

The Guardian

June 2017, Issue III

2017-2018

Calendar of Events

Oahu Council meetings:
Mondays at 9 am at the
HSTA office
Aug. 7, Sept. 11, Oct. 2,
Nov. 6, Dec. 4, Jan. 8,
Feb. 5, March 5, April 2,
May 7, June 4 (site TBA)

Mon. August 28, 2017:
Meet and Greet, 9 am
Pearl Country Club

Mon. October 30, 2017:
General Membership
Meeting, Hawaii Okinawa
Center, 9 am

Fri. November 17, 2017:
Interest Activity, 9 am
Halawa District Park

Mon. February 26, 2018:
General Membership
Meeting, Waialae Country
Club, 9 am

Mon. March 12, 2018:
Meet and Greet, 9 am
Windward site TBA

Fri. April 6, 2018:
Interest Activity, 9 am
Halawa District Park

Fri. April 27, 2018:
Delegate Assembly



Oahu Council members June 2017

President's Message by Joanne R. Ing

Half the year is almost over and it's summer. Although summer doesn't take on the same excitement that it used to, it still remains a distinct season of longer days, outdoor activities and lots of excitement.

This past year HSTA-R Oahu continued to do **community** outreach through its various service projects. By offering a variety of projects: working with the Hawaii Bar Association, Hawaii Pacific Health, Special Olympics, Honolulu Theater for Youth, IHS, etc. we have given our members opportunities to give back to the community. As in the past four years, we ended the year with the Arthritis Walk for which we raised over \$4,000 and become one of their major supporters.

We continue to improve our **communication** efforts. We expanded our newsletter to a six-page format and are working to provide helpful and useful information regarding the organization, helpful hints and member benefits. About half of our almost four thousand Oahu members, receive timely information and volunteer opportunities through our email system.

We continue to offer two General Membership Meetings, one at the Hawaii Okinawa Center in October, and the other at the Waialae Country Club in February. At both meetings, we conduct organizational business and present informative and energizing speakers. In addition, our two Meet and Greet meetings serve to **connect** new members to the organization.

This year, in an effort to attract members who haven't attended any HSTA-R Oahu activity, we offered two interest activity meetings.

Article continues on the back page

HSTA-R Oahu District Elections -2017

by Sandra Low, Election Committee



Another successful year has come to a close for the HSTA-R Oahu Council Election Committee.

At the February 20, 2017 General Membership Meeting at the Waialae Country Club four council members were elected to serve two year terms. Congratulations to Wyllyn Auna, Tom Aitken, Lanny Busher, and Henry Choy who join the current council members Arlene Aranita, Jeanne Fukuoka, Kathy Tanaka, Carol Nitta whose positions will be up for re-election next year.

Also elected were thirty-four Delegates who will serve two years as Delegates to the HSTA-R State Delegate Assembly. Each year about half of the delegates return to fulfill their second term, and the other delegates are newly elected. According to membership count, Oahu district was allotted fifty-nine delegates for 2017.

In 2018, Oahu District will elect a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and four council members. We will also elect twenty-five delegates to the State Delegate Assembly. On the state level, HSTA-R Delegates at the Delegate Assembly will elect a President, 1st and 2nd Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and two State Directors. Voting by USPS mail for Delegates to the NEA-R will also be held.

We encourage you to consider running for one of these positions. Information and nomination forms will be in the January "Guardian" for district positions and in the "Messenger" for state offices.

News You Can Use By Linda Tavares



Being retired is great! This morning, when my honey asked me what I was going to do today, I replied, "Nothing!" He said, "But sweetheart, you did that yesterday." "I know," I said. "But I haven't finished yet."

Starting in September 2017, 1200 HSTA-R members will be affected by an NEA Dues increase. **If you are a NEA-Lifetime Member, you are NOT affected by this increase.** NEA will increase their dues by \$5.00 a Year, not a month. You were paying NEA \$30 a year or \$2.50 a month. That will change to \$35 a year or \$2.92 a month (a \$.42 monthly increase). In September, Non LifeTime NEA members will pay \$2.92 a month for NEA dues, and the HSTA-R dues will be \$4.00 a month (No Increase) for a total monthly of \$6.92. The old total was \$6.50 a month. Lifetime NEA members will pay only \$4.00 a month for the HSTA-R dues.

Knowing we all have Good Memories....but Short! You are now thinking...am I a NEA Lifetime member? You may want to email NEA at neamb.com or call NEA -R member benefits: 1 800 637-4636 or leave a message on the HSTA-R phone number 808 840 2258.

Please remember that Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter. When Life gets too hard to stand.....KNEEL.

Tax Status and Political Action by Darlene Pang

HSTA-R has a specific tax exempt status that does not allow our retired organization to actively recommend or support political candidates. What we are allowed to do is monitor our state legislature for bills that impact the lives of our retired members. Two committees (Retirement Issues and Legislative Action) lobby on three or four bills each year that are believed to influence (positively or negatively) our members' lives.

Two of the bills we supported during the 2017 session were passed. One funds a present ombudsman and a new half time position to monitor the conditions of retirement homes. The other bill requires that Hawaii health insurance policies contain the essential ten Affordable Care Act policies that are generally supported across political parties. These include such things as covering children until the age of 26 and covering people with pre-existing conditions. The governor has until almost the end of June to decide whether to sign or veto these bills. The third bill, Death With Dignity, failed at the last minute and never received a floor vote.

If you have questions or would like to suggest bills for the committees to support, please contact



either Carol Nitta (cleonitta2233@yahoo.com) or Darlene Pang (pangd004@hawaii.rr.com).



Carol Nitta on the left

Darlene Pang on the right

EUTF Board of Trustees Approved Paying Fees Out of EUTF Reserves for Employees by Mae T. Kishimoto, HSTA-R EUTF Monitor



Instead of paying \$40 annually for self-only coverage; \$80 annually for two party coverage; and \$120 annually for family coverage and the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute fee, fees will be paid out of the Reserves. These fees are normally added to employee premiums.

There were many changes to the premium rates. Please be sure to check the Holomua newsletter and/or the EUTF website <eutf.hawaii.gov>

HSTA-R lobbied last year for pension deductions for those who are paying for their healthcare premiums. Premiums may now be paid in three other ways:

1. Monthly recurring electronic transfers from your bank account initiated and adjusted by the EUTF. No fees are charged. Directions and forms available at eutf.hawaii.gov must be approved before starting this payment method.
2. Credit card for a fee of \$2.50 plus 2.25% of the premium amount.
3. Electronic transfers from your bank account that you initiate for a fee of \$3.50 per transaction.

Please visit the EUTF website <eutf.hawaii.gov> and click on the link for Payment Options. Questions?

Call 586-7390 or toll free 1-800-295-0089 ext 3.

Later this year, the EUTF AND ERS plan to add another option for retirees – health benefit deductions from retiree ERS pension payments.

A Walk to Remember by Kathy Tanaka, Community Service



The Walk to Cure Arthritis was held on May 21, 2017, at the University of Hawaii and it will be a walk that many of us will long remember. Darlene Pang, Joanne Ing and myself decided that we would make it a leisurely walk and enjoy the people, animals, interconnected stories, and just take in the excitement of the day. We remembered not too long ago when the campus looked a little different with a little more open space and tried to guess the names of the buildings along the way. Some had a facelift with new facades to them and some did not even exist when we were students there like the engineering building. It was a challenge to our memory to recall the names of the buildings and in the process we recalled how we walked along the paths in the past and the experiences we had and even talked about how our tuition was only just under \$200.00. We never dreamed that one day we would be walking it again but with a mission behind the steps that were now a bit of a challenge but thankful that we can still walk and reminisce of days gone and look to the future of things to come.



HSTA-R Oahu Volunteers are remarkable in their support of all the community service activities that we have put out over the years. We have fed people, provided personal materials, given hours of our time and have supported children, women, men and our schools in Hawaii. Community is the essence of who we are as teachers and in small and large ways we make a difference. We believe in the concept of weaving HSTA-R with our communities. I hope you will all remember \$4,172 as an amount to remember for that is what we gave to the Arthritis Foundation and it not only provided us with snacks and a place to gather but will light a way in trying to find a cure for this disease that affects so many people both young and old. Thank you to all of you for believing in our goal of connecting with our communities and making Hawaii just a bit better today than it was yesterday.

Delegate Assembly by Darlene Pang



The highest governing body for HSTA-R is the annual assembly in April attended by elected delegates. Delegates discuss and debate the merits of New Business Items (these require the organization to take a specific action), Resolutions (these are belief statements to guide the organization), and By-Law changes. This year, the Oahu Council introduced a Resolution encouraging elected delegates who have attended numerous consecutive HSTA and NEA conventions to voluntarily limit the number of times they run for these state and national conventions. The belief is that this will allow more retired teachers to be elected to represent our retired organization and for them to gain expertise and leadership knowledge. The Resolution overwhelmingly passed. The Oahu Council now plans to propose a By-Law change at the 2018 Delegate Assembly to formalize this change.

If you are interested in attending any of these meetings please look for information in future publications. We encourage you to get involved and actively participate in your organization.

The Good, The Bad and The Ugly

By Carol Nitta



On May 24, 2017, the HSTA-R Council attended the 11th Annual Legislative Review-"The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly" which is sponsored by HARA (Hawaii chapter of the Alliance for Retired Americans) and the KOKUA Council at the State Capitol.

HARA supports initiatives on preserving Social Security, Medicare and Kupuna programs assisting the elderly population. Affiliates of HARA include labor retiree organizations of HGEA, UPW, ILWU, Machinists, AFT, and the KOKUA Council and community organizations.

Oahu HSTA-R coordinates the Continental Breakfast and light lunch for attendees including legislators, retirees, and community organizations.

HARA discusses and assesses the yearly Legislative priorities -the accomplishment/ failures with the Legislators. Annually HARA recognizes individuals demonstrating great effort in promoting Kupuna issues

Kathy Tanaka by Norma Villarmia



Out of the mouths of babes. Let me explain. Bailey, daughter of a close family friend sat with me as I wrote about Kathy Tanaka HSTA-R Community Service Chairperson. Being the curious third grader that she is, I found myself having to share with Bailey my impression of Kathy. Curiosity satisfied, she wrote this:

Purpose in Life

"Thank you Kathy for helping so many people and babies with sicknesses and homelessness. You have made so many people's lives better. I can't believe how you gathered up volunteers trying to get the many things for people in need. You try your hardest to give people a new and better life and you are successfully doing that. You are making the world and the people living in it such a better place. You are accomplishing your goal so well – better than well. I think that is your purpose in life." (I edited Bailey's writing for a few spelling and punctuation errors).

Bailey captured who Kathy is as the humanitarian that she is. "When I die, I don't want people to remember me for what I had, but instead for what I did for others," Kathy declared.



2017 Delegate Assembly pictures:

Newly elected directors:
Tom Aitken and Wyllyn Auna



Distinguished Service awardee
Justin Wong (R) with Pres.
Vaughn Tokashiki (L)





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<http://www.hstaretired.org/oahu.php/>

OFFICERS: Joanne Ing, President; Phyllis Ida, Vice-President; Susan Hagiwara, Secretary; Clarice Roby, Treasurer

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Tom Aiken, Arlene Aranita, Wyllyn Auna, Lanny Busher, Henry Choy, Jeanne Fukuoka, Carol Nitta, Kathy Tanaka

Council meetings usually held first Monday of each month, 9:00 a.m., at 1200 Ala Kapuna St. All members are welcome to attend. To receive the agenda by email, call 623-2354; leave name and email address.

The Guardian, newsletter of the Oahu District of HSTA-R, is published three times a year. Layout by Rose Shin.

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Continued from page one, President's message

At the first one, attendees received information on retirement planning then spent the rest of the time creating beautiful notebooks which were donated to the children at the Institute for Human Services. The success of this activity prompted a session on travel. Due to the popularity of these meetings, we will continue to offer these interest activity meetings.

As the year draws to an end, the HSTA-R Oahu council has continued to improve our **Communication, Connection and Community** service efforts through our activities which strive to Empower, Encourage and Enrich our membership.

Special thanks to my hard working officers: Vice President, Phyllis Ida; Treasurer, Clarice Roby; Secretary, Susan Hagiwara. Council members: Arlene Aranita and Linda Mew (Special Activities); Jeanne Fukuoka, Charlene Murata, Linda Tavares (Membership); Carol Nitta, Darlene Pang, Norma Villarmia, Lanny and Maryann Busher (Legislative Action); Kathy Tanaka, Robin Hermance (Community Service); Tom Aitken, Rose Shin (Communications) Beverly/Hitoshi Matsuo, Robert Hu, Geraldine Yamashita (Aloha); Mae Kishimoto (EUTF); Sandy Low (Elections) and recently elected members: Wyllyn Auna and Hank Choy.



Joanne R. Ing HSTA-R President- Oahu District