



The Bulletin Board

June 2011

Newsletter of the Hawai'i Region of Y Service Clubs International

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Hawai'i Region Clubs:

Metro District:
Central, Kaimuki, Kalihi,
Nu'uaniu, West O'ahu,
Windward

OVG District:
Maui, East Kaua'i, Hilo

Leadership Team:

RD: Russ Lynch
RDE Sharon Ishida
Regional Sec./Treas.:
Bob Kuwahara

Club Presidents:

Central: Garret Ho
East Kauai: Robert Sims
Hilo: Lance Niimi
Kaimuki: Keahi Kaawa
Kalihi: Jaunette Quiroz
Maui: Donna Jones
Nu'uaniu: Maurice
Shimonishi
West O'ahu: Walter Osakoda
Windward: Joe-Ann
McCarthy

Important Links:

Hawaii Region Website
<http://ysmenhawaii.org>

U.S. Area:
<http://www.ysmenusa.com>

International:
<http://www.ysmen.org>

Viva Las Vegas! Venue Chosen for 2012

Las Vegas will be the location of the 76th Annual Hawaii Region Convention of Y Service Clubs International, following an overwhelming vote for that venue at the 75th Anniversary Convention held in Hilo May 19-22.

The date has not yet been set, except to decide that the timing will be chosen carefully so as not to conflict with any of the school graduations that take place in Hawaii around what has been our mid- to late-May convention date in the past.

Cost will be a factor, although for some members in Hawaii air, accommodations and meals packages apparently can work out not too much different from the total price of visiting another island for the several days of the convention.

Duke Chung (West Oahu) has agreed to serve once again as Convention Chairman, accepted with applause at the Saturday business session in Hilo. Duke warned that it is likely that a regional assessment will be needed to get all members to cover some of the costs, as expenses for Regional officers to attend, usually paid by the Region, will likely push costs over the income that the convention will generate. Such an assessment has been routine in the past.

That is just one of many details that have to be worked out and a Convention Committee will soon be up and running to work on them. The Hawaii Region had an annual convention in Vegas in 2004 and it seems the experience left enough positive feelings for the members to want to go there again.

Among other actions in the 2011 convention was the election of **Sharon Ishida** (Kaimuki), left, to be Regional Director Elect for 2011-2012. A long-serving Y's



Woman, Sharon has held many positions at the club, district and Regional levels. She has served most recently as Y Service Clubs U.S. Area Service Director for Youth Activities, which has put her in close touch with our organization's national leaders. The nomination committee's candidate for RDE, Maui President **Donna Jones**, was praised at our convention for her abilities and her willingness to serve, by U.S. Area President **Phil Sammer** and others, but the vote went to Sharon, who was nominated from the floor. Traditionally, the RDE becomes Regional Director the following year. Sharon is expected

to attend RDE training in Minneapolis in November. She's digging out her cold weather gear.

Important Dates

JUNE FOCUS - Public Relations

RSD Donna Saito (Windward)

JULY FOCUS - Membership, Conservation & Extension

RSDs Duke Chung (West Oahu) & Steve Wong (Nuuanu)

JULY 5-6, U.S. Area Council Meeting

St. Louis, Missouri

JULY 7-10, Thursday-Sunday - U.S. Area Convention

Missouri Athletic Club, St. Louis, Missouri

AUGUST FOCUS - Community Service

RSD: Dan Takamatsu (Kalihi)



Regional Director's Corner by Russ Lynch, RD 2010-2012

Service with Spirit

What a great convention that was. I spent four days in Hilo, arriving Thursday May 19 and staying all the way through until Sunday evening and really enjoyed the town and its people as well as the very well organized convention. My thanks to the many volunteers and those who donated prizes and auction items. You truly made our 75th Anniversary convention "Something Extraordinary."

Convention Chairman **Duke Chung** has written his own article about the event and you can read it in this issue, starting below this, so I won't go on about it here. We'll be having a follow-up convention committee meeting in a few weeks to go over how things went and

look for ways to improve this annual event.

Meanwhile I am looking forward to attending the U.S. Area Council meeting and the U.S. Area Convention, the first one since 2007, in St. Louis in early July. We all had a chance at our own convention to meet one of the organizers from St. Louis, Bob Daniels, and he made it clear there is still time to register and go. See our website for details on how to do that. There's going to be a Youth Convocation in conjunction with the Area meetings and it would be truly great if we could get at least one of our youth members to go.

My thanks go out to all the Regional officers, service directors, and especially Regional Counselors — those who have served as Regional Director in the past — for your help and support through my first year as RD. I am looking forward to a productive second year.

Aloha, Russ

Hard Work by All Gave 2011 Convention a Big "Wow! Factor

By Duke Chung, Convention Chairman

"Wow!" describes this Convention, which truly lived up to its theme of "Something Extraordinary." The Hilo Hawaiian Hotel on Hilo Bay was a beautiful setting for our Convention and the commitment and dedication of the members of the Hilo Club was remarkable led by **Lance Niimi** and **Bobby Stivers-Apiki**.

The Convention began Friday, May 20th with many participants boarding planes very early in Kauai, Honolulu and Maui for the trip to Hilo in order to participate in the golf tournament and tours to the Volcano, World Botanical Garden, Tsunami Museum and Imloa Astronomy Center. This was followed by a great dinner at the Japanese Cultural Center and a presentation of the history and impact of Japanese Immigration to the Big Island of Hawaii and the many contributions of these immigrants including the invention of the scrumptious but somewhat caloric heavy "Loco Moco."

Saturday was partly cloudy and rainy but fortunately most of the activities except for Hilo town tours in the afternoon were indoors. The day started with breakfast at the Queens Court restaurant followed by our business meeting that resulted in election of **Sharon Ishida** as our Regional Director elect; the decision to have our 76th Regional Convention in Las Vegas; and to donate a portion of Convention net proceeds for

the US Area Japan relief fund. Our luncheon was highlighted by a very upbeat speech by Hawaii Mayor **Billy Kenoi** regarding the need for all of us to recognize the oneness of Hawaii...overlooking social and ethnic barriers to become a truly cosmopolitan society.

This was followed by craft sessions of nose flute making by **Lance Niimi** and quilting by **Joni Neel** then shopping trips thru Hilo town's shopping centers and chip/cookie factories.

The Y's Guys and Gals were a bit more aggressive than usual but the funds as noted above will be used for a good cause.

Our special diamond jewelry raffle, organized by **Bill Stone**, in line with our 75th Diamond anniversary also resulted in a significant net dollar amount, as well as funds from the regular raffle and auction run by **Trevor Jones**.

The Saturday awards dinner was highlighted by the induction of two new Hilo members, **Fred Yamashiro**, CEO of the Island of Hawaii YMCA and **John Putz**, formerly a Windward Club member and the induction of regional officers.

Club awards were also presented with the Club of the Year being **Nuuanu** and the President of the Year was fittingly **Lance Niimi** of Hilo. The Milton Hakoda Trident Award went to **Ethel Takamatsu** of Kalihi.

(Continued on Page 3)

With Our Help, the Y's Annual Campaign was a Great Success

All six of the Y Service Clubs on Oahu participated strongly in this year's Annual Support Campaign, raising money for the YMCA of Honolulu, which runs the nine Y branches on the island. The majority of the money, as usual, came from outside donations successfully solicited by the board members of the Y and their friends, but our clubs pitched in mightily too and the result was a better than expected campaign, raising nearly a million dollars to help the Y provide services to those who need them but can't afford the fees.

As usual our members made their own significant donations as well as getting lots of pledges from friends and other contacts. Here's what **Mike Broderick**, president and chief executive officer of the YMCA, had to say about the campaign in a letter to board members, Y staffers and campaign volunteers, calling the 2011 "Strong Communities" campaign "A Year of Firsts" :

Aloha Metro and Branch Board Members, Staff & Campaign volunteers,

I have some exciting news to share. The YMCA of Honolulu has exceeded its Annual Support Campaign (ASC) goal by over \$50,000. As of today (May 13), you have raised \$960,000, or 105 percent of our goal. This would not have happened without your dedicated work-- together, you, our 700 campaign volunteers -- solicited over 8,000 gifts!

This has been a year of many firsts for the Y's ASC. Let me share a few of them with you: For the first time in over five years, the Association met its ASC goal before the end of the campaign. For the first time in over five years, the Metro office also met its goal. Finally, and most important, for the first time in as long as anyone can remember (and the Y has employees that have been here over 30 years), all nine branches and the Metro office exceeded their 2011 Strong Communities Annual Support Campaign goals, making this a victory for all of us. This has been an exceptional campaign for the Y. Most thrilling is the realization that now we will be able to help many more families benefit from our critical programs and services. Thank you again for your hard work, persistence and belief that together we can accomplish great things for our community. *Mahalo, Michael Broderick*



Mike Broderick

Convention was a "Wow!"

(Continued from Page 2)

This was followed followed by former Big island legislator **Harvey Tajiri** who spoke about putting the "C" back in the YMCA noting that the history and makeup of our nation has many parallels in Christian beliefs and principles.

The Sunday devotional was preceded by some lively and inspirational music by a renowned violinist **Tony Selvage** this was followed by **Harry Kim**, former Big Island Mayor who spoke about the importance of world peace and the consequences/sobering outlook if this is not achieved. The conclusion of the devotional was a moving power point presentation by **Jesse Castro** of East Kauai with photos of our friends and former members of the Hawaii Region who have passed away...

Officers' training followed the devotional with **Tom Goya** speaking on the importance of volunteerism in our society and trainers RDE **Sharon Ishida**, **Bobby Stivers-Apiki**, **Rick Lau**, and **Linda Chung** giving a lively power-point presentation and discussion on leadership concepts and the duties and responsibilities of club officers. **Paul Kuromoto** designed the power-point program and **Brad Ishida** made the CDs for clubs and provided the technical assistance for the presentation.

We concluded activities with a delicious brunch and lively bingo games with cash prizes followed by a

nice circle of friendship to end the day and a great Convention.

There were several donations by Y's Men and Women to the Region via this Convention. They not only planned and participated but they also decided to make donations directly or declined to submit requests for reimbursement of expenses. Based on what I know some of these are:

Phil Sammer, Area President
Russ Lynch, Regional Director
Fred Yamashiro, CEO Hilo YMCA
Sharon RDE and **Brad Ishida**, Kaimuki Club
Bobby Stivers-Apiki & Lance Niimi, Hilo Club
Robert Kuwahara, West Oahu
Pat Hakoda in memory of **Milton Hakoda**

Additionally it is recognized that everyone who donated raffle and door prizes also made contributions to this Convention.

I am sure there are several others that I do not know about because it is typical of Y's Men and Women to help without seeking recognition or acknowledgment.

Again our Mahalo to everyone who helped to make this convention a success and especially to the Hilo Club for their hospitality...a beautiful setting...good food...nice people and a very full program of activities and excellent speakers.

— Duke

Club Corner: Club and Member News from Around the Region



Central members help at a game booth at YMCA Healthy Kids Day April 16. That's Rick Lau sitting down, ready to stretch his back picking up game pieces.



Kalihi's Dan Nakamatsu carefully levels sand before laying bricks in a service project to build a walkway at Phil Chun's house.



Nuuanu's Kathy Ahlo and President Maurice Shimonishi work at a produce stand at YMCA Healthy Kids Day.

Central Y Service Club

Central members put in a long day of volunteer work at the YMCA of Honolulu's Healthy Kids Day, which attracted 5,000 people to the Bishop Museum grounds on April 16. **Darryl Tupinio** and **Jimmy Ishimoto** worked at the Metro District Y Service Clubs' shave ice booth, while **Roy Tateishi** and **Rick Lau** put in service at a game booth. Neither could straighten his back after repeatedly bending over to pick up game pieces for the 500 kids who stopped at the booth.

East Kauai Y's Men's Club

The club has kept busy with a number of projects such as painting at YMCA Camp Naue, helping direct people getting flu shots at Kalaheo Elementary, assisting with general maintenance at Lydgate Park and assisting with the YMCA Youth Run. In February, the club had a social at which historical items and photos from various members were catalogued. This was a step towards setting up a four-drawer filing cabinet in the YMCA to house our club's historical items, documents and other memorabilia.

Hilo Y's Men & Women Service Club

Hilo kept to its program of two meetings a month, one for business and the other a social occasion with a guest speaker. That has resulted in a number of interesting speakers entertaining and informing members. Just a couple of examples were **Auntie Lucille Chung**, Kupuna and Community Building Facilitator at the Queen Liliuokalani Children Center, talking about her work with Hawaiian children, and **Harvey Tajiri**, chair of the YMCA Program Committee, about his passion for gardening. Harvey introduced gardening, cooking and auto dealing programs for teens at the Y.

Kaimuki Y's Men's Club

Kaimuki has had a good year creating new directions while reinforcing long-standing Y Service Club values. One significant event was establishing a new International Brother Club relationship with the Tokyo Ginza Club. Fund-raisers included helping the local Y branch raise more than \$17,000 for its Annual Support Campaign and a very successful Krispy Kreme Donut sale. Most rewarding were adopting a worthy family for the holidays, joining the Kaimuki Y Teens in carol singing and a Bingo Night at Lunalilo Home.

Kalihi Y Service Club

Kalihi members turned out May 7 to help build a brick walkway at the home of member **Phil Chun**.

The work crew of “master bricklayer” **Dan Takamatsu, Wayne Kim, Dick Wong, Eddie Miwa and Bev Wong** built the 40-foot-long, three-foot-wide path in one day, thanks to excavation work by Phil over the previous couple of weeks. In other activities, the club sponsored a Casino Night March 19 which raised \$1,300 for the Kalihi YMCA’s Annual Support Campaign.

Maui Y Service Club

The Maui Club’s program is always difficult, having only five members, and activities slowed down in recent months as members had conflicts and their jobs had to take priority. Nevertheless, during the past year the club managed to do six Blood Drive donations, four Community Work Day service events, dinners for homeless shelter residents on three occasions and the important three-day Kids to Camp event. During the county fair the club managed the YMCA lot, assisting with member parking, policing the anti-tailgating rule and other activities.

Nuuanu Y’s Men’s and Women’s Club

Nuuanu once again had a successful sale at the Y of used books and fresh cinnamon bread on April 2, well-attended as always. Nuuanu also had a strong presence at the YMCA Healthy Kids Day April 16, with members volunteering at a produce booth and in the Metro District’s shave ice stand. The club is looking forward to “Nuuanu’s Got Talent” - on June 10, members will get together to prepare gift bags for seniors and enjoy live entertainment by members. There’ll be Japanese “enka” songs, classical piano music, popular songs and ukulele and guitar.

West Oahu Y’s Men’s Club

Maintaining its active involvement with members of Y Service Clubs in Japan, which has included a number of reciprocal visits, West Oahu will have a small group visiting Kyoto June 11-12 for the Japan West



Windward’s Japan member Sam Shoji (left) and his fellow Osaka Senboku member Makoto Iinuma chat to Karel Ling and Donna Saito at a farewell dinner after the Regional Convention.

Region Convention. The club anticipates signing an International Brother Club agreement with the Kyoto Prince Y’s Men, whose members will escort the group to various places around Kyoto. Last year a West Oahu group attended the Japan West Region Convention.

Windward: “Windward Y’er”

Members of the Windward Y Service Club had a pleasant evening at Pah Ke’s Chinese Restaurant in Kaneohe May 24 for the dual purpose of saying hello to visiting mainland member Don Scott and to say goodbye to two visitors from Brother Club Osaka Senboku in Japan. Sam Shoji, who is also a Windward member, and his friend Makoto Iinuma were spending their last night in Hawaii after attending the Hawaii Region Convention. With typical generosity, the Japanese Visitors made sure everyone had a gift to take home.

Nose Flute Tryout

A highlight for some attendees at the 75th Hawaii Region Convention in Hilo was Lance Niimi’s class on the *ohe hano ihu*, the Hawaiian nose flute. Lance had participants sand and oil their chosen flutes and then learn to play them. Some couldn’t get a sound, some could and Phil Sammer was later able to play a short composition of his own for the convention audience. A few managed to get together and play, for the awards dinner crowd, a short flute chant Lance taught them. Here Nuuanu’s Maurice Shimonishi gives it a try, watched by Windward’s Jim Kanehira, left, and Japanese Y’s Men Sam Shoji and Makoto Iinuma. Those who couldn’t make it work were encouraged to persevere and they took their flutes home with that in mind.



**Hawai'i Region
Y Service Clubs
International
US Area
"The Bulletin Board"**

Russ Lynch
Editor

PHONE:
808-261-2126

MOBILE:
808-226-7189

E-MAIL:
russlynch@mac.com

Some Y's Words:

"What lies behind us and
what lies before us are tiny
matters compared to what
lies within us."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

*To acknowledge the duty
that accompanies every
right.*

We're on the Web!

See us at:
<http://ysmenhawaii.org>

Japan Relief Campaign

Just six days after the March 12 earthquake and tsunami caused massive destruction and loss of life in Japan, Y Service Clubs International launched a relief contribution campaign called "Gambare Nippon." Financial and physical aid is being poured into the stricken area of North-eastern Japan through the local Y Service Clubs and the YMCAs in the area.

"Gambare" means "don't give up, stand up" and the Japanese Y's Men are doing just that. They even went ahead with formal ceremonies on March 21 to launch a new club, Sendai Hirosegawa, at the Sendai YMCA in the devastated area.

God Forgives, and Renewing the "C" in YMCA

By Lanny Neel

Hawaii Region Service Director for Christian Emphasis

Living in the Upper Midwest for 22 years gives one ample time to know what cold means. But does cold really exist? A physicist would say "No". Cold is simply the absence of heat. It is the motion of the molecules and atoms of a substance that determines how warm that substance is. If all of the molecules of a substance were completely still (something that actually cannot happen), then its temperature would equal absolute zero. An air temperature of about 79 degrees F is about 299 degrees on the Kelvin scale, and 25.5 on the Celsius scale. Molten lava by comparison is around 2,500 F or about 1,400 C. Something feels warm to us if there is more molecular motion in that substance than there is in our body/hand, and feels cool or cold if there is less molecular motion in that substance than in our body/hand.

Similar thinking leads to the conclusion that "dark" does not exist, but is simply the absence of light. Light does exist, and consists of infinitesimally small packets of energy, called photons.

One of the biblical concepts of God (John 1:1-9) is that he is like the light that dispels the darkness. In the beginning God said, "Let there be light". In other words, He created light, not darkness. God created all things, and upon finishing His work, declared that it was good (Genesis, Chapter 1). Therefore it follows that God did not create "Evil", because God is inherently good. Thus we can define "Evil" as the absence of good, or absence of God.

It is written (Romans 8:28) that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him. (Love God—Why??—see Romans 5:8). God loves us so much that He sent Christ to die for our sins while we (humanity) were still unforgivable sinners and very much wants us to accept His forgiveness for our wrong-doings (sin) by accepting the atoning work of Christ on the Cross as payment for that sin. We know that Christ died on a cross and was buried, and we have the wonderful news that He rose from the dead and is alive in heaven with God today and forever. We recently celebrated the fact of His resurrection with the observance of Easter, and we do so every year.) We get into problems with "things" when we CHOOSE to use them in ways that are not good (= harmful). This can be equated to sin.

Unfortunately it is human nature to misuse things and to thereby separate ourselves from goodness (God), and so all of us are guilty of sin at one time or another in our lives. Fortunately we can (and need to) ask God to forgive us our sins, in the name of Christ.

The YMCA was founded on the belief that people need to hear and learn about the work of Christ. The C in our name is what distinguishes us from a physical fitness club, or a child care agency or just another social organization (not to mention that it also helps to give us protected tax status).

Unfortunately our nation has become obsessed with being politically correct to the point that we are being forced to publicly deny the basic Judeo-Christian beliefs upon which our forefathers founded this nation, and we consequently are losing our national sense of morality.

It is up to people and organizations like us to see to it that the C is not forgotten, despite the fact that the national YMCA Board of Directors has chosen to drop that from our own official name.

We can still teach those values through our example, and we need to not be ashamed of letting people know from Whom those values originate. We can spread God's light into the darkness and let it lead our nation back towards the light. Remember, we have been endowed BY OUR CREATOR with certain inalienable rights, and these are not from the government, despite what our politicians might want us to believe!

(This article had to be trimmed for space reasons. You can read the whole piece on our website, <http://ysmenhawaii.org>)