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The Messenger

Hawaii State Teachers Association - Retired ♦ 1200 Ala Kapuna Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96819 ♦ (808) 833-2711

Living In Interesting Times

The 2013 - 2014 membership year is shaping up to be a very interesting year for everyone involved in HSTA-R because of the myriad issues facing our retiree association.

HSTA-R is an affiliate of HSTA and is in the process of renegotiating an administrative agreement with HSTA for office space in the building, and the use of equipment and staff time.

The IRS has assigned a reviewer for HSTA-R's filing for 501c4 non-profit status. Hopefully, this means that our two-year wait is close to being resolved. With the assigning of the 501c4 non-profit status, HSTA-R will become a separate entity from HSTA, though we will, of course, continue to help HSTA.

HSTA-R is also in negotiations with BPS (Benefit Plan Solutions) to handle membership information for us. It is a pleasure working with Rod Shinno, vice-president at BPS, and the wonderful ladies at VEBA, Michelle, Diane, Charlene, and Brenda, who are always so pleasant and helpful.

HSTA-R will also have a presence at the HSTA Institutes from October 14-18, 2013, on Oahu, Maui, Kauai, Molokai, and East and West Hawaii. The HSTA-R Pre-Retirement Cadre on each island will have information sessions for active teachers who may soon be retiring and want as much information as they can get on this big step in their lives.

The HSTA-R RIC (Retirement Issues Committee) and LAT (Legislative Action Team) are also working hard on your behalf to identify and address issues that will probably surface with the convening of the legislature in mid-January 2014. We know we can count on your help and support if and when we call you.

Your HSTA-R website is updated regularly by Glenn Dave Fernandez, web-master and HSTA-R Secretary. Please check out the website on a regular basis. Glenn's expertise with all things computers is especially helpful as we try to become "green" this year.

If you call HSTA-R and leave a message, please speak slowly, spell out your name, give your phone number, and a short message explaining your reason for calling. Someone will be in touch with you as soon as possible. HSTA-R does not have paid staff to answer

the phone and take messages. All officers, like yourselves, are retired, and take care of grandchildren and aging relatives/parents.

Finally, a very sincere Mahalo to Justin Wong, founding member of HSTA-R and HSTA-R President for nine eventful years, who graciously accepted the position as HSTA-R administrator to help your new state officers through this past transition year.

- Vaughn Tokashiki, HSTA-R President

NEA-R Annual Meeting (June 27-30) and NEA Representative Assembly (July 1-6)

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

Delegates attended several breakout sessions at the NEA-R Annual Meeting, took part in General Sessions, and voted for the NEA-R Vice President, NEA-R 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.

- Vaughn Tokashiki HSTA-R President

Perspective Opinion on Government Relations for 2014

Welcome to a New Fiscal Year over the concerns of retirees for the year 2014!!!!

I look forward in reporting to you the Legislative activities for this coming Legislative year (2014) and hopefully be better prepared for the anticipated proposals that may impact the retirees on pension and health issues.

Conversations with other interested legislative “watch dogs” seem to center on the so called future funding of State health programs as well as the possibilities of some form of taxation on pension programs. While these proposals may not appear this coming legislative session because of it being an “election” year, I believe some proposal will appear to test the water of public opinion on these retiree programs. I am also concerned that because this is an election year, any proposals on improving the needs of senior citizens may also fall on the way side.

For example, I am concerned over the so called aging of the citizenry and the need to consider the possibilities of a Long Term Care program. While I am not able to propose any specific program, I would welcome personal experiences of the impact on the individual that had to provide for the care of family members. I would think that personal hardship in providing care services or the financial strain to the family would be needed to support a proposal on the severity of this aging concern. Should you have had personal experiences and are willing to share this with me, please e-mail me, your comments. My email address is: Stephenono@hotmail.com.

I may not be able to act on this for this coming year but could share our concerns with a larger State organization--the Hawaii Alliance of Retired Americans (HARA) and prepare for a proposal in future legislative activity.

- Stephen Ono, HSTA-R Co-Chair
Government Relations Committee

HSTA-R CBR COMMITTEE REPORT HSTA-R BOD Meeting on August 23, 2013

At the April 26, 2013 HSTA-R Delegate Assembly, the CBR Committee proposed the adoption of two proposed new business items. The HSTA-R Board of Directors supported these proposals.

Proposed new business item, 13-01 CONTINUATION OF THE HSTA/HSTA-R RELATIONSHIP COMMITTEE was adopted.

Proposed new business item, 13-02 CLARIFICATION OF THE 2011 DELEGATE ASSEMBLY MINUTES was adopted.

The Digest of Policy Statements and New Business Items Volume 7 2002-2013 is ready to be printed. It was updated with the adopted 2 NBIs 13-02 and 13-03.

From July 22 -24, 2013, we attended the CBR Ad Hoc Committee meeting where we worked on putting together a comprehensive plan for the coming year. Jeanine Tsushiya is our new Governance Specialist. Our first CBR meeting is on September 7, 2013. *by Sheila Black and Roberta Mangca*

News You Can Use

by Yvonne “Linda” Tavares, HSTA-R 1st Vice-President

NEA has nearly 300,000 retired members across the Nation. In the next five years, 52% of NEA active teachers will be eligible to retire. That is a lot of retirees walking into rooms with some purpose in mind, only to completely forget what that purpose was.

At least in Hawaii only 5,288 retirees will enter a room with a thought they had in the previous room to find their brain has prepared a blank slate for the new locale.

Psychologists at the University of Notre Dame have discovered that passing through a doorway triggers what’s known as an event boundary in the mind, separating one set of thoughts and memories from the next. Your brain files away the thoughts you had in the previous room and prepares a blank slate for the new locale. Good to know! It’s not aging; it’s the door! Whew, thank goodness for research studies!

As an NEA retired member you are eligible to participate in some great cost-saving benefits, discount programs, and even travel opportunities just for teachers. Visit neamb.com to start your journey.

Use your HSTA-R membership card to enlist the services of Educator Access, a company that works with vendors nationwide and local to provide much deserved discounts for you. Do it before you pass through a DOOR.

On a serious note, when informing HSTA-R, ERS,EUTF, and VEBA about an active or retired member who has passed away, please give the Age and Date of Death. It will expedite the process to collect any benefits (Example: Life Insurance, etc.) for the surviving beneficiaries.

Hawaii State Teachers Association - Retired

1200 Ala Kapuna Street
Honolulu, HI 96819
Phone: 808-833-2711

The MESSENGER is the quarterly publication of the
Hawaii State Teachers Association - Retired

HSTA-RETIRED OFFICERS

President:	Vaughn Tokashiki
First V. President:	Yvonne (Linda) Tavares
Second V. President:	Jeanne Fukuoka
Secretary:	Glenn Dave Fernandez
Treasurer:	Beverly Gotelli

District News From Around The State

Oahu District

Submitted by Joanne Ing, President

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 begin with our September, "Meet and Greet" event. 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. Members are in our system if you have received HSTA-R information via email. Members may not have received our emails if they have changed their email address since they enrolled. "The Guardian" the Oahu district 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 the 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 833-2711 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 interested, members should 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. We are also seeking volunteers to assist with the packing of goodie bags for the Youth and Children Day Activity in October.

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

Hawaii District

Submitted by Niyati Brown, President

The Executive Board of the Hawaii Council met in August to prep the annual calendar, budget, and list of community events. These will be presented to the whole board in September for approval.

A committee is preparing for a "new retiree" meeting/party to be held in Hilo. We have set a date and are acquiring a site for the event, making goodie bags for new members, and

a getting a speaker that can talk to their interests. Our goal is to get more new retirees onboard with leadership and activities.

We are currently working on having PAR workshops on both sides of the island in conjunction with the suggestions made by Steve Ono and Niyati. We are looking for meeting sites.

We are looking for ways to interact with HSTA Institute Days especially for Pre-Retirement workshops. Arleen Yoshimura attended the committee meeting on O'ahu and is excited about sharing information again this year.

We are updating our membership lists and looking to organize them into zip code areas to do a better job with email blasts that reach out to members.

New committee leaders are being selected with the goal to infuse "new blood" into leadership and spread duties among more members.

We will be having a new webmaster after the passing of Wayne Joseph. We also have a new HARA representative to the council to replace Wayne. Niyati will be the new representative and Steve Ono will be the new HARA vice president to represent our organization.

Maui District

Submitted by Sharmen Graydon, President

Meet and eat seem to be the themes of my activities since our last Board meeting. In June our District Treasurer Debby Takahashi and I along with 5 other members helped at the fundraiser for the Cameron Center and were treated to a very lovely dinner along with the guests. Then Debby and I attended the MEO Planning Council meeting and luncheon.

July began with my meeting with Steve Harman, our current Vice President to outline the duties of the RIC. I'm delighted to report that he accepted the appointment made by President Tokashiki to the Committee. On July 13 Debby and I attended a seminar by the Maui Chapter of AARP on retirement planning. We wanted to see if there were ideas and information sources we might use in our pre-retirement presentations. There were. Further, our next general membership meeting in September will feature the speaker from SAGE PLUS Medicare Counseling Program who presented a very helpful portion of the AARP program.

July continued with our Council meeting on the 25th at which we developed a calendar for the coming year and a budget to support our goals and objectives. The 41st annual Kupuna Aloha luncheon organized by the Planning Council of MEO was on the 27th, three of us attended the event in Lahaina along with over 350 others.

As school opened in late July the new school on Maui, Puu Kukui Elementary, asked HSTA-R through Debby for help as they had leadership development training and got the school ready to receive students. Several of our members helped at that time, then 16 members responded to a general call for help to our membership for help throughout the

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