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## ...from our president

### *A Fond Farewell NOSCO Members!*



It is hard to believe that here I sit, getting ready to PCS after almost three years in a foreign land. What an amazing three years it has been. A huge part of what made these three years pass by so quickly was having the friends I've made through NOSCO and the Navy Fleet Gift Shop. How lucky have I been?!?! The opportunities and experiences that I have been afforded are unforgettable and have enriched my life in ways hard to express in words. Whether you have just arrived on island, or like me, have been here a while, I urge you to take advantage of everything this island has to offer, especially the wonderful people that are a part of our NOSCO family.

Our final event of the year is our End of the Year Party on May 17 at Marek Park on Kadena. This event is open to all NOSCO members and includes an awesome Nap's barbecue buffet, door prizes, a gift basket auction and a time to say goodbye to those people we may not see again. Please join us for the fun! Please refer to the details in this newsletter for further details, payment and RSVP information.

The NOSCO Board has been an amazing group of ladies this year. Thank you to the Executive Board including Caroline Hutto, Cat Pate, Amy Oxner, Britt Clark and Salley Westcott. You all did a fabulous job at your respective positions and made my job an easy one! A huge thank you to the Committee Chairpersons including: Amy Pettle, Kelli Dillon, Rachel Broom, Kim Carlson, Colleen Cooney, Meredith Bolton and Suz Secrest. You are all the backbone of our Club and we could not have done it without you! Our Coffee Group Representatives are our lifeline to our members. They include: Angela Patangan, Lori Tramont, Annette Switzer and Kelly Kaup. Thank you for your efforts at communication, planning events and the myriad details your job requires. Thank you to our Advisors, Sherri Vizcarra, Susan Bossert, Carrie Wood, Angie Wolfgang, and Carla Thorson. You have all done a marvelous job of guiding us through the year with your wisdom! A final thank you goes out to Beth Landolt, our Honorary Advisor, for her support. You have all been amazing and I will miss our meetings and events!!!

As I write this, our employees and volunteers are preparing the Navy Fleet Gift Shop for our Thailand shipment that opens on Wednesday, May 6. You will not want to miss the beautiful furniture, jewelry, housewares and other gift items. I am sad to report that we have to say goodbye to our Director, Kelli Dillon. Thank you Kelli for your work ethic, dedication and heart. You will definitely be missed. We all wish you the very best of luck on your latest project! We also had to say goodbye to Kelly Varner, our longest running employee. Thanks to you as well, there are many times we could not have kept going if not for you! Best of luck with your new job, we'll see you at the Hospital. I also have to thank our remaining employees, Amy Pettle, Caroline Hutto, Laura Seng, Jessica Hampton for their hard work and dedication to the

*continued...*

Navy Fleet Gift Shop. I look forward to hearing about the positive changes you all will make!

I am making a personal plea for volunteers to continue helping out at the Navy Fleet Gift Shop. Times are tough and none of the Gift Shops on island are doing as well as in times past. We rely on your help and your shopping to keep us afloat! I personally will miss volunteering dearly, I have made some amazing friends there and it was an important part of my life on Okinawa.

Thanks to all of our members for joining. I hope you have enjoyed the Club and the opportunities we have provided for you.

To the incoming Board I say, GOOD LUCK! Thank you for being willing to devote some of your free time to NOSCO, you won't regret it! I especially want to thank Angela Patangan for taking on the Presidency, I know you will do an amazing job. We still need a Treasurer and Parliamentarian so please contact me at [morsechristine@hotmail.com](mailto:morsechristine@hotmail.com) if you are interested or know someone who might be.

Warmest Regards,  
Chris



## Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

Camp Foster: Bldg. 5674, 645-7808, M-Fri 0830-1600

Camp Hansen: Bldg. 2339, 623-5043, M-Fri 1000-1400

NMCRS Budget 4 Baby class opens your eyes to the realistic cost of raising a child. Look at your current income, then add on estimated costs of basic baby items. THEN top them off with all the things you WANT for your baby! Can you afford everything in today's economy? Did you remember to include the cost of taking baby to see the grandparents??? How do you budget for both needs and wants for that new family member? NMCRS B4B class will start you off right financially. Receive a free layette that includes bibs, onesies, crib sheets, and more! Thursdays monthly - call for dates, locations, and times; NMCRS Foster 645-7808.

If you are interested in Financial Readiness, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is the BEST place to Volunteer. We train you in Budget/Spending Plan preparation, Understanding the Leave and Earning Statement (LES), basic casework, and more. NMCRS runs the latest version of Microsoft Office Suite, Volgistics volunteer management software, and private casework management software. Volunteering with NMCRS gives you a brilliant opportunity to maintain or update your computer software skills, financial management skills, and resume while providing a vital service to Marines and Sailors on Okinawa. See [www.nmcrs.org](http://www.nmcrs.org) to find out more about Volunteer opportunities with Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.



*Call us to learn more!*

## 3rd Med

By Kelly Kaup

The 3rd Medical Battalion Spouses enjoyed a lovely Mexican dinner at Lima this month. We were so appreciative to our newest member Reiko since there were no English menus available! It was a wonderful night and we look forward to supporting our own Jennifer at the Dragon Boat Races!



## CTF-76



By Colleen Cooney

In April we had a surprise baby shower for Jessica Grant hosted by Patty Nieswodomy. We had a great time and are looking forward to the arrival of Jessica's baby! We also gathered with our families for an early Cinco de Mayo party at the RV park on White Beach May 1. On May 7 we will have dinner at Tonneau to say sayonara to Stephanie Ouellette.



## Dental

By Angela Patangan

This month we had a fabulous gathering at Laura Seng's home. She made a wonderful meal. The theme was "anything beachy" and we really enjoyed it. We were able to visit and catch up. It was a great time had by all.

## Naval Hospital



By Lori Tramont

The Navy Hospital Coffee Group met for lunch at the Tee House on Kadena's golf course on April 15th. We had a great time! We will be having a farewell dinner for our CO's wife, Carla Thorson at the Habu Pit on Futema on May 14th.



# Yee-haw!

Bring the kinfolk and join NOSCO  
for our End-of-the-Year Picnic!

There will be door prizes,  
lots of fun for the kids,  
and great Southern BBQ catered by  
Nap's Southern Grill Restaurant!

Sunday, May 17th  
At 1pm

Marek Park, Pavilion 1 on Kadena AB

In Gate 1, park is on the right before the tennis courts

This event is being co-hosted by your Navy Fleet Gift Shop.

RSVP by May 14<sup>th</sup>  
at the Navy Fleet Gift Shop Home Store  
***This event is free for NOSCO members***  
\$11 for adults \$6 for children ages 3 - 10  
Ages 2 and under are FREE

Contact Amy Oxner at [aloxner@yahoo.com](mailto:aloxner@yahoo.com) or 646-5905 if you have any  
questions.

News From The  
**Navy Fleet Gift Shop**

Our exciting shipment from Thailand will be **OPENING**  
this month!!!!

**Wednesday May 6th at 10:00am**

**Home Store:**

Reclaimed Teak furniture  
Floor Mirrors  
Scented Candles  
Rice Baskets  
Carved Teak Furniture  
Carved Teak wall Hangings  
Women's summer clothing  
Wall Sconces & Shelves  
Lamps  
Unique stone and silver jewelry  
**PAGODAS!!!**  
Garden Lanterns & stools  
Thai Floor Pillows and mattresses

**Items to look forward to:**

**Kids Cottage:**

Teak Furniture  
Tables  
Rockers  
Desks  
Book shelves  
Summer skirts for girls  
Polo shirts for boys  
Animal Pencils  
Wooden Toys

**Looking for a job? Know someone who is?**

The Navy Fleet Gift Shop is actively seeking individuals to fill 2 positions: **Gift shop Director, and Shop Assistant**. Please send all resumes to: [navyfleetgiftshop@hotmail.com](mailto:navyfleetgiftshop@hotmail.com) or stop by the store for more information. These are paid positions.

The Navy Fleet Gift Shop would like to thank our patrons and volunteers for making us a successful organization. Because of your support, we are able to contribute a portion of our profit to educational scholarships, and Japanese and American Charities! **THANK YOU!!**

# AWWA Corner

By Amy Pettle, AWWA Chairperson

Each month, NOSCO donates money to various American and Japanese charities through AWWA (American Women's Welfare Association). Your Navy Fleet Gift Shop dollars and volunteer hours make these donations possible!

## Recent Grants:

### American

- Kadena Boys Varsity Soccer, \$500 (Far East Tournament lodging)

If your organization would like to apply for a grant through AWWA, applications can be obtained by emailing our AWWA Board at [awwaokinawa@yahoo.com](mailto:awwaokinawa@yahoo.com). Please contact me directly with any questions concerning AWWA at [ampettle@yahoo.com](mailto:ampettle@yahoo.com).



## Ready to volunteer?

NOSCO currently has two open positions on the Board for the 2009-10 year. Open positions include **Treasurer and Parliamentarian**.

If you are interested in serving on the NOSCO Board, please email [morsechristine@hotmail.com](mailto:morsechristine@hotmail.com).

# Happy Birthday

Kelly Payne	May 2
Dianna Andrews	May 3
Rebecca Brown	May 3
Shari Biery	May 5
Renee Jaffer	May 6
Yoly Cuccio	May 9
Melodee Stewart	May 10
Melissa Kiser	May 13
Jennifer Schrager	May 23
Heather Upp	May 25
Linda Pole	May 28

Any comments or suggestions about *The Seagull* can be submitted to Editor Colleen Cooney at [cmcooney77@gmail.com](mailto:cmcooney77@gmail.com)

# Culture Corner



## Kodomo-no-hi (Children's Day)

A sure sign of spring on Okinawa would have to be the sight of fish swimming out of water...

Koinobori, the colorful carp streamers seen flying above public areas and outside homes this time of year, are used to mark Kodomo-no-hi, Children's day. Though the fish are only flown outside homes with sons, the celebration is for all children and many Golden Week festivities

continuing through May 6 will include Koinobori festivals.

The carp or koi image symbolizes parents' wishes that their children adopt the virtuous qualities of the carp, perseverance and strength.

Those attending Koinobori festivals will sing:

*"Carp streamers, flying high above the rooftops.  
The larger carp are the fathers,  
the smaller carp are the children.  
They appear so joyful as they swim"*



*Koinobori streamers are seen flying near Camp Courtney.*

