

Newsletter of the  
West Oahu Y's Men's Club  
of Mililani YMCA,  
Oahu, Hawaii

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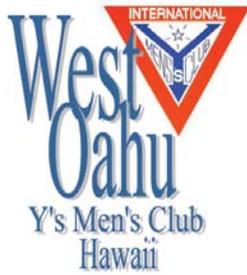
President .... Walter Osakoda  
Vice President ..... Jeanette  
Nakano-Kuwahara  
Secretary ..... Linda Chung  
Treasurer .... Kathy Ishimoto

Bulletin Editor Bob Kuwahara

#### Members

Duke Chung, Jr.  
Maile Kanemaru  
Dennis Kuwabara  
Jean Matsuda  
Alissa Taniguchi  
Jennifer Townsend

Brother Club Affiliation  
HIROSHIMA Y'S MEN CLUB



West Oahu Y's Men's

# Y's WORDS

JUNE  
2011

Other Website of Interest  
www.ysmenusa.com  
www.ysmenhawaii.org

Chartered  
January 14, 1984



Walter Osakoda

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sorry, my attention has been somewhat diverted to our trip to Japan! But, I will have many stories upon our return. Congratulations to Sharon Ishida, who was elected to RD-E and will serve as our Regional Director for 2012-2014. She will create new energy and, hopefully, touch more members to accept leadership positions.

Duke Chung has written a tremendous article on the just completed Hawaii Region Convention in Hilo.

## 75TH HAWAII REGIONAL CONVENTION

by Duke Chung, Convention Chair

WOW describes this Convention, which truly lived up to the 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 Imiloa 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; 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.

*Left: Area Rep Bob Daniels, friend Danielle McNeil, RD Russ Lynch and IPRD Rick Lau.*

*Right: Walter Osakoda, RD Russ Lynch and Windward/Senboku Osamu Shoji.*



## CALENDAR

**At our last meeting, we decided to change of monthly meeting to the second THURSDAY of the month to accommodate our members.**

**June 16th  
(Thursday)  
Business Meeting  
7 pm  
Mililani YMCA**

**July 14th  
(Thursday)  
Business Meeting  
7 pm  
Mililani YMCA**

**July 28  
(Thursday)  
Hiroshima Group arrives**

**July 29th  
(Friday)  
Family Fair  
Mililani YMCA**

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 Wise 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 \$ 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 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 and Trident Award to ETHEL TAKAMATSU of Kalihi This was 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  
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 acknowledgement.

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...

**CONGRATULATIONS to PHILIP MATHIA** of India Area, elected to International President Elect position, 2011-2012, and will be the International President from July 2012.

The **next International Convention** will be in STAVANGER NORWAY, August 2 to 5, 2012!

## **WE ARE HEADED TO KYOTO**

Walter and Dorothy Osakoda, Jeanette and Bob Kuwahara, and Jeri, Megan and Miranda Canniff are off to Japan, where we will attend the Japan West Region Convention in Kyoto. While there we will sign an IBC pact with the Kyoto Prince Y's Men.

## **HIROSHIMA Y's MEN are COMING!**

As part of the 50th Anniversary of the YMCA of Honolulu Let's Get Together program, Mr. Shoji Kamikubo, the General Secretary of the Hiroshima YMCA, and some ten members and spouses will be coming for a short visit in late July.

They will arrive on Thursday, July 28th and will depart on Monday, August 1st. During their stay, we will be primary hosts and I hope you will be available. Intertwined in their stay are a pending visit with the Mayor of Honolulu on Friday, and Let's Get Together dinner functions on Saturday (at Leilehua High School) and Sunday (at Nuuanu Y).

We wish to provide them with our AAA hospitality. So plan to help.

## **WEST OAHU Y's MEN's SHIRTS**

If you do not have a club shirt, or want a new one, give us a shirt, and we will have the logo embroidered. Right now, lets use a white collared shirt ... so everyone can wear a white club shirt.