

Two New Exclusive Member Discounts

Cancer Medical Reimbursement Plan and Identity Guard Ultimate Plan are two new exclusive policies from MWG Mestmaker & Associates for HGEA members only.

**OPEN ENROLLMENT:
May 1 – June 30, 2021**

Cancer Medical Reimbursement Plan covers Cancer, Brain Tumor, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease and more. Cost is \$56/year for an individual or \$62/year for the family.

Identity Guard Ultimate Plan has 3 parts: Identity Guard Identity Secure (Identity Theft monitoring and alerts, Stops fraud and identity theft), Identity Guard Privacy Secure (Information proactively removed from data broker/aggregator list and reduces unsolicited offers) and Identity Guard Device Secure (protect your physical electronic devices through VPN safe browsing and antivirus. Avoiding malware, ransomware and spyware).

Retiree members can attend an in-person meeting to find out more about these plans or can attend one of the virtual Zoom meetings. In-person meeting size will be limited due to social distancing.

Meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. at the HGEA offices and the specified locations listed below.

OAHU, HGEA Office
May 4 & June 8, 2021

MOLOKAI, Mitchell Pauole Center
May 10 & June 14, 2021

MAUI, HGEA Office
May 11 & June 16, 2021

LANAI, Lanai Senior Center
May 15, 2021

KAUAI, HGEA Office
May 18 & June 21, 2021

HILO, HGEA Office
May 19 & June 22, 2021

KONA, West Hawaii Civic Center Hale
June 2, 2021

CONVENTION CALL

The 24th HGEA Retirees Unit Biennial Assembly will be held on Monday, June 28, 2021. As of the February 26, 2021 bylaw deadline, four amendments were received. The committee will meet to finalize the resolutions for consideration at the convention. The deadline to submit non-charter bylaws was March 26, 2021. Delegates to the biennial assembly are selected based on their island chapter bylaws requirements. However, since there have been no activities since March 2020, included in the delegate criteria are members who participated in the 2019 convention. Delegates who met the criteria and were selected will be notified by their chapter president.



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AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO
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Ann Ramelb helps collect ballots at the Retirees Board Election on Oahu. Due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions, retirees had the option to participate in the election process via drive-through voting.

WORDFIND

things with a handle,
can you handle it!

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| Bicycle | Mirror |
| Broom | Mower |
| Brush | Mugs |
| Cabinet | Oven |
| Car door | Pitcher |
| Comb | Pot |
| Cupboard | Pump |
| Dresser | Refrigerator |
| Door | Scooter |
| Faucets | Screwdriver |
| Flashlight | Tennis |
| Golf club | Toilet |
| Hair dryer | Umbrella |
| Hoe | Wheelbarrow |
| Luggage | |

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

HO'OLAHA

PUBLICATION OF THE RETIRED PEOPLE

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HO`OLAHA

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ruth Walker, Hawaii
President

Susan Goya, Oahu
Vice-President

Patrick Frane, Oahu
Treasurer

Ethel Fleming, Oahu
Secretary

DIRECTORS

Dennis Schwind, Maui

Evelyn Togashi, Hawaii

Aileen Obina, Hawaii

Timothy Albao, Sr., Kauai

Thomas Oi, Kauai

Ava Kridler, Oahu

Audrey Aki, Oahu

Muriel Masumura, Oahu

Arlene Shimokawa, Oahu

A MESSAGE FROM THE RETIREE UNIT ADMINISTRATOR ...



*t*he 2021 Hawaii State Legislature opened on January 20, 2021 and continues to have virtual hearings as the capitol remains closed to public meetings.

The usual PAC and State Board of Directors sponsored Legislative luncheon was cancelled and so President Walker missed out on an opportunity to lunch with legislators to share our legislative priorities. I am happy to report there are no take-aways and pleased to report there are several bills from the Kupuna Caucus and other senior groups that support aging in place and assisting caregivers. Of note was HB 468 which would have removed the EUTF Medicare Part B premium reimbursements for the spouse of an employee beneficiary who is hired on or after July 1, 2021. The bill is dead but HGEA did submit testimony.

The 24th HGEA Retiree Biennial Assembly will be held on June 28, 2021. For the first time, the assembly will be virtual so delegates will gather in one location on their island and all islands will be connected virtually. Much more planning is required but Big Island Chapter President and host Evelyn Togashi has already begun preparations. Chapter Presidents will appoint chairs from among their delegates to be election committee, credentials committee and sergeant-at-arms members. President Ruth Walker will preside over the convention as she ends her second term. The convention business will include election of board officers and any charter and bylaw amendments or general resolutions submitted for consideration. It will definitely be a convention like no other but the business will be completed.

Continued on next page ...

I'm thrilled to hear that so many of you have taken the COVID-19 vaccination. There is much information available on the AFSCME and CDC websites along with the Hawaii Department of Health website that I shared in the last Hoolaha issue. Of course, calling 211 is another great source for information and guidance.

A huge THANK YOU to all who recently joined the PEOPLE program (Public Employees Organized to Promote Legislative Equality) at the MVP level. Your continued support helps fight the battles of the Republican agenda. As I am sure you have read or seen in the news, the Biden/Harris White House still has an uphill battle especially with the 50/50 split in the Senate and a slim majority in the House. We are lucky to enjoy the support of our entire Congressional delegation as we head to the 2022 election. I encourage all to support the PEOPLE program. Contact this office to get more information or to join.

I appreciate and thank you for your support of the Retirees Unit and the HGEA.

In Solidarity,

Mahie

CHAPTER NEWS

While no in-person chapter activities are being held, there have been a few virtual events. Oahu chapter held a virtual bingo on March 18th with 15 participants including two from Big Island and a second game was held on April 6th. For future events, participants must have a computer or smartphone to access the game from your own location.

Zoom meetings continue for your state board and chapter boards. If interested in participating virtually with your chapter board, please contact your chapter president.

HAWAII CHAPTER: Thank you to all who participated in the American Heart virtual fundraiser.

OAHU CHAPTER

Saturday, May 8, 2021: Kendall Fundraising Clothing Drive, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m., HGEA first floor meeting hall. Each bag must weigh a minimum of 23 pounds. Separate clothing and textiles from footwear and accessories. See website for details.

Wednesday, May 19, 2021: 9:00 a.m. Bring your ukulele and your voices to kani ka pila. First floor meeting hall, HGEA Building. RSVP to Tammy at 543-0054 or ttanouye@hgea.org by May 14, 2021.

Congratulations, 2021 – 2023 CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

HAWAII CHAPTER

OFFICERS

President: Evelyn Togashi
Vice President: Olga Hayashi
Secretary: Charlene Sugihara
Treasurer: Vicky Calica

DIRECTORS:

- Glenn Hansen
- Virgil Medeiros

STATE DIRECTORS:

- Aileen Obina
- Elsie Iida
- Ruth Walker

KAUAI CHAPTER

OFFICERS

President: Timmy Albao
Vice President: Tommy Oi
Secretary: Carol Saiki
Treasurer: Priscilla Badua

DIRECTORS:

- Greg Enos
- Ethel Kauahi
- Elizabeth Ludington
- Roy Nishida
- Vacant

MAUI CHAPTER

OFFICERS

President: Steve Criss
Vice President: Denny Schwind
Secretary: Vacant
Treasurer: Leticia Hedani

DIRECTOR:

- Connie Schwind

OAHU CHAPTER

OFFICERS

President: Ava Kridler
Vice President: Vickie Kim
Secretary: Yolanda Faria
Treasurer: Jean Arakaki

DIRECTORS:

- Donald Goo
- Edwina Luke
- Mel Whang

STATE DIRECTORS:

- Audrey Aki
- Ethel Fleming
- Susan Goya
- Muriel Masumura
- Paul Matsuo
- Arlene Shimokawa

Thank-you to all the candidates who participated in the election process.

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