

ELF'S CORNER

By President Ethel L. Fleming



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.

The HGEA Retiree Chapters have creatively offered a few activities for member participation, either virtually, or in person with safe distancing. Now as COVID group gathering restrictions ease, we venture more out of self- (or imposed) isolation to do something with others. This can include "safe" union activities such as virtual BINGO or drive through non-perishable food donations, or help to distribute holiday gift bags. It could also be quick trips to the store, where we can see the colorful variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, or jars of kim chee and takuan, and slabs of fresh tofu! All kinds of glorious pumpkins (who can lift the big ones?), and colorful gourds for the Fall season, plus glossy persimmons beckon us in the produce section. Upon seeing them, did some of you have flashbacks to our past excursion to a Maui persimmon farm, and were motivated to purchase a few this year? Has anyone already seen Christmas decorations? We long for expansion of activities, and urge you to provide ideas and suggestions to your Retiree Chapters and to the HGEA Retiree office for our member activities.

Because of a decline in HGEA membership and a resultant budget shrink, our Chapters need your energy to bring in more members and your ideas to keep our motivation and lives STRONG. That's a rallying "shout-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.



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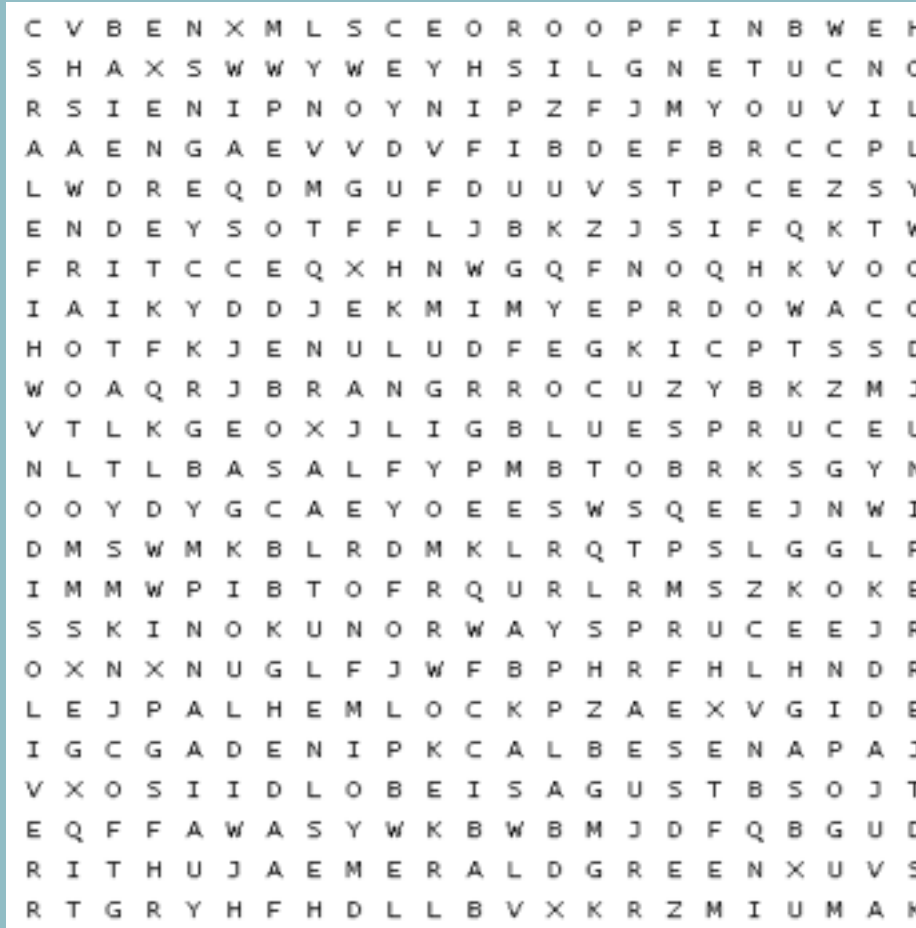
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Happy Holidays from our HGEA family to yours. May your holiday be blessed with family, friends, and plenty of good food.

WORDFIND Things associated with X-mas trees

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Blue Spruce | Japanese Black Pine |
| Chinese Juniper | Leyland Cypress |
| Cypress | Mugo Pine |
| Douglas Fir | Noble Fir |
| English Yew | Norway Spruce |
| Fraser Fir | Oak |
| Gum | Olive |
| Green Spruce | Pinyon Pine |
| Hemlock | Red Cedar |
| Holly | Scots Pine |
| Hollywood Juniper | Thuja Emerald Green |
| Jack Pine | Tsuga Sieboldii |
| | White Fir |



HO'OLAHA

PUBLICATION OF THE RETIRED PEOPLE

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ADMINISTRATOR



As 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 and friends, 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 joyous in this 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 Board of Directors approved the early endorsements of United States Senator Brian Schatz, United States Congressman Kai Kahele and Hawaii State House Speaker Scott Saiki. They have been very supportive of HGEA and now we need to be supportive of their re-election. Besides the Governor and Lt. Governor races, all the State House and State Senate seats are up for election (reapportionment) and two Mayor races (Kauai and Maui), all the county council seats except on Oahu, US Senate seat that Brian Schatz currently holds, plus two Congressional seats all happening at once. Each island division chapter will have the phone banks activated and every retiree member will be called to support our endorsed candidate.

(Continued on next page...)

With more volunteers needed, please call your 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 Mililani 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 1p.m. at the HGEA first floor conference room, 888 Mililani 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.

Thank you to for your continued support of our union.

In solidarity,

Mahie

CHAPTER NEWS:

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

KAUAI CHAPTER: EMAIL TIMMY ALBAO AT TLALBAOSR@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 Timmy or call Joni at the HGEA office, 808-245-6751.

MAUI CHAPTER: EMAIL STEVE CRISS AT STPLSD69@YAHOO.COM

December 7, 2022 - Maui Chapter Board. Please RSVP to Steve or call Jennie at the Maui office 808-244-5508.

February - Tentative Pukalani/Makawao Outreach. 10:00 a.m. Members in the district will be mailed information.

March 15, 2022 - General Membership meeting. Kepanewai 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 and provide refreshments at the canteen for blood donors. September 13 was rescheduled.

March 16, 2022 - Hawaii Chapter New Year luncheon and General Membership meeting. Rescheduled from January 15, 2022.

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

OAHU CHAPTER: EMAIL AVA KRIDLER AT VOLKSWAGONBUG102@CS.COM

All activities begin at 9:00 a.m.

December 6, 2021 - Bingo

December 8, 2021 - Line Dancing

December 9, 2021 - Chapter Board Meeting

December 11, 2021 - Drive thru Christmas celebration. RSVP to Tammy at 543-054

December 15, 2021 - Ukulele class

December 16, 2021 - General Membership meeting. RSVP to Tammy at 543-0054

January 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022 - Mahjong

January 5 & 19, 2022 - Ukulele class

January 11, 2022 - Movie Day

January 12, & 26, 2022 - Line Dancing

January 27, 2022 - Crochet

January 29, 2022 - Vaccine/Flu/Booster Clinic, HGEA 1st floor, 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

February 1, 8, 15, 22, 2022 - Mahjong

February 2 & 16, 2022 - Ukulele

February 7, 2022 - Bingo

February 8, 2022 - Outreach East Oahu

February 9, 2022 - Line Dancing

February 24, 2022 - Crochet.