

BIRMA Bulletin

April 2014

Published Bi-Monthly for Members of the Big Island Retired
Military Association
Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard

APRIL MEETING

Our next lunch meeting will be at the VFW Post 12122 in Kona at 1200 on Saturday, April 26, 2014, where we had a very enjoyable Christmas party last December. The luncheon will be prepared by the VFW and will cost only **\$10 per person**:

**Rotisserie Chicken+++Mashed Potato+++Salad+++Rolls++
+Dessert**

We plan to have a presentation by **Matthew Handel** who represents the Kona Vet Center. He will update us on current retirement benefits including issues on health care and funeral concerns.

Guests are welcome. The VFW Post address is 74-5562 Makala Blvd, Kailua-Kona...see attached directions. Those coming from East Hawaii will now have a much faster trip at less fuel cost with the realigned Saddle road.

Please contact **Harry Correa** at 968-0995 or by e-mail at menehune.kahuna@gmail.com NLT April 19 if you plan to attend.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Skip Hickey

Aloha All,

Our next meeting will be April 26th at the Kona VFW, Post 12122. The Board of Directors will meet at 1030. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. Following the Board of Directors meeting, at about noon time, we will open the general meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Our last meeting was held at Banyan's Restaurant in Hilo. The dinner put on for us was absolutely wonderful. The guest speaker, **Frank Trusdell**, a geologist with the US Geological Survey's Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, is an expert on the eruptive history of Mauna Loa. His talk was fascinating and informative.

A second meeting of the various Big Island Veterans organizations is tentatively scheduled for Saturday May 10th from 0900 to 1100. PTA commander **LTC Eric Shwedo** is again hosting the meeting. The first meeting was getting to know one another, sharing contact info and identifying common problems that

plague many of the organizations. This next meeting is focusing on solutions, standing together as veterans, and leveraging our political power as a united group. The recent census indicates there are more than 17,000 veterans living on the Big Island. Properly guided this is a force that can help shape policy to better serve the veterans. As this meeting firms up I will send an email with more information. I will also be looking for problem solvers that would like to attend the meeting and be involved.

Skip Hickey, President, BIRMA

JUNE ELECTIONS

Our elections for new officers and board members will take place at the June meeting. It's not too early for you to volunteer for a position. BIRMA needs participation by as many of you as possible, both members and spouses can serve. There is really very little effort involved...and you are rewarded by the appreciation of your fellow members who enjoy all the events and activities we have throughout the year. The board meets only five times a year, usually before the regular meetings every other month...time and travel spent are minimal. So, please, let your board know if you are interested or need any further info...you don't have to be a long-time member to participate...newer members always have energy and good, fresh ideas to offer!

WELCOME ABOARD!



BILL AND KATHY TILTON

Bill and Kathy Tilton met in Munich while attending college. He was an Army brat and she was an Air Force brat and in 1974, Bill joined the Navy as a submariner. They have lived around the world and have one son, Sean, who works at the University of Maryland. They retired to the Big Island last year and plan to enjoy their remaining years here.

New Kona members **John and Jodi Gailliard** and **George Kuwada** also recently joined BIRMA.

FEBRUARY LUNCH MEETING AT BANYAN'S RESTAURANT IN HILO

We had a good turnout for the February 22 meeting, all enjoyed a great buffet including fruit and dessert. The presentation by volcanologist **Frank Trusdell** lasted about an hour, and was followed with many questions. He was given a Certificate of appreciation for his support to BIRMA.





SOCIAL SECURITY INFO ONLINE

If you receive benefits or have Medicare, you can use the **mySocialSecurity** online account to:

- Check your benefit and payment information and your earnings record;
- Change your address and phone number; and
- Start or change direct deposit of your benefit payment.

If you do not receive benefits, you can get your Social Security Statement, to review:

- Estimates of your retirement, disability, and survivors benefits;
- Your earnings record; and
- The estimated Social Security and Medicare taxes you've paid.

For signing up and more info, go to the Social Security website at <http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/>

INTERESTING LINKS

From **Lois Paciello**: The link below takes you to 54 pages of WWII photos taken by Life Magazine professional photographers! At the very end of each page is the 'page' list and "next page" line.

<http://www.mission4today.com/index.php?name=ForumsPro&file=viewtopic&t=14428&finish=15&start=0>

From **Pat Hole**: The link below is about what fighters from Langley and Oceana do off Virginia 's coast seen like never before. Comment from a fighter pilot: "This is without reservation the best video I have ever viewed depicting air-to air combat." The producer and photographer were able to show perspective of the entire arena in a way I've never seen. This is as "real" as it could possibly be! When the pilot got into a scissors or Luffberry you can almost feel the g's!"

<http://player.vimeo.com/video/40935850>

BIRMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AGENDA

April 26, 2014

- Call meeting to order –
- Secretary – February 22, 2104 BOD Minutes, posted in April 2014 Bulletin (see below). Read, discuss, and accept minutes
- Treasurer – Treasurer’s report
- Committees:
 - Welfare -
 - Scholarship – Welcome new chair, **Harriet Owens**
 - Membership – Status and New Members
 - Publicity -
 - Legislative – Dave Bateman update
 - Faded Glory – Flag Retirement August meeting
 - Programs –
 - § Hosts for 2014 meetings
 - June 21 – **Jim and Carol Traxler’s** home, Kailua Kona
 - August 23 - **Harry and Marie Correa’s** home, Mountain View (note change from Feb 22 minutes below)
 - October 25 – **Al and Jackie Lamke’s** home, Kailua Kona
 - December 13 – Christmas Party, Hilo
TBA
- Other Items:
 - Mayor’s Veteran’s Advisory Committee, report.
 - Proposed By-law changes
 - PTA Vets meeting, Saturday, May 10th, 0900-1100
- Items from the floor
- Adjourn

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Banyan's Restaurant - Hilo
February 22, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by President Skip Hickey at 1050.

Board attendees: Skip Hickey, Al Lamke, Norm Stahl, Neal Herbert. Members: Joe Meszaros, Emile Wery.

Minutes - A motion to accept the minutes dated Oct. 26, 2013 as published in the December Bulletin was approved.

Treasurer's report - The Board reviewed Treasurer's Report summarized as follows as of Feb.22, 2014:

Checking Balance	\$1,896.71
CD Balance	\$2,180.29
	\$4,077.00

The board agreed that the two Homestreet Bank CD's should be redeemed upon maturity and placed in either a savings account or another CD at First Hawaiian Bank where our checking account is held. The board also concurred that proper expenses, such as printing costs, be reimbursed.

Welfare – A suggestion to make a \$100 donation to the widows of recently deceased members was approved by the board.

Scholarship - Norm, Scholarship Chair, led a discussion about how schools were notified this year. He used both e-mails and snail mail, along with a poster, to notify over 40 school principals, counselors, and units such as the Civil Air Patrol and JROTCs. Al suggested we notify all the veteran's groups on the Big Island to further publicize our scholarship program. Neal said he would

draft an article for publication in the local newspapers. After discussing Jim Traxler's offer to increase his and Carol's donation to the annual scholarship from \$500 to \$1,000, the board felt it would be best to do a matching donation appeal to the membership to match the increased Traxler gift rather than take the amount from our treasury. This will be further discussed with the Traxlers. A new Scholarship Chair is needed as Norm will be relocating to California this summer.

Membership - Neal reported that we have two new members, George Kuwada and John and Jodi Gailliard and that David Jones, Lou Copeman and Herb Ritke were discontinued due to lack of interest or relocations. BIRMA now 106 members which includes 43 couples and 22 singles. We have 10 life members and 7 widows with free membership. Dues for the most part are paid up for this FY, but those with unpaid dues will be contacted to determine whether they should be placed in inactive status.

Publicity – A new Publicity Chair is needed to relieve Neal who has handled this now for many years.

Legislative – No report.

Faded Glory - Skip said he was collecting flags for disposal. The next flag disposal ceremony will be in August at the VFW Post in Pahoia pending their approval.

Programs – The following schedule was tentatively set for 2014:

April 26 – location to be announced in the April Bulletin.

June - The Traxlers have offered to host the June meeting on June 21 instead of the normal 4th Saturday (June 28)...the board approved of this arrangement.

August 23 – VFW Post 3830 in Pahoia, pending approval.

October 25 – Kona side; location to be determined.

December 13 – East Hawaii side; location to be determined.

Other Items-

A case lot sale will be held on March 28-30. Neal will send an e-mail to members.

Skip advised that the entrance road to the West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery will be named “Kealakoia Rd”...warrior’s road.

Skip, Al and Jackie Lamke attended the Feb 15 get-together of Big Island veterans organizations held at PTA. Many issues were discussed, recommendations: there should be one central phone number that vets can call for any type of assistance; better transportation is needed for island Vets; VA assistance needs to be improved; new, younger members are needed to join local groups.

Neal passed our drafts of proposed revisions to BIRMA By-Laws to bring the document more up-to-date with current practices, policies. These will be further discussed at the next board meeting.

Neal mentioned the annual nominations for the County’s Outstanding Older Americans awards as published in the December Bulletin.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 1145.

General Member Meeting Minutes

President Hickey opened the meeting at 1200 with the Pledge of Allegiance, then recessed for lunch. 25 members and guests were in attendance.

After lunch, Skip introduced our guest speaker, Frank Trusdell, Geologist-Volcanologist, HVO, who gave a very interesting and informative presentation about Mauna Loa. Skip presented Frank with a Certificate of Appreciation after the talk.

Skip mentioned the renaming of the Veterans Cemetery # 3 entrance road.

Skip greeted new members Bill and Kathy Tilton, who joined during the meeting, and George Kuwada.

\$89 was collected from the 50/50 drawing; Wymond Wilds had the winning ticket.

The meeting was adjourned at 1420.

