

Newsletter of the
West Oahu Y's Men's Club
of Mililani YMCA,
Oahu, Hawaii

c/o Robert K. Kuwahara
P. O. Box 1027
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782

e-mail address:
kuwahara002@hawaii.rr.com

President Walter Osakoda
Vice President Jeanette
Nakano-Kuwahara
Secretary Linda Chung
Treasurer Kathy Ishimoto

Bulletin Editor Bob Kuwahara

Members
Duke Chung, Jr.
Maile Kanemaru
Dennis Kuwabara
Jean Matsuda
Alissa Taniguchi
Jennifer Townsend

Brother Club Affiliation
HIROSHIMA Y'S MEN CLUB



West Oahu Y's Men's

Y's WORDS

SPECIAL CONVENTION

Other Website of Interest
www.ysmenusa.com
www.hawaiiysmen.org

Chartered
January 14, 1984

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



by Walter Osakoda

We (Duke and Linda Chung, Bob and Jeanette Kuwahara, and Dorothy and Walter Osakoda) had a great trip! Too much to cover in one issue. So we will be including articles over the next several issues. In this issue is the Japan West Region Convention. In coming issues, we will report on our fun filled journey through Tokyo, Hakone and Mt. Fuji, Hiroshima, Kyoto and Nagoya..

13th JAPAN WEST REGION CONVENTION ..

.. was held on the June 12-13 weekend at the Hiroshima Convention Center, adjacent to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial in the Peace Memorial Park.

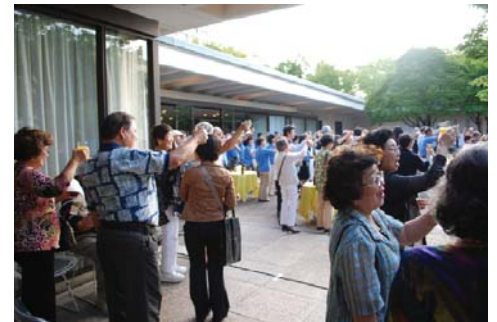
Over 700 (around 730) attended the event ... the first regional convention held in Hiroshima in over 27 years. The host district centered around Hiroshima total 89 members and six clubs and is the second smallest district in West Japan Region. (Sounds like the Metro District of the Hawaii Region with around 100 members and six clubs.) The Hiroshima members were somewhat reluctant to accept the task of organizing and hosting a Regional Convention. This from a region with 2,000 members and 89 clubs. However, the Japan West RD was able to persuade key members of the feasibility. The District has been planning over two years ... culminating with the June weekend.

The weekend started with a reception on Friday evening at the Hiroshima Museum of Art, a private art gallery holding paintings from the likes of Picasso, Monet, Millet. Linda Chung was just awed (she was an art teacher) and thoroughly enjoyed the walkthrough. Some us (me) were a bit more primitive in the arts. The reception was a standup, heavy pupu party to meet and greet the early arrivals for the weekend event. Then it was a short walk to the Hiroshima YMCA for some Okonomiyaki, drinks and fellowship.

Saturday began with a memorial service at the Memorial Monument for Hiroshima. The West Oahu Y's Men presented a wreath, along with others. Then, the Region's council of officers had their meeting at the same time the Y's Mennettes held theirs. We attended the Y's Mennettes' meeting. It had some 100 in attendance. It was a reporting on and recognition of the Y's Mennettes' organization in the region. As it was explained, the Regional Counsel meeting covers the business of the region including the approval of the RD, next convention, budget and financial reports.

A short timeout for a bento lunch followed.

continued



Friday's Reception at Museum of Art.



Memorial Wreaths presented.



CALENDAR

**June 21
(Monday)
BUSINESS MEETING**

**Mililani YMCA
7 pm**

**July 12
(Monday)
BUSINESS MEETING**

**Mililani YMCA
7 pm**

**July 23
(Friday)
Mililani YMCA
FAMILY FAIR
Prep: 11:30 am
Fair Opens: 1:00
Fair Closes: 6:00
Cleanup**

**August 9
(Monday)
BUSINESS MEETING**

**Mililani YMCA
7 pm**



Above: well wishers and members of our table.

Below: not many sitting at their table as many get up and visit with their friends from various areas on Japan.

Then the official start of the convention with greetings from the mayor of Hiroshima, the outgoing Japan West Region RD Seiya Suzuki, representing Asia AP Byong Koo Chon was the Area Secretary Chung Ki-Sung, and Japan East Region RD Toshihiko Hara.

The keynote speaker was Steven Leeper, Chairman of Hiroshima Peace Cultural Foundation, originally from Illinois, but has spent most of his life as an educator in Japan. He emphasized the need from peace and the disarmament of nuclear weapons.

Throughout the convention program, we were provided with little audio receivers to hear the English translations to the speeches.

The Saturday convention banquet was held at the Rihga Royal Hotel ... where we were staying. Dishes were put on a turntable ... like a Chinese dinner ... then attendees began visiting each other. I don't think many had a chance to finish their dinner. It was more posing for pictures and greetings. We met many Y's Men who had visited Hawaii. The fellowship continued at the Hiroshima YMCA with Okonomiyaki, pupus and drinks. It was also the time for some clubs to meet their DBC (Domestic Brother Club). DBC is a unique program in Japan where clubs in different districts can establish a brother club relationship. Clubs continued the meetings the next day.

On Sunday, the Hiroshima Y's Men (our IBC), and our little group gathered with two of the Hiroshima's DBC, Nishinomiya and Omi-Hachiman Y's Men over lunch at a tea house. It offered a fun filled activity, an exchange of gifts, and meeting of new friends.

Sunday also included a short service conducted at the YMCA auditorium followed by a play by the Y youths entitled "I Pray" on the Hiroshima bombing. It was well choreographed and performed.

Then it was optional tours to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial or Miyajima Island for those staying over.

Hiroshima Declaration

approved at their Council Meeting of the 13th Japan West Region Convention

"Work together to build a better world for all mankind"

The International Constitution and Guidelines of Y's Men International describes its purpose as such.

Two atomic bombs turned Hiroshima and Nagasaki into a hell on earth 65 years ago.

Today human beings possess thousands of strategic nuclear warheads, which are several hundred times as destructive as the two atomic bombs.

We DO NOT need nuclear warheads to build a better world.

With President Obama's speech in Prague and the agreement barely reached at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the world is slowly but steadily moving toward the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Against the backdrop of these events, we believe that it is meaningful to hold a Japanese West Region Convention in Hiroshima at this point in time.

"To the World, Hiroshima Sends a Message of Peace".

We, the members of Y's Men International, aspire to materialize a peaceful world free from war, in which every individual is respected and cared for. In order to materialize such a world we strongly call for the abolition of all the nuclear weapons in collaboration with those who share the same aspiration.

We, Y's Men, are determined to work with you
To "build a better world for all mankind."

June 12, 2010

Y's Men International Japan West Region