Hawaii

Thank you for the many hours of sign waving and phone banking for the Primary and General elections.

December 9, 2020: Hawaii Chapter board zoom meeting, at 9:00 a.m.

January 16, 2021: Holiday party CANCELLED.

Kauai

Anyone willing to serve on Kauai Chapter Board, please call Roy Nishida at 635-6676.

If Kauai opens up, we are still planning for a celebration on April 12 since we cannot have a Christmas party or chapter general membership meeting.

Maui

A chapter party is being planned should the gathering restriction open up.

Retiree Chapter Board Elections

Elections for the chapter board officers and directors are held during the third-quarter general membership meetings in the year in which a biennial assembly of the Retirees Unit is held. For the 2021-2023 term the elections will take place during the fourth week in March 2021 beginning with Kauai on March 22nd, Maui on March 23rd, Hawaii on March 24th and ending with Oahu on March 25, 2021. The board term begins on July 1, 2021 for two years. All members in each county are eligible to run and only those in attendance are eligible to vote. Please call Tammy at the Retirees Unit office 543-0054 or email Tammy at ttanouye@hgea.org for more information. For the 2021-2023 term the elections will take place during the fourth week in March 2021 beginning with Kauai on March 22nd, Maui on March 23rd, Hawaii on March 24th and ending with Oahu on March 25, 2021. The board term begins on July 1, 2021 for two years. All members in each county are eligible to run and only those in attendance are eligible to vote. Please call Tammy at the Retirees Unit office 543-0054 or email Tammy at ttanouye@hgea.org.

Chapter News

Kauai

Retiree Chapter Board Elections

A Message From Retirees Unit Administrator: Mahie Trask

Retiree Chapter Board Elections

Charter and Bylaw Resolutions Deadline

With the 24th Biennial Convention scheduled for June 2021 in Hilo, Hawaii, the Charter, Bylaw and Resolutions Committee is accepting resolutions for charter and bylaw changes as well as general resolutions. The deadline to submit charter and bylaw resolutions is June 1, 2021 for the 2021-2023 term.

Coronavirus Chronicles: Dennis Schwind, Susan Sasaki Goya, Ava Kridler

Word Find Puzzle: Hawaiian Birds

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Hawaiian Birds

Akepa

Akiadal

Akiiki

Ahohekohe

Ahe Keokeo

Ala

Alawi

Amakiki

Anianiau

Apopane

Elepaio

Hopue

Iwi

Kioea

Kiwikiki

Kloa

Mepi

Nene

Nihoa

Nukupuu

Omao

Palila

Pualii

Puaoli

Pueo

I DEL J O O U P L J T H FA

L K S K C M E I A A L A L A K

O U Q F O I Y K A K T W Z I

A N I A N I A U O P I I K F K

M E N A P A P A O E A L I I

A J I J E F A M A U K L L A K

O V U O S M A K E E E E O I

L F I S A O E P H Q C P A P A

O K K K P P U O N I H O A L H

K O I N A K K P U A I O H I A

D H W U E E I T S W U U U O S

I E I N H U N W I W K L A M L

H I K O W P E U A W C I X O Q

W R K X W O N R A L I O E U P

V A M C K H E Z H C A I A D W
A MESSAGE FROM RETIRED UNIT ADMINISTRATOR

Never in a million years could we have imagined that the year 2020 would be the year that the State of Hawaii wouldn’t have any early morning shopping hours for Kupuna would be the norm in every store. But that is precisely what happened from January through March 2020. I hope you are all following the guidelines to wear your masks, wash your hands often and social distance so that we can all once again hug our kids and get on with activities. As you know, our retiree activities have all but stopped. However I have continued to meet with the state board, chapter board and local retirees on Zoom. I am amazed how many people are still looking for new members on the Zoom calls and enjoy the interaction even if only through a computer. I hope you are all learning how to Zoom, Skype or Facetime and that you can continue to socialize. While we had planned for a statewide zoom meeting in October there were no participants. I would encourages participating since it will be a little more fun before we can gather but also to be able to give input to the unit. Tammy and I are available with our staff to help you get connected.

The HGEA active members and staff attended their first virtual General Assembly on Saturday, November 14, 2020. The AFSCME convention that was scheduled in San Diego in January was also conducted virtually. Many lessons away were learned to hopefully have a successful virtual convention here. That said, the regular semi-annual elections will also be held virtually in March 2021, along with the retiree convention slated for June, 2021. (Please see additional information in this bulletin.)

HGEA is currently seeking legislative proposals for the 2021 legislation which will begin in January and end in May 2021. The process will continue to monitor and lobby or submit testimony on any legislation that could affect your benefits, both positively or negatively. While we defer some losses in this year’s election, specifically, Oahu Mayoral race we did win the Big Island Mayors race and several other key endorsements. Later on in the year we did get the strong endorsement for our endorsed candidates like Keith Amemiya by doing phone banking and getting paid. I think this was extremely positive for all. I hope you have learned to hopefully have a successful virtual convention here. That said, the regular semi-annual elections will also be held virtually in March 2021, along with the retiree convention slated for June, 2021. (Please see additional information in this bulletin.)

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The last time I was at the HGEA office was to attend the Oahu Chapter Board meeting. I feel that if I would have been there more often in 2020 I could have helped in approving the union’s endorsed candidates. I would like to thank President Walker and all the board members for their efforts to continue despite the pandemic. I look forward to the next board meeting and the time that we can all safely get together again.

Dennis Schwind, Maui Chapter

Continued ...

With Thanksgiving and the Christmas season upon us, Tammy and I are very thankful and appreciative of all you in the retiree’s unit this year. The Kupuna have become the new wardrobe accessory and casually washing hands the new normal, but still we must be thankful that we have each other, the Internet and Zoom to help us go through the help and the holidays.

From our Executive Director Randy Pennington, Executive Deputy Director Debbie Kagawa, all the staff at HGEA especially Tammy and myself, we wish you and your families a joyous holiday and a very prosperous and healthy New Year. See you in 2021.

Mele Kalikimaka ma e ka Hau’oli Makahiki Hou!
Maui

Continued ...