



HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION-RETIRED

MAUI COUNTY DISTRICT

Keeping in Touch

November 2016

VOLUME XIX ISSUE 2



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sharmen Graydon
President
HSTA-R Maui County District
hstarmaui@icloud.com

Growth is change. Inevitable. So it is with organizations as well. HSTA-R started out in 1995 with a group of dedicated and tireless teachers who had created HSTA, an effective, statewide teacher advocacy union. Once retired, these passionate leaders wanted to make sure that retirees would not be forgotten by the legislature and other agencies which can affect the benefits these former teachers had fought so hard to win for the membership. It was an all-volunteer group, doing all the tasks required to keep the organization viable, as enumerated by Vaughn Tokashiki, our current State HSTA-R President, in the current issue of The Messenger (himself a volunteer).

Our success in advocating for our retirees has been heartening and gratifying. We now have over 5,600 members! The work of managing HSTA-R has increased to the point that we need more than the hours available to volunteers, who also care for parents, grandchildren and help other organizations as well. It is a sign of growth that we need more help.

Thus, we must be willing to pay for that help. Again, I refer you to The Messenger for a detailed account of what is done now by volunteers and why, therefore, a small dues increase is necessary to secure us that help. Look at the payment of that increase as a small celebration of the maturing of HSTA-R.

Happy Thanksgiving! We have much to be thankful for.

Best Wishes for the Christmas Season and the New Year.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Cost-of-Living Adjustment [COLA] for 2017

The nation's 70 million Social Security beneficiaries will receive a 0.3% increase to their monthly checks in 2017. The government made this announcement on October 18, 2016. In dollars and cents, it means the average retired beneficiary's check will increase about \$4 per month in 2017.

However, many current Medicare beneficiaries will not realize this benefit. The **COLA** increase will go back to the government to cover higher Medicare Part B premiums.

By law, the annual cost-of-living adjustment, or **COLA** is based on the government's measure of inflation. The average monthly Social Security payment is now \$1238.

HSTA-R GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

*** *Christmas Luncheon* ***

December 8, 2016 – Thursday

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Kahili Restaurant
Waikapu, HI



MENU

Asian Chicken Salad w/ Noodles
Turkey Club Sandwich w/ Caesar Salad or French Fries
Fresh Island Mahimahi Sandwich w/ Caesar Salad or French Fries
Angus Burger or Angus Cheeseburger w/ Caesar Salad or French Fries

Apple Pie à la Mode
Mud Pie

Soda/Iced Tea
Coffee/Hot Tea



\$10 for NEW HSTA-R Members

\$15 for HSTA Members

[Includes Tax and Tip]

\$25 for Guests

Optional: Bring a wrapped white elephant gift - \$10.00 max.

Bring two or more canned goods to support the
MAUI FOOD BANK.

Please RSVP Jackie Davis.

The deadline is December 2, 2016 - Friday

jdavis011@hawaii.rr.com or 276 - 7086

Please indicate your choice of:

1. entrée 2. dessert 3. beverage

UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION

Please update your email or USPS address by contacting Nelson Chung. Thank you.



P. O. Box 1535
Kahului, HI 96733-1535

[nelsonsnchung@gmail.com](mailto:nelsons chung@gmail.com)

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO HSTA VB RETIREES ENROLLED IN HMSA, KAISER OR HDS PLANS

The **EUTF** recently approved the following benefit changes to the **HSTA VB** retiree plans:

- ❖ **HMSA** and **Kaiser** medical plans – the addition of autism spectrum disorder and applied behavior analysis benefits for individuals under 14 years of age up to \$25,000 per plan year effective July 1, 2016.
- ❖ **HMSA** and **Kaiser** medical plans – orthodontic services for treatment of orofacial anomalies resulting from birth defects for children up to \$5,500 per treatment phase effective July 1, 2016.
- ❖ **HDS dental plan – increase in the annual maximum benefit from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per member effective January 1, 2016. Members who already exceeded the annual maximum for calendar year 2016 should contact their provider directly.**
- ❖ **HDS** dental plan – increase from one to two fluoride treatments through the age of 19 effective June 1, 2016.
- ❖ **HDS** dental plan – remove the restriction on implants only when the tooth missing is between two natural teeth effective June 1, 2016.

If you have questions about these plan benefit changes, please contact

HMSA [948-6499 on O'ahu or toll free at 1-800-776-4672],
Kaiser [432-5955 on O'ahu or toll free at 1-800-966-5955] or
HDS [529-9310 on O'ahu or toll free at 1-866-702-3883].

The retiree benefit changes will not change the HSTA VB retiree premiums for calendar year 2016.

The above information was contained in a notice from the EUTF dated June 6, 2016. The notice is posted on the HSTA-R website.

ULUPALAKUA EXCURSION



Pepita & Sharmen



Flo, Carla, Ray, Steve & Gay



Steve & Brenda



Amy & Buddies

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- **November 17, 2016 - Thursday**
Council Meeting
- **December 8, 2016 - Thursday**
General Membership Meeting
Christmas Luncheon
Kahili Restaurant - Waikapu
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- **January 19, 2017 - Thursday**
Council Meeting
- **February 9, 2017 - Thursday**
General Membership Meeting
Elections
- **February 15, 2017 - Wednesday**
HSTA Institute Day at Maui High School
- **April 15/16, 2017 - Saturday/Sunday**
HSTA Convention on O'ahu
- **April 28, 2017 - Friday**
HSTA-R Delegate Assembly on O'ahu
- **May 18, 2017 - Thursday**
Council Meeting
- **June 8, 2017 - Thursday**
General Membership Meeting

STATE HSTA-R

President	Vaughn Tokashiki
1 st Vice President	Yvonne (Linda) Tavares
2 nd Vice President	Jeanne Fukuoka
Secretary	Glenn Fernandez
Treasurer	Beverly Gotelli
Directors	Jean Dobashi
	Lorraine Hora
	Carol Nitta
	Stephen Ono

Kaua'i District President	Sandra (Sandy) Gage
Hawai'i District President	Kim Springer
O'ahu District President	Joanne Ing
Maui County District President	Sharmen Graydon
Moloka'i Community Club President	Roberta (Sally) Mangca
Lana'i Community Club President	Nora Kawasaki
West Hawai'i Community Club President	Jo Ann Iwane

Hawai'i State Teachers Association - Retired
 1200 Ala Kapuna St
 Honolulu, HI 96819

(808) 840-2258

www.hstaretired.org

Newsletter: **The Messenger**



GENERATIONS MAGAZINE
www.generations808.com

An excellent resource for senior retirees is **Generations Magazine**. The articles are short and concise and cover a broad range of subjects that affect seniors. The magazine is published once every two months. Pick up your **FREE** copy at any of the following locations:

Maui: *Kalama Heights Senior Community
Kaunoa Senior Center
Hale Mahaolu
Hale Makua
Maui County Executive Office on Aging
MEO
Love's Thrift Store [Kahului]
Oceanview Adult Daycare [Kahului]
Napili Coffee Store
Roselani Place
All Maui Public Libraries*

Lana'i: *Na Pu'uwai
Ke Ola Hou 'O Lana'i
Lana'i Public Library*

Moloka'i: *Na Pu'uwai
Moloka'i Public Library*



HSTA-R DUES INCREASE

The HSTA-R Board of Directors and the 2016 Delegate Assembly have approved a three dollar [\$3] increase in the HSTA-R dues beginning September 1, 2016. This is the first dues increase in four years. The dues will increase from \$45 per year to \$48 per year.

Members who are paying both HSTA-R and NEA-R dues annually will pay dues of \$78 [\$6.50/mo.]. Members who are NEA-R life members will pay \$48 [\$4.00/mo.]. Members in other membership categories will also pay \$48 annually.

More information about the dues increase is contained in two articles in the current issue of the HSTA-R newsletter **The Messenger**. If you have any questions regarding the dues increase, call HSTA-R at (808) 840-2258.

TAX INFORMATION FOR 2016

- Members who paid **both** HSTA-R and NEA-R dues had monthly deductions of \$6.25 from January to August [\$50] and \$6.50 from September to December [\$26] for a total of **\$76.00** for 2016.
- Members who are NEA-R life members and paid **only** HSTA-R dues had monthly deductions of \$3.75 from January to August [\$30] and \$4.00 from September to December [\$16] for a total of **\$46.00** for 2016.

The information above takes into consideration the dues increase that went into effect on September 1, 2016. Refer to the preceding article.

IN MEMORIAM

*Agnes Abe Karen Fukushima Mary Weeks
Patricia Bal Midori Watanabe*

2016 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES OF HSTA-RETIRED

RETIREMENT ISSUES

- Support legislation to allow the pensions of public employees to keep up with the cost of living.
- Support preservation of current retiree benefits.
 - Oppose taxing all retiree pensions.
 - Oppose eliminating reimbursement of Medicare Part B premiums.
 - Oppose any reductions to Social Security and Medicare.
- Support legislation on a long range plan toward eliminating the unfunded liability of the Employees Union Trust Fund Health Benefits; provided current benefits are not diminished.
- Support legislation to have retiree's health premiums deducted from monthly pension.

HEALTH ISSUES

- Support legislation to allow bargaining Unit 5 members and retirees to participate in a VEBA trust.
- Support the preservation of health care benefits for retired public employees by opposing legislation to eliminate reimbursement of Medicare Part B premiums.
- Support proposals to lower the cost of prescription drugs and allow approved drugs to be imported under federal regulations.
- Support state and national health reform legislation to make affordable health care available to all Americans.
- Support legislation on long term care.

EDUCATION ISSUES

- Support HSTA's Legislative Priorities.
- Support legislation to adequately fund Hawaii's public schools.
- Support HSTA and its commitment to the improvement of public education Pre K to 20.
- Support NEA's recommendation for the **Elementary Secondary Education Act [ESEA]** reauthorization bill.

SENIOR FAIR

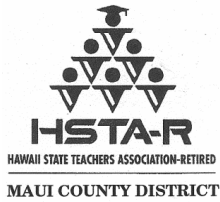
The 43rd ANNUAL MAUI COUNTY SENIOR FAIR "**Blaze a Trail!**" was held at the War Memorial Gym on **October 29, 2016 – Saturday from 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM**. The featured entertainer this year was Uluwehe Guerrero and his halau. HSTA-R Maui passed out emergency information cards to record important phone numbers, contacts and medication. Pencils and bags were also passed out. Thank you to Sharmen Graydon, Marilyn Ueno, Cecilia Balinbin, Steve Harman and Nelson Chung for staffing the table.

HSTA INSTITUTE DAY

HSTA INSTITUTE DAY will not be held during the Fall this school year as it has been in the past. It is scheduled for **February 15, 2017 - Wednesday**. It will be held at Maui High School. HSTA elections will be conducted that day.

DOE WINTER BREAK FOR STUDENTS

- Begin: **December 22, 2016 - Thursday**
 - End: **January 6, 2017 - Friday**
- January 6, 2016 – Friday: Teacher Workday [no students]



HSTA-R MAUI COUNTY
 135 S WAKEA ST
 SUITE 205
 KAHULUI, HI 96732



HSTA

Maui 873-7788
 Fax 873-7799
 O'ahu 1-808-270-2048
 Fax 1-808-270-2049

www.hsta.org

HSTA-R

1-808-833-2711
 Fax 1-808-839-7106

www.hstaretired.org

HSTA VEBA TRUST

1-808-440-6940
 1-800-637-4926

www.hstaveba.com

EUTF

1-808-586-7390
 1-800-295-0089
 Fax 1-808-586-2161

Email eutf@hawaii.gov

<https://eutf.hawaii.gov>

ERS

984-2400 x 61735
 1-888-659-0708
 Fax 984-8183
 Maui 984-8181

Lana'i 1-800-468-4644 x 48181

Moloka'i 1-800-468-4644 x 48181

<https://ers.ehawaii.gov>

SOCIAL SECURITY

1-800-772-1213
 1-800-325-0778

www.ssa.gov

HSTA-R MAUI COUNTY DISTRICT COUNCIL

President	Sharmen Graydon
Vice President	Steve Harman
Secretary	Linnea Francis
Treasurer	Debby Takahashi
Council Representatives	Amy Arakaki Cecilia Balinbin Nelson Chung Jackie Davis Leonard Habersham Pat Lopez
Lana'i Liaison	Nora Kawasaki
Moloka'i Liaison	Roberta (Sally) Mangca
Past Presidents	Ray Hart Leonard Habersham Flo Nakama
Newsletter Editor	Nelson Chung
	<i>Keeping In Touch</i>