

BIRMA Bulletin

June 2014

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

JUNE MEETING



Our next lunch meeting will be at **Carol and Jim Traxler's** home in Kona, starting at 1200 on Saturday, June 21, 2014 (not the 4th Saturday). They will have a special LUAU menu is as follows:

Ahi Poke
Lomi Salmon
Baked Banana
Hawaiian Fruit Platters
Laulau
Sweet Potatoes
Poi
Kalua Pig
Coconut Cake
Beverages...Ice tea, beer, wine, juice, coffee

As noted below, we will hold our election of officers and Board of Directors, vote on By-Law changes and award the 2014 BIRMA Scholarship. There will be a few stations representing some traditional Hawaiian arts and crafts...those interested can try creating something to take home or just watch the demos. Who knows...**Jackie** may even dance a hula for us!

The Traxler address is 73-1291 Kaiminani Dr. It's OK to park on the driveway. **Directions:**

- From the lower Queen Kaahumanu State Highway 19, turn mauka on Kaiminani Dr, then uphill about 2 ½ miles to the residence on left side.
- From the upper Mamalahoa Hwy (State Rd 190), turn makai on Kaiminani Dr; home will be about one mile from the highway on right side coming down the road.

Cost is only **\$10 per person!** Come join Carol and Jim's family and enjoy the always delicious meal, important program and camaraderie.

Please RSVP to **Jim Traxler** 557-5833 or traxlerj@yahoo.com...no later than June 14.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Aloha All,

-Our next meeting will be June 21st at Jim and Carol Traxler's home in Kailua Kona. 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.

-We will be voting on BIRMA by-law changes during the general meeting. I encourage everyone to read over the attached revisions before the meeting. We will be presenting the annual BIRMA scholarship to Reid K. Daugherty. Reid lives in Kealahou and attends Konawaena High School. Take the opportunity to meet this fine young man.

-Our April Meeting was held at the VFW post in Kona. The VFW Auxiliary did their usual fine job serving an ono lunch. After lunch Matthew Handel, representing the Kona Vet Center, presented a great briefing on current benefits and the issues unique to Hawaii.

-Welcome to Harriett Owens who will be taking over as Scholarship Chair, replacing Norm Stahl. Mahalo to Norm who has done an outstanding job for a number of years. Thank you and welcome to Katy Tilton who volunteered to take over the Membership Committee and Frank Dickinson who volunteered to take over Publicity.

Skip Hickey, President, BIRMA

WELCOME ABOARD!



JOHN AND JODI GAILLIARD

John and Jodi met in Honolulu while he was assigned to the 9th Airborne Command and Control Squadron at Hickam AFB. John joined the Air Force in 1987 as an Airborne Communications Operator flying on EC-135s, but his career also included being a Photographer and Communications Officer. John and Jodi assignments included locations in Hawaii, Texas, Oklahoma, Germany, Arizona, and Colorado. They officially moved to the Big Island this year and look forward to getting involved in the community and making new friends.

APRIL LUNCHEON – KONA VFW POST 12122

We had a good turnout of more than 33 people who enjoyed a fine meal and program.



Board of Directors and participating members



Lunchtime!



More members and guests enjoying the day



Teresa's guests Scott Quail and Art Weyh



Marilyn, Jackie and Al



Skip presenting speaker Matt Handel with Certificate of Appreciation

JULY 4TH PARADE IN KONA



BIRMA will again have a military 2 1/2 ton cargo truck (to be verified) for the annual Kona 4th of July parade. We expect 12- 15 participants. Please let **Jim Traxler** or **Al Lamke**, 326-9287, know if you would like to participate. We will meet at approximately 1600 and the parade starts at 1700.

JUNE ELECTIONS

As mentioned above and in the last bulletin, we will hold our election for officers and board members at the June meeting. BIRMA needs participation by as many of you as possible, both members and spouses can serve...so please contact the Nominating Committee (**Jim Traxler**, **Frank Dickinson**, 327-9638, or **Neal Herbert**, 935-1946) if you can participate. We will also be voting on proposed revisions to our By-Laws (attached)...so give us any comments you may have at or prior to the meeting.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND MATCHING

As noted in the meeting minutes below, the Board approved a request from **Jim and Carol Traxler** that BIRMA increase its contribution to the annual scholarship to match an additional \$500 that they want to add to their existing \$500 donation in memory of their son, **Mark**. To increase BIRMA's share from \$500 to \$1000, members are asked to make separate donations to the fund. So far, members have committed \$257, which is an excellent start to getting the extra \$500. This will increase the annual scholarship in 2015 to \$2000, making the BIRMA-Mark Allen Traxler Scholarship much more attractive and useful to prospective candidates. Send your donation to BIRMA, c/o 224 Paukaa Dr, Hilo HI 96720 if you wish to participate in this very worthwhile goal.

LONGEST PASSWORD EVER?

During a recent audit by a company, it was found an employee was using the following password:

MickeyMinniePlutoHueyLouieDeweyDonaldGoofySacramento

When asked why she had such a long password, she rolled her eyes and said: "Hello! It has to be at least 8 characters and contain at least one capital!"

BIRMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AGENDA - June 21, 2014

- Call meeting to order – 1000
- Secretary – April 26, 2104 BOD Minutes, posted in June 2014 Bulletin
Read, discuss, and vote to accept minutes
- Treasurer – Treasurer’s report
- Committees:
 - Welfare -
 - Scholarship – 2014 Recipient, Reid K. Daugherty, Konawaena HS,
 - Membership – Welcome Kathy Tilton, new committee chair
 - Status and New Members report
 - Publicity – Welcome Frank Dickinson, new committee chair
 - Legislative – Dave Bateman, Watch Dog Update
 - Faded Glory – Flag Retirement August meeting
 - Programs –
 - Hosts for 2014 meetings
 - August 23 - Harry Correa’s home, Mountain View
 - October 25 – Al Lamke’s home, Kailua Kona
 - December – Christmas Party, TBA. Progress report - Harry
- Other Items:
 - Mayor’s Veteran’s Advisory Committee, report.
 - Proposed By-law changes, BOD voted to amend by-laws as proposed.
 - Membership vote required
 - PTA Vets meeting, Saturday, May 10th, report.

Items from the floor. Adjourn

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**Big Island Retired Military Association
Kona VFW Post 12122
April 26, 2014**

Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 1040.

Board attendees: Skip Hickey, Al Lamke, Jim Traxler, Neal Herbert, Harriet Owens, Joe Meszaros, Antonio Gaspar, Frank Dickinson, Bill and Kathy Tilton.

A motion to accept the minutes dated 2/22/2014 as published in the April 2014 Bulletin was approved.

The Board reviewed and approved the Treasurer’s Report summarized as follows:

Checking Balance	04/26/14	\$3,357.92
CD Balance	04/26/14	\$ 682.29
		<hr/>
		\$4,040.21

Committee Reports

*Scholarship- The BOD welcomed Harriet Owens as our new chair for next year. Jim Traxler requested that the scholarship award be presented at the June 21st meeting. The board approved a proposal to match an additional \$500 donation from Jim and Carol Traxler by asking the membership to make donations up to this amount. This would increase the 2015 scholarship to \$2000.

*Welfare- No report

*Membership- Neal provided a report to include an updated roster. Total membership is 110 which includes 42 couples and 23 singles. Of these, 10 are life members and 13 are widows or widowers. Pat Pastor has rejoined after being dropped a few years ago. Neal requested he be replaced for this duty.

*Publicity- Frank Dickinson has volunteered to take over responsibility for the Bulletin and publicity.

*Legislative- No update.

*Faded Glory- Additional flags have been collected. The next flag retirement ceremony is planned August 23, 2014 meeting.

*Programs- Harry Correa coordinated this luncheon (thanks) but could not attend. The upcoming programs are as follows:

June 21-Jim and Carol Traxler's home, Kailua-Kona (in lieu of 4th Saturday)

August 23- Harry and Marie Correa's home, Mountain View

October 18- Al and Jackie Lamke's home, Kailua-Kona (in lieu of 4th Saturday)

December 13- Christmas Party, Hilo (details TBD)

Other Items

*Mayor's Veteran's Advisory Committee report- Jim Traxler has been appointed and will attend his first meeting on May 15th.

*The PTA Vets Meeting is still scheduled for Saturday, May 10th, 0900-1100. BIRMA will have at least 2 representatives.

*The BOD reviewed the proposed changes to the By-laws in detail and made some minor changes. The By-laws with changes will be published with the next Bulletin so it can be voted on by the General Membership at the June 2014 Luncheon.

*Jim is coordinating the 4th of July Parade for Kona. We are planning for a large truck anticipating about 10-15 people.

*A nominating committee was appointed to prepare a slate of officers for next year. Elections will be at the June meeting. Committee members are Neal Herbert, Frank Dickinson, and Jim Traxler.

The meeting was adjourned by Skip Hickey at 1145 hours.

General Membership Meeting

Meeting called to order at 1210 hours

Pledge of allegiance was followed by the Luncheon.

After lunch, Skip made some announcements and introduced a total of 10 guests. The guest speaker was Matthew Handel who represents the Kona Vet Center. He provided an update on current Veteran's benefits including issues on health care and funeral concerns. Skip presented Matt with a Certificate of Appreciation after the talk.

Skip won the 50/50 drawing and donated \$57.00 for next year's scholarship. (Frank Dickinson and Martha donated \$200.00 for the scholarship shortly after the meeting.)

Meeting adjourned at 1400 hours.