Aloha, everyone,

It's a happy time to connect with you. Traditional American holidays such as Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year are galloping up on our heels. Brighten up with simple decorations and favorite foods to lift our mood. We want to be with others safely. In the past year plus additional months, we've been through waves of cooperation to follow pandemic restrictions within our State and County guidelines to remain healthy. Indeed, our State is touted as one of the best to follow COVID protocols, with the lowest COVID infection rate. And we, of a certain age, are the leaders for this outcome with the help of our health officials.

Because of a decline in HGEA membership and a resultant budget crunch, our Chapters need your energy to bring in more members and your ideas to keep our motivation and lives STRONG. That's a rallying "shot-out" for many groups nowadays. Look within your own personal networks. Please help to recruit other folks retired from local government work and their retired spouses as associates to become HGEA Retiree members. There's so much strength in numbers, from a large member group of creative thinkers and doers. This will help to keep us lively and laughing.

Enjoy your holidays with friends, relatives, and pets. Take photos of yourselves doing something: cooking/eating your favorite food, growing the largest lemon, kissing your kitten, etc., and send to the HGEA Retirees office. Before you know it, we'll have new hope for the New Year. We'll become more optimistic, and remain interested in what phases will happen politically in our nation, State and Counties. Stay alert for developments, and keep in step with the union's political activities. You know from your own history of work, that HGEA has always worked for your rights and benefits. When called upon, please give your time and effort toward those activities, too, so we won't be in danger of losing them. Look toward a happy future with healthy practices in diet, exercise, regular doctor visits, and loving relationships.

Happy holidays from our HGEA family to yours. May your holiday be blessed with family, friends, and plenty of good food.
A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ADMINISTRATOR

We bid aloha to 2021, I joyously reflect on the many accomplishments and firsts that happened even though all the chapters were locked down and life changed around us daily during this pandemic. I say joyously reflect because you retirees stepped up and did your very best to get vaccinated, stayed home even when you wanted to meet with family, you wore and continue to wear your masks always and reminded all around you to social distance and wash their hands. Seniors are the most vaccinated group and have vigilantly kept up with the latest developments on the booster shots and that is why I am joyful in your year’s reflections. Many of you have called to ask about activities or sent in your pictures so we can complete the calendar and we are so grateful hearing from you. Please continue to follow the guidelines and hopefully soon, our unit activities will become less restrictive.

A special mahalo to your state board, chapter and committee members who serve on the state committees on political action, community action and membership as well as the island/chapter level committees. Your commitment to your chapters is what makes the unit a strong part of HGEA.

Please watch for more information on the legislative process and political action in the upcoming issues. Election 2022 will be a very busy year so I hope more of you will be involved. The HGEA State Political Action Committee will have the phone banks activated and every retiree member will be called to support our endorsed candidates. It is a great way to participate in the election process and another opportunity to meet your fellow union members. Besides volunteering another great way to support our political action program is through PEOPLE donations. Each office has the donation forms or you can mail a check to HGEA, Retiree Department, 888 Mili Mili Street, Suite 401, Honolulu HI 96813. Please make your checks payable to PEOPLE.

The Retirees Unit will have a vaccine/flu/booster clinic on Saturday, January 29, 2022 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the HGEA first floor conference room, 888 Mili Mili Street, Honolulu. Kaiser and HMSA through their community partnership with Foodland Pharmacy will be on site. Registration is best, please call Tammy at 543-0054 to register. While we are unsure at this time which booster will be available, please let us know which is your preference when you call. Please wear your mask and bring in your Covid immunization card along with your membership card.

On behalf of our Executive Director Randy Perreira, Deputy Executive Director Debbie Kagawa, Retiree President Ethel Fleming and the Board of Directors, Retiree’s Unit Secretary Tammy Tanouye and myself, we wish you a happy holiday and a healthy 2022. Be safe, and thank you for your support of HGEA and the Retiree’s Unit.

Your commitment to your chapters is what makes the unit a strong part of HGEA.

In solidarity,

With more volunteers needed, please call our island offices or chapter board members to volunteer. You will be trained on how to phone bank, given a script and tools to make it as easy as possible. The work is not hard but it is time consuming so many hands make light work. We can social distance and we are very conscious of cleaning each work station prior to and after each phone bank.

Please consider helping us get our endorsed candidates elected. It is a great way to participate in the election process and another opportunity to meet your fellow union members. Besides volunteering another great way to support our political action program is through PEOPLE donations. Each office has the donation forms or you can mail a check to HGEA, Retiree Department, 888 Mili Mili Street, Suite 401, Honolulu HI 96813. Please make your checks payable to PEOPLE.

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In solidarity,

Masks must be worn and Vaccination card presented at HGEA functions.

KAUAI CHAPTER: EMAIL TIMMY ALBAO AT TLBAOAS@HAWAIIANTEL.NET

December - Holiday party for December 6 was not scheduled due to Covid restrictions
March 14, 2022 - General Membership Meeting. Holiday/New Year celebration planned.
Please RSVP to Tammy or call Jenni at the HGEA office, 808-245-6751.

MAUI CHAPTER: EMAIL STEVE CRISST AT STPLSD49@YAHOO.COM

December 7, 2022 - Maui Chapter Board. Please RSVP to Steve or call Jenni at the Maui office if you plan to attend.
February – Tentative Pukalani/Maakowa Outreach. 10:00 a.m. Members in the district will be notified.
March 15, 2022 - General Membership meeting. Keapanei park, Iao Needle, 9:00 a.m.

HAWAII CHAPTER: EMAIL EVELYN TOGASHI AT ETOGASHI@HAWAII. RR.COM

January 18-20, 2022 - Blood Bank Drive. Hawaii Chapter Retirees will set up man, provide refreshments at the blood bank. Donors, September 13 was rescheduled.

Mahalo to for your continued support of our union.

http://www.hawaiidivision.org

Please RSVP to Steve or call Jenni at the Maui office if you plan to attend.
February – Tentative Pukalani/Maakowa Outreach. 10:00 a.m. Members in the district will be notified.
March 15, 2022 - General Membership meeting. Keapanei park, Iao Needle, 9:00 a.m.

We are looking forward to returning to activities with Community Action, Political Action and excursions for learning workshops.

OAHU CHAPTER: EMAIL AVA KRIDLER AT VOLKSWAGENBUG102@CS.COM

All activities begin at 9:00 a.m.

December 6, 2021 - Bings
December 8, 2021 - Word Tracing
December 12, 2021 - Chapter Board Meeting
December 14, 2021 - Chapter Christmas celebration. RSVP to Tammy at 543-054
December 23, 2021 – General Membership meeting. RSVP to Tammy at 543-054
January 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022 - Mahjong
January 11, 2022 – Ukulele
January 13, 2022 – General Membership meeting. RSVP to Tammy at 543-054
January 14, 2022 – Drive thru Christmas celebration. RSVP to Tammy at 543-054
January 20, 2022 – Ukulele
January 21, 2022 – Movie Day
January 27, 2022 – Crochet
March 16, 2022 – Hawaii Chapter New Year luncheon and General Membership meeting.

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