

WEST MAUI TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION'S

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 – October 2014

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE by Don Lehman

With the November election nearing, this is an opportune time to give some serious thought to the dismal level of voter participation in Maui County, particularly in West Maui. There are many theories offered for the wide spread voter apathy in Maui County: residents have their hands full just earning a living, promising high school graduates leave so they can find jobs and affordable housing, the West Maui population is highly transient, there are too many diversions, and voters feel their vote just will not make any difference. This last thought is partly a result of the unique Maui County method of electing the County Council members county-wide rather than in the districts they will ultimately represent. With this system, voters in a Council district may have their Council member elected by voters from other districts, which often leaves a district powerless to elect the member they feel will best represent their interests.

In response to these issues, the West Maui Taxpayers Association (WMTA) has historically promoted voter education and voting. Every election cycle we present the WMTA Candidates Night where we invite all the candidates appearing on the West Maui ballot to come to West Maui to learn about West Maui issues, to introduce themselves, and to briefly debate their opponents. THE WMTA 2014 CANDIDATES NIGHT IS ON OCTOBER 24TH, 2014, AT THE LAHAINA CIVIC CENTER, starting at 5:00. Please plan to attend, and help us spread the word.

Why does WMTA care about voter turnout? WMTA often appeals to elected officials for funding of West Maui projects and support for the many WMTA issues. (Please visit www.westmaui.org to see the broad range of issues we have identified in our Goals and Objectives). We can be much more effective if we can show that we represent a community that cares enough and has the votes to be a factor in an election. This is just a political reality. YOUR VOTE DOES COUNT!

One might also ask why WMTA has a role in voter education and participation, so a little history is in order. WMTA was formed over 30 years ago as a collection of taxpayer groups for communities on the West Side. The primary purpose was, as is true for most taxpayer groups, to argue for fair taxation. Secondly, WMTA was a voice for property owners who were not residents but paid taxes with no ability to vote to protect their interests.

WMTA rapidly evolved into a community group with an emphasis on investing the taxes raised in West Maui into infrastructure improvements to ensure West Maui is one of the world's best places to live, work, and visit. This evolution continues as WMTA pursues a broad agenda of issues to improve West Maui. The three items we have identified as most important to West Maui residents are transportation improvements, affordable housing, and health care. WMTA is a true grass roots organization with all of our funding from our members' dues. We encourage everyone reading this to check our web page at www.westmaui.org, and, if you can, please consider joining as a dues paying member to help us in the fight for fair taxation, infrastructure investment, and so much more. Members receive a periodic newsletter and advance notice of all WMTA activities, such as the Candidates Night and our informative WMTA Annual Meeting each January.

WMTA urges all voters to EDUCATE yourselves on the issues and the candidates, make sure you are REGISTERED to vote, attend the WMTA Candidates Night, and VOTE! YOUR VOTE DOES COUNT.



President, WMTA

VOTE 2014

Save the Date

WMTA Candidates Night
Lahaina Civic Center - Social Hall
Friday, October 24, 2014
5:00 PM

More details to be posted at
www.WestMaui.org when available.

*IF NO VOTE,
NO CAN GRUMBLE!*

Vote 2014

County of Maui has a population of 154,924 (County of Maui Data Book 2012) yet in Primary Election 2014, only 85,581 (55%) are registered.

Of the 85,581 registered voters for the Primary Election 2014, only 27,537 (32.2%) of Registered Voters actually voted.

Statistics

<http://hawaii.gov/elections/results/2012/general/>

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- General Registration Deadline: Oct 6
- General Absentee Application Deadline: October 28, 2014
- **WMTA CANDIDATES NIGHT: OCTOBER 24**
- General Election: November 4
Polling Place Hours: 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Visit www.hawaii.gov/elections for more details



Transportation UPDATE

by Bob Pure

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE by Bob Pure

Lahaina Bypass To Get Longer (eventually)

I recently attended the State Dept. of Transportation STIP Meeting. The STIP is a State DOT document that lists all projects for Hawaii that qualify for Federal funding. All major transportation projects are 80% funded by the Feds.

The Lahaina Bypass, extending the road both north and south, is on the STIP. For various reasons, explained by the DOT, including what will be "shovel ready" first, the Bypass will move south first.

The road will be constructed from Hokiokio (where it is now) to the new southern terminus in Olowalu. It is on the STIP for fiscal year 2018, four years from now.

The Bypass will be extended north to Honokowai in fiscal year 2020.

Why does it take so long? It's all about funding both at the State and Federal level. Federal transportation dollars are allocated to the entire State of Hawaii as a whole. There are literally hundreds of worthy projects competing for those funds. So, with limited funds, all major projects have to be "phased" usually over many years.

Maui is 10% of the State population and technically gets allocated 10% of the funds. That's why projects take so long.

On the bright side, in the past few years, West Maui got a huge disproportion of funding allowing us to build the first two phases of the Bypass and widen the highway to 4 lanes coming into Lahaina.

Unfortunately, it all takes time and money. Once the next two phases of the Bypass are done, north and south, motorists will find travel a lot faster and a lot easier.

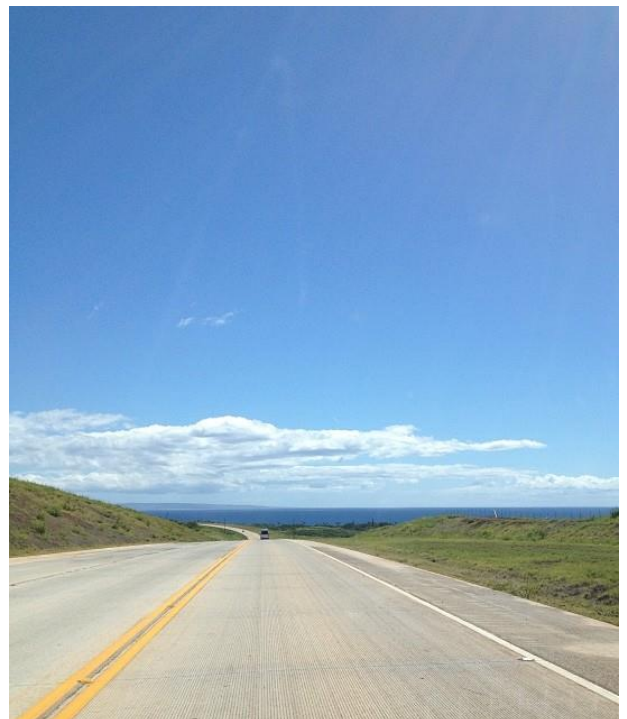
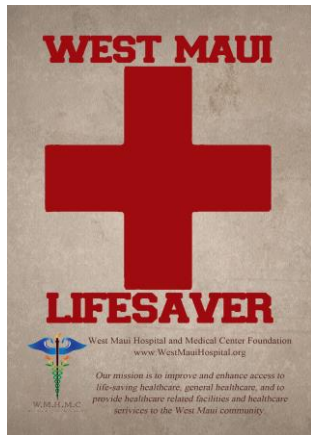


Photo by AM



**ATTENTION EVERYONE WHO LOVES MAUI -
BE A WEST MAUI LIFESAVER!
THE LIFE YOU HELP TO SAVE – MAY BE YOUR OWN!**
The West Maui Hospital & Medical Center Foundation (WMHMF) is asking for your support in becoming a WEST MAUI LIFESAVER by donating or pledging your commitment today!

GIVING LEVELS

\$50 "Lifeguard" \$1,000 – 1,999 Doctor
\$100 "Emergency Technician" \$2,000 and above "Angel"
\$500-999 "Nurse"

Aloha Maui Ohana.

Our access to quality acute care healthcare in West Maui is Everyone's business. This is the Opportunity you have been waiting for! Now, you can have a voice in what health care service our West Maui Community can enjoy. Please do not let this opportunity pass. Get involved today!

Every successful hospital has a dedicated support Foundation with appropriate fiscal and operational separation from the Hospital Administrators Primary Budgeted Fiscal Management resources. The WMHMF can legitimately influence the community interests which they desire outside of the fundamental operational budgets, provided however, that they can financially subsidize support at the hospital facility. It's been said that "money talks," and NOW IS THE TIME to start developing a healthy voice.

What do you want to see available to you at the West Maui Hospital via the West Maui Hospital and Medical Center Foundation, Inc (WMHMF)? WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

1. What services would you like to have at the West Maui Hospital? Be Specific please.
2. What types of services would you be willing to subsidize to permit their consideration/implementation?
3. Would you be willing to serve on a volunteer hospital advisory working group?
4. Do you know of any business who would be willing to be an active sponsor of the "West Maui Life Savers," in their advertising and commitment to pledge/contribute proceeds from their business income to the non-profit 501-c-3 WMHMF?
5. Are you a grant writer or do you know a grant writer? WMHMF will need grant writers to submit grant requests to every possible source of philanthropic foundations for their considerations.

Our goal is to raise \$2 million in cash and pledges before the grand opening. We invite you to become a West Maui Life Saver accordingly. Please call me personally at 808-661-7990 to discuss how you can help, and visit our web site at www.westmauihospital.org for more information.

West Maui Hospital & Medical Center Foundation / IRS EIN 26-3774305 NON PROFIT 501C (3)

The Mission of the WMHMF is to improve and enhance access to life-saving healthcare, and to provide healthcare related facilities and healthcare related facilities and healthcare services in West Maui Community.

Donor Name: _____ Email: _____

Billing/Mailing 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

Donation Amount: \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

Check Payable to **WMHMF** is enclosed. Or Charge my credit card (complete all information above and below)

CARD TYPE Visa MasterCard Card # _____ Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Signature _____

For a limited time, donors who contribute a minimum of \$20 are eligible to receive a one-time free gift t-shirt. Certain restrictions apply and quantities and sizes are limited based on availability.

Adult Sizes: SM [] MED [] L [] XL [] No t-shirt needed []



A "Hoe Hana Nui Ke Alu `Ia"
(No task is too large when we work together)

Together, we can make a difference!

MEMBERSHIP By Paul Brown, Director/Membership Chair

WMTA has worked for many years to make sure that West Maui tax dollars come back to West Maui in the form of infrastructure and service improvements. One of the biggest accomplishments achieved was the building of the Napili Fire Station – funded initially by three of the board members and completed with donations from the community. This one achievement has saved homeowners in the Kahana/Napili/Kapalua area thousands of dollars in insurance premiums as it significantly improved the fire insurance rating for the area.

Currently we are working on planning the only candidates forum to be held in West Maui. This forum will allow the community to meet many of the candidates and hear their stand on many of the critical issues facing our community. I hope that we will see you there – October 24th at the Lahaina Civic Center – 5:30 PM. By the way, WMTA is a non-partisan organization and does not campaign or support individual candidates or parties.

I am writing to request that you renew your expired membership with WMTA, you can renew as an individual or as a company. Your membership contribution will help us cover the cost of hosting this important forum as well as working on the rest of our goals and objectives. You can see more information on the organization at www.westmaui.org. I have attached a membership renewal application that you can complete and email to wmta@maui.net or just call me with a credit card number and I will take care of the rest.

TREASURERS REPORT By Joe Pluta, Treasurer/President Emeritus, WMTA

Aloha Maui Ohana. We know you love Maui nui and want to see all necessary attention to details so that Maui can continue to be No Ka Oi! The WMTA has been fighting for you and improving the quality of life in West Maui for 36 years accordingly. We know that you can agree that no two of us share the same perception of any situation, and each of us is certain our perception is right. That sometimes leads us to meaningless conflicts and disagreements. No one seems to disagree that we have directly improved the quality of life in West Maui in a myriad of ways. We have always published updated Goals and Objectives which our community members have brought to us and these can be viewed on our WMTA web site at www.westmaui.org.

While the WMTA board volunteers serve without pay, our meager budget must be used for prudent and necessary expenses of office, accounting and tax work. We need your help to avoid our financial problems before they become a crisis. We have literally saved every property owner on Maui many thousands of dollars since we built and paid for the Napili Fire and Ambulance Station. Without the WMTA and the WMIF – the certificate of need for our lifesaving West Maui hospital would not have been achieved. How can you ignore the value in that?

Please, do not delay and send us a donation today. Investing in the WMTA is the most prudent investment you can make to preserve your quality of life in West Maui. Call me personally if you have any questions. (808) 661-7990. Malama Pono ame Mahalo.

West Maui Taxpayers Association	
MEMBERSHIP FORM - IRS EIN 99-0160368 - NON PROFIT 501C (4)	
Member Name: _____	Email: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____	
Day Phone: _____	Evening Phone: _____ Fax: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here to have your name kept private in publications and acknowledgements. <input type="checkbox"/> Check here to have your e-mail address added to our "WMTA E-Alerts" List	
\$ _____ MEMBERSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> I am a member and renewing my dues <input type="checkbox"/> I am not a member but would like to join	Membership Levels <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals \$50.00/year <input type="checkbox"/> Families \$100/year <input type="checkbox"/> Businesses \$100/year <input type="checkbox"/> AOA – email wmta@maui.net
\$ _____ DONATION <i>Memberships effective for one year upon receipt of membership dues payment.</i> Mail Checks, payable to "West Maui Taxpayers Association", to: West Maui Taxpayers Association PO Box 158 • Lahaina, HI 96761	

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Visit www.WestMaui.org
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Look for us on


and


(www.WestMaui.org has links)