

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'S CLUB
KYOTO PRINCE Y'S MEN'S
CLUB

CALENDAR

**Our meetings are
held on the 2nd
Thursday of the
month**

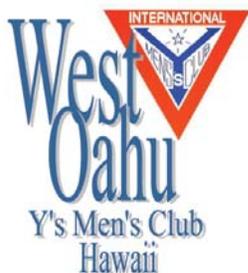
**October 20th
(Thursday)
Business Meeting
7 pm
Mililani YMCA**

**November 10th
(Thursday)
Business Meeting
7 pm
Mililani YMCA**

**May 4 - 5, 2012
(Friday - Saturday)
Hawaii Region
Convention
Las Vegas**

Start Planning!

**Dr. Dennis Kuwabara
and Dr. Kathy Ishi-
moto have relocated
their practice to the
Waikele Center ...
94-849 Lumiaina St
Suite 103
Waipahu, Hawaii**



West Oahu Y's Men's

Y's WORDS

SEPTEMBER
2011

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

Chartered
January 14, 1984



Walter Osakoda

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

During August and September, we participated in the Hawaii Region Mid Year Cabinet Meeting and the Waipahu Cane Haul Run. I guess it is also travel time for many of our members.

Mid Year Cabinet Meeting September 17, 2011 at the Ilima Hotel

Bob Kuwahara, Hawaii Region Secretary Treasurer, Jeanette Kuwahara and I attended. Jeanette prepared a great lunch for the group, cold cuts, cheese, several types of bread, fruits etc. Everyone enjoyed it. A welcome change from usual bentos. Thank You Jeanette. Many attendees flocked to Jeanette's jam and jelly table during lunch to purchase their favorite as well as the new 2011 flavors.

Items of interest included:

Phil Sammer, Past US Area President and Central Y Service Club member, is doing research for the US Area to explore a **possible bid to host the 2016 International Convention in Hawaii**. US Area will make their decision in December 2012. (Although there are facilities to host a 1,200 to 1,500 International Convention in Waikiki, his concern is the volunteer base from our small region.) ... He also reported that the **US Area is planning to hold the 2013 U. S. Area Convention in Las Vegas**. ... To date, \$116,000 have been collected by the U. S. Area to the Japan Gambare effort (for the Fukushima tsunami in March). ... The Hawaii Region adopted a resolution to **support the RollBack Malaria project** over the next four years by requesting members contribute \$5 per year.

Club members traveling

Duke and Linda Chung traveled to Las Vegas for the UHvsUNLV football game as well as to meet with the California Hotel regarding the upcoming 2012 Hawaii Region Convention. Although UH lost, it is reported that Duke and Linda did OK at the Casinos.

Bob and Jeanette Kuwahara will be traveling to Taiwan, Chungshan area of China, and Hong Kong in early October.

Walter and Dorothy Osakoda will be on a Williamsburg, Virginia - Washington DC Tour leaving Hawaii October 7th.

Waipahu Cane Haul Run

Bob and Jeanette Kuwahara, Duke and Linda Chung, Jean Matsuda and granddaughter, Alissa Taniguchi and me showed up at the Hawaii Plantation Village bright and early to pack water, banana, and granola bar in plastic bags (300) to give runners and walkers at the end of the race. **Maile Kanemaru** participated by walking the course beating her goal of crossing the finishing line in 1 hour. The first runners crossed the finish line in about 15 minutes. Maile said she had to stop to talk to all her friends along the way!

**Reminder: Our October club meeting has been
changed to Thursday October 20th at Mililani
YMCA beginning at 7:00pm!**



RD Russ Lynch ... see gavel on table ... it was "lifted". Whoever took it should remember that interstate transportation of a stolen item is a Federal offense.

... ahh .. Russ, how much gold was used in the inscription plate?? at least one ounce!



Finisher Maile Kanemaru ... is she ready for the Honolulu Marathon??

Remembering Kyushu

Our travels to Japan in June 2011 provided an opportunity to visit a new part of Japan for our group. We flew from Tokyo to Fukuoka, arriving late at night. We were greeted by our tour guide and she directed us to our hotel. The next morning, we visited the Dazaifu Temple outside of the city and then the Fukuoka tower, the second tallest tower in Japan. The afternoon was left for shopping.

Our next day, we took a train to the Akita area ... between Fukuoka and Nagasaki. The Akita area is known for its pottery and ceramics. After shopping at several pottery spots, we took in a "ninja park". We were the only group in the park, so we were treated "special" ... as we were entertained with ninja shows, threw the ninja darts, and blew other darts. Everyone enjoyed the park, and then to a ryokan for a bath, dinner and a night's stay. The ryokan was a little different from our experiences in Hakone. It provided private little onsens for each family for those who wanted a little privacy. There were eight private onsens, each with its own unique decor.

The next morning, we continued our journey to Nagasaki. Nagasaki has its quaint specialties. However, the smog carried over from China and sits over the city ... similar to Kailua-Kona ... reducing visibility. We visited a large garden overlooking the city ... Glover Garden ... which was the residence of a foreign businessman who helped to develop the commerce in Nagasaki.

Our trip covered a small portion of the island of Kyushu. The limited time allocated to our Kyushu tour did not allow us very much to see. Other areas that was recommended to us was the Kumamoto area ... with its historic castle ... and the Kagoshima area ... with its unique spa. It appears that Kyushu is not as frequently traveled by visitors as Tokyo and Kyoto. Many visit Kyushu with a group tour package. The tour provided us was special as our seven was the entire tour group. There are not many FITs. Let's pencil in in our travel book that this is a place to visit in the future! ... Maybe when the \$US is stronger!

Japan Experience

After our time in Fukuoka, I was excited to see a completely different part of the country, Kyoto. I was shocked at how inviting the people were and how, given everything that was going on in Fukushima, all the people seemed to be unaffected and still in high spirits. It was very hot and at times wet, but they were all exciting. The thing I loved most about Japan was the food that we were introduced to and how different everything was from home.

Kyoto was crowded in some places and I enjoyed walking around not knowing where we were headed. We walked around the street and found many little shops, where we were greeted warmly every time we entered and left. The number of bikes there was huge, and even throughout the rest of Japan, it seemed like everyone had a bike. We traveled by foot, train, taxi, and by car while we were there. Everyone there was so friendly and wanted to help as much as possible, even if we didn't understand most of what they said. We ate at a variety of places, traditional shops to noodle or ramen shops, I enjoyed the food and the variety that we tasted.

The culture was unique and different from what I knew; the temples and shrines that we visited were close together and so we went to many of them. We were also lucky to take part in a traditional tea ceremony, where we drank tea and learned the proper procedure during a tea ceremony.

While shopping we went to the basement, there were lots of shops packed into a tight space. Everyone was eager to hand out samples and it was cool to watch some people making the food so it was fresh. There were a lot of pickled vegetables there, many varieties of candy, in many colors and shapes.

The things in the shops were as unique as the people there, Kyoto was a fun experience that I would like to have again, there was too much to do in too little time and I look forward to traveling there again.

by Megan K. Canniff
entering 9th Grade
Hawaii Prep



Our tour bus ... for the driver, guide, and our seven!



Dorothy Osakoda and ninja ... no smiling please!



Megan Canniff