

Secretary's Minutes
April 18, 2002 Chapter Meeting
Pacific Beach Hotel

The April 2002 meeting of 'Onipa'a Chapter was called to order by Vice President Jo Segovia at 6:25 p.m. Lila Marantz led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Invocation. There were twenty "Onipa'a chapter members and five guests. Sheila Okamura introduced the guests: Leslie Hallacy and David Hallacy (Sharon Elwell), Johan Antal (Ressie Darval), Clara Medeiros (Fay Yamura) and speaker Kuuleialoha Chun.

Dee Conquest distributed the minutes of the March 21, 2002 meeting.

Dinner was served and members caught up on network with members and guests.

Program: The speaker was introduced by Lila Marantz, who knows Kuuleialoha Chun well; they both are employed at Salomon Smith Barney. Kuuleialoha Chun is this year's 53rd Narcissus Queen. A Kamehameha School and University of Washington graduate, Kuuleialoha has tried several different vocations before becoming a financial consultant. Her family has always been in the healing profession so she studies biology in college, and tried psychotherapy counseling but found that too much of a mental burden. Accepted as a flight attendant for American Airlines led to a relocation in New York City. There she found big city life very expensive (\$1,900/month for a 1 bedroom apt.) and not much aloha. She returned to Hawaii and eventually joined her father in the financial world at Salomon Smith Barney where she has been for 2 ½ years. While waiting for a take-out lunch one day, Kuuleialoha read an announcement for applicants for the Narcissus Queen Festival. Since she qualified, she decided to apply; this being the first time she tried for something without her family's input. The pageant is so much more than just a beauty contest. Contestants are required to take classes where they learn Chinese culture, history, family values and cooking, as well as poise and speech classes. For Kuulei, it was an eye-opener to what the Narcissus Pageant really was. She became passionate about learning about her culture and the competitiveness of the contest became a minor component. There were three phases to the contest: 1) Talent – where she danced the hula; 2) The Judges' interview – where they asked her what it was that made her special; and 3) Poise and Beauty. Preparing for the question "What makes me special?" led to a lot of soul-searching on "Who am I?" In the process she became acquainted with her family's history and brought her family closer to their Chinese culture. What was the hardest part of the content? – Fitting into that Chinese dress!

The Narcissus Festival no longer requires pure Chinese ancestry, recognizing that we live in a multi-ethnic world.

What she learned from the process is "Be true to yourself and be your own person."

As the Narcissus Queen, Kuuleialoha represents the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and the State of Hawaii. There are many duties, including a three-week trip to China this June. She also spends every Friday speaking to two different elementary schools about

her experience and the Chinese culture. For her, it has been an experience of a lifetime, meeting with the Governor of Hawaii, the Mayor of Honolulu, and a Governor of a Chinese province of 45 million people.

It was a very self-empowering experience. Preparation was the key, but she found that if you focus on what you put your mind to, you can do anything!

We all enjoyed learning about this part of Hawaii's culture from this very vivacious and unassuming young lady.

Pat Yuen presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Kuuleialoha Chun for such an interesting presentation.

Business Meeting:

Birthdays: The April Birthday of Ressie Darval was celebrated.

Business Associates' Night: Chairperson Florence Saiki gave the background of Business Associates' Night. Formerly it was known as "Bosses Night." However, in this day and age, ABWA National found that many times the women were their own bosses, so it was changed to honoring Business Associates. Florence read an article of Secretaries and Bosses, which concluded that many times, the only people who know what's going on are the Secretaries. Florence then asked members to introduce their guests and let us know a little more about them:

Ressie Darval introduced John Antal. He has a perfect attendance as a guest! He personally witnessed the September 11th attack in New York, which was a life-changing experience.

Fay Yamura introduced Clara Medeiros, a high school classmate. They did not know each other well in school, but have become good friends through class reunions.

Secretary's Minutes: It was moved, seconded and carried that the March minutes be accepted as distributed and corrected. Fay Yamura's last name was incorrect in the list of new Chapter officers.

Treasurer's Report: Fay Yamura reported that the summary was reported on the web. The chapter will accept the report, subject to audit.

Ways & Means: Helen Kikuchi reported that fund raising bowling proceeds so far are estimated to be \$1,243.86. She extended a special thanks to Pat Yoseda for taking care of the food, Cindy Caswell for handling the money, and all the members for making it possible. The members all said they had fun!

Hospitality: Chairperson Ressie Darval announced that the next meeting will be at Buzz's in Pearl City. Please indicate your menu choice. Cost is \$18.50, all inclusive; parking is free.

Program: Chairperson Pat Yuen asked for suggestions for Fun Night in June. This is a meeting where the members relax and enjoy each others company. One suggestion was an afternoon at Sea Life park (\$8.00) and then dinner at Ressie Darval's house. John volunteered to cook! This meeting was proposed for Saturday, June 22nd.

For the May program, the speaker is still under discussion and the members will be notified via the web page. Kay Ono, as publicity chairperson indicated that she would like to be notified as soon as possible in order to be able to post the meeting notice.

Membership: Chairperson Cindy Caswell announced that ABWA National Organization sends members little thank-you goodies for bringing in new members. (For the spring membership drive, it was an ABWA key chain.) Cindy Caswell apologized for not being prepared to do an installation for new members at the last meeting. She asked that members notify her in advance when a new member will be attending the meeting.

Cindy also mentioned that we have Networking Tables for Chapter Member's business at each meeting. This month Florence Saiki has a table displaying her hand sewn products, which were very popular. The tables are available to all members interested in displaying their business.

Education: No report [note: 'Onipa'a scholarships will be awarded at the May meeting.]

ABWA Day of Celebration: Our annual Joint Chapter Meeting will be held at the Waikiki Marriott (formerly the Hawaiian Regent Hotel) on Saturday, September 28, 2002. The doors open for vendor set-up at 8:00 a.m. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be a sit-down luncheon, \$25.00 and \$3.00 for parking. ABWA members can reserve a vendor table to promote their business; cost for ABWA members is \$25.00, for non-members, \$30.00. Please indicate on your application if you require electrical availability for your table. Applications are available from Jo Segovia.

The question was raised if 'Onipa'a Chapter is interested in hosting a vendor table. Perhaps Ways & Means can lead the effort.

We need donations for the Silent Auction and Door Prizes.

The Program for the Day of Celebration is as yet undecided. The Imua Chapter President has moved away and the speaker choice is still being decided.

Announcements: Lila Marantz let us know that long-time ABWA member Lily Mishina has passed away. Condolences may be expressed to her husband, Rocky.

Leslie Hallacy from Punahale Chapter invited 'Onipa'a members ('Onipa'a Chapter was once a part of Punahale) to their birthday celebration on May 2, 2002 at Wisteria.

Ulupono Chapter is holding their annual fundraiser on April 27 & 28, 2002 at Kapiolani Park.

Chapter Award Program: Florence Saiki raised the question that we should have received an award for merging chapters.

Have we been sending in the minutes? Yes, the corresponding secretary has been submitting the required month form (postcard) which outlines the meeting activities.

Update on our Chapter Awards Progress: for the Standard of Achievement Award, 'Onipa'a Chapter has completed eleven items and needs a few more: for the Education section, needs to either spend \$100 on an educational program for the Chapter or contribute \$300 to the Stephen Bufton Memorial Education Fund; for the Conference/Convention attendance, we need two members to attend Spring Conference. Kathy Lau indicated that she will fund herself to go to the Michigan Conference if another Chapter member will attend a Spring Conference. The next one is in Reno on May 2, 2002, which is coming up quickly. There were no indications that a Chapter member could attend this one. Lila Marantz mover that since we have the convention funds available, we should fully fund a Chapter member to attend a Spring Conference. Daisy Conquest seconded the motion. Discussion: Daisy Conquest reminded the membership that we have a convention fund to assist members to attend Conventions and Conferences. Money has been accumulating there for a number of years. The question was called: to fully fund an 'Onipa'a Chapter member to attend a Conference. None were opposed and the motion was carried.

For the membership enrollment, we need one more new member, which will be attained with the enrollment of Irene Chun (Dee Conquest).

Jo Segovia ended the meeting, stating that she will do her best for the Chapter as leader for the rest of this Chapter year.

Kay Ono lead the benediction.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. by Vice President Jo Segovia.

Respectfully submitted,
Dee Conquest, Recording Secretary

Apologies for the delay in the distribution of the minutes.