

Shared Vision

Volume 21

January 2014

Blind Vendors Ohana, Inc.

300 Rodgers Blvd., #56; Honolulu, HI 96819

808.861.1300

bvoihawaii.com

President's Message

Filo Tu



I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year! We started the holiday season off with a bang! What a Christmas party we had on December 14. I will have to put this party as one of our liveliest party because of the great program that the committee put up for us. Thank you Maricen and your committee for your outstanding work and for a wonderful evening.

That saying, "time waits for no one", is true! It seems like only yesterday that Tommy, Walter and I came to the Honolulu International Airport. Thank you to my two partners for your support throughout the years. You are the best partners and we will continue to work together for many years to come.

Now, let's move into something that I just can't wait to come. If you don't know it, don't worry because I am very happy to let you know about it. In about 5 months or so, it will be a new year in June. For me, it will be a very big New Year and I hope you will join me with that same feeling. We are now looking forward to our 20th year anniversary. 20 years is a very long time to be in business and we will do it and the reason why we will be able to do it is because of your dedication and loyalty to this Company. I am so proud to be President & CEO of this great Company and its employees. Our 20th year anniversary is going to be a bang, so I am ready to be there, and I hope all of us will be there to witness our outstanding accomplishment for 20 years of business at the Honolulu International Airport.

Aloha to all of you as we look forward to the biggest party that Ohana will celebrate. Save the date and mark it on your calendar, Saturday, June 7,

2014! Let's all look forward to bring in our 20th year anniversary and be grateful for all the years that this amazing Company has given us and our families.

Wishing you and your families the best in 2014! Mahalo!

Operations Manager's

Message

Garret Suzuki



My responsibility is to see that every Sales Associate and warehouse employee does an effective job in carrying out his/her part to enable Blind Vendors Ohana, Inc. (BVO) to serve the traveling public well. This we have been doing for the last nineteen and a half years.

This is the simple secret to success BVO has been experiencing over the last two decades. Our secret to success is simple and our success is profound. Needless to say, we

will continue to apply this simple formula of genuine customer service with ALOHA.

Our 20th anniversary should be a record setting year – THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!

Pa’ahana Award Winners

Blind Vendors Ohana, Inc. has an excellent program to motivate its employees to do the best they can personally and professionally.

At the annual Christmas party held at the Pagoda Hotel four individuals were presented with marvelous gifts for meeting the qualities of excellence. The following are the four Pa’ahana Award Winners:

Margarita Domingo

is a Sales Associate and a part-time Lead. She is a mother of two boys and one girl. She enjoys singing and getting together with friends.



Garret Ichioka is the second winner of the Pa’ahana Award. He is a Sales Associate. He enjoys singing and playing the trombone.



The third Pa’ahana Award winner is **Mamerna Bio**. She works in BVO’s warehouse and is also a Clerk. She has two brothers and two sisters. She is a very proud mom of two, one daughter and one son.



Our fourth Pa’ahana Award Winner is **Angelina Cortez**. She works with Jim Kahue in the Human Resources Department. She has three children, one son and two daughters. She enjoys reading novels.



2013 Christmas Party



Blind Vendors Ohana’s employees, family, friends and guests were treated to a memorable night at BVO’s annual Christmas party, which was held on Saturday, December 14, 2013, at the Pagoda Hotel. The program consisted of a variety of events. There was a surprise performance by Jake Shimabukuro, an ukulele virtuoso and composer, Pa’ahana Awards presentation, Christmas party committee members sang “Joy to the World Unspeakable Joy”, Sales and Warehouse employees sang a Filipino medley, “Maalaala Mokaya”/”Dahil Saiyo”, Sales Leads danced to their rendition of the 1970’s “Do the Hustle” , employee “Christmas Colors” fashion show contest, door prize giveaways, Christmas jackpot, special numbers by Filo Tu and Jim Kahue and so forth. Thank you to all the employees who took part of the special numbers, it was very entertaining!

The winners of the "Christmas Colors" fashion show contest were: Most Stylish, **Maricen Olipares**. Most Festive, **Sa Ortiz**. Funniest, **Yasu Kawamoto**. Each winner received a cash prize of \$150.00.

BVO employees who attended the party and who worked that evening were fortunate enough to receive a door prize thanks to loyal vendors, friends, Blind Vendors Ohana and owners for making this successful every year. The two lucky recipients of the grand door prizes to Las Vegas donated by BVO and Pepsi were **Angelina Cortez** and **Jacquelyn Cadiz**.

Two guests Norman Ota and Skidget Jespersen, were the lucky winners of the Christmas jackpot. Both pocketed about \$361.00 each!

A big Mahalo to the Christmas party committee members for their hard work and dedication: **Maricen Olipares, Angelina Cortez, Virginia Rizalda, Arceli Sario, Glenna Uy, Margarita Domingo, Aida Pascion, Neriza Flores, Crystalyn Fortaleza, Yasu Kawamoto, Linda Fuchigami, Elena Calupe and Maria Luisa Corpuz**. If you want to experience being part

of the Christmas party committee, you are welcome to join in the future!

Most employees were grateful to be at the Christmas party and enjoyed the camaraderie amongst each other. It was certainly a night to remember, no doubt about that!

Do you Have Aloha? Jim Kahue, HR Manager



Have you ever asked yourself the following questions about Aloha? i.e. "What is it?", "Do I have it?" "How do I express it?"

There are many answers to these questions, especially to the first question, "What Is Aloha?"

"Aloha is a Kiss" – according to Brad Liko Rodgers, a Hawaiian language teacher on Maui, who learned this from his teacher at U.H. Manoa, Tutu Lydia Hale, a.k.a. Kupuna Hale, who defined the word "aloha" as a "kiss". She explained to him that the word "Aloha" is two Hawaiian words combined. The first word is "Alo" - the face of a person and second word "ha" - breathing in the air of life through the nose, i.e. two

persons kissing, face to face in the Hawaiian fashion, sharing a single breath of life. I believe that Kupuna Hale's definition of "Aloha", i.e. the act of kissing in the Hawaiian fashion and giving each other a single breath of life symbolizes the essence of what "Aloha" is all about.

"Aloha is the Law" according to Hawaii Revised Statutes [S5-7.5] The Aloha Spirit:

"Aloha Spirit", (a) "Aloha Spirit" is the coordination of mind and heart within each person. It brings each person to the self. Each person must think and emote good feelings to others. In the contemplation and presence of the life force, "Aloha", the following unuhi laula loa may be used:

"Akahai", meaning kindness to be expressed with tenderness;

"Lokahi", meaning unity, to be expressed with harmony;

"Oluolu", meaning agreeable, to be expressed with pleasantness;

"Haahaa", meaning humility, to be expressed with modesty;

"Ahonui", meaning patience, to be expressed with perseverance.

“These are traits of character that express the charm, warmth and sincerity of Hawaii’s people. It was the working philosophy of native Hawaiians and was presented as a gift to the people of Hawaii. “Aloha” is more than a word of greeting or farewell or a salutation. “Aloha” means mutual regard and affection and extends warmth in caring with no obligation in return.....“Aloha” means to hear what is not said, to see (or feel) what cannot be seen (or felt) and to know the unknowable.”

Even though Hawaii’s State government made a law about “Aloha” that does not enforce any penalty for persons or institutions who break this law, some people and institutions believe that the unkind acts of persons and institutions towards others should be noted and the violators admonished.

“Aloha is much, much more than just a word” says Ray Masters, a commercial artist living in Maui. Mr. Masters said, “It is the free spirit within me (my inner child), heart and soul, manifested by thinking good thoughts, emoting good feelings and sharing goodness with others. He expressed that “aloha has to be experienced --- indeed, felt---to be understood.”

As you can see, there are so many great definitions

and stories about this wonderful and beautiful Hawaiian word, “Aloha” like the ones listed above which can be found in a book about “Aloha” titled, “Practice Aloha” (Secrets to Living Life Hawaiian Style), by Mark Ellman & Barbara Santos which was published by Mutual Publishing, LLC.

The second question; Do you have it (Aloha)? That is the question you have to answer yourself based on how you feel about yourself, how you relate to others (and they to you), your family, friends, community, life, etc.

The third question; How do you express it (Aloha)? Again, the answer is personal and unique to each person and the way they express themselves to loved ones or to others in real life situations.

Finally, as a Hawaii employer, Blind Vendors Ohana, Inc. supports and hope that all our employees live and work with “aloha” because it represents the warmth and friendliness that we want our visitors and customers to take home with them after visiting our stores and islands. *Feeling ‘aloha’ at home and work is important to one’s happiness and well being!*



Las Vegas Winners



Filipino Medley Number



Christmas Party Committee



Sales Leads Number



“Christmas Colors” Fashion Show