Where is your mask?
By Ruth Walker

Everyone said that it was easy to sew a mask, so I tried.

It was easy finding scrap fabrics that I had stored in boxes for over 30 years. It was easy to wash and iron those fabrics in preparation for sewing. It was easy to seek patterns on Google. The difficulty at first was in selecting which pattern would be the easiest to maneuver since there were many patterns being featured on the internet.

After a good and easy start, I found a simple pattern with three pleats using four long ties from the four corners of the mask. This mask was easy to make, easy to wear, and easy to fit any person because the ties could be adjusted to the person wearing the mask. I gave the mask to Alan. His reaction was, “Sorry mom, I can’t make the ties behind my head.”

So I went back to the drawing boards to look for another pattern. I created one with two pieces of elastic that went around the head. I forgot why, but Alan was not satisfied with this mask.

I tried one more only to have Alan reject the mask because the elastic was too wide and the results put pressure on his ears.

I tried a fourth pattern that looked like a box that covered the face, the nose and the chin. Ugh, he didn’t like that either.

At this point I gave up on Alan. I gave him a bandana to use to cover him up telling him, use this as there are no ties, no elastic, fits you because it’s adjustable and is washable.

It was easy sewing the mask but not so easy satisfying a son!
A MESSAGE FROM RETIRES UNIT ADMINISTRATOR

Aloha and hope you are safe and well. Since COVID-19 has taken over the way we can gather, all of the usual retiree activities such as 10:30 AM meetings, monthly movie day, and even the campaign activities that are in full swing right now have had to be curtailed. I decided to ask your board of directors to submit a statement to the membership of what the HGEA retirees have done and engaged during this pandemic. While not all chose to write stories some also included pictures of their time. I have included President Watanabe’s story, Kauai Chapter President Tom Albano and State Secretary Ethel Flemings’s story to begin the series and will include more in the next issues. I hope it inspires some of you to send us your COVID-19 stories or pictures.

While we have not cancelled the September general membership meetings, I would like to note that for now Kauai chapter meetings will take place at the Maui HGEA office until another location on what with parking can be secured. UPW is not available at this time. I also urge you to please call your island division office the day before any scheduled meeting to see if the meeting will take place at this location.

Myself and Tommy Oi attended, via teleconference, the State Board meeting on June 4, 2020. Subsequently, I held a Chapter board meeting. Since we have less than 10 on the Kauai board, we held a regular meeting on June 15, 2020. Tommy Oi brought a good bag for each member and another brought bottles off hand sanitizer made the Kula Rum Company. These things could not be had if we had a meeting via virtual communication.

As a self-employed retiree, I continue to practice social distancing. Thank you to everyone that has sent me messages to let me know you are doing a great job.

Thank you to the Big Island and Oahu phone bank volunteers that diligently called many, many retirees and actives on behalf of our endorsed candidates. With the help of Division Chief Scott Collins and Legislative Officer Michele Kurikara Klein, the phones were set up allowing us to continue practicing social distancing. Thank you to everyone that took the time to call and we hope you will continue to join us after the Primary Election as we prepare for the General Election. The Amemiya campaign really appreciated the Oahu retirees for not only helping with the phone bank but volunteering at the headquarters for rubber banding canvassing material. I could not have gotten all the work done without your help! Thank you Oahu Chapter.

Lastly, as of this writing, Primary Election is 5 days away. I hope we are successful in our endorsements but more importantly, I hope that our members understand the importance of supporting our endorsed candidates.

Continued on next page...

Our process is open to all members, to engage in the forums to meet our candidates, to participate in question to the candidates, and to give us your feedback once the interviews are done. To have units divided, only weakens the organization. To divide and conquer is a tactic from the beginning of time in order to pit one group over another, we MUST stick together. The HGEA Endorsement Policy No. 10 addresses members participating in supporting candidates not endorsed by HGEA. Getting our contracts funded by the Legislature at the end of the session was a huge accomplishment and then creating the Bargaining Unit 15 for the Ocean Safety group was the icing on the cake from the 2020 Legislature. That could only happen with the leadership of this great union working with the leadership of the legislature. It is once again being done when we endorsed candidates get elected. It is not complicated, but simple mathematics. HGEA is the largest labor union in this state, let’s stick together so that we can all Rise Up, kupaia, actives and our communities we live in.

Stay safe,

Aloha

Timmy Albano, Kauai Chapter

MAY 2020 Edition

Our endorsed candidates.

They could not have gotten all the work done without volunteering at the headquarters for rubber banding canvassing material. I could not have gotten all the work done without your help! Thank you Oahu Chapter.

Two of the new members you might recognize, Gerald Ako, retired Division chief of the Kauai DOE and Andrew Laing, retired librarian of the Kauai Public Library. The present DOE Area Superintendent retired as of June 30 but will continue to be on the board as a volunteer. Besides the new Area Superintendant being on the board, we now have two retired Area Superintendents on the board. For more information and pictures of the project, see the Sunday edition (June 28, 2020) of the Garden Island paper (thegardenisland.com).

Our process is open to all members, to engage in the forums to meet our candidates, to participate in question to the candidates, and to give us your feedback once the interviews are done. To have units divided, only weakens the organization. To divide and conquer is a tactic from the beginning of time in order to pit one group over another, we MUST stick together. The HGEA Endorsement Policy No. 10 addresses members participating in supporting candidates not endorsed by HGEA. Getting our contracts funded by the Legislature at the end of the session was a huge accomplishment and then creating the Bargaining Unit 15 for the Ocean Safety group was the icing on the cake from the 2020 Legislature. That could only happen with the leadership of this great union working with the leadership of the legislature. It is once again being done when we endorsed candidates get elected. It is not complicated, but simple mathematics. HGEA is the largest labor union in this state, let’s stick together so that we can all Rise Up, kupaia, actives and our communities we live in.

Stay safe,

Aloha

Timmy Albano, Kauai Chapter

MAY 2020 Edition