

Winter 2017

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The Messenger

Hawaii State Teachers Association - Retired ♦ 1200 Ala Kapuna Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96819 ♦ (808) 840-2258

President's Message

Mele Kalikimaka e Hauoli Makahiki Hou,

I am happy to report that HSTA-R now has a half-time office assistant, Nena Galicha, who also works for VEBA/BPS (Benefit Plan Solutions). Nena is very industrious and is quickly learning how HSTA-R operates. Hers is the friendly voice that you hear when you call the office. Her normal working hours for HSTA-R are Monday to Friday, from 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

We have reached a milestone in terms of membership—over 5,500 retirees in our organization. Not bad for an organization that just started in 1995!! We now can take 12 HSTA-R members to the HSTA Convention in April, and 6 members to the NEA-R Delegate Assembly and the NEA Representative Assembly at the end of June and into the first week of July.

As in past years, HSTA-R monitors the legislature, ERS, and EUTF because we try to make sure that changes that occur are not detrimental to our members. If you receive a call/text/letter from your district or state officers asking for help it is because we need your help, either in support or opposition, to change that can affect all of us.

2018 will also herald a change in State leadership for HSTA-R. You will be voting for a President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Yvonne (Linda) Tavares, Jeanne Fukuoka, Glenn Fernandez, and Beverly Gotelli (respectively) at the 2018 Delegate Assembly in April. The five of us are “termed out” in our present positions.

I have worked on your behalf as the HSTA-R Oahu District President for six years, HSTA-R State 1st Vice President for two years, and HSTA-R State President for the past six years. That makes 14 years in elected office, which sounds like an eternity---but time really zips by when one is enjoying oneself. AND, I have enjoyed myself.

I have been blessed to interact with an Executive Committee that is supremely competent, dedicated, and above all, resourceful. I couldn't have asked for a better team to help me lead the organization. In the past, I have said that Linda, Jeanne, Bev, and especially Glenn were the brains of the organization and they did their best to make me look good.

Your Committee chairs for Membership, Elections, Bylaws and Resolutions, Government Relations, Finance, Communications, and Retirement Issues have worked tirelessly to further the interests of our members. My thanks to Yvonne (Linda) Tavares, Jeanne Fukuoka, Sheila Black, Roberta (Sally) Mangca, Sandy Low, Haunani Kauahi, Clarice Roby, Carol Nitta, Stephen Ono, Beverly Gotelli, Glenn Fernandez, and Justin Wong. HSTA-R would not be the organization it is without their hard work.

I must also thank the many officers and council members of the HSTA-R District and Community Clubs. They are the ones closest to you, our members. They plan and execute the many activities that you have enjoyed.

Soooo, thank you for bearing with me for the past 14 years. And I hope that you will support your incoming officers as much as you have supported us. Merry Christmas!!!

Vaughn Tokashiki, HSTA-R President

2018 Medicare Part B Premium Notices

In November of 2017, Social Security Administration mailed letters to Social Security recipients explaining that Social Security benefits will increase by 2.0% in 2018 because of a rise in the cost of living.

The letter also explains that premiums for Medicare Part B premiums are deducted from recipients' Social Security benefit amount. The standard monthly deduction for the 2018 Medicare Part B premium is \$134. The Social Security Act requires some people to pay higher premiums for their Medicare Part B (medical insurance) based on their income. The letter indicates that the additional income-related monthly adjustment is based on one's 2016 income tax return, if applicable. It is suggested that recipients of the letter from Social Security forward a copy of the letter to the EUTF to verify the premium for Medicare Part B.

The state requires participants in the state's Employer-Union Trust Fund, who are eligible for Medicare, to participate in the Medicare Part B. The state in turn reimburses participants for their Medicare Part B premiums. Participants are reimbursed in quarterly payments by the state.

Justin Wong



Finance Committee

Can you imagine that in another month we will be welcoming in a new year? How quickly time flies when you are keeping busy like the Finance Committee.

One of the fiduciary duties of the Finance Committee is to work on the budget for the upcoming year. The 2017-18 Budget is currently on our HSTA-Retired website.

We will be asking all Districts/Community Clubs to give us input before we meet on January 11, 2018. The Committee works on the budget based on expenditures from the current and last year. We also look at what our projected revenue may be.

We encourage all members if you have a question or concern about our budget to please let us know. You can leave an email message at hstare-tired12@gmail.com or 808-840-2258.

The Committee is also working on policies to streamline our role as we move forward. We are appointed for one year and we may not be appointed for the next year. We want to have policies in place for whoever is appointed to the Finance Committee for fiscal year 2018-2019.

Thank you for all of your support and participation. Have a Happy Holiday.

Beverly Gotelli, HSTA-R Treasurer

Retirement Issues Committee

The Retirement Issues Committee adopted the 2018 Legislative Priorities which will be presented to the Board of Directors for adoption. It's important to remember that the priorities are broad and not specific because as legislation comes up we need to have the flexibility to address retiree concerns.

The Committee feels proud of legislation that was introduced that will soon become a reality for members who are paying a portion of their medical premium. The EUTF and ERS will add another option for retirees' health benefit with deductions from a retiree's ERS pension payments. Currently, members may have the payment made through a credit card or electronic transfers from their personal bank checking account. Both of these options come with a fee.

We are happy to say that the newest option is something that the RIC (HSTA-R Retirement Issues Committee) pushed for. Please read the

Holomua for more information.

I'd like to thank the committee members who have worked hard to monitor legislation, write testimony and lobby legislators.

The Retirement Issues Committee joins me in wishing all of you a Happy Holiday.

Beverly Gotelli

HSTA-R Bylaws & Resolutions (BR) Committee Report

HSTA-R BR

We have received Proposed Amendment 18-1 for the Delegate Assembly. It will "formalize Resolution passed during the 2017 HSTA-R Delegate Assembly on limiting the number of consecutive terms members may serve as NEA and HSTA delegates". We also received Proposed Resolution 18-1 and Proposed NBI 18-1, Retiree Pay and Benefits.

Lanai and West Hawaii Community Clubs' bylaws have been submitted for approval at the November 15, 2017 Board of Directors' meeting. Kauai's and Oahu's bylaws were approved at the Board of Directors' meeting on August 22, 2017.

For the November 15, 2017 Board of Directors' meeting, we have submitted the amended Guidelines for Bylaws and Resolution (BR) Committee.

HSTA CBR

We met on September 23, 2017 and were given our assignments for the Digest review. We will next meet on January 27, 2018 at which time we will review the on time proposals that have been received. Late proposals will not be accepted. Convention this year is a one-day event on April 7, 2018.

Sheila Black and Roberta Mangca

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The **MESSENGER** is the quarterly publication of the
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Editor, Justin Wong

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

We begin each August with a Meet and Greet. This activity has proven to be very successful in connecting new members with the organization and their fellow retired teachers. This year we invited speakers from the Hawai'i Employees Retirement System(ERS), Hawai'i Employer- Union Trust Health Benefits Fund (EUTF) and Voluntary Employees Beneficiary Association (VEBA) who informed our members about their services. Participants went away feeling more confident about who to contact regarding a possible problem, and less mystified about what to do with future correspondence. Our March 12, 2018, Meet and Greet is designed for December retirees and members who enjoy a meeting on the Windward side.

To address our focus on enrichment, we have planned two activities meetings. The first will be a cooking activity in November, and the second will be a field trip to Ford Island in April. By the time you receive this newsletter our cooking activity will be over, but be on the lookout for information on our April 6, 2018 excursion. Our past craft and travel sessions have been well attended so the council continues to present these **free** and fun sessions for those members who don't normally come to our large membership meetings.

Our last two General Membership meetings will be first at the Hawaii Okinawa Center, and the second on February 26, 2018 at the Waiialae Country Club. The February meeting is important because you will be electing your four Oahu district officers and four council members. More information will be forthcoming in the January "Guardian."

Our community service outreach continues through our involvement with Hawaii Pacific Health, Pacific Rim Disabilities Conference, Hawaii Bar Association, Furry Friends, Children and Youth Day, and the Arthritis Foundation.

Our new project is the creation of a Facebook account. Thanks to Tom Aitken, pictures and information are posted on this site. I personally don't use social media so I am learning how to better use this tool to communicate with our members. Specific directions will be given in our next "Guardian" issue.

Looking forward to an exciting year. Please join us as we connect with each other and move forward in retirement.

Joanne Ing

Kauai District

Grove Farm Homestead Museum was our first trip. Re-membering Kauai's past was a day of memories and of another time.

Attending our Elder Law Fair allowed our members to learn new Estate Planning laws, Consumer Interests, and Safe Home-Slip/Fall hazards. Many of our speakers this year will be talking about how to make our senior years more enjoyable.

The Legislature will be in session soon. Presentations were offered on how to make your voice heard at the state capitol.

We are planning speakers for the January meeting, the Meet and Greet in March, and a trip for April.

Sandra Gage

Maui District

Our General Membership meeting on October 19 was very successful. We met in a new location, the Kahului Jodo Mission, with thanks to Nelson Chung. Our business meeting was followed by a presentation by Brenda Shiroma of VEBA. She is also with Benefit Plan Solutions (BPS) which now provides administrative services to HSTA-R, may duties which Justin Wong used to do as a volunteer. Brenda took questions following her presentation, which was very helpful to members who had come to get information regarding VEBA.

The 44th Annual Maui County Senior Citizens Health Fair took place on Saturday, October 28 at the War Memorial Gym. Once again HSTA-R had a table provided by the Planning and Coordinating Council of which we are a member. We joined forces with Lance Rae, of WalkWise Hawaii to raise awareness of pedestrian safety by offering lighted badges or reflective arm-bands to attendees as a reward for taking the pledge to follow safety steps when crossing the street. Eight of our members volunteered to help, their willingness is greatly appreciated.

Our District Council meeting took place on Thursday, Nov. 8th when we finalized plans for the December General Membership, which is our now traditional Christmas luncheon. Steve Harman chaired that meeting as I was unable to attend.

Sharmen Graydon

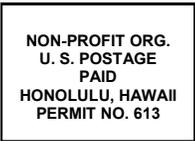
HSTA-R Molokai Community Club

Our first Council meeting was held on October 10, 2017. We made plans for our upcoming Fall General Membership meeting. We also approved our goals and budget. We discussed our submitted grant and spring election of a Council Representative (two years),

The General Membership Meeting was held on November 8, 2017 at Corene Helm's farm. The members enjoyed visiting her farm. Our club provided lunch and Corene prepared items from her farm (tea, bananas, breadfruit) and cornbread. She also gave members several samples of her tea.

Between the General Membership meeting and the touring of the farm, we had a short Council meeting to approve the amended budget as we had received our grant. As of now the insulated bags have been distributed to our members. The remaining bags will be given to new members.

Roberta Mangca



2018 HSTA-R Delegate Elections



Wanted:

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



The 2018 HSTA Convention will be held on April 7, 2018 at the Hawaii Convention Center. HSTA-R is entitled to 12 delegates, including the HSTA-R President. In this election, the top 11 candidates will become delegates, and the next 11 will be successor delegates. Air and ground transportation, and meals for delegates will be provided by HSTA-R.

The NEA-Retired Annual Meeting and the NEA Representative Assembly will be held from June 27 to July 5, 2018 in Minneapolis, MN. 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 successor delegates. Partial funding for expenses will be provided to HSTA-R 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) 255-7291, or Clarice Roby (808) 551-0164.

Elections Timeline

December, 2017	Notification of elections
January 8, 2018	Nominations deadline
January 25, 2018	Ballots mailed
February 14, 2018	Ballots return deadline
February 15, 2018	Ballots counted
March 1, 2018	HSTA-R Board of Directors certifies election results

2018 HSTA-R Nomination Form

Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Member making nomination: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

I have the nominee's permission.

Signature _____
Date

(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 not later than **4:00 p.m., January 8, 2018.**

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