



Year of the Snake The Guardian 2013

JANUARY 2013

ISSUE II

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year, Retirees!

As I compose this newsletter message in November, which you should receive in January 2013 for an important meeting scheduled for February (which requires you to RSVP), I realize it's time for change. This New Year, with all that's happening on the international, national and local levels, will force us to rethink how we operate on both personal and public levels.

On an organizational level, we are beginning to incorporate more technology in disseminating to and receiving information from our members. We continue to focus our efforts in connecting with new and present members. Community wise, we are looking at ways to provide service to those in need. If you have any suggestions, please contact us at HSTA-R (808) 840-2258.

The challenge for this coming legislative session will be to retain our benefits. In an attempt to balance the budget, the legislature and the governor are looking for ways to reduce state spending or increase tax revenue. The three targeted areas are: 1) taxing retiree income, 2) eliminating Medicare reimbursement) and 3) reducing health care benefits. New hires already face reduced benefits. We can't let this happen to us!

HSTA-R, like other unions representing state and county retirees, is against all of these measures; it believes these benefits were promised. However, things can change and our present benefits can be reduced or eliminated. **This is where we will need your help.** Contact your representative, senator and the governor (via email, phone, fax, office visit) and express your views. You can affect what happens.

We must preserve our retirement benefits. Please visit the HSTA-R website, hstaretired.org, regularly for the latest.

As we begin 2013, I thank those of you who choose to be more involved in HSTA-R. It's incredible what a team can accomplish together.

Stay healthy, keep smiling and stay tuned.

Joanne R. Ing
O'ahu District HSTA-R President

A Heart-felt VOICE is more EFFECTIVE than a silent voice.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

By Carol Nitta

My sincerest *mahalo* to those who “vested” much time, energy and support to our recommended candidates during this past election. Your support helped to make a difference in electing our candidates.

The election was a great challenge, but only the beginning of our “retirement future.” As the state looks for ways to balance the budget our retirement, Medicare, and other benefits may be targeted which may include our Medicare reimbursements and the possibility of taxing retirement income.



He or she who sits all day and does nothing
gets a sore bottom and splinters all for nothing.

Moral of the story... "If you're going to do nothing, it may be better to stand."

HSTA-R WANTS YOU

2013 Elections - Nominations

HSTA-R to become a stronger and more effective unit for its members, is dependent on your involvement. The level of involvement may be a voice to nominate someone or yourself, pitching in when volunteers are sought, and a definite action that demonstrates your involvement is VOTING.

On Monday, February 11, 2013, we will be holding a meeting to nominate and elect four (4) Council Members (2 year term) and approximately 34 delegates and 10 alternate delegates (2 year term) to the State Representative Assembly on Friday April 26, 2013.

O'ahu has 61 delegates however 27 are hold-over delegates that do not need run this year. They are: Arlene Aranita, Elaine Blust, Monita Brown, Sandra Cruze, Charlotte DeWitt, Glenn Fernandez, Jo-An Goss, Susan Hagiwara, William Hardin, Carol Jean Hardin, Donna Higashi, Robert Hu, Mary Imamura-Uruu, Patsy Kagesa, Sandra Liu, Sandra Low, Sharon Mahoe, Aida Martin, Beverly Matsuo, Hitoshi Matsuo, Yvonne Ornellas, Ellen Schneider, Vera Shores, Roger Takabayashi, Kathleen Tanaka, Rosemary Tokashiki, Jan Turner.

Get involved. Nominate yourself or someone else for one of the electable positions stated above. Complete the nomination form below. You can send your nomination(s) to:

Lillian Ching / 45-1014 Pa'aila Place / Kaneohe 96744 or email lillianching@aol.com.

I am nominating the following (name or yourself) for: Council Member _____ Delegate _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____, HI Zip: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Nominated by: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____, HI Zip: _____

KUNG HEE FAT CHOY

HSTA-R OAHU GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

“Celebrate the New Year and the New You”

Monday, February 11, 2013, from 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Waialae Country Club, 4997 Kahala Ave., Honolulu - Waialae Room

Here's the schedule for the morning:

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. – Registration and morning refreshments

9:00 – 9:40 a.m. – Business Meeting/Elections

9:40 – 10:30 a.m. – EUTF Update

10:30 – 10:45 a.m. – Break

10:45 – 11:30 a.m. – Speakers:

- Roberta Jahrling, a retired Bank of Hawai'i Trust Officer - “Let Me Check My Calendar,” a humorous but inspirational presentation on the pitfalls and rewards of being retired and the importance of investing in taking care of your own health and well being.
- Andres Libed partnering with Stephen Kow, two retired DOE teachers/EOs who worked with teachers on professional development workshops - “Tai Chi as a Fun and Therapeutic Exercise,” with a focus on the importance of Tai Chi and music. Hands-on and experiential!

11:30 – 11:50 a.m. – Announcements, Door Prizes, & Closing

11:50 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Buffet Luncheon

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING/BUFFET LUNCH RSVP

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

No. ___ of **MEMBERS** attending x \$25.00* = _____ No. ___ of **GUESTS** x \$30.00 = _____

*Higher price is due to increased cost at WCC.

Names of GUESTS _____

Due to the venue, seating is limited! Payment includes lunch, beverage, and morning refreshments.

COMPLETED FORM AND PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, January 25, 2013!

Make checks (non-refundable) payable to HSTA-R Oahu. Send check and completed form to:

**Geraldine Ohara, Treasurer
98-640 Moanalua Loop #1024
Aiea, HI 96701**

We will be collecting canned goods for our Food Bank Drive. Please join our efforts and bring your donations to the meeting!

NEWS YOU CAN USE

By: Linda Tavares

Thank you for being one of the 5,100 HSTA-R members. As retired teachers, we still need this Association's protection when it comes to issues that affect our Retirement Pension, Health Care, Medicare, and Social Security. A large membership can influence the votes of our elected officials.

Frequently Asked Question: Who is required to enroll in Medicare Part B?

Answer: Any retiree, spouse, or domestic partner, who reaches age 65 and qualifies for Medicare Part B, is REQUIRED to enroll in Medicare Part B upon reaching age 65.

If you are nearing age 65 and have yet to receive social security retirement information, call 1-800-772-1213 to enroll in the Federal Medicare Part B Medical Insurance Program immediately.

Technology is always improving. At some point we all have to get with the program or run the risk of being left behind. Many members have shown interest in sending and receiving communiqué' from HSTA-R O'ahu electronically. That is, email and web pages. But for those who are not comfortable with that option, we are not abandoning anyone. Simply put, we are exploring ways to improve communications, keep operating expenses down, and providing more efficient methods that will benefit all members. Beginning with this issue, some members will also receive an electronic copy of The Guardian, per your request.

Remember as of January 1st, it is 2013!



On the OUTSIDE looking IN...

- ✓ *Do Something...Get Involved on page 2*
- ✓ *Waialae Country Club is in YOUR FUTURE*
- page 3
- ✓ *Medicare, Social Security, Technology*