

# THE HSTA-R O'ahu GUARDIAN



SEPTEMBER

2013

ISSUE I

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Retirees,

Time flies when you're retired. It's already September, time to plan for another year. The Oahu District Council will continue to focus on the three 'C's'—Connections, Communications, and Community.

Our first Connections activity will be our September, 'Meet and Greet' event. New members will be invited to a luncheon where they will be introduced to the Oahu Council members and other new members and be informed about the operation of HSTA-R. Participants will meet in a fun and informal environment. Connections will also be made at our two General Membership Meetings (October 28, 2013 and February 10, 2014) as the council members interact with members.

Another Connections effort will be with HSTA teachers. Increased visibility of HSTA-R members at HSTA RA meetings is planned for this year. Another objective of our Connections focus is the identification and training of potential leaders to expand the involvement of our membership in leadership roles.

Our Communications efforts will focus on expanding our email system to improve the dissemination and reception of timely information. Quick action, especially in the political arena, necessitates a rapid and accurate information delivery system. Presently, we have about 1/2 of our membership of 3800 on our email system. You are in our system if you have received HSTA-R information via email. If you have not received emails from us and would like to, please send your email address with your first and last name to [hsta.r.oahu@gmail.com](mailto:hsta.r.oahu@gmail.com). You may not have received our emails if you had changed your email address since you enrolled. This newsletter will go out both through the mail and electronically. We are hopeful that we will be able to work out the 'bugs' before the next newsletter, thus allowing us to send out news electronically to those who elect to receive it that way. If you do not choose to receive your newsletter electronically, please inform us at the email address above or call the HSTA-R office at 822-2711 ext. 258.

In conjunction with our electronic message system, we are looking for members who are willing to be part of an electronic cadre. This group will be trained to follow legislative bills and submit testimonies to the legislature. If you are interested, please let me know by email or calling the HSTA-R office.

Our community outreach will continue with two collections, one at each of our General Membership Meetings. The collection drive at our October Membership Meeting will be school supplies/cash or a check for supplies. We are also seeking volunteers to assist with the packing of goodie bags for the Youth and Children Day Activity in October. If you think you can help, please let us know.

As I begin my second year as your Oahu District President, I am encouraged by your participation in the activities we planned and your willingness to reach out to the community. I believe that retirees are one of the greatest resources our nation possesses. Just as we made a difference in the lives of our students, we can continue to make a difference in our families and communities.

Continue to thrive,



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

## NEWS FROM HSTA-VEBA

HSTA VEBA Trust still exists. We no longer administer the medical plans, but we still have voluntary plans like life and long term care insurance available for HSTA and HSTA-R members

Here are some answers to questions that have been asked by HSTA-R members. If you have a question, please email them to us [vebatrust@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:vebatrust@hawaii.rr.com).

\* \* \* \* \*

**Q: How can I find out if I have any medical-drug-vision-dental insurance?**

*A: Effective January 1, 2011, the HSTA VEBA TRUST no longer administers the medical, drug, vision, and dental insurance. You would need to contact the EUTF at 586-7390 or 1-800-295-0089 (neighbor islands) to find out about your coverage.*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Q: How can I find out if I have any voluntary insurance plans through HSTA VEBA TRUST?**

*A: You can call the HSTA VEBA TRUST at 440-6940 or 1-800-637-4926 (neighbor island). If you are enrolled in any HSTA VEBA TRUST plans, a Benefit Summary is mailed annually. (A Benefit Summary, showing what benefits you currently have was recently mailed out.)*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Q: How can I sign up for Long Term Care coverage?**

*A: In order to sign up for Long Term Care, you would need to be enrolled in another HSTA VEBA TRUST plan like Basic Life or/and Basic Plus Life Insurance. Call 440-6940 for forms.*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Q: What does the Long Term Care Base plan cover?**

*A: The Long Term Care Base plan will pay \$1,000.00 if you are receiving care in a Long Term Care Facility. The facility benefit duration is 3 years. The base plan also covers professional home care at 50% of your monthly facility benefit (\$500.00). The maximum lifetime coverage is \$36,000.*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Q: If I currently have Basic Life Insurance and Long Term Care Base Plan, can I increase my Long Term Care coverage? And if I do, will the HSTA VEBA TRUST continue to subsidize it?**

*A: Yes, you can increase your Long Term Care coverage. You would need to complete an application along with the Evidence of Insurability form. The HSTA VEBA TRUST will continue to sub-sidize, but only up to the amount of the Long Term Care Base Plan. You can call the HSTA VEBA TRUST office at 440-6940 or 1-800-637-4926 (neighbor islands) to request the required forms.*

\* \* \* \* \*

\*This plan overview is a summary provided to help you understand your insurance coverage form UNUM. Please refer to your certificate booklet for your complete plan description. If the terms of this plan highlight summary or your certificate differ from your policy, the policy will govern.

## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

By Carol Nitta

Aloha and welcome to the 2013-14 school year. As the political environment is changing, we anticipate challenges in the 2014 election and campaigning process. Presently, candidates that we have recommended for various offices in the past are now running for the same office. Your input and support are critical factors as we proceed, as an organization, in the upcoming political election.

☞ ☞

## COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE

By Kathy Tanaka

It is said that no amount of money, fame, or glory is meaningful, if you cannot sustain the ability to help your fellow citizen. Helping our community through altruistic endeavors has always been a moving spirit of teachers through our community service efforts. We began with a food drive at our February, 2013 General Membership meeting and will continue with a school supply drive at our next General Membership Meeting on October 28, 2013. You may bring your donations to our meeting at the Waialae Country Club. If you cannot be present but still want to contribute, please drop your donations off at the HSTA office. If you prefer to make a monetary donation you may do so at the membership meeting.

Future activities being planned are to help with the Children's and Youth Fair and with the Salvation Army's Angel Tree project. In both of these projects we will be providing volunteer manpower. If you want to help with any of these projects, have questions, or want to get your name on our email system so that you will receive updated information, then please email us at [hsta.r.oahu@gmail.com](mailto:hsta.r.oahu@gmail.com).

☞ ☞

## RETIRED TEACHERS NOW SURF THE INTERTUBES!

By Tom Aitken

The HSTA-R-O'ahu Email System is LIVE! The advantage of using a system like Google Groups is that it keeps your email address hidden. Keeping your personal email address out of public view helps keep the spam-bots from harvesting your email and keeps your inbox squeaky clean.

Of course, we will try to keep our communications to a minimum. Those of us who have submitted valid email addresses to the system (some 1,780 Members) have already received email notices (including this issue of 'The Guardian') from the system-CONGRATULATIONS!

If you have not sent your email, email us at: [HSTA-R-Oahu+subscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:HSTA-R-Oahu+subscribe@googlegroups.com). Include your first and last name in the subject. You'll be joining the 21st century and saving your organization money, time, and effort.

# GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & BUFFET LUNCHEON

*"Let's Travel Smart And Thrive!"*

Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Waialae Country Club, 4997 Kahala Avenue – Waialae Room

## AGENDA:

9:00 - 9:30 a.m.	Registration and morning refreshments
9:30 - 10:00 a.m.	General HSTA-R Business
10:00 - 10:25 a.m.	Traveling Tips with Lena Sumiye, Retired teacher/Travel Agent
10:25 - 10:50 a.m.	Travel tips on packing, attire, etc. with Nani Mahoe, former high school teacher, Northwest Airlines executive, and a Nordstrom personal stylist
10:50 - 11:05 a.m.	BREAK
11:05 - 11:25 a.m.	Christian Fern, HMSA: What HMSA covers for travel; how to stay healthy on a trip
11:25 - 11:45 a.m.	What Does Kaiser Cover For Travel & What To Do If You Get Ill? Representative from Kaiser Permanente
11:45 - 12:00 p.m.	Announcements, door prizes, closing
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Buffet luncheon

**We'll be collecting school supplies and/or money for school supplies for a community service project. Please join our efforts and bring your donations to the meeting.**

### RSVP for HSTA-R OAHU DISTRICT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING/BUFFET LUNCH

Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Waialae Country Club, 4997 Kahala Avenue – Waialae Room

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_, HI ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of **MEMBERS** attending: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00\* = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of **GUESTS** attending: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

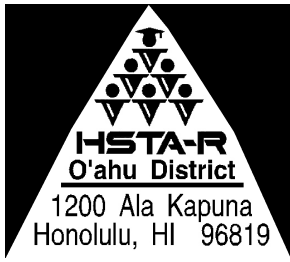
Names of GUESTS: \_\_\_\_\_

**Due to the venue space, SEATING IS LIMITED!**  
Payment includes lunch, beverage, and morning refreshments.

**Completed form and payment must be RECEIVED NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013!**

Send check and completed form to:

Beverly Matsuo  
P.O. Box 694  
Kaneohe, HI 96744-0694



Take a  
Peek  
Inside!

-Fun, Food, Travel...

It's always good on *page 3*

-VEBA Q 'n' A...*page 2*

-What is better than *buying* school supplies?  
*Giving* school supplies...Read about it on  
the General Membership page...

-GET THE 411 -Follow the Arrows 

## ON THE ROAD TO GEORGIA

NEA-R ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 27-30  
NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY, JULY 1-6

By Vaughn Tokashiki, HSTA-R State President

HSTA-R's six delegates to the NEA-R and NEA Conventions in Atlanta, Georgia were: Vaughn Tokashiki (HSTA-R State President), Yvonne (Linda) Tavares, Justin Wong, Jean Dobashi, Stephen Ono, and Roger Takabayashi.

Delegates attended several breakout sessions at the NEA-R Annual Meeting including General Sessions, and voted to fill several NEA-R positions including Vice President, Directors and Alternate Directors to the NEA Board, and NEA Resolution and Alternate Resolutions Committee members.

NEA-R is an integral part of the NEA family and is committed to help NEA in its re-organizing efforts, lobbying, and legislative efforts. NEA President Dennis Van Roekel and NEA Vice-President Lily Eskelsen Garcia reiterated their support and thanks for NEA-R's continued support of NEA.

The NEA Representative Assembly was an awesome experience for everyone, being a part of an organization that is 156 years old and has three strands that are central to its identity. The strands are; social justice, standing up for the rights of its members, and its members work as professionals.

Delegates listened to and engaged in debate, then voted on New Business Items, the Legislative Agenda, Resolutions, and Amendments to NEA's Constitution during six days of intense and very interesting and productive sessions.



## THE 411 FILING FOR BENEFITS

By Joanne Ing

The following information is very important. Be sure to share this information with the person you have selected to handle your insurance benefit filings. This may be the same person who you have named as executor of your estate. Everyone's situation is different so if you have yet to appoint someone, this may be a good reminder to do so.

When informing HSTA-R, ERS, EUTF and VEBA about a member who has passed away, please provide the following information: The deceased's person's **full name, age, and date of death**. This will expedite the benefits process (i.e., life insurance, long term care, etc.) for the surviving beneficiaries. Again, this is for insurance purposes.

**411 = Information**