



President's Message

- Vaughn Tokashiki

Dear Friends,

2014 will soon be just a memory and 2015, with all its promises, is rapidly approaching. The New Year brings some important changes for HSTA-R. HSTA-R is now an incorporated 501 (c) (4) non-profit organization, and, the district and community clubs are now covered under the newly authorized (by the IRS) group exemption.

Did you know that HSTA-R is going to be twenty (20) years old in 2015. That's right, HSTA-R was created in 1995, by retired teachers who were leaders in HSTA. HSTA-R began with about 1,000 retirees and now has grown to almost 5,500 members. What an accomplishment. Thanks to all of you who have contributed to the growth and vitality of HSTA-R.

This year's Delegate Assembly will be organized a little differently than in previous years. A celebration is being planned by the Delegate Assembly Planning Committee that I am sure will be a welcome change for those of you who have attended the Delegate Assemblies in the past. We'll take care of important business and I'm sure everyone who attends will enjoy the festivities.

The campaigns are now over and the HSTA-R Government Relations (GR), Retirement Issues Committee (RIC), Legislative Action Team (LAT), and the Executive Committee will be very busy monitoring the bills that will undoubtedly be introduced when the legislature convenes in January. As usual, we will look very closely at bills that could possibly affect our retirement or/and health benefits. If necessary, we will introduce testimony in support or opposition of proposed legislation.

I hope that you all enjoy the holiday season; Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years. Eat, drink, and party---in moderation. As I tell my friends and family---just because food is on the plate or drink is in the glass---it doesn't mean they have to eat or drink it all up!!

See you in the New Year.

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 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.

Education 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.

2015 Legislative Priorities

The HSTA-Retired Board of Directors unanimously adopted the 2015 Legislative Priorities. The Retirement Issue Committee met on Thursday, November 20, 2014 and worked on the priorities. We have simplified our priorities but have kept Retirement, Health and Education as our main issues.

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Bylaws and Resolutions Committee

Updated copies of the HSTA-R Bylaws and the Digest of Policy Statements and New Business Items, Volume VIII 2002 – 2014 are available. Anyone considering submitting a proposed amendment to the Bylaws, a resolution or a new business item to the 2015 Delegate Assembly should review the two documents as part of the preparation procedure.

Amendments to the Bylaws must follow the procedure in ARTICLE XII Amendments of the current HSTA-R Bylaws.

Four proposed amendments have been reviewed by the HSTA-R Board of Directors for the 2015 Delegate Assembly to consider:

- **Proposed Amendment 15-1** clarifies the voting rights of the four at-large Directors.
- **Proposed Amendment 15-2** clarifies that the HSTAR Standing Committee's members shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors.
- **Proposed Amendment 15-3** is based on the Elections Committee's recommendation to return the election of Alternate Delegates instead of voting by proxy.
- **Proposed Amendment 15-4**, under the Hierarchy of Authority provision in the Bylaws, is an amendment to ARTICLE X-ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES, Section 1 Standing Committee to clarify that three of the committee chairs are HSTA-R's liaison to the comparable HSTA committees.

If you are considering writing proposed resolutions and/or new business items for the 2015 HSTA-R Delegate Assembly on April 24, 2015, please contact your District President for advice and assistance. If necessary, she can refer you to either one of us.

Sally Mangca and Sheila Black

Hawaii State Teachers Association - Retired

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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

2015 Legislative Priorities (Continued)

With the defeat of the Constitutional Amendment on Early Childhood Education we want to be able to be proactive by having discussions with legislators about why Junior K was so vital to our communities. This is just one example. We are sure there will be many more issues coming out this legislative session.

We encourage you to get involved with your District Councils so you can help us when the time comes to lobby our legislators. We have a membership of over five thousand, that's a lot of votes.

I'd like to thank the members of the Retirement Issues Committee and the Board of Directors for their commitment to preserve and maintain our current health and retirement benefits. We are all one upon retirement, and working for the same cause.

Beverly Gotelli

HSTA-R Government Relations - Carol Nitta

Mahalo, retirees for becoming involved/visible and supporting HSTA recommended candidates during the 2014 election campaign. Your support and vote made a difference in the success and vote made a difference in the success of getting the HSTA recommended candidates elected.

The candidates recognized your visibility and commitment. Mahalo for the telephone conversations. Many were encouraging and supportive which made phone banking and campaigning a wonderful experience this election year.

Your HSTA-R leadership team (state officers/district and community club presidents, and committees) continues to plan and work for the benefit of retirees. We're already working on the HSTA-R 2015 legislative priorities for our lobbying efforts in February. Issues like Long Term Care, taxes, health, and education will be addressed.

In January we welcome Wilbert Holck as the incoming HSTA Executive Director, replacing Al Nagasako who is retiring. HSTA Government Relations Specialist, Kendra Ito Mizota, resumed her duties in October.

News You Can Use - Linda Tavares

The preacher came to call the other day. He said that at my age I should be thinking about the "Here After." I told him, "Oh, I do, all the time. No matter where I am, in the parlor, in the kitchen, or down in the basement, I ask myself---what am I here after?"

It is soon tax time. Some of you may need the following information about the amount of dues you paid to HSTA-R in 2014. Members who paid for HSTA-R and NEA-R dues, had monthly deductions of \$6.25 (\$75.00

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District News From Around The State

Kauai District

Submitted by Sandra Gage, President

Kauai Council has participated in many voluntary activities. The Alzheimer Walk, Cops-on-Top, HSTA Teacher's Institute Day, and the Children's Science Show are some of the activities that we volunteer with each year. We also volunteer at the Salvation Army's Kokua Kitchen twice a month.

Kauai HSTA-R donates gift cards to the Department of Human Services and Welfare for Christmas and put many smiles on the faces of preteens/teenagers who otherwise would not have a Merry Christmas.

Each month our board members, on a rotational basis, join with the HSTA for their Executive Board and their Rep Assembly meetings.

This year our first membership meeting was held at Kauai Community College where we enjoyed their fine culinary program, renewed old friendships, and met new members.

Kauai Council's next board meeting will include a discussion of the upcoming legislative session and HSTA-R's legislative priorities. Our legislators will be joining us. It is a good time to talk story with our legislators.

Oahu District

Submitted by Joanne Ing, President

HSTA-R Oahu District began the 2014-15 year with a Meet and Greet at the Waialeale Country Club Restaurant. We invited members who had retired within the last school year to a morning of fun, food, and fellowship. We began the meeting with an ice breaker, followed by a short talk on the history and function of HSTA-R, gave door prizes and provided information on our district activities. The audience then heard from Cynthia Arnold on decluttering. The meeting ended with lunch. A few points from the presentation are:

- Clearing clutter is a safety issue. Clutter causes us to live in unsafe conditions because it presents obstacles to our mobility and impairs visibility.
- Often there are psychological issues relating to loss, which causes an accumulation of things.
- Start small. Think of cleaning out one closet or drawer at a time.

As a result of the successful Meet and Greet, the Oahu district wrote for and received a grant from HSTA-R to subsidize a mid year Meet and Greet.

The October General Membership Meeting was very successful with over 140 members and guests in attendance. The guest speaker from the FBI talked about identity theft and made us aware of the need to be vigilant in keeping our personal information secure. The second speaker,

from HMSA, Pete Clines, spoke on the role of music in health and engaged the audience in a sing-a-long, leaving us all feeling uplifted before lunch.

The Communication focus resulted in having The Guardian emailed to those members who have an email address (about 1700). Those members who do not have email, or prefer a paper copy, receive their newsletter through the US mail. The Oahu District newsletter (The Guardian) is also on the HSTA-R website, so members can also review it there.

The Community Service focus continues to grow and our members are given many opportunities to give back to the community. During the summer, members volunteered to assist the Justice Department in proctoring the Hawaii State Bar Exam. Members also continued their assistance to the Hawaii Pacific Health Organization by working at the Kids Fest and at their quarterly lecture sessions. HSTA-R retirees supported the yearly Children and Youth Day by stuffing over 16,000 bags over a two-week period.

As the calendar year closes and the elections are over, the Oahu District's Government Relations Committee members are looking forward to working with the new administration. Many of us have worked hard to support the political process and are hopeful that retirees will continue to receive promised benefits, and that education for Hawaii's children will thrive.

News You Can Use *(Continued)*

per year). Members, who paid for HSTA-R dues annually and are NEA-R Life Members, had monthly deductions of \$3.75 (\$45.00 per year).

Please don't worry if you lose this newsletter and information. You will be one of the many members who can call the HSTA-R direct line (808-840-2258) to ask how much dues you pay annually.

Perhaps, you know why women over fifty don't have babies---they would put them down somewhere and forget where they left them. And, as for men, they all have photographic memories---but some don't have film.

Recently, you received two important informational booklets---Medicare and You (2015) and a Retiree Benefit Reference Guide from the EUTF (2015). Both contained very important information. If you and/or your spouse are now or soon to be eligible for Medicare, please follow the directions on how to enroll in Medicare Part B and any EUTF retiree medical or prescription drug plan.

Please call Medicare, Social Security, or the EUTF if you have any concerns or questions. The phone numbers are in the booklets.

Just a word of caution---when someone tells you to "get a grip"---apparently, around their neck is not what they meant---Who knew!!

2015 HSTA-R Elections



Wanted:

10 Delegates to HSTA Convention
5 Delegates to NEA-R Annual Meeting and
NEA Representative Assembly



The 2015 HSTA Convention will be held on April 18-19, 2015 at the Hawaii Convention Center. HSTA-R is entitled to 11 delegates, including the HSTA-R President. In this election, the top 10 candidates will become delegates, and the next 10 will be alternates. Air and ground transportation, hotel, and meals for delegates will be provided by HSTA-R.

The NEA-Retired Annual Meeting and NEA Representative Assembly will be held from June 28 to July 6, 2015 in Orlando, Florida. HSTA-R will have six delegates, including the HSTA-R President. In this election the top five (5) candidates will become delegates and the next five (5) will be alternates. Partial funding for expenses will be provided by HSTA-R for member delegates who attend both meetings.

Candidates for delegates to the HSTA Convention must be members of HSTA-R and NEA-R. Candidates for election to the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting and the NEA Representative Assembly must be members of NEA-R.

For more information concerning these elections, contact Haunani Kauahi (808) 536-7831, Sandra Low (808) 395-9039, or Clarice Roby (808) 551-0164.

Elections Timeline

December, 2014	Notification of elections
January 9, 2015	Nominations deadline
January 24, 2015	Ballots mailed
February 17, 2015	Ballots return deadline
February 18, 2015	Ballots counted
February 20, 2015	HSTA-R Board of Directors certifies election report

2015 HSTA-R Nomination Form

Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Member making nomination: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

(Check below the election(s) for which the person is nominated)

HSTA Convention Delegate

NEA-R Annual Meeting and NEA Representative Assembly Delegate

Mail this form to:

HSTA-Retired Elections Committee
1200 Ala Kapuna Street
Honolulu, HI 96819

Nominations must be received in the HSTA office via mail or fax (808) 839-7106 by **4:00 p.m., January 9, 2015.**

Please include a biographical sketch (50 words or less).