

May, 2019 Newsletter

Vice-President's Message

Ruth Bennet, PMKCA Vice President



Become a Member of PMKCA!

The Paauiolo Mauka Kalopa Community Association is seeking new members — in fact, we are ALWAYS welcoming members! It may be that our mauka communities, stretching from the Pohakea area on the Hilo side, to Keahua Gulch on the Honoka'a side, don't know that.

It may also be that we in PMKCA have become an insular little group of “do-gooders” who have left our communities behind in important ways. It may be that we in PMKCA have gotten used to doing everything with a relatively small group of dedicated people and think we're doing just fine as we are. It may be that we haven't asked you recently to be a member!

Whatever the reason — or several reasons — PMKCA has been serving the mauka communities since we formed in 1988 and we would like to double our membership this year so that maybe we could do more — and better reflect the character of our communities.

The first really good question is WHY JOIN? Well, that's basically up to you ... not everyone is a “joiner.” We'd be happy if many of our neighbors just knew and appreciated what PMKCA does in our communities. If you live mauka of the belt highway, from the edge of Pa'auilo town to the Kalopa area, all the way up to the most mauka homestead, you are eligible to join PMKCA. But why? PMKCA looks after our mauka communities in important ways:

→ We know our communities, its twisting roads and fragile utilities, its isolated pockets of residents who may be in need.

• We sponsor a volunteer fire department which can often respond more quickly to fires and other emergencies in our communities than the county can.

- We sponsor and work closely with a “Community Emergency Response Team” (CERT) which can provide critical assistance to residents in emergencies.

→ We have some “clout” with county officials in solving problems for our communities — as quickly as anything can get done at the county level in these days of competing demands.

- We watch over our roads and get repairs and dangerous conditions attended to.

- We know where our power lines and water resources are located and can be a link between utilities and affected residents.

→ We care about the NATURE of our communities.

- We work with residents and scientists to fight “invasions” in the form of pests and invasive species, in an effort to keep Little Fire Ants and Rapid Ohia Death out of our beautiful landscapes and backyards.

- We have a happy team of volunteers who assist in maintaining our beautiful Kalopa State Park as a community treasure and a demonstration of the beauty of our mauka Hamakua home.

→ We care about the history of our communities, and the lives and stories of its residents.

- We undertook a project to collect and record the stories of some of our oldest families (in terms of being in the community). The collection is now available in a DVD through our website.

We want to do more, and we want to BE more! We would like to have more community events, just for the Joy of them — but also maybe to get something done that benefits an area and ends in a ho’olaule’a. We'd like to see families and children taking part in our activities. We'd like to do things that we haven't even considered doing because we haven't heard from you!

The practicalities of being a member of PMKCA are simple and reasonable. Our dues are only \$20 per year. We collect them in January at our annual meeting (the last Tuesday at Pa'auilo School), or you can join through a link to PayPal on our website at www.pmkca.org. Being a member can be no more than paying annual dues, but we also have committees of volunteers who care about various things, and anyone is free to join whatever interests them. Or not ...

We have a potluck picnic meeting in Kalopa Park in July, a pleasant and informative event that ends in a bingo game loaded with donated prizes. And you

might see us showing up at other community events, hoping to talk to you about PMKCA.

Become a member of PMKCA! We're here to serve our communities, and we know we'll do better when **WE** are **YOU!**