



BIRMA Bulletin April 2018

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

APRIL 28 LUNCH MEETING

Our next meeting will be on **Saturday, April 28** at the home of **Al and Jackie Lamke** in Kailua-Kona (see details below). Guests are welcome.

Please contact **Al Lamke** at sei3retired@aol.com or by phone at 326-9287, or call **Neal Herbert** at 935-1946 if you will be attending...no later than April 23, please.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



AL LAMKE

Aloohaaa...Here it is again, time for another meeting with members of BIRMA! April 28, directors meeting at 10:30 general meeting at 12:00. Meeting at our house in Kona...73-1137 Ahikawa St. From Hwy 190 (Mamalaha Hwy) turn Makai between mile marker 32 and 33 at Ahikawa St. (see map below...overload parking one block south on Keo Keo St). Signs will be up! Jackie is cooking her famous beef stroganoff, with salads and breads. Wine and some beverages. Dessert to follow. \$15.00. If you don't let us know you're coming, you might not get to eat! Jackie says she will prepare extra but, not too much! There will be no guest speaker. The meeting will be about the results of the survey that Neal put out. If you haven't responded yet, please do so. Your opinion matters! Also there is nomination of officers. We need fresh people to fill the positions and new ideas! Please make it a point to attend! See you ALL at the meeting.

We had a great luncheon at the **Moore's** residence last February, and a very informative talk about rat lungworm disease...it's real!! Thanks again **David and Sophie** for your wonderful hospitality! Al

FEBRUARY 24 LUNCHEON



SPOUSAL SUPPORT

A police officer pulls over a speeding car. The officer says, "I clocked you at 80 miles per hour, sir." The driver says, "Goodness, officer, I had it on cruise control at 60; perhaps your radar gun needs calibrating."

Not looking up from her knitting the wife says: "Now don't be silly, dear -- you know that this car doesn't have cruise control!"

As the officer writes out the ticket, the driver looks over at his wife and growls, "Can't you please keep your mouth shut for once!!?"

The wife smiles demurely and says, "Well dear you should be thankful your radar detector went off when it did or your speed would have been higher."

As the officer makes out the second ticket for the illegal radar detector unit, the man glowers at his wife and says through clenched teeth, "Woman, can't you keep your mouth shut?"

The officer frowns and says, "And I notice that you're not wearing your seat belt, sir. That's an automatic \$75 fine."

The driver says, "Yeah, well, you see, officer, I had it on, but I took it off when you pulled me over so that I could get my license out of my back pocket."

The wife says, "Now, dear, you know very well that you didn't have your seat belt on. You never wear your seat belt when you're driving."

And as the police officer is writing out the third ticket, the driver turns to his wife and barks, "WILL YOU PLEASE SHUT UP???"

The officer looks over at the woman and asks, "Does your husband always talk to you this way, Ma'am?"

"Only when he's been drinking" said she!

MEDICARE SCAM

Starting 4/1/18, Medicare will start a year-long project to replace all current Medicare cards for beneficiaries to convert to alphanumeric ID numbers. Currently the ID number is your social security number. This is starting to hit the media.

Scammers are opportunistic. First of all the new Medicare card will come to you in the mail. You don't need to request it or do anything. It will show up.

However, somebody saying they represent MEDICARE may call to say you are getting a new Medicare card, and until it comes you will need a temporary card. The fee, they may state, for the card is between \$5-50 dollars. They want personal information, bank account or credit card so they can process your temporary card.

REMEMBER:

- Medicare will never call you unless you ask them to.
- Medicare does all communications by mail unless you ask them to call.
- Ditto for anybody saying they "work with Medicare to make sure you get everything you are entitled to." Scammer alert.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THIS ONE?

- First of all spread the word.
- Feel free to share these notes.
- Use your answering machine to screen calls or just don't even answer a number you don't recognize.

If it has happened to you or your friends or loved ones and personal info had been given out (happens considerably more often than you think so don't feel bad or stupid) immediately take action to protect yourself against identity theft.

MAYOR'S VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL

BIRMA member **Marcia Brinkley** has been recently appointed to Mayor Kim's Veterans Advisory Council, which meets monthly. Congratulations **Marcia!**

Marcia says the council and is supposed to look at all issues that affect veterans and she "would love to get input some time from BIRMA members".

Please contact her directly at brinklaw@aol.com or at 965-6299 with any questions or information you would like her to discuss at the meetings.



Dear Veterans and Stakeholders,

Over the past month, we have been working closely with our partners at the Department of Labor (DOL) to provide you with monthly employment data as they are the authoritative source for this information. We'll be directly linking with them at www.dol.gov/vets/latest-numbers to provide employment information.

We would like you to know that if you're interested in getting additional information directly from DOL, you can subscribe to their [VETS Newsletter](#). In the future, we will be sending you updates on current and useful news about benefits and services, along with continuing to provide you the authoritative link to DOL for Veteran unemployment data.

This month, we'd like to start by introducing you to a fairly new program for Veterans who are planning to file a VA disability compensation claim. It's the **Decision Ready Claim Program** -- the fastest way to get a VA disability claim processed. Eligible Veterans can get a decision on their claim within 30 days after it is submitted when they work with an accredited representative, such as a Veterans Service Organization.

The DRC Program is administered by the Veterans Benefits Administration, and we are the source of all data related to the program. We're excited to see how DRC is drastically changing the way we process claims. Hear from Veterans themselves about how the DRC Program has worked for them and learn more at www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/drc.asp.

Thanks to all of you, and please stay tuned as we look forward to providing you more updates soon.

Sincerely,

Veterans Benefits Administration

FROM JOE MEZAROS



I've been elected to third adjutant commander post in the American Legion post 904 Alexandria here in upper New York State. Harriet and I are enjoying and the snow has slowed down.

MAP TO LAMKE RESIDENCE



Hwy 190-Mamalaho Hwy