



SKÅL INTERNATIONAL HAWAII

International Association of Travel and Tourism Professionals
Founded 1934

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President's Message



Dear Fellow Skalleagues,

Summer is upon us and there is much going on within our organization locally, nationally and internationally. Since our last newsletter, Pam Davis spearheaded a very successful Waikiki Dine Around, which had 34 participants and raised \$1,600. Thank you to all who participated, and to Pam for all of her hard work.

In April we had our initial Region V SIUSA Club President's Conference Call with SIUSA President Martha McClintock. One topic we discussed was how SIUSA and its member clubs can be more active and/or visible in our communities by getting involved with Tourism Cares (tourismcares.org), an organization founded by a Skalleague from the Boston club. Another topic was increasing the participation in the SIUSA committees (Membership Development, Education, Communication/Social Media, Community Relations, Fundraising, Standards and Processes and Young Skal). Martha stressed that committee members don't need to be the Presidents or Board members of the local chapters – any Skal member can participate. Most committee business is done via Skype, conference calls or emails, and there are no costs involved. If you are interested in joining one of the committees, let me know and I will put

you in touch with the right person.

In May there was a decision by Skal International to move the location for the 2015 International Congress from Mombasa, Kenya to Costa del Sol in Southern Spain. Earlier in the year concerns began to be expressed about potential security issues in Kenya. Worried about having enough attendees to constitute a quorum, International sent a survey to the Club Presidents asking whether the individual clubs would be sending a representative to the Congress. There were passionate, well-reasoned communications sent from folks advocating not changing venues, arguing that as the leading international travel organization, Skal should be setting the example by not bowing to terrorist threats, and that we should support our friends in the travel industry in those areas designated as "travel advisories" by various governments.

Our Hawaii Board struggled with this. After all, any of us in the travel industry around the world could fall prey to such situations, and if we were in the Kenya contingent's shoes, what would we want Skal International to do? We would want them to stand firm, and to reinforce the perception that Hawaii is indeed a safe and desirable destination.

We balanced that sentiment with the fact that we would be sending one of our 'ohana into a potentially hazardous situation, and we initially decided we didn't want to risk it.

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Benefits of SKÅL

What do you get out of your SKÅL Membership. Obviously, one of the larger benefits is the networking opportunities it offers, of course, but there is more than that.

"For me, the value comes from developing friendships, not just "business relationships." The format of our monthly meetings and events gives members more opportunities to get to know other members. With other organizations, I sometimes don't have the opportunity to even meet everyone sitting with me because we're so focused on the speaker(s)." says Jennifer Chun.

For others, it's about friendship. Phil Sammer says. *"Skål means to me the opportunity to meet with friends on a regular basis in an informal setting and stay abreast of developments in the travel industry both at home and abroad."*

But... there's more. Did you know there is a special Skål Benefit Programme? As a member, you could save money on your next trip. Choose from dozens of specials offered exclusively to Skål members. From rental cars to cruises to restaurants, accommodation or even tours. Various Skalleagues from around the world have offered benefits for members. As a member of Skål International Hawaii, you are also eligible to create your own benefit to offer visiting Skalleagues. Just log onto skal.org and click on "Get the Benefits" for more information.

SAVE THE DATE

our next meeting will be our Scholarship Awards Dinner
Thursday, September 24th
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
at the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort
all reservations due no later than September 18th



President's Message

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However, Val Davis, our designated representative, felt very strongly that Hawaii needed to be represented and have a voice at the Congress, and she was willing to attend, regardless of any potential risk. The Board reluctantly agreed with her, and I responded in the survey that we would be represented. As it turns out, we were in the minority of those clubs intending to send a representative, and the location was changed. I have mixed feelings – relief that we in Hawaii won't be potentially endangering one of our own, but also that we as an industry blinked first.

Lastly, as leaders of your businesses, if the coming changes to the Fai Labor Standards Act are not on your radar, they should be (you get this kind of stuff from an HR guy). They are going to change the rules for which employees are entitled to overtime pay, changing the minimum salary threshold to \$50,440, meaning that any employee making less than that, regardless of their job duties, will be entitled to overtime pay for work over 40 hours in a workweek. The DOL did not announce any changes to the duties test, but they have suggested they may adopt a California rule that says 50 percent of an exempt employee's time be spent only on exempt work. The net result will be you having to revise your compensation structures, job descriptions, etc. for some positions that you currently have as exempt from the overtime provisions. These proposed FLSA changes will need to be finalized and in place by next summer in order to be entrenched before the 2016 Presidential administration change, so as employers we will not have a lot of time to react.

On that happy note, I hope that you are all having a terrific summer, and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings.

Best and Skal,

Aloha,
Joel Johnson
President

2015-2016 SKÅL International Hawaii

20th Annual SKÅL Hawaii Golf Tournament

Join your fellow Skålleagues at our 20th Annual SKÅL International Hawaii Golf Tournament on Thursday, October 22, 2015. This year the tournament will once again be held at the Hawaii Prince Golf Course. The day starts at 10:30 a.m. with check in and lunch followed by a 12 noon shotgun start. A dinner banquet and plenty of prizes will follow the tournament. For those of you not into the game of golf, or don't have the entire day available to go play, we are encouraging you to come out and join in the fun after the tournament is over and join us for the dinner portion of the day.

SKÅL International Hawaii hosts a golf tournament to raise monies for scholarship awards given to deserving students majoring in the Travel Industry. These students are enrolled at the University of Hawaii-Manoa, Hawaii Pacific University, Kapiolani Commu-

nity College, Leeward Community College, Kauai Community College, Maui College, and Hawaii Community College. SKÅL is requesting your help in making this year's golf tournament a huge success by putting together a team, becoming a sponsor, or with your generous donation towards team and/or door prizes.

Thank you to Roberts Hawaii and DFS Hawaii for teeing things up as our first two GOLD SPONSORS! New member Niel Mason secured our first hole sponsor Hawaii Coffee Company. Thanks also to Gregg Nelson and Phil Sammer for leading the charge by donating some great team prizes!

Please contact co-chairs Sheldon Yoshida and Jennifer Chun to find out more! Team and prize donation forms are posted on our website and will be available at the August meeting. If you haven't signed up for a team yet.. now is the time.

Pics from our May Meeting



May's luncheon meeting was held at the Jimmy Buffett's at the Beachcomber. The restaurant will be closing early next year and will reopen after an extensive renovation as Maui Brewing Company's first Oahu restaurant.



Corey Kozuma, Pat Kozuma, Doug Okada, Bob Small and David Crouch



Ted Sakai and Joel Johnson welcome Jeff Perkins from the Kahala to the club



Deems Narimatusu, Emi Espinda, DJ Halcro, Cal Lui and Gregg Nelson



Gloria Henderson and potential future Skålleague Clem Lagundimao won big!

Pics from our July Meeting



Sarento's Top of the "I" played host to our July meeting in their private dining room overlooking the Harbor



There were smiles all around inside the Sarento's private dining room.



Honza Hroch, Morad & Marjan Shaker, Brad Jencks, Phil Sammer & Dan Bayne



Tom Adachi, Mike Miller and Valerie Davis



Pat Kozuma, Heidi Maxwell, Mike Tasaka, Bucky Yee & Deems Narimatsu



Ted and Joel welcome Corey Kozuma



Ted and Joel welcome Niel Mason



Gary Ettinger wins big in the lucky drawing



Sean Knox also won his part of the lucky drawing

Welcome!



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



Jeff Perkins

Hotel Manager
The Kahala Hotel & Resort



Niel Mason

General Manager
OHANA Waikiki East Hotel



Corey Kozuma

Young Skål Associate
Outside Guest Services
Pearl Country Club



Congratulations to the following Skålleague on their recent appointments:



Jeff Perkins, one of our newest members, has accepted the position of the General Manager of the Queen Kapiolani Hotel, where he will oversee a multi-million dollar renovation and work on repositioning the property within the marketplace.



Skål International Port Vila – 583
PO Box 897, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Dear Joel,

Following the Severe Category Five cyclone which devastated Vanuatu in March and the Creation of the “Cyclone Pam Vanuatu Appeal Fund” by Skål International and the donations given by clubs throughout the world, we now advise that the Procedures required by Skål for release of the funds have now been completed.

This follows discussions held through President V. Salih Cene of Skål International and also with the Vice President Nigel Pilkington and the two Trustees assisting me in determining how the funds collected would be allocated. We advise that Funds received will be used for support of members employees and to assist members with other losses resulting from the cyclone as determined by a damage assessment survey on Skål related activities compiled shortly after the cyclone.

Most of our members suffered from damage directly from “Pam” and more-so had little or no business for the months thereafter.

Our tourist industry is slowly starting to recover but it will be some time yet before full recovery is achieved but we greatly appreciate the assistance received.

Therefore, on behalf of the committee and members of Skål Club Port Vila , I would like to thank you and your members of Skål International Hawaii for your contribution to the Fund and the goodwill and friendship extended to us through your kindness in our time of need.

Yours in Skål,

Owen Drew

President, Skål Club of Port Vila

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Tranquility Island Resort,
Ahra Marine.

www.southpacdivecruise.com.vu

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Congratulations **Peter Fithian**

On August 1st, 1965, Peter Fithian joined Skål International Hawaii. The membership turned our August dinner at Ruth's Chris Steak House into a surprise celebration for him honoring this very special anniversary as many familiar faces joined in the fun to commemorate the occasion.

Mary Lou Lewis reminisces that she has known Peter since the summer of 1956, during her first trip to Hawaii when she was visiting her then fiancée and Peter was the manager of the Kona Inn. Her (now) father-in-law, Dudley Lewis, was a good friend of Peter's and an avid fisherman, and they met during a fishing trip. It's all about anniversaries for Peter this month as in 1959, Dudley and Peter started the Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament, which celebrated its 56th successful year this month.

Peter's assistant, Sharon Mori, wishes him congratulations and states that over the past 10 years, "He allowed me to grow in my position... always encouraging me to learn and have confidence in myself and my abilities."

Congratulations Peter! Please enjoy a few pictures from the event below!

