



Ka Ho'olaha

Kanisehua

"...To acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right..."

:: | :: President's Message :: | ::

**Highlights and Commentary on the
81st Hawai'i Region Convention on Kaua'i**

(Warning: this is not a boring minute-by-minute recap of everything. Hopefully, this will get you interested in attending next year's convention.)

Traveling to Kaua'i from Hilo took a while, with stopover and connecting flight. It made me wonder whether the convention, and trip, would be worth it. (Yes, it was worth it.) ... I had not been to Kauai since before the big hurricane so I wondered what it would be like. Happily, it seemed to be like I remembered it. Regrowth and repairs covered over any indications of disaster. And not many new overdeveloped parts.

Chickens, I was warned about chickens. Wild chickens all over Lihu'e; people's front yards, business premises, roadsides, Walmart parking lot, etc. I heard many got loose during the hurricane, so these must be their descendants. I think I saw one in front of KFC!

Friday was golf tournament day and shopping day for many. However, Hilo members were very diligent; after a nice lunch at the barbecue restaurant, we picked up leis and prepared for convention business. Hilo members helped with registration of convention delegates, welcoming them and providing convention booklets and assorted goodies. It was nice to meet Y's members from Kaua'i, Oahu, Japan, and elsewhere.

Friday night was a short bus ride to Wailua River for the Smith's Family Garden Lū'au. Lots of peacocks, well-trained like fashion models, posing for photos. Tram ride with commentary about Hawai'i-related trees, flowers, food plants, and more. Uncovering of an imu with the pork for the lū'au. Lots of lū'au music, hulas, and yummy food. A short walk to a nearby amphitheater for a pageant of Polynesian and local Hawai'i culture - Filipino, Japanese, etc. --- This jam-packed evening was topped with a ride back to the hotel for informal fellowship in the hospitality suite with goodies from different islands.

Saturday morning was the first Business Session, including breaks, where some fun prize drawings were held. Prizes included meals at restaurants, gifts, lovely photos, and more. The second Business Session was during late morning, up to lunch. The Business Sessions covered: committee reports, By-Laws revisions, program modifications, report on the Peace Project, upcoming national and international events, and revisions to Awards Programs.

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JUNE 2017

KEN OKIMOTO
PRESIDENT

JUNE NIIMI
SECRETARY

LANCE NIIMI
TREASURER

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Calendar

June (June)

- 14 Hero Award Dinner
- 18 June's Birthday
- 21 Lance's Birthday
- 24 Brother Club Dinner
- 28 Y's Program Meeting

Christian Emphasis

"Don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring enough worries of its own."

– Matthew 6:34

... | The Tradition of Bird Catching on Hawai'i Island | ...



The Hilo Y's Men & Women's Club was fortunate to have a special guest give a presentation at our monthly program meeting on 24 May 2017. Noah Gomes recently graduated with his M.A. in Hawaiian Language and Literature from UH Hilo and the topic of his lecture was an introduction to his thesis work. Mahalo e Noah no kēia ha'i 'ōlelo hoihoi.

Traven's Report

As humpback whales reach their annual summer feeding grounds in Alaska, so to is Traven as he heads to Homer, AK for his seasonal job as a sea kayaking guide. The seasonal work is picking up fast as he guides guests through the nutrient rich waters of Kachemak Bay. Kachemak Bay is a pristine estuarine environment that marks a border between the northern boreal forests and a temperate coastal rainforest. This unique area is where guests from around the world come to visit and experience what wilderness truly means. Each day, Traven takes guests kayaking through the cold waters teeming with marine mammals. "Every day offers a new opportunity for visitors, from whales and sea lions, to porpoise, seals and sea otters. We're lucky enough to be able to experience it all in this small area." Traven's time in Alaska is short lived each summer as he only stays a few months, however, he makes the most of it through his passion for the environment and public education. "I use kayaking as a tool to teach each and every person I take out in the hopes that my passion might ignite a spark in them and encourage them to get outside and engage in the environment in some way," he states. His work in Alaska will continue through to the middle of August before he makes his return back to Hilo.

2017 Hawai'i Region Convention



2017 Hawai'i Region Convention

AWARDS

Maurice Shimonishia

Outstanding Club President
of the Year 2016-2017

Windward Y Service Club

Club Service of the Year
Large Clubs 2016-2017

Central Y Service Club

Club Service of the Year
Small Clubs 2016-2017

Additional Recognition

Hilo Y's Men & Women's Club

Outstanding Service

Community | International

Distinguished Service

YMCA | Membership

Kaimuki Y Service Club

Distinguished Service

Membership | International | Community
Image & Communication

Kalihi Y Service Club

Distinguished Service

International | Membership | Community
YMCA

Nu'uano Y's Men & Women's Club

Outstanding Service

Community

Distinguished Service

Membership | YMCA | International

West O'ahu Y's Men's Club

Distinguished Service

Membership | Community | International
YMCA

President's Message

(Continued from Front Page)

The luncheon program honored the East Kaua'i Y's Men Club for 67 years of service. It honored Charter Member Nato Mikasa and remembered the passing of Jiro Yukimura. Some of the longtime Kauai folks were there to enjoy the historic program. Honored guests included: Mayor Bernard Carvalho, Councilmember JoAnn Yukimura (longtime Y's supporter), and Tibor Foki, the President-Elect for Y Service Clubs U.S. Area (our national President, visiting from the mainland). Stories about World War II and how it influenced the early Kaua'i leaders in their involvement in YMCA and Y's Men was quite inspiring.

The early afternoon program had a fast-paced workshop on understanding the differences in the younger generations, such as Baby Boomers versus Millennials. It was presented by Keola Taniguchi, Leadership Service Director and Exec. Director of Mililani Family YMCA. (For example, Which one of the following celebrities is a Gen Xer? Jennifer Lawrence, Chris Rock, Kendall Jenner, Michelle Obama) --- Past Regional (statewide) Directors Sharon Ishida and Bobby Stivers-ʻĀpiki explained how to use the New Member Orientation Program to help clubs acquaint new members with club history, tradition, and practices. --- The later afternoon was FREE TIME so the Y's Men went berserk; such as shopping or taking naps.

The evening program involved a solemn installation of incoming officers, an inspiring induction of new members, and a festive presentation of awards. In addition to those awards listed to the left, our Hilo club was also honored with the Trident Award (Ken).

Keynote Speaker was Pres.-Elect Tibor Foki, who recognized the outstanding work being done in Hawai'i and encouraged participation in the national and international events and projects.

The evening ended again with more fun fellowship in the hospitality suite; and presenting of more prizes.

Sunday morning was a buffet breakfast with custom made omelettes. The Sunday Devotion and Celebration of Life honored the memories of Y's members who have passed, including Hilo's Putty Clark and Lily Inouye. The offering collected was presented to the YMCA's Youth and Government Program. --- The final prize drawings included overnight stays at Ilima Hotel in Waikiki and a bed and breakfast in Windward O'ahu; as well as generous cash prizes.

The Hilo Club members then decided to be tourists and went sightseeing in West Kaua'i to the Russian Fort; then picked up the necessary omiyage treats to bring back. Thus ended an inspiring and memorable weekend with old friends, new friends, good food, fun entertainment, important business accomplishments, and inspiration for the future. --- (Sorry, this did turn into a minute-by-minute recap.)

— Ken Okimoto, Club President

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



In the June issue of *Joan Wilson, Y Service International President*, “IP e-News 2016-17”, she reminded us of an old saying: “**LIVE FOR TODAY.** It is only in doing something good and useful today that we can help others. **LEARN FROM YESTERDAY.**

This is the perfect time to look back on the plans made for this year as well as the long-range goals, regardless of the level in our movement. **DREAM FOR TOMORROW.** As we end one YMI (Y’s Men International) year and prepare for the next one, now is the time to refine and adapt our goals to better meet unexpected changes and directions”.

U.S. Area NEWS



Hawai’i Region Y Service Clubs goes to Vegas to attend the 2017 Y’s Men International Joint US/Canada/Caribbean Area Convention. Representing the Aloha State August 4-7, will be **Eddie Miwa, Regional Director; Duke Chung, Regional Secretary/Treasurer, Regional Counselors Ray Seto, Kaimuki Y Service Club; Rick Lau, Central Y Service Club and Bobby Stivers-‘Apiki, Hilo Y’s Men & Women’s Club.**

DISTRICT NEWS



Congratulations to **JoAnn McCarthy, Windward Y Service Club** who was appointed Metro District Governor by Eddie Miwa, Regional Director. JoAnn will be calling her first

District meeting in July and amongst her agenda items, will be recommending the District’s 2018 Convention site preference.

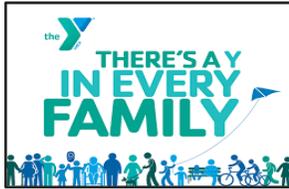
Lance Niimi, OVG District Governor has also contacted Maui and Kaua’i Y Service Clubs for their site preference. JoAnn will also serve as Co-Convention Chair. Welcome aboard!

PARTNERSHIP NEWS – YMCA



Y Summer Day Camp

Summer is under way at the Y! Kids laughing, singing, smiling and simply having fun while learning is what the Y does the best! Registration is still open - “Summer To Remember Day Camp Program” – May 30 to August 4. Call the Y today - 935-3721.



Annual Support Campaign (ASC) 2017

Ken Okimoto, Club President of the Hilo Y’s Men & Women’s Club, presented a \$3,000 check on behalf of the club to support the Y’s Annual Support Campaign. John Kai, ASC Chair and Board members received the club’s check at its recent Board meeting. The annual donation is made possible from the club’s annual Christmas tree sale fundraiser. The annual campaign is needed to keep the program fees affordable and provide financial assistance to those in need. The Y does not deny any child or adult from its programs due to the inability to pay. The 2017 goal is \$50,000 for the Y’s youth, fitness and family programs. Donate to the Y. Contact Ken, club president for more ASC information.

CLUB NEWS



Brother Club Visit in June

Georg & Eva Zandstra, our Brother Club, Vasteras Y’s Men’s Club of Sweden members and his family has invited our club to a “Swedish Dinner” on June 24 at their vacation home in Kalapana. It will be nice to visit Georg, Eva and family and enjoy a Swedish lū’au!



The Hilo Y’s Men & Women’s Club unanimously voted to host the 2018 Hawai’i Region Convention on Hawai’i Island, Hilo. On May 25, the Club submitted to Eddie Miwa, RD, Duke Chung, Convention Co-Chair its 2018 Hawai’i Region Convention Proposal Hilo Sites, a detailed report of three convention sites for consideration – **Kilauea Military Camp (KMC), Hilo Hawaiian Hotel and the Grand Nani Loa**



Hotel. Club members, particularly the new members returning from the Kauai convention were inspired and enthusiastic about seeing their new friends in Hilo.

Outstanding Hero Award Dinner – Wayne Kamitaki



The first **Hilo Y’s Men and Women’s Club Outstanding Hero Award** will be presented to businessman and YMCA volunteer, **Wayne Kamitaki** on Wednesday, June 14, 6 pm at Kenichi Restaurant. Wayne is the CEO of House Mart – Ben Franklin Craft Stores & Ace Hardware Stores and served as Board Chair, Property & Facilities Chair of The Island of Hawai’i YMCA. The Outstanding Hero Award is presented to an individual or business that supports the advancement of the Hilo Y’s Men & Women’s Club who for nearly 80 years has supported the YMCA, its community and Y Service Clubs international programs.