



Pacific Coast
Wholesale Hardwood
Distributors Association

Mauna Lani Bay 2016, 93rd Annual AGM & Convention Recap

April 24th – 26th, 2016

For those of you that were unable to attend the PCWHDA 93rd AGM and convention this year, here is a brief recap of the events held at the magnificent **Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows**, on the Big Island of Hawaii.



The first event was the **President's Cocktail Reception** held in the Plumeria Bungalow (the PCWHDA Hospitality Suite) from 5:00 until after 7:00 PM **Sunday April 24th**. This welcoming event, hosted by PCWHDA President Jeff Wirkkala, was catered with a full bar service and hot and cold appetizers and provided a great opportunity for members and their spouses/guests to socialize in a relaxed, private atmosphere and get caught up on the

years events. The spacious suite featured a beautiful outdoor patio and pool area that was idea for mingling.





A **Continental Breakfast** was offered at 8:00 AM on the morning of **Monday the 25th** before the business meeting. This light meal in the Honu Garden got the day off to a great start.



The **business meeting** this year was held over a 2 day period in the Puna Room. Monday's session started at 8:30 AM and looked back at the just completed year with the adoption of last year's minutes, the financial report and regional reports as well as presentations on insurance issues and a block tally app. Please see the official meeting minutes for details.





After meeting for a grueling one hour and forty five minutes, the group took a break to enjoy the traditional official cocktail of the PCWHDA, **Ramos Gin Fizz**. This drink was carefully prepared by the hotel staff using the official recipe supplied to them by PCWHDA directors and was offered with the appropriate serenity and reverence in the **Honu garden**.



After the break, the business meeting continued with a riveting presentation on insurance issues facilitated by PCWHDA President Jeff Wirkkala and an introductory discussion, led by Kurt Landwehr, on a block tally app being developed in conjunction with the HDA. Sadly, I do not have pictures of these two events. The group then adjourned the meeting for lunch.

The next event up was the **Annual Regatta**. This competitive event pits the traditional athletic prowess of Team North against the optimistic but hapless dreamers of Team South. A commodore is appointed, rules are established, and then it is all downhill from there. Minutes going back to the origins of this esteemed institution reveal a long and sordid history of Regatta rule breaking, misdeeds and physical injury. This year the competition was a kayak relay race in two legs from the beach around a buoy and back to shore. Apparently the folks from the south did not realize that we northerners use Kayaks to get to and from work. Let the fun begin!





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To the surprise of few, the North was victorious again!



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The day wrapped up in grand style with cocktails and a **Grand Buffet Dinner** in the beautiful Hawaiian twilight on the hotel grounds at the **Pool Side Lanai**.





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Tuesday the 26th again began with a **continental breakfast** offered from 8:00 – 9:00 AM at the **Honu Garden** followed by round 2 of the **business meeting** in the **Puna Room**. Today's meeting started with a presentation by Mike Lewis from Penske Truck Logistics focusing on the trucking law changes in the US, the economics of leasing Vs owning and the pros and cons of GPS tracking. It was an interesting and informative talk. At 10:00 AM we broke to take our **group picture** by the ocean. What a spectacular backdrop!





After the picture, the **business meeting** reconvened in the **Puna Room** where we dealt with the business of the association. The committee reports were heard and we elected our officers for the 2016 – 2017 year. The following slate was elected.

Doug Wirkkala – President

Jamie Price – Vice President

Jim Price – Treasurer

Colin Reimer – Secretary

The meeting was then adjourned and the members had free time for lunch. After lunch attendees could play golf or tennis, or just shop or sight see on their own.

One foursome comprised of Doug and Jeff Wirkkala, Jim Price and Kurt Landwehr decided to brave the links and play **18 holes of golf** on the North Course. I am told that one of the highlights of the game was Kurt “bow hunter” Landwehr paying more attention to the Hawaiian goats on the course than to his game. Apparently his score backs up this story.



Doug Wirkkala claims he won the game with a score of 89, very impressive!

The **tennis match** of the day featured a mixed doubles battle between longtime rivals Randy and Marty Porter and Jim and Kim Frost. Apparently, only couples with names that rhyme can participate. The Frosts were victorious this time around.



The group met at the **Mauna Lani lanai** at 5:30 for cocktails before the **final dinner** of the convention at 6:00. The hotel put forth a sumptuous spread featuring filet mignon, steak and lobster or the daily catch. It was a great final feast of a terrific gathering.



After dinner, **Jim Price** regaled us with the highly anticipated and always entertaining **Resolutions Committee Report**. This year did not disappoint as Jim found a humorous way to thank Jeff Wirkkala and Connie Smales for their efforts organizing an excellent convention while hurling lightly disguised barbs at various people for their participation in the activities that make these gatherings memorable.



Next up was another PCWHDA tradition; our very own **Kim Frost** serenaded us with **song and ukulele music** from her impressive repertoire of music. Her selections included one



number with the lyrics specifically tailored to the PCWHDA and the lumber industry. Not an easy thing to accomplish I am sure. This year, she was joined for part of the performance by a talented youngster, **Helmi Landwehr**, Kurt and Jessi's daughter, what a treat!



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To close out a lovely dinner, outgoing **President Jeff Wirkkala** thanked everyone for attending and reminded us all of the importance of supporting the PCWHDA by attending the conventions and serving where you can. Preparations are underway for the **94th annual convention and AGM** to be held in July 2017 in Las Vegas in conjunction with the AWFS.





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The final event of the evening was the **Annual Poker Tournament** held this year in the PCWHDA hospitality suite, the Plumeria Bungalow. As usual, it was a spirited competition and no one lost their business. I am told Terry Wirkkala (Doug's wife) and Kim Frost split the pot for the win to beat Doug. I bet she hardly ever mentions it to him!



**Mahalo for attending and we hope to see you in Las Vegas in July 2017 during AWFS.
This document prepared by Colin Reimer.**

