

JANUARY 2008

Spread Y'sdom!

RD NOTES

ODDS 'N ENDS FROM PHIL SAMMER, HAWAI'I RD/ 808-923-1877, psammer@lava.net

Aloha!

HAU'OLI MAKAHIKI HOU! Happy New Year! I hope it is a good one for you, your club and the region. This is a leap year so we get one extra day to work, play, do projects, spend time with friends or family or...whatever! Just take advantage of the once-in-four-years opportunity to enjoy life. We're heading into the home stretch of our Y'smen year and I want to get my club visitations done. I have sent out a schedule to all presidents and hope to visit everyone before the convention in May.

Regional Doings

-We begin the year on a sad note as we mourn the passing of three Hawai'i Y'smen: **George Schulze** of East Kaua'i and **Leslie Wung** and **Ken Aratani** of Hilo. George was a Y'sman for 28 years and was always active in his club's activities. Les was a past president of Hilo while Ken, a licensed electrician, could always be counted on to help with projects involving lighting such as the annual Christmas tree lot. Both men had over 30 years of service to Y'sdom. We will miss George, Les and Ken and send our sincere condolences to their families.

-January is YMCA Service Month (RSD: **Jennie Yukimura** of East Kaua'i) with many clubs assisting in open houses and ASC planning. The new YMCA of Kaua'i complex is well underway while the Kona Family YMCA recently received a \$50,000 grant from the kama'aina Greenwell family for program support. The YMCA of Honolulu had a system wide Community Day on Saturday January 5 with each branch conducting tours and putting on program demonstrations.

-This reminds us to inform our YMCAs about the Dollars For Scholars program that allows career employees to apply for funding to attend professional development courses. I received a copy of an email from ASD-DFS **Dean Currie** concerning a YMCA professional from the Sioux Falls (South Dakota) association who, after attending a Practices and Procedures forum said in part: "[Being on the fundraising side of our Y, it is imperative that I feel 100% confident in what we are doing, that we represent a very well-respected organization and that we will be the best stewards of our donors treasures. I do feel that way, but this week-long event reinvigorated that feeling and my love for the YMCA.](#)" DFS RD **Larry Hiranaka** can give you more information about amounts available and application procedures.

-There has not been any progress in extending Y'sdom to two new clubs in Waipahu and Waimea (Big Island). I don't think it will happen this year for YMCA operational reasons but I hope that RDE **Rick Lau** will grab the baton and bring the new clubs into the fold during his tenure.

-The planning for the 72nd Regional Convention in Maui is moving forward under the watchful eyes of co-chairs **Champ Ono** and **Russ Lynch**. The program set up will be similar to last year with the plenary sessions split between Friday night and Saturday morning. We are also planning a general training session for all Y'smen that will cover basic precepts of the organization as well as general duties of officers. We will not attempt a Brother Club Assembly this year but we may hold a dinner on Sunday night for all those who stay over after the convention.

-US Area and International News

AP **Fred Leonard** will be a busy fellow in January traveling to two mid year meetings, one in the US Area and the other of the International Council in Geneva, Switzerland. This is the same meeting that was held in Hawai'i in January 2007. I asked Fred to urge the council to expedite the work of the PR agency that is looking into the image of Y'sdom around the world and developing ways to enhance awareness of our association. It's hard to recruit new members when you're a stealth organization! The same is true on the regional level where we still "don't get no respect"!



Regional Leadership:

RD: Phil Sammer

RDE: Rick Lau

Reg. S/T: Fred Tamasaka

Metro DG: Russ Lynch

Metro Lt DG: Phil Chun

OVG DG: Champ Ono

Presidents:

Central: Reggie Takaki

E.Kaua'i: Tom Tannery

Hilo: Thayer Nakamoto

Kaimuki: Brad Ishida

Kalihi: Dan Takamatsu

Maui: Donna Jones

Nu'uuanu: James Chong

W.O'ahu: Walter Osakoda

Windward: Marion Liu

US Area President:

Fred Leonard

International President:

Lasse Bergstedt

Regional Website:

www.ysmenhawaii.org

US Area Website:

www.ysmenusa.com

Y'smen International:

www.ysmen.org