



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sharmen Graydon
President
Maui County District
sharmen@maui.net

It's that time of year again. Where did the last one go? It's time for the legislature to convene and try to make the voters of Hawaii and all other citizens happy to live in Hawaii. Of course, we retired teachers will watch closely as lawmakers try to please everyone, knowing the impossibility of that goal. So many of the benefits we receive as state retirees are provided by legislative action and, as such, may be amended or rescinded. Vigilance is essential to maintaining and improving those benefits and so is making our wishes known to our elected representatives and seniors. Many other groups have advocates for their causes and so does **HSTA-R**. We have a **Legislative Action Team** which monitors every move by the legislature and presents testimony in support of our priorities. They need us retirees to express our concerns as bills are presented and move through the legislative process. Please be ready to offer your opinions and concerns by phone, e-mail and/or the Public Access Room [PAR] at the Capitol and on-line. It really does matter.

SENIOR FAIR

Sharmen Graydon

Were you there? If so, you were one of several thousand seniors who attended the annual Senior Fair at the War Memorial Gym on Saturday, October 25, 2014. It is an event at which MEO offers senior citizens around Maui County the opportunity to gain information about businesses and services which are of interest to their particular needs. Further, it gives those senior clubs a fund-raising venue and politicians a great way to reach large numbers of potential voters. In addition to the plants, farmers market produce, baked goods and the abundance of politicians' goodies offered, over 400 attendees received from **HSTA-R** a reflective tag with logo. The tags offer greater visibility when walking in low light or, when attached to a keychain, easier spotting keys buried in a purse or backpack. Many comments were received from recipients such as "What a good idea!" We'll be back next year so join us if you missed this year's event.

HSTA-R GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

February 4, 2015 – Wednesday

9:30 – 11:00 AM

MEO Building – Behind Cameron Center

9:00 – 9:30 SIGN IN

9:30 – 10:00 BUSINESS MEETING

Elections will be held for the following offices:

Secretary
Treasurer
Council Members [3]
Delegates to Delegate Assembly [4]

10:00 – 11:00 MAUI COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING [MCOA]

Deborah Stone-Walls, the Executive Director of Maui County Office on Aging will describe the array of services provided by the **MCOA** and offer resources for getting specific help for a loved one, friend or yourself.

- ❖ Lunch will be provided to members at no charge compliments of **HSTA-R Maui**. There will be a \$7.00 charge for guests. While an RSVP is not required, it is recommended that if you have dietary issues or plan to bring a guest, let Sharmen know by January 28.

sharmen@maui.net or 572-4756

- Mixed Bento
- Chicken Katsu & Korean Chicken Combo
- Chinese Chicken Salad

- ❖ Please bring two canned goods to support the **Maui Food Bank**.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2015 is the Year of the Ram
Chinese New Year is February 19, 2015

ELECTIONS

Elections will be held on February 4, 2015 at the General Membership Meeting. The following is a list of vacancies for 2015/2016. The term is for two [2] years.

Secretary
Treasurer
Council Members [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, 2015.

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

HAWAII STATE IDENTIFICATION CARD

If you are renewing your Hawai'i Driver's License, you may want to consider obtaining a **Hawai'i State Identification Card** at the same time. Both are issued at the DMV Office and the evidence for the Hawai'i State ID is the same as that required to renew your driver's license. You are required to present the following evidence upon renewal of your driver's license. The evidence must be original or certified documents for the following:

- **Proof of your legal name, date of birth and legal presence** in the U.S.
[birth certificate / valid U.S. passport]
- **Social Security number**
[Social Security card / Medicare card]
- **Two forms** of proof of your **principal residence address in the State of Hawai'i**
[Documents with you as the addressee and stating your address, such as a current electric bill, phone bill, bank statement, medical statement, tax document, etc.]
Federal law requires this evidence once every 16 years or at each renewal if your legal residence is temporary.

Names must be the same on all documents.

If different, you must submit the document that connects the names such as a Marriage Certificate, court document, etc.

*For more information on acceptable documents, Google **Hawai'i State ID DOT.***

The **Hawai'i State ID** is issued at the **DMV Office**. It is valid for 8 years. Have the necessary documents along with the completed application. The cost is \$40.

Questions? Please contact your county driver's license office.

Maui: **270-7363**
Moloka'i: **553-9067**
Lana'i: **565-7878**

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- **February 4, 2015** – Wednesday 9:30 AM
General Membership Meeting
Elections
Maui County Office on Aging [MCOA]
- **April 24, 2015** – Friday
Delegate Assembly - O'ahu
- **April 30, 2015** – Thursday 9:30 AM
Council Meeting
- **May 8, 2015** – Friday 9:30 AM
General Membership Meeting

PU'U KUKUI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Debby Takahashi

Pu'u Kukui Elementary is Maui's newest school. It is located on Kehalani Mauka Parkway. Interestingly, some of the architecture is reminiscent of a plantation era house. The playing/event field has a beautiful vista of Central Maui. Native flowers are well cared for around the campus. The cafeteria, which gets the children's food from Pomaika'i Elementary, has huge rotator blades for fans. The classrooms have self-regulating air conditioning!

On October 16, 2014 members of HSTA-R Maui County District visited the school for a tour. PCNC Crissy Hamilton, a Lana'i gal, showed us around campus. Debi Tisdell, a computer whiz, wowed us with the computer capabilities of the school. She shared with us her background – which is a long way from chalk and a blackboard – or even a white board! All grades of students are scheduled to use the computer lab.

Principal Chad Okamoto spoke about the Seven Habits of Effective Leaders that both staff and the entire student body aspire to implement. We were fascinated to learn "What's new in public education!"

Members enjoyed a bento lunch from T. J.'s ordered by Jackie Davis.

PRE-RETIREMENT WORKSHOP

The Pre-retirement of Cadre Debby Takahashi, Linnea Francis and Sharmen Graydon presented a workshop to 97 teachers held on Teacher Institute Day at Maui High School. They were assisted by excellent student helpers from the Key Club.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY HSTA-R

2015 is the 20th anniversary of HSTA-R. Membership for Maui County District is approximately 560. Our gratitude and appreciation go out to Flo Nakama, Leonard Habersham, Ray Hart and Sharmen Graydon for their leadership and dedication to the members of Maui HSTA-R. Mahalo!

2015 HSTA-RETIRED LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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.

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 the reimbursement of Medicare Part B.
- ❖ Support proposals to lower the cost of prescription drugs and allow approved drugs to be imported under federal supervision.
- ❖ Support state and national health reform legislation to make affordable health care available to all Americans.
- ❖ Support legislation on long-term care.

Educational 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 ESEA reauthorization bill.

UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION

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

nelsonsnchung@gmail.com

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

TAX INFORMATION FOR 2014

- ❖ 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.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Cost-of-Living Adjustment [COLA] for 2015

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income [SSI] benefits for nearly 64 million Americans will increase **1.7** percent in 2015.

The **1.7** percent cost-of-living adjustment [COLA] will begin with benefits that more than 58 million Social security beneficiaries receive in January 2015. Increased payments to more than 8 million SSI beneficiaries began on December 2014 which are payable in January 2015.

LONG TERM CARE

The cost of health care is skyrocketing. The current average monthly charge for nursing home and in-home care in Hawaii continues to rise.

If you are a retired VEBA Trust participant, you will be enrolled for Base Coverage at **no cost** to you after you have completed a simple questionnaire and the insurance company determines that you are not disabled at the time of enrollment. You can purchase additional coverage. If you are currently a retired VEBA Trust participant but enrolled when you were an Active VEBA Trust participant and have had continuous coverage, you will continue to have the coverage described for Active VEBA Trust participants.

Long-term care is offered through home care agencies, senior centers, adult day care centers, traditional nursing homes, and retirement communities that provide on-going care.

To be eligible for long term care coverage, an HSTA-R member must be a VEBA Trust participant. An HSTA-R member can become a VEBA Trust participant by enrolling in the life insurance program. The basic plan costs \$2.00 a month with a death benefit of \$2000. To enroll in the life insurance program, contact the HSTA VEBA TRUST office. Enrollment is allowed subject to a medical review. **800-637-4936** [toll free from neighbor islands]

For convenience, premiums are automatically deducted via retirement allowance.



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stamp

MAUI COUNTY DISTRICT

HSTA

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Fax 808-270-2049

www.hsta.org

HSTA-R

808-270-2048
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www.hstaretired.org

HSTA VEBA TRUST

808-440-6940
800-637-4926

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SOCIAL SECURITY

800-772-1213
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www.ssa.gov

HSTA-R MAUI COUNTY DISTRICT COUNCIL

President	Sharmen Graydon
Vice-President	Steve Harman
Secretary	Linnea Francis
Treasurer	Debby Takahashi
Council	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

Keeping In Touch