



Hawaii Chapter 2019 Holiday Luncheon.



Kauai Chapter Board at their 2019 Holiday Luncheon.

BROADWAY IN HAWAII EXCURSION

As requested from members, we are planning another Broadway show opportunity with the musical Jersey Boys. It is the story of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. Remember those fun songs we grew up with like "Can't Take My Eyes Off You," "Ragdoll," "Sherry," "Grease" to name a few.

We are planning the May 9, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. matinee showing. Neighbor island members will need to secure your own flight arrangements, but transportation from the airport to the show and back to the airport will be arranged. Oahu members will be told where to meet. Please contact Tammy at 543-0054 to be included in the group discount and for more information.

SUPPORT THE CHARLES R. KENDALL & THE RUSSELL K. OKATA SCHOLARSHIPS

These two scholarships are available to members and their dependents in September for the following school year. HGEA members coordinate and participate in fundraising events year-round to fund the scholarships. For as little as \$1 a month you can become a scholarship donor by completing the automatic direct payments authorization agreement. Please contact any HGEA office to make a donation or to complete the authorization form.

There were 26 recipients for the 2019-2020 school year. They've made their parents and HGEA proud!



Hawaii Government Employees Association
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO
P.O. Box 2930
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RETIREES UNIT



Maui Chapter 2019 Holiday Luncheon

WORD FIND

words that have a "Q"

- | | |
|----------|---------|
| Acquire | Oblique |
| Acquit | Require |
| Antique | Request |
| Aquifer | Squelch |
| Bequest | Squeeze |
| Bisque | Tequila |
| Conquer | Unique |
| Equal | Opaque |
| Equator | Quack |
| Esquire | Queen |
| Inquire | Quiet |
| Liquids | Quilt |
| Mosquito | Quote |

E U Q A P O R B A V F P M Q I N M T X I
 U S Q U E E Z E C O D K L U N C D S S W
 C S J A U N H Y Q S D Y Q I Q Y A E Y B
 E Q D Q D C C W U S Y J G L U C H U W N
 N U N U L O D S I O J K B T I J J Q L K
 I O Q E P M A K T U A Q G B R N I E I K
 C K U I S B Q R J E V Z I S E H T B C I
 O Q G O N U D W E O R S D G G M J A P F
 S M W W O U G M H F Q I D I A S U T N D
 L K E T E T I O T U I I U C S Q D L L N
 U M E S E S U S E T K U Q Q X T I V A O
 M Z J P V S Q Q F C T U Q J E Q H T U W
 E U Q I L B O U A B I E V A U R R S Q R
 I V Q G L G K I I R E U Q I T N A E E F
 E Q U A T O R T E R C Q D U U J Q U G M
 Q U E E N F S O E F E S U P I X V Q A C
 T J F J Q A X R A E S O R I S L Z E S Q
 L T K T F P P A T D A W Z E E W A R A W
 W B Z X J S P M O W E Y Z K H T K E H N
 M E Y T H H B J Z C L D B S H W K I P T

HO'OLAHA

PUBLICATION OF THE RETIRED PEOPLE

IN THIS ISSUE

- A Message From Retirees Unit Administrator: Mahie Trask
- Big Island | Maui | Oahu | Kauai Island Chapter News
- Word Find Puzzle: Words with a "Q"
- Excursion: Broadway in Hawaii
- Scholarship Opportunities

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HO`OLAHA

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A MESSAGE FROM RETIREES UNIT ADMINISTRATOR

As we welcome 2020 and celebrate those born in the Year of the Dog, let us continue to be mindful of the many Americans in harms way as the current administration's misguided strategies and failed policies have recently set our country and the world in a very dangerous trajectory. I hope our collective thoughts and prayers will guide us out of this darkness as we begin this next decade.

Of course, top of the list is the 2020 elections both locally and nationally. We all need to become part of the process of change. I urge you to support the union by becoming active, sign up for PEOPLE or increase your membership to the MVP level and above. Stay tuned to this publication and other HGEA sources like our website and eBulletin as well as *The Public Employee*. A great way to get involved with the retiree's unit is by attending the general membership meetings held on each island quarterly. March is the next round of meetings but check your island news section of this newsletter. Information on HGEA, the latest happenings on the island and upcoming activities are discussed. Often a speaker is featured, and we end with a lite lunch. Retirees are also represented at the state and island legislative/political action committees so your input can be included via your island chapters. Thanks to the HGEA IT and Communications department, the PAC feedback page is up and running. Members can log-in and provide comments on any candidate for any race as well as submit interview question suggestions. Please take advantage of this tool at <https://www.hgea.org/its-political/pac-feedback/> as all the comments will be shared with the Island and State PACs.

Even as the impeachment process continues, as you know Congress approved a bipartisan spending package which will keep the government funded until September 2020. As reported in a recent AFSCME Retiree Council of Presidents meeting, the package also repeals the 40% tax on high-cost worker and retiree benefits that AFSCME has collaborated on for the past 10 years.

Continued on next page ...

Also, for Retirees, Congress passed H.R. 3, legislation on prescription drugs which requires The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to negotiate prices on certain drugs (current law prohibited the CMS from doing so) and gives drug companies an incentive to negotiate. The bill was named the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Act. The bill is now in the Senate but McConnell is blocking a Senate vote and other bills that aim at limiting drug corporations power to raise prices. As I stated at the top of this report, I urge each member to support the PEOPLE (Public Employees Organized to Promote Legislative Equality) program because it is through this program that AFSCME can fight these kinds of fights to level the playing field. As members we are so far removed from Capitol Hill, yet it is HGEA's partnership with AFSCME that gives us the seat at the table. Don't forget AFSCME's free college benefit for members, your families and retirees. More information on the free degree program is available at <http://freecollege/afscme.org>.

REMINDER: You should have all received the letter from Social Security that states how much you are paying for your Medicare Part B premiums. Please send a copy of this letter to EUTF at 201 Merchant Street, Suite 1700 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813. This will ensure you are being reimbursed the correct amount for your Part B premiums. Any questions the number on Oahu is 586-7390 and the toll-free number is 1-800-295-0089.

I would like to thank all the chapters for welcoming President Ruth and me to your Christmas parties. We had a nice visit with members and friends and enjoyed our day with each chapter. Please encourage your former co-workers, family and friends to join the retiree's unit. It is very simple to join, call Tammy at 543-0054 for assistance or any neighbor island office. Let's each try to recruit one member this year.

In Solidarity,

Mahie



Retirees Unit State Board at their 2019 Holiday Meeting.

CHAPTER NEWS

OAHU

*** Call Tammy to RSVP at 543-0054 ***

Feb. 13, 2020: Outreach, Ewa Mahiko District Park, 9:00 a.m. - Noon. Members in the district were mailed invitations but anyone can attend.

Feb. 20, 2020: Discussion with Kaiser Permanente. Plant-based diet presentation. All members welcome. HGEA 1st floor meeting room.

Feb. 26, 2020: Line Dancing

Feb. 27, 2020: Crochet

March 9, 2020: Bingo

March 19, 2020: General membership meeting, 9:00 a.m. HGEA first floor hall.

March 11 & 25, 2020: Line Dancing

March 19, 2020: General membership meeting, 9:00 a.m. HGEA first floor hall.

KAUAI

Feb. 24, 2020: Movie Day, HGEA office at 9:30 a.m.

March 16, 2020: General Membership meeting.

May 4, 2020: Movie Day, HGEA office, 9:30 a.m.

MAUI

*** (Please RSVP to the HGEA office at 244-4058 the day before unless otherwise specified) ***

Feb. 19, 2020: Movie Day, HGEA office, 9:30 a.m.

Feb. 25, 2020: Hanafuda, HGEA at 5:00 p.m.

March 17, 2020: General Membership meeting, UPW hall at 9:00 a.m.

April 6, 2020: Bingo, HGEA at 5:00 p.m.

April 21, 2020: Kula Hospital excursion & Lunch. Details TBA.

BIG ISLAND

*** Contact Elsie Iida, Community Action Chair at 959-6794 for information and to sign up. ***

March 18, 2020: General Membership Meeting, HGEA Hilo office 9:30 a.m.

March 28, 2020: American Heart & Stroke Walk/Health Fair fundraiser. Bayfront canoe landing, 7:00 - 10:00 a.m.

April, 2020: East Hawaii Special Olympics. Keaau Athletic Field. 6:00 - 8:00 a.m.

April 10, 2020: BILA Easter Egg Hunt. Wong Stadium.

May 9, 2020: National Letter Carriers Food Drive. Airport Post Office. Shifts: 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.; 3:00 p.m. - Finish.



Oahu Chapter Elves at their 2019 Holiday Luncheon.