

THE VOICE

"Coming together, uniting West Maui as ONE Voice"

PO Box 10338 ♦ Lahaina, HI 96761 ♦ www.WestMaui.org ♦ WMTA@maui.net

Newsletter of the West Maui Taxpayers Association, April 2012

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE By Don Lehman

WMTA kicked off a very busy 2012 with the best attended and most informative Annual Meeting ever. After a short business meeting Deidre Tegarden, the Governor's Maui Representative, read a Special Message from the Governor commending WMTA for its many contributions, and especially honoring WMTA Board member Uwe Schultz for his 40+ years of service to West Maui. Thank you Uwe! That Message is included in this Newsletter (page 2), and is also on the WMTA web site: www.westmaui.org. There are also video clips of the presentations at the Annual Meeting on the WMTA web site.



Senator Roz Baker and Representative Angus McKelvey made a joint presentation to assure the West Maui community that they had taken positive action to have the missing swim buoys replaced in both South and West Maui in reaction to the tragic death at Hanakao'o Beach. At this time, many new buoys have been installed. Many thanks to our West Maui representatives for making this

an urgent matter worthy of immediate State action. After the State legislative update there was an unscheduled appearance by Tamara Paltin representing the paddling community and reinforcing the urgency of the buoy issue. WMTA was very pleased and proud to provide the first public forum on this issue.

Mayor Alan Arakawa's first order of business was to read a County of Maui Proclamation (available on the WMTA website) detailing Uwe Schultz's work and recognizing him for the "treasure" that he is. Congratulations Uwe! The Mayor then joined with West Maui Council member Elle Cochran to review their plans and priorities for 2012 and beyond.



The first Special Presentation was WMTA Board member Pamela English with a power point look at the state-of-the-art skate park near the Lahaina Aquatic Center. Thanks to years of effort by Pam and a few other dedicated individuals, the park is completed and ready for acceptance by the County. Congratulations to Pam for her perseverance in bringing this wonderful amenity to West Maui.

The second Special Presentation was a bypass update by WMTA Board member and Lahaina Bypass Now President Bob Pure and State of Hawaii Department of Transportation Construction Engineer Charlene Shibuya. Charlene also presented information on DOT construction projects closing in West Maui during 2011 and 2012 totaling some \$15 million. Thank you, Charlene. As to the bypass, the two sections under construction are on schedule and should complete by September 1, 2012.

MISSED THE ANNUAL MEETING?

You can still catch the special presentations during the evening on our Website, YouTube, and Akaku!

Visit www.WestMaui.org and links can take you to all the video clips.

The last, but certainly not least, Special Presentation was the West Maui Hospital Update by Dr. Jerome Tannenbaum of Sanderling Healthcare. Dr. Tannenbaum started by stating that West Maui NEEDS a hospital. He then went on to show that he knows what must be done to make the hospital a reality, and he also knows how to do it. The most exciting news was his announcement that he thinks a hospital could be accepting patients within two years. Thank you Dr. Tannenbaum, and special thanks and congratulations to WMTA board member and West Maui Improvement Foundation President Joe Pluta who has pushed this project through incredible highs and lows.

With the Annual Meeting behind us, WMTA will be involved in a number of areas where we will pursue the very ambitious Goals and Objectives we adopted.

President's Report Continued on Page 2

The State legislative session is approaching its final days, when WMTA and its affiliate associations are prepared to comment on legislation that may impact West Maui residents, businesses and taxpayers. The County is about to begin its annual budget process, which always presents opportunities for WMTA to promote its agenda. Another area where WMTA will be active is in the General Plan update. At one point there was language proposed that was very negative toward the visitor industry. WMTA joined with a number of other organizations to successfully remove those provisions.

More recently, there has been extensive news coverage of statements by the Maui County Planning Director that the draft Maui Island Plan is too detailed and would be very difficult to implement. He argues that much of what is in the draft should be left to the Community Plans. While WMTA appreciates all the hard work that went into the draft, and understands why those who did that work would be compelled to defend their work, it seems that the person who is responsible for implementation should prevail in this instance. Further, even though the General Plan Advisory Committee claims to represent all communities, they ignored planning done in West Maui that won awards for community involvement. That argues that the Planning Director is correct in his position that the detailed planning is best done in the Community Plans rather than the General Plan. WMTA will be actively promoting this concept as we feel it is in the best interests of West Maui.

Finally, this is an election year so WMTA will be conducting the only Candidates' Forum on the west side. The WMTA Annual Meeting, the Candidates' Forum and active lobbying on behalf of West Maui are all done by WMTA volunteers, but there is some overhead that we need help from the members to cover. If you appreciate what WMTA does, and care about a better West Maui, please help by recruiting new members. Thank you.

Sincerely,

President, WMTA

Below is a reduced size copy of the Governor's Message. This can also be viewed online at <http://www.westmaui.org/2/post/2012/01/uwe-schulz-special-message-from-the-governor.html>.

The County of Maui Proclamation can be viewed at <http://www.westmaui.org/2/post/2012/01/uwe-schulz-county-of-maui-proclamation.html>



Special Message from Governor Neil Abercrombie

Presented to

The West Maui Taxpayers Association

January 12, 2011

Aloha to the Board of Directors, staff and members of the West Maui Taxpayers Association and everyone attending the organization's Annual Meeting.

The West Maui Taxpayers Association has been an active voice for West Maui for over thirty-one years. From affordable housing, to traffic issues to health care matters, the members of the West Maui Taxpayers Association work to ensure that the concerns of the community are addressed.

Together with the founding of the West Maui Improvement Foundation, West Maui Taxpayers Association raised nearly five million dollars to build and furnish the Napili Fire and Ambulance Station which has been saving lives since 2002. This is the only community in the State of Hawai'i that used 100% community private funds to pay for the development of community infrastructure; a perfect example of a community putting private/public partnerships into practice.

Tonight architect and longtime member, Uwe Schultz, will be recognized for his 40 years of service. Mr. Schultz has been a committed, dedicated and engaged member, generously donating this time, talent and treasury to the West Maui community. Uwe, you are an inspirational individual. I congratulate you on your honor this evening.

The West Maui Taxpayers Association plays a critical role in Maui's economic and cultural wellbeing. Thanks to organizations such as yours, Maui continues to be "no ka oi." I send my best wishes and hope your Annual Meeting is once again a success.

With warmest regards,

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

More Photo's from the Annual Meeting 2012



Photographs printed on Page 1 and 2 are from Videos shot and edited by MAC Professional Video LLC.

WEST MAUI HOSPITAL UPDATE By Joe Pluta

Please consider going to our web site @ <http://www.westmauihospital.org> and seeing the YouTube video clip of the West Maui Hospital Presentation made by Dr. Jerome Tannenbaum at the WMTA Annual Meeting. Included in the presentation is the disclosure that the ownership of the West Maui Hospital will be the West Maui Improvement Foundation Inc.; the Non-Profit 501-c-3 Foundation which has an unparalleled and proven track record of success with their development of the Napili Fire and Ambulance Station in 2002. The Governor's Special Message in this Newsletter acknowledges that we are the only organization in any community in the entire State who has ever done something like this.

Memorandums of Understanding and Operating Agreements between all the stakeholders in the development and operation of the West Maui Hospital have been initiated and should be substantially completed within the next 60 - 90 days.

While the super majority of the 60-70 Million Dollars that will be necessary to fund the development will be secured with financing, we still have predevelopment expenses to deal with.

How much is your life worth?

Be a West Maui Life Saver! Join us!

Invite your friends to join with you! Become of part of this life saving facility! This pre-development stage includes financial obligations for legal and analytical reviews. Make your 100% dedicated tax free donations to the West Maui Improvement Foundation Inc. or the West Maui Hospital and Medical Center Foundation Inc. Thank you!

**West Maui Improvement Foundation Donation
IRS EIN 99-0275775 NON PROFIT 501C (3)**

West Maui Taxpayers Association continues to collaborate with the West Maui Improvement Foundation in its efforts to bring a hospital to West Maui. Please read the hospital update above by Joe Pluta, WMTA Treasurer/President Emeritus, as well as President of the West Maui Improvement Foundation. If you can give a gift, no matter the amount, it would be greatly appreciated.

Donor Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

- Check here to have your name kept private in publications and acknowledgements.
- Check here to have your e-mail address added to our "WMIF E-Alerts" List

Payment Info:

\$_____ Check Enclosed
 Payable to **West Maui Improvement Foundation**
Amount: \$25 \$50 \$365 Other \$_____

Credit Card (fill out information to the right.)

Mail Checks, and Send Comments to:
 West Maui Improvement Foundation
 PO Box 158 • Lahaina, HI 96761
 Phone: 808-661-7990
 Visit www.WestMauiHospital.org

**CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD –
ALL INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR CREDIT CARD DONATIONS:**

CARD TYPE Visa MasterCard
Amount: \$25 \$50 \$365 Other \$_____

Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____ Phone Number: _____

Billing Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Signature _____

Nws-Apr 2012

MEMBERSHIP / TREASURERS REPORT By Joe Pluta

My fellow board members and I respectfully request your assistance in asking one or more of your friends and neighbors to join the membership roles of the WMTA!

As a recipient of this newsletter, you are a very important and special person to me and my fellow WMTA board members. Having lived here for over 33 years and being a charter director of the West Maui Taxpayers Association, Inc.; I have witnessed the significant accomplishments directly attributable to efforts undertaken by the WMTA.

These include the beginning of lobbying efforts for approvals for the Lahaina By Pass, development of the Napili Fire and Ambulance Station, creation of S Turns Park and initiation of lower and upper Honoapiilani roadway improvements, Creation of Napili Park, the development of the Aquatic Center and the Lahaina Senior Center, Leasehold to Fee Simple Condominium conversions, lobbying for the West Maui Hospital Certificate of Need and much more.

We all know that West Maui is a very special place with some very unique features and friendly people. Residents of West Maui are aware of the challenges we face being isolated on this side of the Pali and the reality of living in West Maui. The same can be said for the part time residents who repeatedly return here year after year.

It's easy to let "someone else" take care dealing with the myriad of needs and controversial issues in the community.....so let WMTA continue to be that "someone else." Our ability to succeed is directly tied to the resources we have at our disposal. We exist and operate solely on membership dues and donations.

If you know anyone who is not a member of the WMTA and owns property here or visits here regularly, please invite and encourage them to become members. There is strength in numbers and this is an election year. This is a call to action that you can answer! A membership in the WMTA is perhaps the most productively beneficial investment anyone could make with a substantial return on investment clearly evidenced by our track record.

We hope you appreciate the excellent information contained in this newsletter! Share it with your friends. Use it as a reference for membership information. Your volunteer WMTA Board of Directors are very excited about our role and being able to see the significant accomplishments we have initiated being brought into reality. Thank you for part in this and your continued outstanding support!



SAVE THE DATE –
Annual Candidates Night
Meeting
October 18, 2012
(subject to change)

Did you know...

In the 2010 Primary Election, Maui County had 84,386 registered voters. Yet, only 28,839, or 34.2 percent, cast ballots in the primary election?
Stay tuned for more astounding facts!

PLEASE REGISTER AND PLEASE VOTE!

West Maui Taxpayers Association

MEMBERSHIP FORM - IRS EIN 99-0160368 NON PROFIT 501C (4)

Member Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____

- Please correct my information as noted above.
- Check here to have your name kept private in publications and acknowledgements.
- Check here to have your e-mail address added to our "WMTA E-Alerts" List

\$ _____ **MEMBERSHIP**

- I am a member and renewing my dues
- I **am not** a member but would like to join

\$ _____ **DONATION:** In addition to my membership, here is an **ADDITIONAL DONATION**

Membership Levels

- Individuals may join at \$50.00 per year.
- Families may join at \$100.00 per year
- Businesses may join at \$100.00 per year
- Associations, please contact us directly

Memberships effective for one year upon receipt of membership dues payment.

Mail Checks, payable to "West Maui Taxpayers Association, to:

West Maui Taxpayers Association

PO Box 158 • Lahaina, HI 96761 • Phone: 808-661-7990 • Visit www.WestMaui.org

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