

Walker Writes

As the next Retirees Biennial Assembly in June, 2019 closes in on us, we should ask ourselves, "How can we become delegates to the General Assembly?"

As a reminder, each chapter has developed policies for delegate selection that may differ in specifics but in general will follow the Retirees Unit Bylaws, Article VIII, Biennial Assembly, Section 5, "The following members shall be delegates to the Biennial Assembly, provided they meet delegate selection qualifications as may be established by each Chapter." Beside officers and members of the Board of Directors of the Retirees Unit, "(c) Delegates may be required to meet qualification requirements as established by each chapter, which include but are not limited to participation in political action activities, attendance at chapter meetings or functions, service on committees, and/or assistance in Unit sponsored programs."

Please check with the delegate selection policy established by your chapter that determines eligibility so you can be part of your chapter delegation. The numbers of delegates from each chapter is based in general, on one delegate for each fifty chapter members.

The Biennial Assembly is convened to elect state officers of the Retirees Unit on odd numbered years. Program agenda may include action on Amendments to the bylaws, introduction of resolutions, and updates on local and national issues. The assembly is an ideal time/place to socialize with new and former friends, retirees and colleagues.

I encourage and invite all to work towards becoming eligible to serve as your chapter delegates to the 2019 Biennial Assembly.

★ REMINDER ★

Primary Election is on Saturday, August 11, 2018. Early voting will begin on July 30, 2018. Please support your HGEA-endorsed candidates.

Visit www.hgea.org to get the latest news on our endorsements.



Hawaii Government Employees Association
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HGEA Retirees on a group excursion to Hilo's Rainbow Falls in May 2018.

WORDFIND SUMMER GET-AWAY

Where are you dreaming of visiting?

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Acapulco | Lanai |
| Big Sur | Machu Picchu |
| Boston | Maui |
| Carmel By The Sea | Molokai |
| Disneyland | New York City |
| Eiffel Tower | New Zealand |
| Grand Canyon | Niagara Falls |
| Hawaii | Oahu |
| Ireland | Palm Springs |
| Italy | Paris |
| Japan | San Francisco |
| Kauai | Sonoma Valley |
| Key West | Toronto |
| | Waikiki |

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

HO`OLAHA

PUBLICATION OF THE RETIRED PEOPLE

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07 | 08.18

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HO`OLAHA

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VOLUME 41 NO 4

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A Message from the Retirees Unit Administrator



On Wednesday June 27, 2018, the United State Supreme Court ruled in the case of *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31*. As expected, with a 5-4 vote by the conservative majority, the Supreme Court overturned 41 years of established law and made the public sector right-to-work nationwide. AFSCME President Lee Saunders said, "This decision means non-members in the public sector are no longer required to pay fair share fees, even though they benefit from the representation we provide. This is nothing less than a ruthless attack on our freedom, an attempt by

wealthy special interests to rig the economy in their favor."

We cannot let the actions by the court along with billionaires such as the Koch brothers and special interest groups like Freedom Foundation change our focus. We are HGEA Strong! We will not give up the fight and we are determined to stand strong in unity with our other union brothers and sisters. The purpose of unions is to advocate for workers to have fair wages, fair treatment, safe workplaces and to collectively bargain on workers behalf. The ruling makes right-to-work (for less) the law of the land.

As retiree members, you chose to remain members by joining the HGEA Retirees Unit. Make sure your family members that are still employed are signed up as members. Share your working history and tell them about your benefits today of a guaranteed pension for life and rich medical benefits through the EUTF. Encourage them to attend union meetings, become a workplace steward, and to take advantage of the many member benefits such as free college, discounted Hawaiian Airlines fares and various insurance programs to name a few.

We will never quit!

In Solidarity,

Mahie

EUTF update: summer 2018

HMSA Proposed Retiree Benefit Plan Design Change: Added Diabetes Prevention Program to the EUTF HMSA non-Medicare retiree medical plan as a pilot program for the calendar years 2019 and 2020 effective Jan 1, 2019. Also added a genetic counseling benefit effective Jan 1, 2019 for EUTF HMSA non-Medicare & Medicare retirees for breast cancer & Lynch Syndrome.

Vision Benefits Plan Design: VSP raised the benefit for in-network retailers for frame allowance of \$120 every other year effective Jan 1, 2019 for retiree plans. This benefit changed from \$65 to \$120.

The EUTF board moved to accept an accelerated death benefit provided by Securian for retirees on their life insurance. A retiree member can use 100% of \$1,815 at their discretion if they are terminally ill with a life expectancy of 12 months or less. The downside is that if 100% is exercised the beneficiaries will not have any benefit.

For more information, please contact EUTF at 586-7390 on Oahu or Toll Free 1-800-295-0089.



2018 PRIMARY ELECTION ENDORSEMENTS

U.S. SENATE

Mazie Hirono

U.S. CONGRESS: DISTRICT 1

Donna Mercado Kim

U.S. CONGRESS: DISTRICT 2

Tulsi Gabbard

GOVERNOR

Colleen Hanabusa

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Jill Tokuda

STATE SENATE

HAWAII

District 1: Kaiali'i Kahele

District 3: Dru Kanuha

District 4: Lorraine Inouye

MAUI

District 6: No Action Taken*

District 7: No Action Taken*

OAHU

District 12: Brickwood Galuteria

District 16: Breene Harimoto

District 17: Open**

District 18: Michelle Kidani

District 19: Open**

District 21: Maile Shimabukuro

District 23: Open**

District 24: Open**

*No action taken means candidates did not contact HGEA for endorsement consideration in a timely manner or at all.

**An open endorsement means the union does not endorse a candidate.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HAWAII

District 1: Mark Nakashima

District 2: Christopher Todd

District 3: Richard Onishi

District 4: Joy San Buenaventura

District 5: Richard Creagan

District 6: Nicole Lowen

District 7: David Tarnas

MAUI

District 8: Mary Wagner

District 9: Justin Woodson

District 10: No Action Taken*

District 11: Tina Wildberger

District 12: Open**

District 13: Lynn DeCoite

KAUAI

District 14: Nadine Nakamura

District 15: Open**

District 16: Daynette "Dee" Morikawa

OAHU

District 17: Open**

District 18: Mark Hashem

District 19: Bert Kobayashi

District 20: Open**

District 21: Scott Nishimoto

District 22: Tom Brower

District 23: Open**

District 24: Della Au Belatti

District 25: Sylvia Luke

District 26: Scott Saiki

OAHU continued

District 27: Takashi Ohno

District 28: John Mizuno

District 29: Daniel Holt

District 30: Sonny Ganaden

District 31: Aaron Ling Johanson

District 32: Linda Ichiyama

District 33: Open**

District 34: Gregg Takayama

District 35: Roy Takumi

District 36: Open**

Trish La Chica & Marilyn Lee

support HGEA values

District 37: Ryan Yamane

District 38: Henry Aquino

District 39: Ty Cullen

District 40: No Action Taken*

District 41: Lynn Robinson-Onderko

District 42: Jake Schafer

District 43: Stacelynn Eli

District 44: Cedric Gates

District 45: Open**

District 46: Open**

Lei Learmont & Amy Perruso

support HGEA values

District 47: Sean Quinlan

District 48: Lisa Kitagawa

District 49: Scot Matayoshi

District 50: Open**

District 51: Chris Lee

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

District II: Bobby Bunda

District IV: Open**

District VI: Carol Fukunaga

District VIII: Brandon Elefante

HAWAII COUNTY COUNCIL

District 1: Valerie Poindexter

District 2: Aaron Chung

District 3: Susan "Sue" Lee Loy

District 5: No Action Taken*

District 6: Maile David

District 7: Bronsten Kossow

District 8: Karen Eoff

District 9: Herbert "Tim" Richards, III

KAUAI COUNTY

Mayor: Derek Kawakami

Kauai County Council:

Arthur Brun

Mason Chock

Luke Evslin

Arryl Kaneshiro

KipuKai Kualii'i

Milo Spindt

MAUI COUNTY

Mayor: Mike Victorino

Maui County Council:

East Maui: Claire Carroll

Wailuku-Waihee-Waikapu: No Action Taken*

Kahului: Alan Arakawa

Molokai: Stacy Crivello

Upcountry: Yuki Lei Sugimura

Lanai: Riki Hokama

West Maui: Tamara Paltin

South Maui: No Action Taken*

Makawao-Haiku-Paia: No Action Taken*

CHAPTER NEWS

BIG ISLAND

Aug. 15, 2018: Movie Day, HGEA hall, 9:00 a.m.

Sept. 19, 2018: General Membership meeting at 9:00 a.m. HMSA, Kaiser and EUTF in attendance.

KAUAI

Sept. 10, 2018: Executive Board meeting. 10:00 a.m.

Sept. 17, 2018: General Membership meeting. HMSA, Kaiser and EUTF in attendance. 9:30 a.m.

Oct. 15, 2018: Movie Day. Hidden Figures, 9:30 a.m.

Dec. 7, 2018: Christmas luncheon, Sheraton (formerly Courtyard by Marriott), 9:00 a.m.

Please email Delores Kaauwai at delkaauwai@hawaii.rr.com to receive information and updates on the luncheon.

MAUI

Aug. 13, 2018: Hanafuda, HGEA hall, 5:00 p.m.

Aug. 15, 2018: Movie day, Coco and Murder on the Orient Express. HGEA office, 9:00 a.m.

Sept. 18, 2018: General Membership meeting. HMSA, Kaiser and EUTF in attendance. UPW hall, 9:00 a.m.

Oct. 1, 2018: Bingo, HGEA hall, 5:00 p.m.

Please call 244-5508 to RSVP no later than one working day prior to the event.

OAHU

Aug. 12, 2018: Halawa Xeriscape Garden Open House and Unthirsty Plant sale.

Aug. 16, 2018: Ewa Mahiko District Park outreach. 9:00 a.m. RSVP by Aug. 10 To 543-0054.

Aug. 23 & Sept. 27 2018: Crochet, HGEA 1st floor hall. 9:00 a.m.

Aug. 29, 2018: Well Be-Ingo with HMSA - Health Fair with a little Bingo! HGEA 1st Floor, 9:00 a.m. RSVP by Aug. 22, 2018 to 543-0054.

Sept. 20, 2018: General Membership meeting. HGEA 1st floor hall, 9:00 a.m. RSVP to Tammy at 543-0054 or tgann@hgea.org. HMSA, Kaiser and EUTF in attendance.

Oct. 17, 2018: Movie Day, HGEA 1st floor, 9:00 a.m.