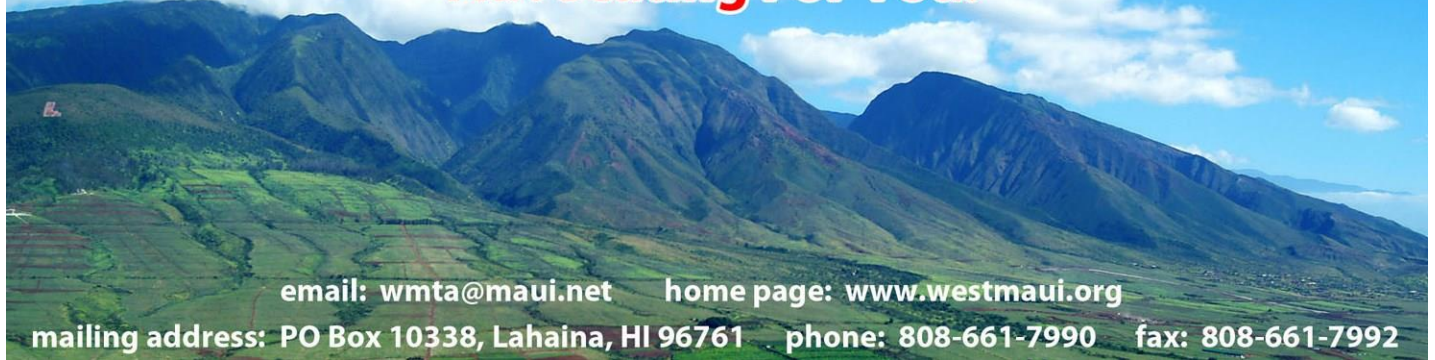


WEST MAUI TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Advocating For You!



email: wmta@maui.net home page: www.westmaui.org

mailing address: PO Box 10338, Lahaina, HI 96761 phone: 808-661-7990 fax: 808-661-7992

A'ohe Hana Nui Ke Alu 'ia (No task is too large when we work together)

THE VOICE

Newsletter of the West Maui Taxpayers Association – December, 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Joseph D. Pluta



Aloha WMTA MEMBERS AND FRIENDS!

Happy Thanksgiving and Mele Kalikimaka!

The Holidays are rapidly approaching and it's appropriate to be reminded of all that we are thankful for.

The odds were against us 40 years ago when we began our efforts towards improving the infrastructural needs in West Maui. Our track record is remarkable and unparalleled anywhere in the entire state of Hawaii. With your past support, and aligned with God's Will, we have accomplished what many considered impossible.

While the board of directors of the WMTA and WMIF are volunteers who serve without pay, their existence as nonprofits; to be operationally viable, depends upon necessary financial support to pay for essential administrative, accounting, special outside contractors/consultants, and other operational and basic office expenses. Neither organization has any "employees."

Absentee property owners in West Maui who cannot vote desperately need an advocate to protect their interests here now more than ever. The County Council has enacted unprecedented increases in property taxes and just recently a new "tiered," property tax structure which seems to target what many feel are punitive property taxes against short term rentals and properties assessed over \$1M. West Maui is the area most impacted with a super majority in both of these categories.

A positive approach to life first assumes that problems are solvable, and second, it opens our minds to search for creative solutions. We have an attitude that says "Yes;" and have been willing to risk failure but are banking on success.

We thank God for the opportunity to serve you and our community. We invite you to make the decision to become a part of the solution and send us a year-end financial gift with the proxy enclosed today. Please help us help you! Together, we can make a difference.

Warmest Regards,

Joseph D. Pluta – President/ Treasurer

WMTA ANNUAL MEETING 2020

Jan

**8
2020**

SAVE THE DATE ANNUAL MEETING LAHAINA CIVIC CENTER - SOCIAL HALL

WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 8, 2020

**4:30 PM
Doors Open**

**5:00 PM
Complimentary Dinner Line Opens**

**5:30 PM
Business Meeting starts,
followed by Special Presentations**

Join the WMTA at its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at the Lahaina Civic Center – Social Hall (Main Hall).

Short Business meeting, to include the Election of Board of Directors, will kick off the meeting. This will be followed by presentations from organizations and projects that affect the West Maui community. These include:

1. West Maui State Senator Roz Baker
2. West Maui Legislative State Representative- Angus McKelvey
3. Maui Mayor Michael Victorino
4. West Maui Council member Tamara Paltin
5. Maui County Long Range Community Plan-Pam Eaton
6. Affordable Housing Developments:
 - a. Pulelehua at Mahinahina
 - b. Keawe Street Apartments
7. Lahaina Town Shoreline Improvement Project-Maui County Public Works

(At press time, more speakers are being considered pending time analysis)

MEMBERS! Please see Page 4 for Proxy to return to WMTA if you will not be able to attend.

Membership Update – Joseph D. Pluta

There WMTA is a non-profit 501-c-4. We work to convince local and State government that supporting capital improvement projects for our West Maui infrastructure is a wise Investment. We created the West Maui Improvement Foundation Inc. as a 5-01-c-3 Non-profit charity to be the recipient of tax-deductible contributions in support of our efforts which are mutually beneficial to all concerned.

While Housing for our workforce has been a priority over the past 40 years, health and safety have been on the top of the list. We have made significant inroads towards both.

With all humility, we believe it's important for you to know that there is not any community organization in the entire state of Hawaii that has done as much for their community as the West Maui Taxpayers Association and West Maui Improvement foundation has accomplished these past 40 years.

We know for certain that our taking on the unprecedented action to privately pay for and develop the Napili Fire and Ambulance Station has saved property owners millions of dollars in reduced fire insurance premium costs as we were able to take the protection class from the highest rating of 10 to a protection class of 5-6. I'm sure you have examined your costs for fire insurance, and it would have been double that cost without our Napili Fire and Ambulance Station nearby.

If you know any property owners in West Maui who are not supporting the WMTA and WMIF, please ask them why not!

It's appropriate to ask for your continued outstanding support at this time to get us over the goal line. Please consider a year end donation to the WMTA and the WMIF and be an active part of the solutions we are striving for.

Malama Pono ame Mahalo.

Emergency Planning Update – Joseph D. Pluta

As you know, West Maui's isolation, over 25 miles away from essential life-saving emergency medical services, has literally resulted in the loss of lives. Our isolation creates extraordinary demands to get to our central airport and sole hospital "on the other side" when our only safe access highway is frequently closed due to fires and accidents.

Maui Mayor Michael Victorino was the featured speaker for a WMTA Community Event October 29, 2019. The WMTA specifically asked the Mayor to inform the community of West Maui what actions he and his administration have been taking in response to the devastating fires and floods experienced in West Maui since August of 2018 when homes were lost and lives dramatically altered. This event can be seen on the Web as it was filmed by AKAKU Community TV and can be viewed at <http://www.westmaui.org/news-blog/video-mayor-victorino-discussion-on-west-maui-emergency-planning>

The mayor promised us to utilize the information he has received in the "After Action Report, (AAR)" prepared by his Maui Emergency Management Agency, (MEMA). That means that this MEMA agency will be receiving sorely needed improvements for operational enhancements revealed in the AAR. That includes incorporation of synergy with components of the West Maui Emergency Preparedness Plan the WMTA has been working on the past 16 months and posted on the website at www.westmaui.org

We have happily welcomed the active involvement of Maui Electric Company, (MECO), joining our efforts to help homeowners prepare for severe storms, fires, and floods. The WMTA will be working with them promoting ongoing efforts to build strong, sustainable communities together. They have announced a free community workshop, "Hui Up for Resiliency," which will be presented in conjunction with UHMC-Office of Extended Learning, on Saturday, Dec 14, from 9am-12pm at the University of Hawaii Maui College. Please email : community.relations@mauielectric.com or call 808-872-3244 to make reservations to attend

We all know that the severe weather we have been experiencing further complicated with sea level rise and global warming present challenges we need to be prepared for to the extent practicably possible.

WEST MAUI HOSPITAL UPDATE – Joseph D. Pluta

With all the starts and stops and unexpected and unforeseen challenges and changes the WMTA and WMIF has been forced to deal with the past 20 years, there seems to be more opportunity for confusion now than ever before. As much as I know about all the details, it's very challenging to provide a cogent explanation of what happened and where we are headed.

At a recent Kaanapali 2020 community planning group meeting that I have been attending every month the past 20 years, an email was read from Brian Hoyle representing the West Maui Hospital effort. *"We are now pursuing development of the building permit ready 40 Subacute Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF), and 39 Unit Memory Care Assisted Living Facility, (ALF), which with a future planned 150 unit Independent Living Facility, (ILF), on the remaining portion of the WMHMC site will create Maui's only fully integrated Continuing Care Retirement Community, (CCRC)."*

After this announcement, the Kaanapali 2020 Community Group decided to no longer reference "West Maui Hospital" on meeting agendas and change it to "West Maui Health and Wellness Center," instead.

The WMTA and the WMIF are moving forward with renewed optimism given the integrity of the recently announced Maui Health Systems team and their commitment to open a 24/7 Emergency Room in West Maui. It is refreshing to us all who are so disappointed with the seemingly abandonment of Hospital plans by Brian Hoyle and Newport Hospital Corp., (NHC). While there remains to be lots of new questions of what the specifics and details are at this time, there is no question that more will be revealed soon.

We know that having a lifesaving Emergency Room in West Maui is necessary and will be receiving a whole new level of credibility as it's led in partnership with the existing Maui Health Systems Maui Memorial Hospital. How much the WMIF can contribute to this effort is directly tied to its financial ability to do so. We will need to come to a consensus of what our role is and what Maui Health Systems' role is moving forward. My Senior Pastor Laki Kaahumanu says a "move of God," is working through us to save lives in West Maui. We pray for God's Will to be revealed to us and the power to carry that out. We hope we can continue to count of the outstanding support of the West Maui community to the benefit of all concerned. (Visit www.WestMaui.org for a short synopsis of the history of WMIF and WMTA efforts for the West Maui hospital).

WEST MAUI TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION – PROXY

The undersigned does hereby constitute and appoint the West Maui Taxpayers Association Board of Directors as attorney or agent, with full power of substitution, to act in the undersigned's name, place and stead, to represent that member for quorum purposes only so that the business that properly comes before the meeting can be conducted by those present. It is valid only for the ANNUAL MEETING of the WEST MAUI TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION to be held on **Wednesday, January 8, 2020**, at the Lahaina Civic Center Main Social Hall, 1840 Honoapiilani Hwy, Lahaina, HI 96761. Any WMTA member present in person may elect to vote upon such business that may properly come before the meeting, including the election of Directors. This Proxy will be valid only for the above-cited meeting and adjournments thereof, may be revoked prior to its exercise and shall be returned upon request if the undersigned attends the meeting and desires to vote in person.

DATE SIGNED: _____ (Required by law)

NAME OF MEMBER (PRINTED-required by law)

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER

1. Please sign your name as it appears in YOUR WMTA MEMBERSHIP records. Executors, Administrators, trustees, guardians, conservators, and corporate officers are to add their Titles and, if not already done. Submit a copy of their appointment.
2. For this proxy to be valid:
 - a. The proxy giver must provide his or her printed name, signature, and the date that this proxy was signed.
 - b. This proxy must be received by the Association's Secretary at 181 Lahainaluna Road, Suite I, Lahaina, Maui, HI 96761, **no later than 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 7, 2020.**
3. The Board of Directors requests that a unanimous ballot be cast in favor of the Board Members to be elected as listed below. Yes (Check this box to vote unanimous in favor for the Slate of Directors)

**PROXY: Please Use Return Envelope and Return the Portion Above to
WMTA, PO Box 10338, Lahaina, HI 96761 or 181 Lahainaluna Road, Suite I, Lahaina, HI 96761.
WEST MAUI TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION, 2020 ANNUAL MEETING- ELECTION OF DIRECTORS
SLATE OF DIRECTORS**

Lee Chamberlain
Richard Jarman
Rick Nava

Gregg Nelson
Jess "Joe" Park
Joseph Pluta

John Seebart
Feresteh Tali

The WMTA Bylaws state: "There shall be a total of 12 Directors, including the Officers. No person shall be empowered to vote or be eligible for election to any office in the Organization whose membership dues have not been paid in full."

REMINDER: ONLY ACTIVE DUES PAYING MEMBERS ARE ALLOWED TO VOTE!

West Maui Taxpayers Association
MEMBERSHIP FORM - IRS EIN 99-0160368 - NON PROFIT 501C (4)
You can also pay online at www.westmaui.org/joinnow.html

Member Name: _____
 Check here to have your name kept private in publications and acknowledgements.

Join the WMTA Email List: _____

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

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____ Fax: _____

<p>\$ _____ MEMBERSHIP</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am a member and renewing my dues</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am not a member but would like to join</p>	<p>Membership Levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Community Supporter \$25/year<input type="checkbox"/> Community Leader \$50.00/year<input type="checkbox"/> Families \$100/year<input type="checkbox"/> Businesses \$100/year<input type="checkbox"/> AOA – email wmta@maui.net
--	---

\$ _____ **ADDITIONAL DONATION** Year End Special Donation for Executive Director (E.D)
100% Charitable donation when payable to WMIF. WMIF is a 501 (c)(3) Public Charity Organization EIN 99-0275775. . Please check with your tax adviser.

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

NWS2019-December

THE VOICE

Newsletter of the
West Maui Taxpayers Association
December 2019

**"Bringing the West Maui
Community Together,
Advocating for You"**
A 501-C-4 Community Organization

PO Box 10338 - Lahaina, HI 96761

Phone: 808-661-7990
Fax: 808-661-7992

Visit www.WestMaui.org
Email: WMTA@maui.net

Look for us on

facebook

(www.WestMaui.org has links)