

Nā Leo O Nā Koa

(Voices of Warriors)



2004 Chapter Rating



Chartered January 27, 2000

*Newsletter of the Aloha Chapter,
An Affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America*

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December 2005

Scholarship Fund Strengthens Hawaii

By Lt. Gen. Allen Ono, Scholarship Fund Board Chair

A good cause, wonderful friends, caroling, gift exchanges and superb food will highlight the Christmas season at the holiday party at 6:00pm on Saturday, December 17th at Hale Koa Hotel, sponsored by the Aloha Chapter Scholarship Fund Board of Directors.

Fund trustees consider three fields of study to be important to Hawaii and deserve our support:

The first priority is education and the need to prepare more quality teachers for local schools.

Second is the schooling of additional nurses to shrink the needs gap to care for our aging and growing population.

Third is the focus on national defense through strong college ROTC leader development programs.

The fund will encourage and strengthen the talents and dedication of students as sophomores or juniors in a local college to meet the goal of the Scholarship Fund: "BUILDING HAWAII—SUPPORT OUR YOUTH."

Please attend the festive Christmas Party and contribute generously with a voluntary tax-exempt donation. Your payment may be mailed to Aloha Chapter, MOAA Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 1927, Aiea, Hawaii, 96701. A reservation/donation form, along with the dinner menu, is found on page 7 of this newsletter.

Election Night: Three Board Members Re-Elected

By Harold Kuwahara, Program Chair

On November 17, the following members were nominated and unanimously elected to our Board of Directors for the next two years: Jack E. Bohman; Edward Y. Hirata; Gerald O. Lesperance. They will serve for the next two years and our thanks go to them for their consent and dedication to serve our chapter. The Board is an important part of our organization in that they have the responsibility to supervise, control and direct the affairs of the Chapter, in addition, they determine Chapter policies and have overall and final authority in the disbursement of its funds.

The meeting was held at the Coast Guard Station, Club 14 on Sand Island and 32 members and spouses attended.



Jack Bohman



Ed Hirata



Jerry Lesperance

I would like to thank Marion Von, Nari Hamlin, Alice Fujiwara, Maizie Kozuki, Shirley Ihara and Esther Takenaka for decorating the tables and Hal Takenaka for checking in the attendees and Norm Fujiwara for helping with the set up of the flags and banner.

Thanks also to all who attended on such short notice.

(More Election Night pictures, pg. 5.)

President's Message

By *Vernon Von*

What's next, now that our Thanksgiving celebrations are over and we have all survived the most intense shopping day of the year (the day after turkey day)? We all look forward to seeing family and friends for Christmas and the New Year. However, the world does not stop turning in spite of our anticipation of joyous times and parties galore. The reality is that we must all decide what to do about Medicare Part D. Here is one suggestion from the latest MOAA magazine. "TRICARE for LIFE-eligibles don't need part D. Your TRICARE pharmacy benefit provides better coverage than Part D, and it doesn't cost you any monthly premiums. Consider Medicare Part D only if you lose TRICARE eligibility or are Medicaid-eligible. Those losing TRICARE eligibility must enroll in Part D within 63 days of losing TRICARE or face a late enrollment penalty for Part D. Medicaid-eligibles (that's Medicaid, not Medicare) will automatically be enrolled in Part D and will have Part D premiums waived. TRICARE will be second payer to Part D for those beneficiaries". After the first of the year, we hope to have a speaker that will address our questions and issues about Part D.

Did you know, "There are more than 25 million veterans in the U.S., but fewer and fewer in Congress? Of 100 Senators, 31 served on active duty or in the Reserves. Just eight saw combat, including World War II pilot Ted Stevens (R., Alaska) and Medal of Honor recipient Daniel Inouye (D., Hawaii). In the House, 110 out of 435 are veterans, but just 29 saw combat. Only one vet is a woman, Rep. Heather Wilson (R./ N.M.)".

Congratulations to the following who have been elected to our Board of Directors: Edward Hirata, BG,USA, Ret., Jerry Lesperance, CAPT, USCG, Ret. and Jack Bohman, LTC, USA, Ret. They were unanimously elected at the Election Night Dinner on November 17.

Wishing all members and spouses a Happy Holiday Season!

mahalo, vern



Next Bridge Party Set for December 18th

A consensus of a proposed Aloha Chapter Party Bridge Program Rules and Regulations is expected soon. It establishes a "**Chapter Bridge Player of the Year Award**" for the member or spouse who earns the most points over a 7-month maximum period from December to the following November. So the December session on **Sunday the 18th** kicks off the first year for this award which hopes to initiate, maximize, and sustain interest in and participation by chapter party bridge enthusiasts.

The December 18th session will be the 1st Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner Bridge Night to be held at the residence of **Les & Shirley Ihara** in Kaneohe beginning at 5 pm.. Interested participants are asked to contact Shirley at 239-7947, or e-mail to: smi@hawaii.rr.com NLT Monday, December the 12th.

For those bridge enthusiasts who aren't able to be at the December session, please mark your calendars and participate on the 3rd Sunday afternoon in January 2006 (the 15th) and every month thereafter, unless changed for cogent reasons. Venue for each session will vary depending upon the desires of the host/hostess.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- December 8** — Christmas Caroling, VA Center
(Thursday) for the Aging, Tripler, 10:00am
- December 16** — Aloha Chapter Golf Outing
(Friday) Leilehua Golf Course, 8:52am
- December 17** --- Chapter Christmas Party at Hale Koa
(Saturday) Hotel, 6:00pm, sponsored by
Aloha Chapter Scholarship
Committee
- December 18** — Christmas Potluck Dinner Bridge
(Sunday) Night, 5:00pm, Ihara home
- January 26, 2006** — Installation Banquet, Time and
(Thursday) place TBD

Notice

This Newsletter is published monthly as an official publication of Aloha Chapter, MOAA, P.O. Box 19267, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96817-8267. Views expressed herein are not necessarily chapter policy.

Holidays at the Hale Koa



It's the season again - Turkey roasting in the oven, family gatherings, shopping, presents, Christmas carols, and Christmas trees, all reminds us that the holidays are here!

Celebrate the holiday season with our 'ohana. From Thanksgiving through the New Year, the Hale Koa Hotel will be hosting a variety of special events, including our Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on November 30th at 5:30 pm in the Banyan Tree Courtyard, holiday performances, concerts and more.

For more information and reservations please call our Activities Desk at (808) 955-0555 ext. 546. Reservations begin November 28th for Christmas and New Year's Eve Events.



HALE KOA HOTEL

FORT DERUSSY ARMED FORCES RECREATION CENTER
2055 KALIA ROAD, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96815-1998
808-955-0555 • 1-800-367-6027 • www.halekoa.com

Kent Keith is Speaker at Aloha Chapter Christmas Party

Dr. Kent Keith, Harvard graduate, Rhodes Scholar, and best selling author is the featured speaker for the Christmas party. Son of a retired Marine Colonel, he became President of Chaminade University and now devotes full-time to writing and speaking before audiences throughout the nation.

The party is sponsored by the Aloha Chapter MOAA Scholarship Fund and is to be held on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 6:00 PM in the Laulima Room of the Hale Koa Hotel.

Dinner menu includes baked chicken roast with curried honey orange sauce paired with mahimahi filet, topped with seafood stuffing and glazed lemon rice pilaf, seasonal fresh vegetables, Caesar salad, and raspberry Bavarian dessert.

We ask that each person bring a present not to exceed \$10 in cost for grab bag exchange at the party.

Deadline for submission of the reservation form included on page 7 of this newsletter is **Dec. 9, 2005**. Please come and have a great time together!

December is Last Month for "Give Me 10" By Gordon Cho, Membership Chair

December 31, 2005 will be last day of the national MOAA's "Give Me 10 Campaign" and your last opportunity to renew your national MOAA memberships at reduced prices (2 years for \$26). There are still some Aloha Chapter members who have allowed their national membership to lapse. Get those applications in before 31 December 2005, take advantage of the discount, and have a chance at some sweepstake prizes!

To date, national MOAA provided us with a list of 33 Aloha Chapter members who had their national membership lapse. Letters went out to all and to date 14 members renewed or initiated national membership. This is good as the chapter qualified for a \$100 bonus for signing up at least 10 members. To those of you who are still undecided, please remember that membership at the national level insures lobbying power when MOAA goes to the hill to fight for our service benefit issues.

Contact COL(Ret) Gordon W. Cho at email: gcho440443@aol.com, or at 494-2400 for more information.

Aloha Chapter Seeking Publicity and Publications Committee Chair!

If you enjoy all of the great activities of the Aloha Chapter and want to lend your special talents to this great organization, now's your chance! The Aloha Chapter newsletter, Na Leo O Na Koa, is searching for a new editor starting with the January 2006 edition.

The main skill required is the ability to work with Microsoft Publisher or a similar newsletter software program. Even if you've never worked with this before, it's easy to learn at your own pace! Chapter Officers and members send you articles and photos via email, and then you use your talents to pull it all together into an eye-catching format, send it electronically to the printer, then drop it in the mail. Label making software is provided, as is the membership data base. The Editor also updates the chapter website monthly. Don't worry—it takes only a few minutes and very basic computer skills to learn.

For more information, contact Vernon Von at 732-3908.

More Events Planned, Name Sought for Fledgling Ladies Group

By Marion Von

On Tuesday, October 18th, a group of ladies met to organize and discuss activities for the ladies of the Aloha Chapter for the coming year. These ladies were: Mary Cho, Anna Blackwell, Nari Hamlin, Shirley Ihara, Esther Takenaka, Marion Von and Helene Webster.

Based on the survey that was collected at the first ladies only event (Tour of the Royal Hawaiian Hotel on August 19th), the following decisions were made:

1. Ladies events will be held four times a year (January, May, August, and November).
2. Events will be on Mondays unless the activity is best held on another day.
3. Future events will be announced in the Aloha Chapter Newsletter the month prior to the date of the activity
4. Mary Cho and Shirley will co-chair the ladies group for the next year.
5. Nari Hamlin will be the group's historian and Marion Von will serve as secretary.

An appropriate name for this fledgling group is still under consideration. If you have any suggestions for the name, or if you are willing to help our ladies group in any way, please contact Mary Cho @ 484-2400 or Shirley Ihara @ 239-7947.



In August, the Aloha Chapter held a "Ladies Only" outing at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel, which included a guided tour of this historic building along with a luncheon in the Surf Room. Organizers hope to plan even more gatherings in 2006.


Leaving the Military?

Continue to Make a Difference


Become a Teacher

- Go to "doe-jobs.k12.hi.us"
- Click on: Troops to Teachers icon
- You may be qualified to receive a
*\$5,000 Stipend or *\$10,000 Bonus
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Contact: Hawaii Troops to Teachers at 587-5580 ext 409
 Neighbor Islands: call 1-800-420-3688 email: hawaii@notes.k12.hi.us
 Or go to: www.proudtoserveagain.com



Troops to Teachers



Chapter Election Night Fun at Coast Guard Station Sand Island



Nari Hamlin, Esther Takenaka, and Mary Cho are decked out and all smiles during the Aloha Chapter Election Night dinner at Coast Guard Station Sand Island on November 17th.



Chapter members were warmly greeted when they arrived at the Election Night Festivities. Doing the honors were Vice-President Harold Kuwahara, Hal Takenaka, Marion Von, and Nari Hamlin.



MOUNTAIN COTTAGES & RESORT
KILAUEA VOLCANO
KMC • A JOINT SERVICES RECREATION CENTER
Proudly Serving America's Military Since 1916

Happy Holidays from KMC!

With so much to do on the Big Island, it can be overwhelming when it comes to planning a peaceful retreat. KMC's Fall Special is a perfect deal for great holiday savings!

\$10* Three Meals A Day **Fall Special**

For \$10 more per person a day at KMC, you can enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner at Crater Rim Café!

*Available September through December 2005 except during peak periods. Offer valid for Sunday - Thursday meals only. All meals must be consumed in the Crater Rim Café. Other restrictions apply.

After the holiday rush, it's an excellent time to visit Kilauea Military Camp. Why travel far for a great getaway? KMC, your military resort in the heart of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park stands ready to serve our returning troops with Aloha.

Call (808) 967-8333 or direct dial from Oahu at 438-6707.
Online reservations also available through our website at www.kmc-volcano.com.

Kilauea Military Camp is open to all Active and Retired Armed Forces, Reserve/National Guard, Dependents, Other Uniformed Services, Current and Retired Department of Defense Civilians, and Sponsored Guests. For more information, please call KMC Marketing at (808) 967-8370.

Add these Websites to your "Favorites"

<http://www.aloha-moaa.org>

<http://www.moaa.org>

On the Legislative Table...

With the recent flurry of activity on the FY2006 Defense Authorization Act, we don't want to lose track of several other legislative actions of significant interest to the military and veterans' community:

* Last week the House passed the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2005 (S. 1234), which authorizes a 4.1% cost-of-living increase for those who collect disability and survivors' benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. The bill is now on its way to the White House for signature. Unlike military retired pay and survivor annuities, Congress must authorize annual VA COLA increases each year. The increase will take effect Dec. 1, 2005 and will be reflected in the Jan. 2, 2006 checks.

* Also last week, Congress passed the FY2006 Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act (H.R. 2528) and forwarded it to the President for his signature. It provides an overall 4.8% increase in the VA budget from FY2005, including an 8.1% funding increase for VA medical services. It also includes an extra \$1.2 billion to make up the current-year budget shortfall that was discovered in June.

* In an effort to win approval for the House's budget savings package (H.R. 4241), House leaders included a provision to allow seniors to shelter up to \$750,000 in home equity and still be eligible for Medicaid nursing home coverage. **(MOAA)**

McCauley, Bohman, Furukawa "Big Time" Golfers

By Norm Fujiwara

I found that the old adage "PPP" pounded in head in the military maybe somewhat of a myth. You know "Prior Plan Pays", I have done some prior checking at Barbers Point Golf Course about their acceptance of credit card. After checking and sending e-mails to the members warning them of the non-acceptance of credit card at the course, Friday I am prepared to pay cash and learned that they now have the land line connected and are accepting credit cards. I also checked to see that they had blue tees on the course, I think I blew this one since there were no blue tees and possibly never had them.

That was the down side for today's golfing, upside the weather was just superb and all the players reported in on time and they all paid into the pot without my tracking down any player.

We had a new format for our golf game, for the first time we played "California Scramble" it sounded somewhat complicated but every team did okay.

We had fifteen players, had sixteen on Thursday which four meant four player teams, however, I had one cancellation on Thursday night but thanks to Stan Furukawa's vigil on his e-mail was able to get him as a replacement. On Friday morning I had another cancellation but I decided to keep my cool and have a threesome on one team.

The foursome with a score of 73 earned the second place award and the team was led by Gordon Cho, with Ira Tagawa, Bob Kozuki and Ken Yamada. The big time winners in first place with a score of 70 was led by Chuck McCauley with Jack Bohman and Stan Furukawa. Third place with a score of 75 and no financial rewards were led by Joe Kuroda, Yoshi Nakamura, Curtis Kekoa and Don Dismuke, in fourth place for the four team match was led by Ken Munechika, with Leroy Perry, Alice Fujiwara and yours truly, likewise no financial rewards.

Fifteen players was our season low mark. We need more players. We do have a number of players who are recuperating from various ailments and we wish them well and a speedy recovery and they include Allen Ono, Mel Soong, Len Katsarsky and Marvin Baum, we need you on the golf course. We also have several "once in a blue moon" players Mary Cho, Ed and Harumi Hirata, Kenzo Kanemoto, Kathie Pickering, Stan and Phyllis Yasumoto, and Art Yamamoto, come on out, we need you folks.

Our final Aloha chapter Golf Outing for this season will be at Leilehua Golf Course on Friday, December 16th first tee time at 8:52AM.

Aloha and a Hui Hou Kakou, Norm

Recruit A New Member in 2006!

Your Aloha Chapter is always looking for new members—active duty, retirees, and auxiliary members, all are welcome and will enjoy the camaraderie of the Aloha Chapter. Make it your goal to recruit one new member in 2006. For more info, contact Gordon Cho, Vernon Von or any chapter officer.



It takes
a friend
to lead
the way.

Your leadership and
commitment to help
secure the world will make
a difference in the lives of
other people. No matter
who those people are, that
difference is their freedom.



www.PenFed.org
1-800-247-5626



RESERVATION FORM



CHRISTMAS PARTY **Saturday, December 17, 2005, 6:00pm** **Hale Koa Hotel, Laulima Rooms**

Member: _____ Spouse: _____ Tel No _____

Guest: _____

Need Transportation: _____ (Please check, if needed)

Christmas Party - \$25.25 per person _____ x \$25.25 = \$ _____

Donation to Scholarship Fund - Tax Deductible \$ _____

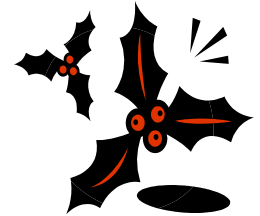
Total Remittance \$ _____

Please make **one check** payable to: **Aloha Chapter, Scholarship Fund, MOAA** and mail to **Aloha Chapter, MOAA, Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 1927, Aiea, Hawaii 96701** no later than **December 9th** for the dinner.

Note: You may also make reservations via e-mail - harold@hele.net or by phone - 373-4400

This Christmas Party is sponsored by the our chapter's Scholarship Fund Committee

Building Hawaii - Support Our Youth



Christmas Party Menu

Baked Chicken Breast with Curried Honey Orange Sauce,
paired with Mahimahi Filet, topped with Seafood Stuffing and
Glazed Lemon Rice Pilaf
Seasonal Fresh Vegetables
Classic Caesar Salad with Aged Parmesan & Garlic Croutons
Raspberry Bavarian

Last Chance to Recruit A New Member For "Give Me 10!"

It's easy—clip and use the form below! For more info, contact Gordon Cho.

Membership Application

Name _____

Branch of Service _____ Rank _____

Retired Active Former

Reserve National Guard Auxiliary*

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Date of Birth _____

Phone Number _____

E-Mail Address _____

Chapter Name Aloha Chapter, HI

Chapter Recruiter _____

*Surviving spouse of eligible officer.

Dues to MOAA are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal tax purposes. Annual membership dues include a \$12 subscription to MILITARY OFFICER magazine.

Two Years for \$24

SPECIAL HALF-PRICE OFFER:

Method of Payment

Check (please make payable to MOAA)

VISA Discover MasterCard AMEX

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Note: Send completed forms with payment to:

COL(Ret) Gordon W. Cho

"Give Me 10 Campaign"

98-856 Laelua Place

Aiea, HI 96701

(I will consolidate our applications and keep track of how many we have signed up. Any winnings will be donated to the Chapter Treasury.)

Aloha Chapter
 Military Officers Association
 Of America
 P.O. Box 19267
 Honolulu HI 96817-8267



MOAA Seal

Aloha Chapter



Awards

- ◆ 2000 Outstanding Chapter Runner-Up
- ◆ 2000 3-Membership Recruiting Awards
- ◆ 2001 Outstanding Chapter
- ◆ 2001 Membership Recruiting Award
- ◆ 2002 5-Star Chapter
- ◆ 2002 Excellence in Recruiting Award
- ◆ 2003 Honorable Mention Newsletter
- ◆ 2003 4-Star Chapter
- ◆ **2004 Winner Best Website**
- ◆ **2004 2nd Runner-Up Electronic Newsletter**
- ◆ **2004 4-Star Chapter**

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2005 Aloha Chapter Leadership

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Jerry Lesperance, USCG, Vice	488-5205	jlesperance@hawaii.rr.com
Clarence Agena, USA	677-4103	cmagenal@verizon.net
Anna Blackwell, AUX	739-9164	annagram2@aol.com
Jack Bohman, USA	235-8078	jbohman59@hawaii.rr.com
Dell Epperson, USN	484-2057	dellnjan@hawaii.rr.com
Joseph Magaldi, Jr., USMC	222-2013	magaldij001@hawaii.rr.com
Charles Ota, USAF	486-9640	charleso@cochawaii.org

Officers/Executive Committee

President-Vernon Von, USAF	732-3908	vvon777@earthlink.net
Vice Pres.-Harold Kuwahara	373-4400	harold@hele.net
Secretary-Gordon Cho	484-2400	gcho440443@aol.com
Treasurer-Art Yamamoto	833-3111	aty@verizon.net

Committee Chairs

Community Services: Mark Webster, 734-5994, markster@hawaii.rr.com

Fundraising: Herbert Nakagawa Jr., 271-1172, shibikoherb@hotmail.com

Govt/Legislative Affairs: Kelley Roberson, 732-2988, kellyroberon@hawaii.rr.com

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ROTC/Veteran Affairs: Wes Fong, 595-6127, wesleyf.fong@verizon.net