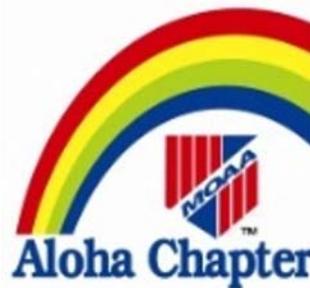


# Nā Leo O Nā Koa

(Voices of Warriors)



2004 Chapter Rating



Chartered January 27, 2000

*Newsletter of the Aloha Chapter,  
An Affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America*

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Web Site: <http://www.aloha-moaa.org>

October 2005

## ***MOAA Memorial Unveiled During Punchbowl Dedication***

There is a new memorial stone near the Court of Honor at the National Cemetery of the Pacific. Several members of the Aloha Chapter joined with members of the Hawaii, Southern Nevada and El Paso Chapters in a ceremony on September 24th to dedicate the granite and bronze marker and pay respects to all the veterans interred at Punchbowl.

The dedication culminates a long effort by both Hawaii-based chapters to have a MOAA tribute at the site. Keynote speaker of the day was COL Ron Buchert, USAF(Ret), Chairman of MOAA's Council and Chapter Affairs (pictured below). Buchert noted such a monument was overdue, recalling many of the heroes buried at Punchbowl who served so valiantly in the Pacific.

COL Gene Castagnetti, USMC(Ret), the director of Punchbowl, also talked of the honor of overseeing the final resting place of over 33,000 veterans. The cemetery has been filled to capacity since 1991.

The evening before, a joint dinner of the four chapters attracted a crowd to the 100th Infantry Veterans Hall. Hosted by the Aloha Chapter, the affair provided an opportunity for members and spouses to enjoy Hawaiian hospitality and served as a highlight of the "twinning" with the Southern Nevada Chapter.



## **Friendships Develop During Twinning 2005**

Twinning 2005 consisted of Aloha Chapter hosting 19 members and spouses of the Southern Nevada Chapter from Las Vegas during a two-phased period beginning Monday, September 19 and ending on Tuesday, September 27, 2005.

1. The first phase was spent at the Kilauea Military Camp (KMC) where twelve members and spouses of Aloha Chapter joined them on a 3-night "Wild Ginger Tour Package". Except for air transportation to and from Honolulu and Hilo airports, the Package included a nice comfortable cabin for each couple or a single person, guided tours of (1) the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on the 20th, (2) the "Circle Island Tour" on the 21st which explored the beauty of the unique and diverse sites on the "Big Island", and (3) an abbreviated "Hilo Tour" in the morning of the 22nd., exploring the charms of Hilo town and its surrounding communities. In addition the Package included all meals while at KMC at mealtime.

2. The second phase began with the return of that contingent to Honolulu in the afternoon. of Thursday the 22nd of September.

a. That evening, many from Las Vegas took-in the  
(continued on page 3)

## **President's Message**

**By Vernon Von**

**IF THIS IS OCTOBER,  
WHAT HAPPENED TO  
SUMMER?**

September marked the end of summer, back to school for many children and increased traffic congestion. For the Aloha Chapter we launched the "Give Me 10" recruitment program for both national and local memberships, met and hosted our twin Southern Nevada Chapter and participated in the MOAA Monument Dedication at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl.

We continue to ask for your participation and involvement in chapter activities that include bridge, golf and social events. We are still looking for members to lead us on a cruise to somewhere (we can get cruise and tour discounts through MOAA channels). We need someone to help us find a vendor to embroider our logo on caps, golf shirts and aloha shirts. Call me if you are willing to help us in these efforts.

Did you know that...?

- We received a thank you letter from General Wolf for our volunteer efforts in staffing the Louis Kahan exhibit at the Outrigger Waikiki Hotel. Participating in this activity were Alice and Norman Fujiwara, Helene Webster and Marion Von.
- The Kilauea Volcano on the Big Island has erupted continuously since Jan 3, 1983.
- Representative Heather Wilson, (R-N.M.) is the only female veteran and first and only Air Force Academy graduate serving in Congress.
- A Representative to Congress from Illinois said, "Spending on military dependents and retirees offers no military value."
- The Secretary of Defense said, "Veterans benefits...if not reined in, will affect [DoD's] future ability to compensate those serving."
- MOAA is a very powerful and effective lobby group in Congress to help us refute these kinds of negative statements.

Did you ever wonder why COSTCO sells gas for less than the Exchanges? Do you know who said, "Being an American is not a spectator sport. We should all get involved. The same holds true for MOAA members. Sitting on the sidelines should not be an option."



## **CAPT Jerry Coffee to Address Aloha Chapter at October Luncheon**

Aloha Chapter members and guests will have a rare opportunity to hear one of Hawaii's most inspirational speakers at the October luncheon. Captain (Ret) Gerald Coffee will address the gathering at the Hale Ikena, Fort Shafter on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am.

Captain Coffee was one of longest-held Prisoners of War in communist prisons of Vietnam, 7 years and 9 days.

Having spoken to groups of all sizes across America, many leaders have lauded the power of Captain Coffee's message. Tom Johnson, former president of CNN, says, "Captain Coffee is the most powerful, inspirational speaker I have ever heard. He will demonstrate how you can live life to its fullest and to make all of life's experience a positive one. Hearing him is an unforgettable moving experience."

CNN's Larry King calls Captain Coffee "one of the best guests I've ever interviewed. His story is fascinating and compelling. A real inspiration."

"At sometime or another we all get shot down, we are all POWs, prisoners of 'woe'," explains Captain Coffee. "Be tough. Bounce back. Learn not just to survive, but to go beyond survival: finding the purpose in our adversity."

All chapter members are strongly encouraged to hear Captain Coffee's message at the Hale Ikena on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Fill out and return the reservation form found on page 6 of the newsletter. For more information, contact Harold Kuwahara at 373-4400.

## **BG Chaves is Newest Life Member!**

The Aloha Chapter of MOAA welcomes another new life member. BG Joseph Chaves, Commanding General of the 29th Brigade Combat Team, was sponsored by MG(Ret) Clarence Agena. Welcome aboard, General Chaves, and mahalo for all that you and the 29th BCT do for all of us!

### **Notice**

*This Newsletter is published monthly as an official publication of Aloha Chapter, MOAA, P.O. Box 19267, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96817-8267. Views expressed herein are not necessarily chapter policy.*

**(“Twinning 2005”, continued from page 1)**

Hale Koa Luau featuring "local boy" and world-famous Glenn Medeiros.

b. On Friday, at about noon, the Las Vegas group toured Pearl Harbor on one of the Pacific Fleet's VIP Barges. Prior to that, the group received a short briefing about Pearl Harbor, visited its own Museum, and saw a Video about the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941. They then were taken on a "cruise" around Ford Island, enabling the group to see the many sites on the back-side of Ford Island not normally seen by the public.

c. That evening, those from Las Vegas and from Aloha Chapter joined those from Hawaii and El Paso chapters in a joint meeting held at the 100th Infantry Battalion Memorial Hall. This meeting was a prelude to the dedication and unveiling of a MOAA Plaque at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific Punchbowl on Saturday morning. There were over 50 members and spouses from Aloha Chapter, 7 from El Paso Chapter, about 50 from Hawaii Chapter, and 19 from Las Vegas.

d. On Saturday, September 24th, the MOAA Plaque Dedication Ceremony was held a few minutes after 10 am with Hawaii Chapter President John Harms as the MC and with guest speaker COL Ron Buchert, member of MOAA's Board of Director's and chairman of the Council and Chapter Affairs Committee. Several members and spouses from all four MOAA chapters witnessed the short ceremony.

e. That evening, all Las Vegas participants in Twinning 2005 and MOAA's Director Ron Buchert joined all but two participants from Aloha Chapter for a wonderful evening of good food, fun and fellowship at the residence of Les and Shirley Ihara in Kaneohe. Shirley prepared all the pupus and food for this event which was a fitting climax to this very successful twinning experience.

f. Sunday and Monday were left unstructured to permit our Las Vegas visitors time to do whatever they wished before leaving Hawaii on Tuesday afternoon.

g. The Las Vegas visitors left for home via Hawaiian Airlines at about 2:30 pm, culminating a week of friendly, memorable, and cherished experiences with many members and spouses of Aloha Chapter. Each departing person was presented with two leis - one a yarn or other material lei personally made by Mazie Kozuki and the other an orchid lei from Aloha Chapter. Twinning 2005 far exceeded its expectations and has raised high expectations of Twinning 2007 and beyond.

3. Besides Les and Shirley Ihara, participants in Twinning 2005 from Aloha Chapter were: Ray deHay, Bob and Mazie Kozuki, Henry and Joan Lee, Herb Nakagawa, Vernon and Marion Von, and Bill and Annie Yamada, a total of 12 participants.

4. The 19 participants from Las Vegas were: LTC Jack D. Taylor, Sr. USA Ret. & wife Nancy, LTC Thomas G. Thompson, USA Ret. & wife Janet, MAJ James E. Stephens, USAF Ret. & wife Joan, LTC William B Simpson, USA Ret. & wife Luella, COL John Gargus, USAF Ret. & wife Anita, LCDR Albert J. McFadden, USN Ret. & wife Marion, COL Jacob Kessel, USAF Ret. & wife Norma, COL Bruce La Follette & wife Wanda, LCDR Alexander E. Aidee, USNR Ret, Mrs. Donna Hushaw, Aux. Mbr, and Mrs. Myrna Lee, Aux Mbr. .

Planning and coordination for Twinning 2005 were done in Hawaii by Les and Shirley Ihara, and in Las Vegas by Jack and Nancy Taylor, all of whom were directly involved in making the Twinning Program a reality back in 2002. However, Twinning 2005 would not have been such a success were it not for the unfailing and unselfish assistance of all chapter participants, and for Nari Hamlin and Harold Kuwahara, who volunteered for and helped satisfy all our visitors' transportation requirements in Phase 2.

A heartfelt MAHALO! to each and everyone who made Twinning 2005 a success! And don't forget Twinning 2007 when Aloha Chapter goes to Las Vegas during the week the UH Football team plays UNLV sometime that September.

**Leaving the Military?**

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- Go to "doe-jobs.k12.hi.us"
- Click on: Troops to Teachers icon
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Contact: Hawaii Troops to Teachers at 587-5580 ext 409  
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## *In Memoriam: Colonel Saburo Ito*

Saburo Ito, Col (Ret), USARNG, age 77, passed away on Friday, August 23, 2005.

The memorial service was held at 4 p.m., Saturday, September 10, 2005, at the Kailua United Methodist Church, with private urnment following.

Col. Ito of Honolulu was born in Halaiwa, Hawaii, and graduated from the University of Hawaii. He was employed full time by the Hawaii Army National Guard and held the position as G1 at the time of his retirement.

Col. Ito is survived by his wife, Lillian, daughter and son-in-law Lesli and Andrew Urabe; son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Jennifer; brother Harry Ito; sisters, Marion Ito and Georgia Ann Masumoto; and grandchildren, Kelli, Daniel, and Shannon Urabe; Caitlin, Alexa, and Erica Ito. Col Ito's children and grandchildren reside in Kailua, HI.

## WHY JOIN MOAA?

I am already a member of the *Aloha Chapter, MOAA*, so why should I join the national organization? The **Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)**, formerly known as TROA, is the largest and most effective officers' organization. It has been around for over 75 years and is on the forefront of military benefits improvements such as pay increases, health care improvements, retirement enhancements-none of which would have happened without the strength of MOAA's membership.

Additionally, MOAA is a knowledgeable resource for military personnel, including military benefits counseling, career transition services, and financial planning advice and tools.

- MOAA is the largest, most effective organization advocating for officers and their families. Current membership is nearly 370,000 but every officer is needed for the organization to stay effective.
- Without MOAA, many of the gains made in recent years-pay raises, tax equity for military homeowners, TRICARE for Life, improved health care-would never have happened.
- If you have questions about your military benefits, MOAA staff members have the answers. MOAA benefits experts provide free counseling to members every day.
- The staff are officers, just like you, so they understand what you are going through.

MOAA is there for officers at every stage of their lives-fighting for younger officers on issues like pay raises and easing deployment stress, helping second career officers find their next career, providing scholarships to families to help with college costs, and protecting retirement benefits.

So sign up today and for \$24 get 2 years of membership for the price of one. Contact COL(Ret) GORDON W. CHO, Membership Chair at Ph: 484-2400 or email: [gcho440443@aol.com](mailto:gcho440443@aol.com) for assistance and application forms. Do it before 31 December 2005 in order for the chapter to participate in the recruitment incentive award program.

## Kuwamoto Recognized for 2004-2005 Party Bridge Successes

Aloha Chapter's Party Bridge Program held its first session last September and has had monthly sessions since then. It began with just two tables but it has grown to four and even five tables at times. Today, it is a well established program which has become another successful "membership recruiting and retention" initiative. Much of that success was due to the efforts of its first coordinator, Edy Kuwamoto. However, due to other more pressing family needs, last month's session was Edy's last as Coordinator. Taking over as Coordinator is Shirley Ihara, who has many years of experience running party bridge programs, and who has promised a fun but challenging year of party bridge.

Before the bridge session began on September 18th, Immediate Past President Les Ihara presented Edy with a lei and an Aloha Chapter Mug in appreciation of her efforts as Coordinator for the past year. There were four tables of bridge that day, and top three scorers were: Dick Towne Helen Fahrni, and Helen Hubble.

The next party bridge session will be held on Sunday afternoon, October 16th beginning at 1 pm at The Colonnade in Aiea. Volunteering to host this session is Sam Heard, but anyone interested in playing or have any questions should contact Shirley Ihara by telephone at 239-7947, or e-mail to: [smi@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:smi@hawaii.rr.com). Deadline for sign-ups is Wednesday, October 12th.



## Halloween at the Hale Koa Hotel

**Halloween Magic in Paradise Spooktacular**  
**Tuesday, October 25, 2005 6:00 p.m.**  
**Banyan Tree Showroom**

Treat your little monsters to a fun-filled evening of illusions, comedy and an all-you-can-eat buffet with entrée selections perfect for goblins and ghosts of all ages. A costume contest and goodies for the keiki and a free family photo makes this evening fun for all Halloween creatures.

Adults \$24.95 + 10% Gratuity Children \$14.95 + 10% Gratuity

**Join the Kooky and the Spooky and**  
**Celebrate Halloween Hale Koa Style...If you Dare....**  
**Monday, October 31, 2005 6:00 p.m.**

**Warriors Lounge**

Join our cast of villains, heroes, monsters, felines and more as the Warriors Lounge hosts a party no spirit will miss. A costume contest with great prizes, door prize giveaways, music, and special Halloween concoctions will make this the purrr-fect spot. The fun starts at 6:00 p.m. so catch the nearest pumpkin and howl with the best! Bibas menu items will also be available for delivery to your table.



For reservations or more information, call  
 The Activites Desk at (808)955-0555 ext 546



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**RESERVATION FORM****JERRY COFFEE LUNCHEON**

Wednesday, October 19, 2005, at 11:30 am

**HALE IKENA  
FORT SHAFTER**

Member \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ ----- Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_

Need Transportation \_\_\_\_\_ (Please check)

Enclosed is a check for lunch @ \$12.50 per person \_\_\_\_ x \$12.50=\$\_\_\_\_\_

Please send in your check and reservation by **October 12, 2005 to:****Aloha Chapter, P. O. Box 19267, Honolulu, HI 96817****Note:** You may also make your reservation via e-mail – [harold@hele.net](mailto:harold@hele.net) or by phone – 373-4400 (pay at the door)

*Sunshine, blue skies and the deep blue Pacific provided the perfect backdrop for the dedication of the new MOAA memorial on Monument Walk at Punchbowl, at right.*

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| October 19<br>(Wednesday) | --- Jerry Coffee Luncheon at Hale Ikena<br>11:30 AM                                  |
| October 28<br>(Friday)    | — Aloha Chapter Golf Outing<br>Leilehua Golf Course                                  |
| November 17<br>(Thursday) | --- Chapter Election Night – Club 14,<br>Coast Guard Station, Sand Island,<br>6:00pm |
| November 18<br>(Friday)   | — Aloha Chapter Golf Outing<br>Barber's Point Golf Course                            |
| December 16<br>(Friday)   | — Aloha Chapter Golf Outing<br>Leilehua Golf Course                                  |
| December 17               | --- Chapter Christmas Party at Hale Koa  |

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Three Meals  
a Day!

**FALL SPECIAL**

For \$10 more per person a day at Kilauea Military Camp (KMC), you can enjoy breakfast, lunch, and dinner at KMC's Lava Café.

**IT'S A MEAL-OF-A-DEAL!**

Make your reservations today and save! Rates start at \$73 and up per night, double occupancy.

\*Available September through December 2005 except during peak periods; other restrictions apply.

**\$89 KMC BIRTHDAY TOUR SPECIAL\*\***KMC Celebrates its 89th Birthday with... **FOUR great island tours for TWO...** (Hilo Tour, Chain of Craters Tour, Crater Rim Tour and Circle Island Tour - total value is \$172.00) **ALL for just \$89!**

Call (808) 967-8333 or direct dial from Oahu at 438-6707.

Online reservations also available through our website at [www.kmc-volcano.com](http://www.kmc-volcano.com).

\*\*Available only in November 2005 and to us must occur over a 3-day period. Does not include airfare or lodging; other restrictions may apply.

**KILAUEA VOLCANO**  
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Kilauea Military Camp is open to all Active and Retired Military, Reserve/National Guard Members, Current and Retired Department of Defense Civilians, Family Members and Sponsored Guests. For more information, please call KMC Marketing at (808) 967-8370.

*Interested in receiving the Aloha Chapter newsletter electronically? It's easy and saves the chapter on postage! Contact Dell Epperson at [dellnjan@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:dellnjan@hawaii.rr.com) for details.*

## “GIVE ME 10” NATIONAL MOAA RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN

As you may have read in the September 2005 issue of the *Na Leo O Na Koa*, the *Aloha Chapter* signed up to participate in the MOAA national’s “Give Me 10” recruitment campaign. The campaign will run from 1 September through 31 December 2005 and is targeted to **increase membership with MOAA national.**

We are now in receipt of the program materials and are busy initiating recruiting efforts. Among the items received from the national headquarters was a data base that listed our *Aloha Chapter* members who have allowed their national MOAA membership to lapse. I prepared and mailed letters mailed to each of these members urging them to renew their national membership during the campaign period. Doing so will assist in our campaign efforts and allow them to take advantage of a special half price offer, 2 years for the price of one! While our local chapter bylaws do not require membership in the national organization, it is strongly recommended. It is the national organization that does the day-to-day work with our members of Congress and is our lobbying voice in Washington, D.C.

So what does the *Aloha Chapter* gain from success with the campaign?

### CHAPTER INCENTIVES & AWARDS

\$10 For each new paying member

\$100 Bonus (one-time) for the first 10 new paying members signed up

\$1000 prize for chapters (based on chapter size) that recruit the most new members

### INDIVIDUAL RECRUITER INCENTIVES & AWARDS

For each new members recruited, chapter recruiters earn an “entry” to an end-of-contest sweepstakes, \$1000 prize for winning sweepstakes entry. The new member associated with the winning entry receives a MOAA national life membership and \$500

While the target of the “Give Me 10” campaign is to recruit members to the national organization, let each of us also take this wonderful opportunity to likewise increase our local chapter recruitment efforts. The success of our Chapter is directly related to our membership and it is extremely important to keep our membership numbers growing. Success will mean we can not only have more folks to have fun with, but to also increase our voice in local issues that affect our military lives. When approaching potential members to the *Aloha Chapter*, you can now offer them a 2 year membership with the national organization for the price of one year’s membership. (For specific information on why one should sign up for national MOAA, please refer to other articles in this newsletter on that issue.)

**SO GET OUT THERE, BEAT THE BUSHES AND LET’S SUPPORT THE “GIVE ME 10” CAMPAIGN AND RECRUIT FOR THE ALOHA CHAPTER AS WELL.** Please use the following application form or go to the following websites to download information and forms: <mailto:http://www.aloha-moaa.org> or <mailto:http://www.moaa.org/giveme10>

For questions, please contact COL® Gordon W. Cho, Membership Chair, at Ph:484-2400or via email: [gcho440443@aol.com](mailto:gcho440443@aol.com).

***Yes! Sign me up as an MOAA Member.***

### Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Retired Active Former

Reserve National Guard Auxiliary\*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Name  Aloha Chapter, HI

Chapter Recruiter \_\_\_\_\_

\*Surviving spouse of eligible officer.

*Dues to MOAA are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal tax purposes. Annual membership dues include a \$12 subscription to MILITARY OFFICER magazine.*

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### SPECIAL HALF-PRICE OFFER:

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Check (please make payable to MOAA)

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Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Send completed forms with payment to:**

**COL(Ret) Gordon W. Cho**

**“Give Me 10 Campaign”**

**98-856 Laelua Place**

**Aiea, HI 96701**

(I will consolidate our applications and keep track of how many we have signed up. Any winnings will be donated to the Chapter Treasury.)

Aloha Chapter  
 Military Officers Association  
 Of America  
 P.O. Box 19267  
 Honolulu HI 96817-8267



MOAA Seal

**Aloha Chapter**



**Awards**

- ◆ 2000 Outstanding Chapter Runner-Up
- ◆ 2000 3-Membership Recruiting Awards
- ◆ 2001 Outstanding Chapter
- ◆ 2001 Membership Recruiting Award
- ◆ 2002 5-Star Chapter
- ◆ 2002 Excellence in Recruiting Award
- ◆ 2003 Honorable Mention Newsletter
- ◆ 2003 4-Star Chapter
- ◆ **2004 Winner Best Website**
- ◆ **2004 2nd Runner-Up Electronic Newsletter**
- ◆ **2004 4-Star Chapter**

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Clarence Agena, USA	677-4103	cmagenal@verizon.net
Anna Blackwell, AUX	739-9164	annagram2@aol.com
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Joseph Magaldi, Jr., USMC	222-2013	magaldij001@hawaii.rr.com
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**Officers/Executive Committee**

President-Vernon Von, USAF	732-3908	vvon777@earthlink.net
Vice Pres.-Harold Kuwahara	373-4400	harold@hele.net
Secretary-Gordon Cho	484-2400	gcho440443@aol.com
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**Committee Chairs**

**Community Services:** Mark Webster, 734-5994, markster@hawaii.rr.com

**Fundraising:** Herbert Nakagawa Jr., 271-1172, shibikoherb@hotmail.com

**Govt/Legislative Affairs:** Kelley Roberson, 732-2988, kelleYROberson@hawaii.rr.com

**Historical Activities:** Nari Hamlin, 486-7150, narivee@aol.com

**Membership:** Gordon Cho, 484-2400, gcho440443@aol.com

**Personal Affairs:** Bob Kozuki, 693-8965, kozukir001@hawaii.rr.com

**Program:** Harold Kuwahara, 373-4400, Harold@hele.net

**Publications/Pub. Rel.:** Dell Epperson, 484-2057, dellnjan@hawaii.rr.com

**ROTC/Veteran Affairs:** Wes Fong, 595-6127, wesleyf.fong@verizon.net