Please consider increasing your PEOPLE and Kendall Scholarship contributions by filling out payroll deduction forms that you can get from your state directors. These are additional ways we retirees can support our union, and increase funding to fight cases like Janus v. AFSCME.

We eagerly await the courts decision but with uneasy feelings especially after reading Adam Liptak’s article in the 2/23/18 Honolulu Star-Advertiser that “the Supreme Court is back to full strength with Trump’s appointment of Justice Neil M. Gorsuch, and most observers believe the new justice will join the court’s other conservatives to deliver a decision that will hurt public unions.” As you recall, the U.S. Senate blocked President Barack Obama from appointing a Justice with the passing of Justice Antonin Scalia in 2015.

For more information including a Janus Tool Kit, please visit janusvafscme.org.

Trivia information: Janus was a Roman divinity, guardian and deity of gates, commonly represented with two heads (one looks to the future, the other to the past) because every door looks both ways. January was named after Janus.

WeFT REMINDER

EUTF reminds HGEA Retiree members (spouses/partners) enrolled in Medicare Part B to please submit a copy of your Social Security Administration (SSA) letter showing your monthly Medicare Part B premium for 2018 so that you will be reimbursed the correct amount.

For more information, please visit the EUTF website at eutfhawaii.gov.

Statewide Excursion

Interested in going with other HGEA retirees on a Hilo day trip? We are tentatively planning for early summer.

Please contact Tammy at the HGEA office, (808) 543-0054 if you are interested.

Beginner ukulele classes tentatively to begin in May for four weeks. Please contact Tammy at (808) 543-0054 if you are interested.

WORD FIND

national parks week

American Samoa
Big Bend
Bryce Canyon
Crater Lake
Death Valley
Everglades
Glacier Bay
Grand Canyon
Grand Teton
Haleakala
Isle Royale
Joshua Tree
Kauai Fjords
Lake Clark
Mammoth Cave
Mount Ranier
North Cascades
Olympic
Pinnacles
Redwood
Rocky Mountains
Sequoia
Shenandoah
Yellowstone
Yosemite
Zion

WORD FIND PUZZLE: NATIONAL PARKS WEEK

DDBBAIDOUQEDSOONDERSPJ
CFMHOABIDUNPFKFRECVH
HOOYVINSMOIAKJAKACCQOD
GEGNWONOMAPRTCETAYQ
MTKQZNTDTHXKLCU
KRLCERALGONAFRYYKED
JSOXEVCKNAUSAAALWN
DIOQCLHCANHCTOEMLABSAI
JNSCEZESMSOSELTXEZ
GASEQHVOYYTRNCETIVQ
JEDBRZAWXQAYQJLB
BTAGDZIECTTRIGDRNRH
PMLRIZQMAOFOWCABYZ
AUGEDMNORQTJLIGAOI
NORTHASCADETOSSYGS
PNAOCAKABABMNIMZEL
YVPSGMONLYTFHDPMEMU
VAEQELAYORELSVAIGUS
JGRANDPETSONSOBZIMT
BFVRUNHNEENOSTWOLLEY
A MESSAGE FROM RETIREES UNIT ADMINISTRATOR

As of this writing, the United States Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the Janus v. AFSCME Council 31 case, which could overturn the 1977 unanimous Supreme Court ruling in the Abood v. Detroit Board of Education case that upheld mandatory dues for public employees. This means that without fair representatives, the choice to become full dues or nothing.

The Right-to-Work groups are rallying their forces to discourage union participation which will mean working for less pay and benefits, less safety and health protections as well as to limit job security. So what has HGEA done with AFSCME been doing to counter the attacks of the right-to-work groups such as the Koch Brothers, FreedomWorks, Americans for Prosperity, etc. to name a few? The AFSCME and HGEA Strong campaigns began over two years ago with staff, retirees and leadership training. We trimmed our budgets to be more lean and continue to identify ways to streamline our work. We remain vigilant at the legislature and will have a strong political campaign after the session concludes. We took our message of unionism to our members via Lunch + Learn, one-on-one conversations at worksites, island division meetings, phone calls with retirees and leaders to engage active workers and members. The strength of bargaining unit contracts, the benefits and health contributions are why there are active workers within those contracts are because of the strong unions at the bargaining table. A strong legislative program helps secure the funding for the contracts and a strong political action program helps elect the employees Organized to Promote Legislative Equality) program. These retirees can play active roles by partnering with active members in one-on-one participation which will mean working for less pay and benefits, less safety and health protections as well as to limit job security.

What can we retirees do?

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