at the MEO Building. Pamela is from the Executive Office on Aging in Honolulu. She is a specialist in the Sage PLUS Program, which educates people receiving Medicare/Medicaid and their families and caregivers. It also serves soon to be retirees. There is no charge for this service.

The Sage PLUS Program provides information on:

- Medicare
- Medicare Part D
- Medigap
- Medicare Advantage
- Appeals
- Medicaid
- Other Prescription Drug Assistance Programs
- Long-Term Care Insurance and Financing Directives
- Preventive Benefits

To reach a Certified Counselor, call:

Island of Maui
Call Toll Free:
1-888-875-9229

On Oahu:
586-7299

TTY
1-866-810-4379

Sage Plus is looking for volunteers. Training and Mentoring is provided for all volunteer positions.

- Community Outreach Specialist
- Customer Service Specialist
- Certified Medicare Counselor
- Office & Materials Volunteer
- Special Projects Volunteers
- Professional/Working Volunteers

Call
Oahu **1-808-586-7299**
Neighbor Islands **1-888-875-9229**
TTY **1-866-810-4379**

E-mail
help@hawaiihip.org