

# O.L.R.W. Newsletter



Oahu League of Republican Women  
Carol Thomas, President • 808- 261-1146

Oahu League of Republican Women

Pam Smith, Editor • 808-398-5556 • olrwnews@gmail.com

April 2015

Luncheon / Meeting  
April 2, 2015  
Hale Koa Hotel

11:00 A.M. Social Hour  
11:30 A.M. Meeting  
12:00 Noon Lunch  
12:30 P.M. Speakers

Cost

**\$30.00 Members**

**\$35.00 Guests**

## Menu

**Sauteed Pork Loin  
Cutlets**

w/Sun dried Tomato  
Mushroom Caper Sauce

**Mashed Potatoes**

**Ginger Scented  
Broccoli, Squash and  
Peppers**

**Rolls**

**Coffee and Tea**

**Dutch Apple Pie  
w/Vanilla Ice Cream**

Reservations/Cancellations

**Celyn Chong Kee**

306-5089

olrwreservations@gmail.com

olrw.org

Reservations/Cancellations

must be made by March 30<sup>th</sup>.  
Late reservations will pay a \$3  
surcharge. We are committed to  
pay for all lunches reserved, so  
*No Shows will be charged for  
their lunch.*

Please - no walk-ins.



**Speaker:**

## John Keene-Shriner's Hospital

John C. Keene, M.S., CFRE is the Vice President of Development at Shriners Hospitals for Children® - Honolulu. Keene is one of only 15 people in the state of Hawaii holding the internationally recognized Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE) credential.

"Life is a gift, and what we do with this gift is central to our legacy," Keene says, explaining why he is so excited about his role at Shriners Hospitals for Children® - Honolulu. "Consider for a moment that everyone is allotted only 24 hours each day to live life to its fullest.

How are we honoring this gift? Are we truly being good stewards of it by helping others in need? When I think about the fact that Shriners is Hawaii's leader in orthopaedic pediatric care and helps transform the lives of thousands of children annually, I realize being a part of Shriners and being able to make a difference is one of the greatest gifts of all." If you have never supported Shriners Hospitals for Children® - Honolulu before, Keene says consider doing so today. "Your gift will reach across time and truly achieve a significant and beneficial impact in the life of a child."

## Reminder



Please bring in your OLRW PAC Change.  
The change brought in last month was  
\$51.93.

We have jars available that you can reuse  
every month.

**Remember: Your Small Change can mean  
Big Change in Hawaii!**



## 2015 Dues are Due

2015 yearly dues are \$25.00  
We accept cash, checks or credit card  
payment at our luncheon . You can  
also pay on line at [olrw.org](http://olrw.org)



**Inside**

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## Happy Birthday April Babies

HAU'OLI LA HANAU To

Linda Batt 2  
Owen McCabe 3  
Maria Smith 5  
Joe Henao 6  
Sandra Knox Wil-  
liams 6  
Kathy Brown 7  
Rachel Zane 7  
Blake Parsons 11  
Roberta Chong Kee 12  
Sen Sam Slom 13



Kristi Sue-Ako 14  
Janet Judwin 15  
Mike Palcic 17  
Shirley Vogtritter 18  
Cricket Chung 20  
Cindy Vaillancourt 22  
Winona Lee 22  
Gordon Trimble 27



# The Pres Says...

Carol Thomas, President

Our March 5 business meeting with Tom Yamachika, President of the Tax Foundation of Hawaii was an informative education on the many bills circulating at the State Legislature. Our members had many questions on the legislative process and proposals for Tom. I wish we had more time because the Q&A's were so helpful.

I'd like to welcome our new OLRW member, Donna Swygard, who has accepted an appointment as Coalitions Vic Chair at HRP. She replaces Janell Yim another OLRW member.

Honolulu County Convention is Saturday, March 28 at Moanalua Middle School.

## RULES FOR HALE KOA

1. Final Count by Monday, March 30
2. **Absolutely No walk ins**

**Please take part in our Easter Bonnet contest this year, We will choose the three top bonnets as determined by our judges. Have fun with this. show your personality through your bonnet. Last year's winners are pictured on page 4.**

IF NOT US, WHO? IF NOT NOW, WHEN? IF NOT HERE, THEN WHERE?

## Luncheon Schedule

May 7- Waialae Country Club  
Col Suzanne Vares-Lum

Hawaii National Guard

June 4 - The Willows

Legislative Update

**We are dark July & August this year.**

Sept 3 Oahu Country Club

Oct 1 Waialae Country Club

Nov 5

Dec 3 Waialae Country Club

## Welcome



## HELP NEEDED

to our newest members:

**Donna Swygard**  
**Richard Humes**  
**Linda Humes**

We are looking forward to getting to know you!

### Feature Writers

We need people that are willing to write stories about current events and biographies of OLRW members. Professional credentials **NOT** required.

No need for a monthly commitment.

Contact Pam Smith for more information.

### Is one of our members ill?

If you know of a member that is sick or has had a death in the family please let us know so we can send them get well wishes or condolences. Call **Corresponding Secretary Jane Au** at 373-3820

### Advertisers

If we want to expand the newsletter to include more content we need to get advertisers to cover the cost. Please contact Pam for details.

## Get Well



Get Well wishes go out to the husband & dad of our long-time members Lynn and Cindy Meiers.

We wish Rich a full and speedy recovery.

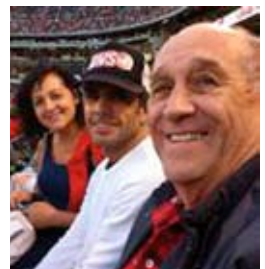
## Condolences To the Lohr Family



on the passing of their beloved husband and father, Mickey on March 16. The Lohr family relocated to Washington DC a few years ago, but Pat is a life member of OLRW.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Pat, Jeff, Barbara and Nathaniel.

## To Kitty Lagareta



on the passing of her beloved father on March 17th.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Kitty and her entire family as they grieve the loss of their Husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather.

# March Luncheon Waialae Country Club



Anne didn't forget that the Tax Foundation of Hawaii needs donations to keep doing their good work.



Thanks to Mark Torreano for talking to us about "Time Out Honolulu", an organization to explore taking a break in rail construction while money issues are worked out.



Thank you to Tom Yamachika of the Tax Foundation for letting us know which bills to watch out for during this legislative session.



Mark Torreano won the 50/50 drawing in March. \$50 went to Mark and \$50 went to the PAC. Mark generously donated his winnings to the PAC.



# Get your Easter Bonnet out



Last year's winners - Bev Toomey, Mary Monohon and Patti Coale



The OLRW PAC is the arm of the League that collects money to support our state and county candidates.

During the last election cycle we gave \$9300 to candidates running for State offices. We felt that some deserved more, but we ran out of funds. We would like to at least double our contributions next election cycle, but we need your continued and constant support to do that.

If each of our members gave just \$5 per month (about 17 cents per day) we would have well over \$20,000 in our account for the next election.

There are a variety of payment methods available. We accept cash, checks and credit cards.

If you would like to just throw your loose change in a jar every day we have jars available to save your coins in. When you are coming to the luncheon just put your coins in a ziplock bag along with a piece of paper with your name & phone number and drop it at the door when you check in.

Every coin, every check, every dollar brings us closer to our goal.

Please help us help hard working candidates win their races.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our PAC during the past month. We received



**\$51.93**  
Change for Change

Target: \$20000



**\$50**  
Calabash

**\$60** Other Contributions

**\$161.93**  
Total this month



## Our Annual Easter Bonnet Contest is on!

Wear your finest to our luncheon this month.

Prizes will be awarded to the three (3) best hats (determined by our committee) in the Easter/Spring theme. **We are looking forward to seeing some beautiful hats this year**

### History of the Easter Bonnet

The history of the Easter bonnet goes back farther than many of us realize. Easter Bonnets even go farther back in time than Easter itself. The first bonnets, usually a circle of leaves and flowers, symbolized the cycle of the seasons and the coming of Spring. The Christian holiday of Easter celebrates new life and rebirth with pure and new clothing. Later on in history came the "Sunday of Joy," the Easter after the end of the Civil War. This day allowed mothers and daughters to come out of mourning donning pastel colors and incorporating the spring flowers. The 1870's marked the beginning of the Easter Parade in New York. The Easter Parade allowed women to proudly show off their new spring clothing and Easter Bonnets.

The Easter fashion traditions are still alive today, celebrated among the young and old. Easter bonnets come in all shapes, sizes, colors and designs. Easter bonnets often mark the beginning of many people's love of hats. Their beauty is well known and admired. They still symbolize new life in the coming of spring, warm weather and religious celebrations.

**This Easter, sport your very own Easter bonnet. Whether hand made or store bought, old or new, small or large, wear it proudly with your head held high. Celebrate the coming of a new season with a lovely Easter**

## New RPH Coalitions Chair Donna Swygard

Donna is a business woman who earned a degree in Public Policy and Management

She is a long -range strategic planner and is known to turn troubled companies into successful ones

Donna has 25 years of experience in leadership positions in non- profit organizations and is a new member of OLRW.



This Outstanding resume makes Donna an excellent choice as Vice Chairman in charge of Coalitions for the Republican Party of Hawaii.



# Letters to the Editor

We want to encourage our members to write letter to the editor. As akamai members of the community, we should be commenting on the issues of the day to educate people that lack our perspective. If you have an issue that you want to speak out on, but don't know how to write a letter Garry Smith is willing to help our members to write letters to the editor. You can call Garry at 392-5559 or email him @ garrysmith01@gmail.com.

Following are the rules for The Star Advertiser and MidWeek Letters:

The Star-Advertiser welcomes letters up to 150 words and guest columns of 500-600 words. The Star-Advertiser reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length. Please direct comments to the issues; personal attacks will not be published. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number.



Letters must

- (a) be signed and include your area of residence and
- (b) include a daytime telephone number (not for publication).

Postal Mail: Letters to the Editor, Star-Advertiser  
7 Waterfront Plaza, 500 Ala Moana, Suite 7-210  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
E-mail: letters@staradvertiser.com  
Fax: (808) 529-4750



email letters to  
Dchapman@midweek.com



Below are letters from OUR MEMBERS printed by the Star Advertiser and Midweek in the past month.

We should aim for at least 3-4 letters per month from our members in print. You can't change peoples' minds if you don't speak out.

## Loyalty to Obama can be a drawback

'Honolulu Star-Advertiser' - 2015-02-24

It is appalling that U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz decided to boycott Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech to a joint session of Congress on March 3.

This is a critical time for Israel to give the U.S. its understanding of how negotiations to stop Iran from building a nuclear arsenal will affect the balance of power in the Middle East and the world.

Shouldn't our congressional representatives and senators hear all points of view so they can make informed decisions? Loyalty to President Barack Obama and his disdain of Netanyahu should not trump their responsibility to represent the people of Hawaii.

Netanyahu dares to say what Obama does not want to hear: that negotiations are merely an appeasement to Iran's nuclear ambitions and destruction of Israel.

**Shirley L. Gibbs**

Kaneohe

## Practice aloha by respecting kupuna

'Honolulu Star-Advertiser' - 2015-02-24

The unique spirit of aloha is a gift that can be found nowhere else but home.

Aloha embodies respect and love for family, friends and visitors. It reaches beyond ourselves and into a dimension that allows us to be others-minded, to care for those who cannot care for themselves, regardless their circumstances, who are truly marginalized.

There are many kupuna who daily live in fear and isolation in our islands. Many, surprisingly, have no one close to check in on them. These are "our" kupuna who have helped instill the very foundation of aloha that have made Hawaii a world-class destination.

Let's all take a few minutes to visit with our kupuna in our condominiums and neighborhoods, ensuring that they are aging safely in place with hope and the feeling that their legacy of aloha will never be forgotten.

**Janet Grace**

Waikiki

## Rail legacy?

MidWeek - 2015-02-25

Dan Boylan's Feb. 11 column "Rail Yes! Rail No! Enough Already" seems resigned to rail's continuing cost overruns to at least \$10 billion — that's almost \$5 billion more for Oahu to pay than originally budgeted.

Mr. Boylan says "rail's being built for 30 years from now." Unfortunately, those of us living in the present have to pay for it. A family of five will pay more than \$1,000 a year as long as the .5 percent GET is in effect, which Mayor Caldwell wants to make permanent.

Without the GET increase extension, the mayor says property taxes will have to go up as much as 45 percent, hurting people on fixed incomes and renters.

Honolulu's EIS says that traffic will be worse once rail is finished than it is today. So, 30 years from now, when residents are still paying for rail, will they thank us for being forward-looking or curse us for their increased cost of living?

**Garry P. Smith**

Ewa Beach

## Isle delegation puts Obama over DHS

'Honolulu Star-Advertiser' - 2015-02-26

U.S. Sens. Mazie Hirono and Brian Schatz have just voted, for the fourth time, to not allow the Department of Homeland Security funding bill to come to the floor for debate, amendment and a vote, even though in the Republican-led Senate, the minority party may now participate in the process.

In the House, both Reps. Tulsi Gabbard and Mark Takai also voted against the bill before it was sent to the Senate.

Hawaii's citizens should be calling their representatives and asking why our entire congressional delegation puts a higher priority on protecting the president's sweeping administrative revisions to immigration law — recently held to be illegal by a federal judge — than protecting Americans from the increased terrorist threats that DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson recently warned us of.

**Mark Torreano**

Waikiki

## Caldwell going back on promises on rail

'Honolulu Star-Advertiser' - 2015-02-26

The Legislature is about to make Mayor Kirk Caldwell the happiest politician in Hawaii. It looks like the mayor has successfully lobbied the legislators to make the 0.5 percent general excise tax rail surcharge permanent, or at least extend it for another 25 years.

Senate Bill 19 unanimously passed the Senate Transportation Committee to continue the rail tax for 25 years without restrictions.

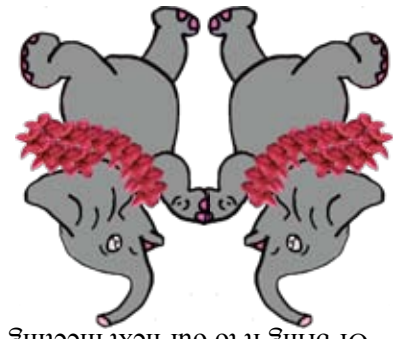
The mayor says he has no intention of telling the legislators or the public what the final cost of rail will be ("Ultimate price tag for rail likely to remain a mystery," Star-Advertiser, Feb. 22).

Before the mayor's election in 2012, he campaigned that under his leadership, rail would not only be built better, it would be on time and on budget.

So now we have the perfect storm of a politician asking for a blank check to complete a project that is over budget and has no final price.

**Garry P. Smith**

Ewa Beach



Or bring it to our next meeting

Mail your check to:  
Oahu League of  
Republican Women  
#C-105  
725 Kapiolani Blvd.  
Honolulu HI 96813

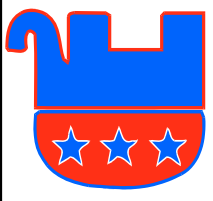
Dues \$25.00 Yearly \$200.00 Lifetime

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**Oahu League of Republican Women Membership Application**



725 Kapiolani Blvd. C-105  
Honolulu HI 96813



<http://www.gophawaii.com>

For more information about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities at HRP call 808-593-8180 or online at

OLRW Volunteer opportunities: contact Ione Gumpfer, OLRW Volunteer Coordinator, at 262-9788 or [igumpfer@aol.com](mailto:igumpfer@aol.com)

**Upcoming Events**

