



Ha'aheo 675

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PLUMBERS AND FITTERS UNITED ASSOCIATION LOCAL 675, AFL-CIO

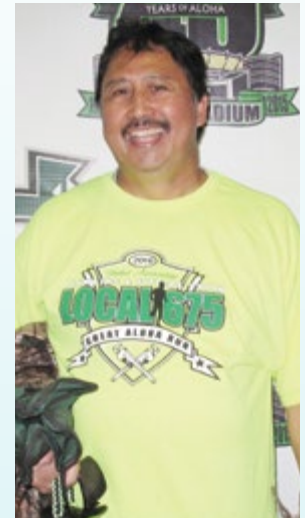
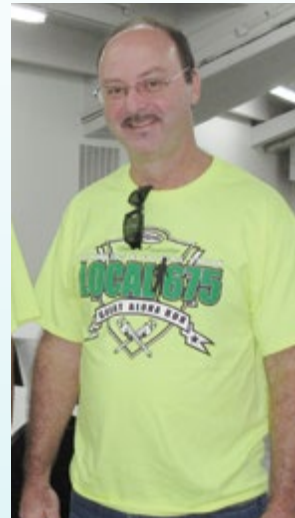
Fun Run Helps Uplift Union's Aloha Spirit



Union president Val Ceria congratulates Kainalu Pagente, first-in Local 675 entry to complete the 2016 Aloha Fun Run. Finishers enjoyed a hosted breakfast at the Stadium.



Union business agents Tracy Tanouye, Matt Brady and Jonathan Lee found they had the stamina to finish the race and play breakfast hosts.



Ideal outdoor conditions prevailed for the high-spirited diehard **Great Aloha Run** participants on February 15. **The Plumbers Local Union 675** was again a major supporter of the annual Presidents' Day fun run event.

Members find it a healthy outlet and a time for family togetherness. "That's partly what the Great Aloha Run is about," suggested Union president **Val Ceria**. He was among the staff who played post-run breakfast hosts in behalf of business manager **Reggie Castanares**. "We're grateful being associated with an event that raises funds for community social services and popularly known for boosting the island spirit of aloha," Castanares added.

While most Union members enjoyed the morning as a welcomed family outing, there were youngsters among them serious about winning or bettering past performances. That was the motivation for **Kainalu Pagente**, 13, a Pearl City Highlands Intermediate freshman.

He crossed the Stadium finish line in one hour 18 minutes, among the fastest of the Union finishes recorded to date. The son of Kaimuki Plumbing's Shane Pagente said it was his first try and

definitely would look forward to future runs. An older brother Kainoa, 19, a Leeward Community College freshman, also competed as did their admiring parents.

28 New Apprentices Launch Spring Term

The Apprenticeship Training Office has begun this spring term, the first leg of a grueling five-year program, with 28 new recruits, Training Coordinator **Charles Shima** reports.

Twelve look to a plumbing career, another dozen their future in air conditioning/refrigeration, and four are fire sprinkler aspirants. They were among 158 applicants for the new cycle, of which 126 were tested and 89 passed.

In addition to Shima, who heads the Training Office staff along with oversight of fire sprinkler classes and the Maui operation. Other regular staffers are **Kirk Kageno**, assistant coordinator, also responsible for refrigeration/AC, steamfitter welder training and Kauai operations, and newcomer **Ronden Numasaki**, assistant coordinator overseeing plumbing and Big Island operations.

Staffing the front office are **Suzette Barrios** and **Jocelyn Thomas**. Shima said supplementary instructors for the new semester for related classroom and manipulative hands-on instruction are: for Plumbing, **Peter Russo** and **James Tanodra**; Refrigeration/AC, **Jordan Dawson**; and Fire Sprinkler, **Joel Reyes**.

Our Commitment to Quality Work As Job Load Still Rises

Reginald Castanares, Business Manager/Financial Secretary

The critical sources the construction industry traditionally depends on: contracting agencies, developers, and the design profession-- regarding what we can expect are together as a single chorus at this juncture: that they foresee no slowdown over at least the next two years for virtually all trades in all sectors of the local economy.

That's encouraging if not indeed heartwarming for all families. It means not just personnel in our industry benefit, all other industries share the successes of a healthy economy.

Still we need to be wary as conditions outside our control can turn dire. We, particularly on Oahu, are in the midst of an extended buildup, thanks principally to the impact of the ongoing mass transit project and housing at both affordable and market specula-

tion levels. Capital sustainment plays a key role which in turn banks on jobs held at stable and moderately rising levels.

In tune with the optimism noted, we in the building trades must have sufficient trained manpower, preferably home trained, if we promise to help complete projects timely and within budget. So far the trades under our jurisdiction are responding positively. We're pleased our apprenticeship training and journeymen re-training program continues to satisfy the needs of our appreciative signatories. The close ties we enjoy with the Plumbing and



Mechanical Contractors Association assure the market our personnel jointly not only honor their work commitments but are especially proud of the quality of those efforts.

Dawson Is New Sentry

Jordan Dawson, a veteran refrigeration A/C specialist with Oahu Air Conditioning, has been installed an officer with the **Plumbers & Fitters Local Union 675** as its new Sentry.

Recognizing A Brother Leader



If you find a copy of the **UA Journal** January/February issue available at home, kindly look up a personal story by **Bob Lamb**, who serves as the **UA International** representative for California and Hawaii. He provides highlights of his career with much emphasis on the opportunities he took advantage of to promote the needs of the two western states under his watch.

Brother Bob is my contemporary who worked up the ladder as part of General President **Bill Hite's** Alliance team. We of **Local 675** are fortunate he exemplifies the kind of support the two locals need at any time. He ensured he fully understood his responsibilities as a leader. He was relentless in helping the locals pursue their respective priorities even in the face of some difficult personal hardships. We're happy he is an integral part of our Hawaii team.

His story is compatible with those of other UA leaders I have had the privilege to know. What I see common to all is the trust they each have with those they

serve. Humble is their demeanor. They reflect what leadership is about.

Bob, in behalf of our local, mahalo for your selfless support.

Union Scholarship Awards Due July 1

A July 1 deadline may seem remote but for youngsters of members seriously hopeful of starting college this fall the UA Local 675 offers them a crack at a one-time \$1,000 scholarship.

For application and instructions refer to the Union website www.plumbershawaii.com.

Who are eligible applicants? Graduates of a local public or private high school whose parent, grandparent or legal guardian is a member or retiree of UA Local 675 in good standing.

Attach to the application a certified copy of the high school transcript, a recent head-and-shoulder photograph (no Xerox copy), write name legibly on back of the photo. The submitted photo and materials will not be returned and the photo will be used only if a scholarship is awarded. Mail the application packet to: UA Local 675 - Scholarship 1109 Bethel St. Lower Level Honolulu, HI 96813.

Applicants should ask two non-family members to submit confidential letters of recommendation, one to be from a school staff member or counselor. The recommendations must be mailed directly to the Union office by July 1.

The 2016 awards will for the fourth year be provided by the Union's philanthropic arm, **Imi Loa Foundation**.

"We're proud of the higher education start the program has given earlier awardees to meet their goals," business manager **Reggie Castanares** said.

Essays to Decide State AFL-CIO Scholarships

Besides the Local 675 scholarships, the **Hawaii State AFL-CIO** is also making available three grants in the amounts of \$1500, \$1000 and \$500. Eligible are local high school students planning full-time post-high school study at a university, community college, vocational or trade school.

Contestants must submit an essay not more than 1000 words on the importance of labor unions in Hawaii, from a personal view-point or historical perspective. A cover letter is to disclose name, address, phone, mailing address and choice of the type of school. Open to a graduating senior, the entry is not required to have a family member associated with a union. Submissions must be postmarked by Friday, April 22 or e-mailed to: affcios-scholarship@gmail.com or mailed to 345 Queen St. Suite 500 Honolulu 96813. Questions may be directed to **Jason Bradshaw**, phone 597-1441.

Medicare Part D

Retirees Due PFMP Refund If Qualified

If you are a higher income Medicare beneficiary, you are paying an Income-Related Monthly Adjusted Amount (IR-MAA) for your Medicare Part D prescription during coverage with the **Plumbers Fitters Medical Plan (PFMP)**.

This additional amount is determined by income information reported to the IRS and is assessed by the Social Security Administration (*SSA) either by withholding from your SSW benefit payments or by billing you.

The PFMP will reimburse your Medicare Part D IRMAA payments at calendar year end beginning with 2015. To be reimbursed, submit a copy of your and your dependents' Form SSA-1099 (Social Security Statement) or SSA bills at the end of the calendar year that shows the Medicare Part D IRMAA paid, to: PAMCAH-UA Local 675 Health & Welfare Fund, 1109 Bethel St. #403, Honolulu, HI 96813.

Call the Fund office, 808-536-4408, if you have questions.

Legislators Threaten to Upset Status Quo

The ongoing rare turmoil among political partisans nationally will ultimately have their respective presidential candidates primed for the November election.

However, party devotees at local levels regard domestic issues more compelling than personalities, as perceived by the attention noted so far, exemplified by infrastructure and affordable housing challenges.

For Hawaii's construction industry that bodes well. The legislature and administration share the commitment for drastically needed community improvements. For taxpayers their concern is for a biennial budget that won't bleed them.

The industry is facing, however, the dilemma of a possible legislative retraction to scrap or water down the subcontractors listing law that in effect prohibits general contractors from using personnel not qualified to engage in certain specialty work as required under existing state standards. Hopefully there is time to persuade lawmakers the overturn can only hurt consumers and all industry clients dependent on assured quality construction.

Rhoads A Political 'Maverick' In Choosing A District Notably Asian for Election Runs

Island newcomers rarely consider a public career including elective office a sure way to settle down in an environment alien to their offshore upbringing. Count, however, **Karl Rhoads** among a handful who after a first visit in 1995 determined Hawaii could be *no ka oi* for the rest of his lifetime.

Fresh out of law school (George Washington University, the late Sen. **Dan Inouye's** alma mater), Rhoads remained briefly in the Nation's Capitol to acquire experience in the political realm, first as legislative assistant to several Congressional members and shortly as intern to Sen. **John Kerry**, after which came his island jaunt. He marked his arrival working for a downtown law firm that sharpened an awareness about his newly adopted community and the opportunities to continue in his quest for public service.

How best to respond to that longing than discover where he would fit to achieve his goals? First, he recognized, was that in an ethnically and culturally diverse society uniquely Hawaii he needed to grasp quickly and readily accept social differences on a scale heretofore personally unfamiliar.

Prior to his now ten years in the legislature, Rhoads felt a sensible beginning was to see how he might fare in a neighborhood board. By pursuing a seat at the lowest local political rung, it meant trying to meet and befriend families around his downtown residence encompassing portions of Kalihi, Palama, Iwilei and Chinatown. "It was not just a lifting experience, I found folks who shared my interests, including affordable housing, education, traffic, and jobs. In serving a decade with the Chinatown Neighborhood Board it prepped me for House service with statewide implications," he said.

The replicate chairman of the



Rep. Rhoads

House Labor Committee shrewdly chose to live in a political urban setting historically known as the central pillar for generations of Hawaii's Asian families. They trace their roots to the recruits brought to staff agricultural labor on all islands.

Explained Rhoads: "The move to a district predominantly Asian was deliberate by my wife Cynthia and myself, perhaps to speed up assimilation of local values but it was one we in perspective accept as fortuitous, for it hastened our

understanding of why Hawaii can be a marvelous life experience for so many."

"Both Karl and Cynthia have an instinct for taking on challenges no matter how formidable, and what many who have come to know them agree they aren't shy asking for *kokua*. In that regard, they are fondly respected for their openness and in expanding their friendship base," noted **Karen Motosue**, executive director of the Hawaii Heritage Center.

The center and other organizations quartered in Chinatown have introduced Rhoads to area residents during election campaigns although his opponents are usually kin with immigrant ties. "If anything, it shows residents don't want to be taken for granted and are independently open to political pleas," added Motosue.

Cynthia has been long associated with the area's Arts at Mark's Garage program and other cultural events. She currently heads up Governor David Ige's informational staff.

"We've been supportive of Karl in all his campaigns, convinced he is conversant with labor issues and has the uncompromised backing of his House colleagues," said **UA Local 675** business manager **Reggie Castanares**.

Union's FCU Sets Annual Fete

Mark down Friday, April 22, for the 29th annual meeting of the growing Plumbers & Fitters Local 675 Federal Credit Union.

To be at the Honolulu Country Club at 6:30 p.m., the agenda includes various internal reports and the election of one director and credit committees, each with a three-year term.

Reservations (\$25 per person and children ages 4-7, \$12.50) are due April 11. For information, call 537-9135.

Plumbers Union's Centers of Training: Pearl City & Iwilei

Operating Schedules at Training Sites

PEARL CITY FACILITY:

Monday-Thursday and Saturday

Related instruction classrooms:

All trades on various subjects.

Backflow Lab - Certification and Recertification of backflow testers and used for apprentice training.

Most Plumbing, Medical Gas, Fire Sprinkler hands-on training classes.

Welding Shop - Various levels of welding certifications as well as for apprentices.

IWILEI FACILITY:

Monday-Thursday and Saturday

Related instruction classrooms:

All trades on various subjects.

Computer Lab-Computer Training.
MS office - Word and Excel & Auto CAD classes.

Distant learning classroom - Training Maui and Kauai apprentices utilizing instructors on Oahu.

Refrigeration AC hands-on training classroom (most such classes at Iwilei).



UA's Instructor Training (ITP)

Last August the UA wound up its 26th year, completing the first of a new 15-year lease agreement with the **Washtenaw Community College** (Michigan) to host the instructor upgrading program responsible for raising the teaching level for all of the UA's locally conducted apprenticeship programs.

"**Local 675** continues to take advantage of this annual two-week curriculum finding it has given our own instructors an additional opportunity to maintain and raise their teaching skill level," noted business manager **Reggie Castanares**.

"It has kept our program in step with those of sister trades adapting to ever progressing technological changes," added new apprenticeship coordinator **Charles Shima**. He noted our local has given many of its instructors the opportunity to upscale their teaching skills since 1990 after Michigan was chosen the UA's primary training site for instructors.



JATC's Typical On-the-Road Exhibit: Apprenticeship staff gets its eye-catching exhibit for prospective recruits.

A Pictorial Kaleidoscope

Congratulations to Our Ohana on Finishing the Great



Joshua Sanchez



Wilder Chock



Kirk Kageno



Betty Lee-Mara



Michael Maeda



Scott Saito-Takabayashi



Javin Taira/Brian Taira



John Ridings



Craig Yanagihara



Gordon Caughman



Ryder Maeda

Note: To avoid misnaming family members and friends shown in the Fun Run photos, just the names of the active members are used. Mahalo to all those pictured for adding joy to a great "Fun" morning.

Aloha Run



Randall Freitas



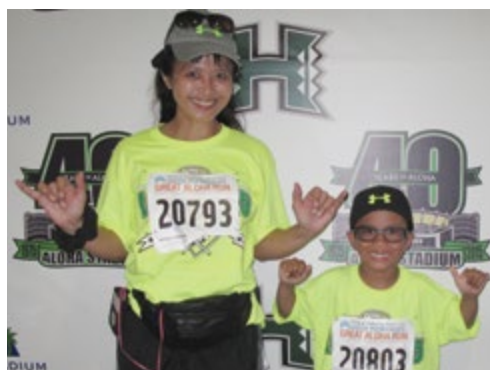
Michael Maedal/John Lee



Eddie Lum/Alec Hamaguchi



Wilder Chock



Mary Ricafort-Ronquilio/Aaron



Shane Pagente



Tod Nakanishi



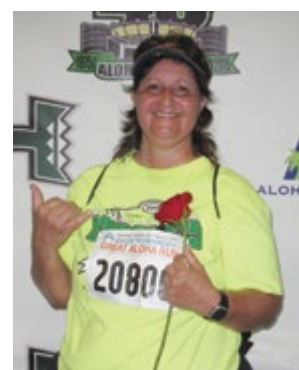
Carmel/Kainoa Pagente



Patrick Garaugthy



Ernie Theodore



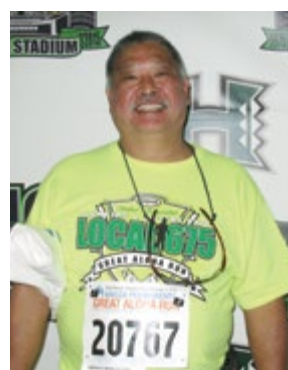
Helen Tivera



Chad Murakawa



Carl Kaneda



Dexter Doi



Stanley Chun



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Ha'aheo 675 is the official publication of the Plumbers and Fitters United Association, Local 675
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Valentino Ceria
President

Matthew Brady
Vice President

Tracy Tanouye
Recording Secretary

Jordan Dawson
Sentry

Send Contributions/questions regarding Ha'aheo 675 to Editor, Elroy Chun

Plumbers and Fitters United Association Local 675

1109 Bethel Street, Lower Level
Honolulu, HI 96813



Calendar of Events

Monday, April 4, 2016
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Washington Middle School-Cafeteria

Tuesday, April 5, 2016
KONA RAP SESSION
Kahakai Elementary School

Wednesday, April 6, 2016
HILO RAP SESSION
Waiakea Intermediate School

Friday, April 22, 2016
LOCAL 675 FCU DINNER MEETING
5:30 p.m.
Honolulu Country Club

Monday, May 2, 2016
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Washington Middle School-Cafeteria

Tuesday, May 3, 2016
MAUI RAP SESSION
Maui Community College

Wednesday, May 4, 2016
KAUAI RAP SESSION
Kauai Community College

Retirees Upbeat on Benefits, Economy Projections

Think our cherished retirees don't enjoy good news?

Maybe our **Local 675 Retirees Club** is made up of folks who despite the absence of tools still like to know how their younger active colleagues are faring. And who can they depend on to get the lowdown than the Union's business manager.

Reggie Castanares, invited to address the retirees Feb. 9 outlined a solid picture of the Union's health and welfare benefits and job expectations over the next biennium.

Club president **Willy Kanno**, responding for members, said the updates on the various trust funds and supplemental information furnished by trust funds administrator **Errin Liu** along with her assistants keep attendees well informed, for which they are grateful.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 10, at 9 a.m. at the Moanalua Golf Clubhouse. Donations to the Hawaii Food Bank will be a highlight and "we hope our new retirees join us," Kanno announced.

In Memoriam

Heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the families of deceased members:

Satoru Matsunaga	03/25/16
Herbert T. Frias	03/04/16
Francis Anderson	02/26/16
Frederick N. Kawamoto	01/27/16
Howard T. Miyamoto	01/17/16
Benjamin Rodrigues Jr.	12/10/15
Elbert H. Yoshimura	11/13/15
Sadao Shimabukuro	11/07/15
Robert J. Cooley	09/17/15
Fernando P. Menor	09/11/15

New Pensioners Cleared

UA Local 675 recently welcomed new pensioners:

Ronald V. Paulino	02/01/16
David B. Randall	02/01/16
Eric S. Marushige	01/01/16
Richard K. Perry	01/01/16
Michael N. Sagert	01/01/16

YOUR PHONE CONNECTIONS

Local 675 Office 536-5454
1109 Bethel Street, Lower Level
Honolulu, HI 96813

Administrative Office .. 536-4408
1109 Bethel Street, Suite 403
Honolulu, HI 96813

Health & Welfare
Pension, Annuity
Vacation & Holiday

Training Workshop 456-0585
97-731B Kamehameha Hwy.
Pearl City, HI 96782

Credit Union 537-9135
1109 Bethel Street, Lower Level
Honolulu, HI 96813

Call office promptly on address change.