



SKÅL INTERNATIONAL HAWAII

International Association of Travel and Tourism Professionals
Founded 1934

Volume 7, Issue 3

January/February 2015

President's Message



Aloha Skalleagues,

As we near the end of our 2014 year, we'd like to first thank our loyal members who have remained strong and true for our SKÅL Hawaii club. We have added some new members who have lent their focus and energy to our club and at that same time, we are sorry to see some of our long term members leave us. It's been an entertaining year with our first ever efforts to add some additional fundraising opportunities to go along with our annual golf tournament, all so that we can continue to give out scholarships to our future, the students that we support in Travel and Tourism at our local colleges.

We have also learned some things along the way, like when to schedule the fundraising events and not have it on the same week as our monthly membership meetings or in December, where everyone's focus is on the holiday season.

We heard back from our membership group as to what you feel works and what doesn't work regarding our monthly meetings and going forward, hope to incorporate these so that we see more members participating in them. We also will be scheduling some interesting guest speakers to update us on the on-goings of our industry, the first one

being George Szigeti, President of HLTA, at January's dinner meeting at Ruth's Chris.

Your 2014 board has worked hard for you and our club this year and we have been able to keep our membership growth steady as well as add some additional funding into our coffers.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our 2014 SKAL board:

OFFICERS:

- Vice President,** Joel Johnson
- Secretary,** Ted Sakai
- Treasurer,** Phil Sammer

BOARD MEMBERS, SIUSA REPS AND AUDITORS:

- Dan Bayne
- Dean Nakasone
- Doug Okada
- Emi Espinda
- Gerald Glennon
- Greg Brossier
- Mary Lou Lewis
- Mike Miller
- Naomi Kanna
- Pam Davis
- Thomas Foti
- Tom Anusewicz

Mahalo for all that you do!

Aloha,

Patrick Kozuma
President

2014-2015 SKÅL International Hawaii

Joining Young SKÅL

submitted by Chassidy Sakamoto



Chassidy Sakamoto

Joining Young Skål Hawaii'i has opened many doors from me both financially and professionally. The club has invested in my future success by awarding me the Skal Hawaii'i scholarship for two of my four years at Hawaii'i Pacific University. With the help of financial assistance from the Skål Hawaii'i Scholarship, I graduated from Hawaii'i Pacific University earning a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration majoring in both hospitality and tourism management and general business nine months ago. I am sincerely grateful for the opportunities that the Young Skål program and scholarship has provided me. Receiving these scholarships and being a member of Young Skal has eased my financial burdens and has provided me opportunity to network with the leaders of Hawaii'i's tourism industry.

Following graduation, through Skål Hawaii'i, I was offered a full-time position. I am currently working for Aston Hotels and Resorts as a reservation agent where I have been able to acquire professional experience within the industry. While working for Aston Hotels and Resorts, I have learned the essentials of

continued on page 4

SAVE THE DATE

our General Membership Meeting will be held on

Thursday, February 26th

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Members Only Meeting

6:30 p.m. No Host cocktails, 7 p.m. Dinner

At the Hilton Waikiki Beach Hotel. All reservations due no later than February 19th



Hilton

WAIKIKI BEACH

Pics from our January Meeting



We went back to Ruth's Chris Restaurant Row for our January meeting where HLTA's George Szigeti was the featured speaker.



Too many to mention! The guys huddle together for a drink before the dinner began.



Chassidy Sakamoto, Emi Espinda, Jen Chun, Pat Kozuma, Gloria Henderson and James Owen



Gregg Nelson, J.P. Cercillieux, Mike Kobayashi and Valerie Davis enjoyed dessert



Winner! Mike Tasaka took home the prize. Lee Brossier was the other big winner of the night.

What is the Florimond Volckaert Fund?

Did you ever wonder about that \$5 you were spending for the lucky number drawing every meeting? No, it's not just so you can potentially win some money, which is always a bonus of course, but those ticket sales actually serve a purpose. To fund our clubs contribution into the Florimond Volckaert Fund. But what is that fund, and why do we pay into it?

The Florimond Volckaert Fund fund was set up in 1954, in the name of the founder of Skål, to provide assistance to Skålleagues and their immediate families who are in serious need of assistance.

How does it work? Well if a Skålleague is ever in need of temporary personal assistance due to a variety of circumstances, the fund is there to provide the Skålleague help. Some past examples of circumstances the Trustees have approved over the years include:

- Loss of job and inability to meet financial obligations.
- Death of a Skålleague whose spouse needs assistance to pay schools fees for their children.
- Cost of surgical / hospital services which cannot be obtained elsewhere.
- Equipment for a physically disabled Skålleague so that the quality of life can be improved.

- Help for members and their immediate families affected by natural disasters.
- Financial assistance because of reduced income or as a result of prolonged illness.

The money for the fund is derived from voluntary donations that come from individual Skålleagues, various Clubs and various Committees.

If you ever find yourself in need of this type of assistance, an application can be sent either through your Club President or International Councillor. There is an approved application form that can be accessed via the Skål website www.skål.org, a copy of which should also be sent to the Trustees. The names and addresses of the current Trustees can be found there as well as in the Skål news.

As a past recipient once said, "In all the years that I was soliciting donations for the FVF, I never dreamed that I would, one day, be asking for help from it." So let's keep those raffle tickets going. This is your Fund. You never know when you may need help, , and if you happen to win a few bucks in the meantime... bonus!

For the record, any assistance given is completely confidential. Unless the recipients want to tell anyone about the help they have received, only the recipients, the sponsors and the Trustees will know.

Joining Young SKÅL

continued from page 1

inputting and maintain accurate guest reservations and gained a better understanding of working with wholesale travel agents. My work experience with Aston has brought me one step closer to reaching my career goal of becoming a hotel general manager. As a future leader in the Hawai'i hospitality industry, it is a great pleasure getting to know and learn from current industry leaders within Aston and through Skål Hawaii.

In addition to financial support through scholarships and job opportunities, once a month, I get to

socialize with Hawai'i's tourism industry leaders at the club's monthly meetings. While enjoying delicious meals, I have gotten the opportunity to network with many industry professionals. Despite member's notable titles, everyone is approachable and eager to offer advice and guidance to help me achieve my goals. As a member of Young Skål I will continue to strive to achieve my career goals and at some point in the future I hope offer the same opportunities Young Skål has provided me to future young professionals like myself.

Membership Renewal Dates and Why They Are Important

Just like tax day and your significant other's birthday, Skål membership renewal comes once per year, and there are consequences (some more dire than others) for missing any of them. The Board thought it might be beneficial to explain the process that happens during the renewal process.

When Naomi gets notice from SIUSA, she sends out the initial reminder email to the Skål International Hawaii membership. In it she gives a deadline for her to get the renewal payments, either by check or by PayPal. To get her deadline dates she is working backwards from the deadline given to her by SIUSA.

She needs a time cushion for two reasons: 1) to make sure that those members who are paying by check – and running the check request through their company's accounting department during the year-end holiday season – have time to get the checks cut and mailed to her, and 2) to reconcile the membership list that SIUSA has with our most current membership list. As you can imagine, both of these activities take a good deal of time and follow up.

The reason it is so important to have an accurate membership list is included in the following from this year's notice to us: "At this point and time, we would like to request that

you pay your club's dues to SIUSA by Friday, February 27, 2015. All clubs should remove members who have not paid their 2015 dues from your rosters no later than February 27, 2015. We would recommend that you suspend any unpaid members at that point, as you can always reinstate them later. If this is not done, your club will be responsible for that member's dues for 2015."

We are trying to avoid paying dues for a member who ultimately does not renew, as well as the headache of suspending and reinstating members whose payments did not get in on time. That is why we recommend, if at all possible, that you begin using PayPal for payments of the monthly meetings and renewals. Rack up some airline miles.

If you plan to continue to pay with a check, please be sure to communicate to Naomi (in the response to her meeting invitations, reply "paying by check, request sent to accounting today"), and if possible let her know when the check gets mailed out, so she knows, and doesn't spend time tracking it down. As you know, Naomi has only allotted 20 hours to us each month, and we want to be sure that time is used as productively as possible.

If you have any suggestions or questions, please let the Board know.

The Experience being a Young SKÅL

submitted by Honza Hroch



Honza Hroch

Many of you know me as a person who is not afraid to ask for anything, and who is willing to be in charge of different projects that try to help others. Those traits would not exist if I did not join Skål Hawaii as a Young Skål. This organization has given me many different skills which are hard to come by unless you experience the power of Skål. Thanks to all the people who actively participate in Skål meetings, I was able to create many lifelong friendships and mentorships. I have been a part of several different organizations, however Skål is the best one I ever joined.

To show the impact this group had on me, I will share an example of one of my recent projects. I recently organized the 2nd Annual Squash Tournament at the Honolulu Club. Until now, all of my energy has been focused on creating the best event for participants. However there had been a piece missing. That piece was to have a bigger impact on the community. I decided that I would donate most of the money we made to Pali Momi Medical Center. I needed to create a way of getting people excited to donate for this event. I thought the best way to achieve that was to create a silent auction which was open to all Honolulu Club members during the one day tournament. We raised over \$2000 just from the auction itself, which would not have been possible without Skål members. I would like to thank: Matt Bailey, Sheldon Yoshida, Gerald Glennon, Deems Narimatsu, Ted Sakai, Ulrich Krauer, Thomas Foti, Emi Espinda and Dean Nakasone. All of you had a big impact on the event.

Thanks to Skål I have been able to improve myself in many different aspects of my life and that of others. I highly recommend Skål to anyone who wants to achieve great things.

SAVE
THE | 20th Annual SKÅL Golf Tournament
DATE | Thursday, October 22nd, 2015

Pics from our Holiday Meeting



Our holiday Christmas dinner was once again at the Hau Terrace at the Halekulani. Mahalo to Ulrich Krauer for hosting and the wine with dinner



Freckles Smith and Tom Adachi catching up before dinner.



Lauren & Honza Hroch, Joel & Ayumi Johnson, Tom Anusewicz and Phil Sammer



Sharon Shimano, Mike Miller and Jamie Anusewicz



Sharon Ito-Matsuo, Mokihana Smith and Dora Adachi



Shelby Oshiro, Michael Do, Ulrich Krauer, and Lauren & Honza Hrich



Hal Henderson, Mokihana Smith, Gloria Henderson, Daryl & Sharon Matsuo and Jen Chun



Joel & Ayumi Johnson, Thomas & Terra Foti, Doug and Ruthie Okada, Mike & Adele Tasaka



Phil Sammer, Stacey Martin, Billy Georgiadis, DJ & Debi Halcro, and Betsy & Brad Jencks



Take note of our upcoming Skål meetings and try to save the date!

February Meeting

Please join us our Annual Membership Meeting

- When:** February 26
Time: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Meeting
 6:30 p.m. No Host Cocktails
 7:00 p.m. Dinner
Location: Grand Ballroom
 Hilton Waikiki Beach Hotel
Cost: \$60 per person in advance
 \$65 after 6 p.m. Feb. 19th



~ Menu ~



Salad:

Baby Field Greens and Crisp Garden Vegetables with Garlic Croutons served with Champagne Vinaigrette

Choice of Entrée:

Furikake Crusted Salmon

Sesame Soy Drizzle & Fresh Edamame and Steamed Rice

~ or ~

Sliced Strip Loin of Beef

Caramelized Pearl Onions & Mushroom Demi Glaze and Au Gratin Potatoes

Dessert:

Chocolate Truffle Cake

garnished with berries & cream



Please take a moment to get to know the newest members of our club the next time you see them.



David Crouch

Director of Operations
 Aston and Aqua Hotels and Resorts



Morad Shaker

CEO
 Royal Hawaiian Limousine