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HUI WA'A KICKS OFF 30TH ANNIVERSARY WITH ANNUAL MEETING IN LAS VEGAS

Two new clubs join the association

HONOLULU (January 14, 2003) — 2003 marks the 30th anniversary of Na 'Ohana O Na Hui Wa'a as an association. To get such an auspicious anniversary off to a memorable start, Hui Wa'a hosted its 2002 annual meeting in Las Vegas.

The annual meeting, held on Saturday November 9th at the Las Vegas Club, capped a successful season by the association and its member clubs. All 15 active clubs were represented at the meeting. Business at hand was brisk and focused as new officers and directors were elected, committee reports distributed, race rules changed, amendments to the bylaws proposed, HCRA "for ballot" items reviewed prior to the December HCRA annual meeting, and two new clubs accepted into the association.

We welcome for the 2003 season *Ka Mamalahoe*, an offshoot of Kumulokahi Elks, and *North Shore Canoe Club*, a long time club who had previously raced in the association under the mentorship of Kalihi-Kai. Ka Mamalahoe loosely translated means the "the law of the splinted paddle." The club's colors are yellow, white, and red, and Ke'ehi Lagoon is currently their home practice site. North Shore Canoe Club, known for the strength of its master ladies, comes to Hui Wa'a from Haleiwa. The club's colors are green and white, and they can be found under the big keawe tree on Haleiwa beach. Long time association member Hui O Ikaika of Waianae has opted to remain inactive for the 2003 season as it reorganizes its club. As such, Hui O Ikaika's regatta is open to sponsorship by another member club.

History chair Ed Endo compiled data on all clubs, which he presented in booklet form. This is a great starting point for the association to begin to document its rich history while it is still 30 years young, and "fresh" in our minds.

This year, as in the past, nearly all incumbents returned to office unopposed. 2003 officers elected at the annual meeting were as follows: Vice President Heather Murakami, Secretary Barb Vasold, Treasurer Leinani Peltier, Race Chairman Henry "Pali" Palakiko, and Director (2-year term) Moku Kamaka. Suzanne King and Heather Murakami are the elected delegates to HCRA with Leinani Peltier and George Waikoloa as alternates. President June Leialoha is serving out the second year of a two-year term in 2003 and will be up for re-election for the 2004-2005 term. Directors Ed Endo and Shannon Kaaekuahiwi are also concluding their second year of a two-year term.

While no one won the "megabucks" jackpot, a good time was had by all, and talk and of where to hold the next annual meeting could be heard on the return flight. The officers and members of Na 'Ohana O Na Hui Wa'a wish everyone health, wisdom, and prosperity in 2003. See you on the water!

Check out the latest Hui Wa'a information at www.huiwaa.com