



Keeping in Touch

November 2015

Teaching Today for Hawaii's Tomorrow

MAUI COUNTY DISTRICT

VOLUME XVIII ISSUE 2



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sharmen Graydon
President
Maui County District
sharmen@maui.net

As retired teachers in Hawaii, we know how much we have benefited from the collective bargaining agreements negotiated by our union, HSTA, and the State of Hawaii. Public employees gained the right to collectively determine salary and working conditions in the early 70's. The Legislature's prerogative of funding those agreements has made political action a cornerstone of HSTA and HSTA-R's programs.

In this session of the Supreme Court, it will hear the case of *Friedrickson vs. the California Teachers Association* regarding the legality of "agency fee". Non-members of unions now pay a fee to the union as they receive the benefits of the bargained contract. A negative decision by the Court could have very a very significant impact on the financial health of unions if non-members are no longer required to pay their "fair share".

Our benefits are no longer determined by collective bargaining as we are retired; rather, the Legislature determines what we receive as pension and health benefits. We are very fortunate that we have maintained a good level of compensation due largely to the constant vigilance of our Legislative Action Team and the good relations we have developed with our State legislators. Things can change. Take nothing for granted. As the new legislative session opens in January, please stay informed and let our lawmakers know what we as seniors contribute to the economy and what we need to maintain a quality standard of living in our retirement.

SENATOR BRIAN SCHATZ

Sharmen Graydon

Senator Brian Schatz extended an invitation to HSTA-R Maui County District recently to join him for lunch and conversation. On August 20 over 45 members and companions met the Senator at Tante's Restaurant where we enjoyed a generous lunch followed by an overview of the Senator's work in the U.S. Senate. He affirmed his commitment to advocate for issues critical to seniors, including Medicare and Social Security. He also expressed his commitment to work across the aisle with Republicans to support his issues. The Senator then took questions and comments from the audience. It was heartening to have the opportunity to meet with Senator Schatz and have direct two-way communication with him. Thank you, Senator, for the lunch and conversation.

HSTA-R GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

****Christmas Luncheon****

December 4, 2015 – Friday

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Kahili Restaurant
Waikapu, HI

MENU

Asian Chicken Salad w/ Noodles
Cashew Chicken Stir Fry over Ramen Noodles
Hamburger or Cheeseburger w/ Caesar Salad or French Fries
Fresh Island Fish Sandwich w/ Caesar Salad or French Fries

Apple Pie Ala Mode
Mud Pie

Ice Tea
Soda

\$10 for NEW HSTA-R Members

\$15 for HSTA Members

[Includes tax and tip]

\$25 for Guests

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

Bring two or more canned goods to support the
Maui Food Bank.

RSVP to Jackie Davis by **Sunday, November 29, 2015.**

jdavis011@hawaii.rr.com or 276-7086

Please indicate your choice for lunch, dessert and beverage.

TAX INFORMATION FOR 2015

- ❖ Members who paid **both** HSTA-R and NEA-R dues had monthly deductions of \$6.75 or **\$75.00** per year.
- ❖ Members who paid **only** HSTA-R dues and are NEA-R Life Members had monthly deductions of \$3.75 or **\$45.00** per year.

ELECTIONS

Elections will be held on Thursday, February 4, 2016 at the General Membership Meeting. The following is a list of vacancies for 2016/2018. The term is for two [2] years.

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

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 by Friday, January 30, 2016.

Linnea Francis	244-5985
Flo Nakama	244-4069
Lydia Furomoto	244-9324

SOCIAL SECURITY

Cost-of-Living Adjustment [COLA] for 2016

There will be no **COLA** benefit increase next year for millions of Social Security recipients, disabled veterans and federal retirees.

It's just the third time in 40 years that payments will remain flat. All three times have come since 2010.

The main reason for no increase next year is due low gas prices this year.

By law, the annual cost-of-living adjustment, or **COLA** is based on a government measure of inflation.

Almost 60 million retirees, disabled workers, spouses and children get Social Security benefits. The average monthly Social Security payment is \$1,224.

NEW HSTA-R SHIRTS

Debby Takahashi

HSTA-R awarded HSTA-R Maui County District a grant of \$150 for new blue shirts. The HSTA-R logo is currently being digitized at Ultra Hawaii. The new shirts should be ready by Thanksgiving, in time for the Christmas luncheon. The shirts are of a lighter fabric in a semi-tee shirt style for women and a collared polo shirt for men. If you are an active member of HSTA-R and/or a volunteer who would like to wear the blue shirt, the Maui County District will pick up the cost for you. Contact Debby Takahashi to get a shirt.

melemeletakahashi@gmail.com

UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION

Please update your e-mail or USPS address by contacting Nelson Chung. Thank you.

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

nelsonsnchung@gmail.com

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- **November 12, 2015**
Council Meeting
- **December 4, 2015** – Friday
General Membership Meeting
Christmas Luncheon
Kahili Restaurant - Waikapu
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- **January 21, 2016** - Thursday
Council Meeting
- **February 4, 2016** – Thursday
General Membership Meeting
Elections
- **April 16/17, 2016** – Saturday/Sunday
HSTA Convention
- **April 29, 2016** - Friday
HSTA-R Delegate Assembly
- **May 20, 2016** – Thursday
Council Meeting
- **June 3, 2016** – Friday
General Membership Meeting

PRE-RETIREMENT WORKSHOP

The Pre-Retirement Cadre of Debby Takahashi, Linnea Francis and Sharmen Graydon presented a workshop at the **Maui HSTA Teacher Institute Day** on Tuesday, October 13. It was attended by more than 80 teachers in the Maui High School library. The power point presentation was the work of Glenn Fernandez, Secretary of HSTA-R, and members of the Pre-Retirement Cadre. Most teachers are currently enrolled in the Hybrid Plan and a few in the Non-Contributory Plan. Most of the Contributory members have retired.

Emphasis was placed on investing in any of the various tax shelter annuities available to teachers. HSTA members close to retirement are encouraged to schedule an appointment with the **Employee Retirement System [ERS]** to assess their potential retirement income. This can be done up to three [3] times.

Special thanks go to tech teacher Cory Nomura at Maui High School and the Maui High students.

If any of the active teachers would like an additional workshop at their own school, they can contact the Maui Cadre.

sharmen@maui.net or 572-4756

FREE SMOKE ALARM

If any retiree would like to have a Free Smoke Alarm installed, they can contact the **American Red Cross**.

mauihomefire@gmail.com or 244-0051

For more detailed information, refer to the article in the Senior Fair supplement to the Maui News dated October 28, 2015. You can also view the article on the HSTA-R website.

APPLYING FOR TSA PreCheck

The following two paragraphs were taken from an email sent out by **Hawaiian Airlines** to its Pualani Elite members:

The Transportation Security Administration [TSA] has made changes to their PreCheck program, eliminating the managed inclusion of select passengers to their PreCheck lanes. Effectively, this means that if you are not a current Global Entry or TSA PreCheck member, you are no longer likely to get access to the PreCheck lanes.

As you may have seen, at peak traveling times [between 11am to 2pm HST], the TSA-managed checkpoint lines at Honolulu International Airport and other airports can be long. As a Pualani Elite member, you can still use our First Class/Pualani Elite/Premier Club line at Honolulu International Airport. However during peak hours, the TSA may also decide to divert this line for additional layers of screening. The colored area in the map below [shown in the email] highlights the additional security lines with K9 security check, which are often implemented during peak hours between 11am to 2pm.

If you are interested in applying for **TSA PreCheck**:

1. Complete the **online application** or go to an application center and complete the entire process in person. The in person process takes approximately 10 minutes. It might be helpful to type out a sheet containing your vital information to take with you.
<https://universalenroll.dhs.gov>
2. Schedule an **appointment online** or by calling **(855) 347-8371** on weekdays, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome but appointments take priority.
3. Visit an application center to:
 - a. Provide **required documentation** and fingerprints. Bring your **driver's license** along with your current **U.S. passport** or **birth certificate**. Check for other forms of acceptable documentation.
 - b. Pay a non-refundable \$85 fee valid for five years with a credit card, money order, company check or certified/cashier's check.
 - c. You can **check your status** online at any time.

After receiving your **TSA PreCheck**, enter your **Known Traveler Number [KTN]** into your **Hawaiian Miles Account**. Go to Profile and Settings. It is under Travel Preferences. Enter your **KTN** in your other travel documents as well.

The name used when applying for TSA PreCheck must match the name used when booking travel.

The following is the local address and hours for the **TSA PreCheck** application center:

IdentoGO
291 Ho'okahi St Suite 106
Wailuku, HI 96793 -1470

Location ID: 1404

Monday / Wednesday / Thursday
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM / 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM

The office is located across the street from Maui Office Machines in the Wailuku Industrial Park on the corner of Ho'okahi and Alua.

LANAI COMMUNITY CLUB

Nora Kawasaki

Lanai Community Club Executive Board



Larry Kawasaki [VP], Fairfax Reilly [Treas], Alan Emmel [Rep]
Kathy Brindo [Rep], Nora Kawasaki [Pres], Donna Shaumburg [Sec]

After a few years of attempting to form a Lanai Community Club on Lanai, we finally received the approval of the HSTA-R Board of Directors. Mahalo nui loa to Sharmen Graydon [Maui HSTA-R president], the Maui County District general membership, Justin Wong, Roberta Mangca and Sheila Black for their support of our efforts!

MAUI FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Linnea Francis

Puunene School is still there! The **Maui Friends of the Library** operates a used book store in a building [Once a boys' bathroom!] behind the school. All children are offered one free book each time they visit the store. So, take a child or grandchild to visit and take advantage of the offer. Also, if you are enrolled in an art class at Kaunoa, get a certificate from the teacher and receive a 20% discount on your purchase. This offer is good until December 31, 2015. Most books are \$ 0.25 each and all books located on the outside lanai are free. Store hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 9 - 4. And, if you are cleaning out used books at home, this is a great place to donate them. All proceeds go to helping the public libraries. This year our big activity was getting funds together to purchase a new bookmobile. It will be on Maui in the spring of 2016. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, phone the store at **871-6563**. Speaking from experience, it is a fun activity. Old friends, tourists, children and all kinds of folks find their way to the store.

SENIOR FAIR

The 42nd Annual Maui County Senior Fair "**Get Into The Act**" was held at the War Memorial Gym on Saturday, October 31, 2015 from 7:30 to 11:30. Maui HSTA-R passed out carabiners with the letters **HSTA-R** on them and cards to record important phone numbers and medication information. Thank you to Sharmen Graydon, Flo Nakama, Cecilia Balinbin and Nelson Chung for putting in the time to man the table. It was a very successful day for all in attendance.

IN MEMORIAM

Alama Ayers	Lorraine Reynon	Carole Song
Thomas Hubble	Guadalupe Ruiz	Donald Shimabukuro
Williet Range	Beverly Saiki	Julia Ustich



HSTA-R
135 S WAKEA AVE
SUITE 205
KAHULUI, HI 96732

stamp

Teaching Today for Hawaii's Tomorrow

MAUI COUNTY DISTRICT

HSTA

Maui 873-7788

Fax 873-7799

O'ahu 808-270-2048

Fax 808-270-2049

www.hsta.org

HSTA-R

808-270-2048

Fax 808-839-7106

www.hstaretired.org

HSTA VEB TRUST

808-440-6940

800-637-4926

www.hstaveba.com

EUTF

808-586-7390

800-295-0089

Fax 808-586-2161

e-mail: eutf@hawaii.gov

<https://eutf.hawaii.gov>

ERS

984-2400 x 61735

Maui 984-8181

Fax 984-8183

<https://ers.ehawaii.gov>

SOCIAL SECURITY

800-772-1213

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 Pat Lopez Brenda Wong
Lana'i Liaison	Nora Kawasaki
Moloka'i Liaison	Roberta Sally Manga
Past Presidents	Ray Hart Leonard Habersham Flo Nakama
Newsletter Editor	Nelson Chung <i>Keeping In Touch</i>