

BIRMA Bulletin

December 2016

Editor - F. Dickinson

Published Bi-Monthly for Members of the Big Island Retired Military Association

Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard

December 10th Meeting at Volcano (KMC) – see below



I know all of us are not happy with the outcome of the election but the fact remains - America HAS spoken – Our country has been broken for years, our government is STILL broken, we need to think hard about TERM LIMITS for Congress & SCOTUS! And NOW it's time to bring America back to the Super power we used to know!

As Veterans, we too have a part to play, Time for REAL Change!

Presidents Corner

Good day to all veterans and spouses.

The year seems to be flying by. Wasn't yesterday the fourth of July instead of Halloween? Next Tuesday is Election Day and I urge everyone to vote!

We have several events coming up in the next couple months. November 11 is Veterans Day and BIRMA will be participating in programs on both sides of the island. We will be decorating a tree for the Charity Trees at Mauna Lani Bay Resort once again. We have received around \$125 in past years. The winners get \$2000, \$1000, or \$500 so go see all the trees and place your vote -- preferably for our tree. It's a spectacular site seeing approximately 50 unique trees all lit up at one time. We will be decorating the tree on December 1 at 8:30 in the morning. Anyone who would like to help is invited. It doesn't take long. Call me for more information or directions (808-326-9287) if you would like to help with the tree.

And don't forget the Christmas Party at KMC December 10. Jackie and I plan on spending the night and enjoy the volcano. We have had Christmas parties there in the past and had a great time. I hope everyone comes and shares in the fun.

One last thing. **BIRMA** is looking for a Program Director - someone who will set up meetings - location, speakers, etc.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the **Christmas Party December 10**. Have safe Holidays and see you in December.

BIRMA MINUTES

Jim and Carol Traxler's Home

Kona, HI

October 22, 2016

The Board of Directors (BOD) meeting was called to order by President, Al Lamke at 10:49 AM.

Board attendees: Joe Meszaros, Harriet Owens, Neal Herbert, Nestorio Domingo, Frank Dickinson, Al Lamke, Antonio Gaspar, and Jim Traxler.

The minutes of the August meeting were approved.

The **Treasurer's report** was approved with a bank balance of \$4,122.41 as of 10/22/2016.

Welfare: Nothing to report.

Scholarship: The scholarship information has been sent to all the schools. There will be a follow-up to

each school in a couple months by selected Board members. Neal will pick up the leadership of the Scholarship Program since Harriet will be moving soon. The BOD members thanked Harriet for her contribution to this program over the last 3 years.

Membership: Kathy Tilton did not attend. There is an updated membership roster available and there are 2 new categories of membership to include Honorary (H) and Past/Legacy (P).

Publicity: There was discussion about announcing BIRMA meetings in the newspaper print and electronic media since many people don't receive the printed paper. Neal will take care of the East Side and Jackie will take care of the West Side.

Legislative: No report. Al asked everyone to exercise their right to vote

Faded Glory: Flags are still being collected in preparation for our future retirement ceremony. Date to be determined.

Programs: The Annual Christmas Party will be held at KMC on the 10th of December. Several members plan to stay overnight after the party to extend the fun. Details are forthcoming. There was some discussion to consider Quinn's in Kona for the February meeting but suggestions are encouraged from the membership. A volunteer to be our Programs Chairman would be greatly appreciated.

Bob Wilson will place the BIRMA flag in the ceremony at the Veterans Day event at the West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery.

Teresa Keyes will oversee the Mauna Lani Charity Christmas Tree Event in December. Details will be provided as they become available.

Other Items: There was some discussion about possible changes to the By-Laws, but all agreed to deal with this at a future meeting if still necessary.

Jim announced that the first planning meeting for the 50th Anniversary Celebration for the Viet Nam War was held in Hilo. The event will be on November 9, 2017 from 10AM to 1PM at Aunty Sally's Luau House in Hilo. More information will be announced when appropriate.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50.

General Membership Meeting/Luncheon

Al opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and guest introductions at 1225. Lunch was provided by Carol Traxler. There were 27 attendees.

After lunch, Grayson Hashida, Coordinator of the Big Island Veterans Drug Treatment Court, gave a presentation on how the program works and how volunteer Veteran Mentors are vital to the program's success.

Al made some announcements based on the BOD meeting held earlier.

Neal Herbert won the 50/50 and donated it to BIRMA. The total collected was \$75.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM.

Veterans Day 2016

Veterans Day at the West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery was fantastic!



Next meeting at Volcano! Dec 10th!

See attached flyer for complete information

***Please confirm your attendance by calling me @
443-7400 or eMail – franksnmail@aol.com***

Contribution to Editors Corner:

It WAS an awesome election year! America has made the most surprising (to some) decision ever and we have a whole new era ahead of us! It's time to jump on the band wagon and support our new President instead of crying and complaining.

