

HAWAII ISLAND CHAPTER

New Year's LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2019

NANI MAU GARDENS

9:30AM - 1:30PM

PLEASE BRING A CANNED GOOD DONATION FOR THE FOOD BASKET.

Please make checks payable to "HGEA" and mail completed reservation form with payment **by Wednesday, January 9, 2019** to HGEA, 495 Manono Street, Hilo, HI 96720. No refunds after January 9, 2019. Call Olga Hayashi at 961-3575 with questions.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Member: Y or N Phone #: _____

Name: _____

Member: Y or N Phone #: _____

Mailing address: _____

Number of Members: _____ x \$23 each = \$ _____

Number of Guests: _____ x \$25 each = \$ _____

Total = \$ _____



Hawaii Government Employees Association
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO
P.O. Box 2930
Honolulu, HI 96802-2930

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EUTF REMINDERS

Are you Medicare eligible and covered under an EUTF retiree health plan? The Hawaii Revised Statutes 87A-23(4) requires that State and County retirees and their eligible dependents who are enrolled in EUTF retiree medical and/or prescription drug benefits plans, enroll in Medicare Part B when they become eligible.

All retirees (and spouses/partners) enrolled in Medicare Part B should submit a copy of your letter from the Social Security Administration (SSA) or copy of your invoice showing your monthly Medicare Part B premium for 2019. EUTF will reimburse the amount stated on your letter (less any penalties). If EUTF does not receive a copy of your SSA letter showing your higher income-related monthly adjusted premium each year, EUTF will automatically reset your Medicare Part B premium reimbursement to the Medicare standard amount every January 1st. Please note that EUTF will not reimburse for any late enrollment penalties. Please mail a copy of the SSA letter or invoice to: EUTF, 201 Merchant Street, Suite 1700 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 or fax a copy to (808) 586-2121.

Get your AFSCME news and updates at www.AFSCME.org. A wealth of information to the latest AFSCME happenings can be found at this website.

Alliance for Retired Americans news updates at www.retiredamericans.org. As HGEA members we belong to the Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans or HARA.

Continue to receive your Employees Retirement System news at www.ERS.hi.gov. Current active HGEA President Jackie Ferguson-Miyamoto and former HGEA board member Patrick Frane are ERS Trustees.

Social Security information is available at www.ssa.gov. Your COLA, change of address or replacement Medicare cards can be found at this site amongst other information.

To speak to Tammy Gann at the HGEA Retirees office on Oahu call 543-0054 or email at tgann@hgea.org. For Mahie Trask, call 543-0090 or email at mtrask@hgea.org.

WORDFIND NATIONAL DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS DAY

- Bill of Rights
- Bouillabaisse
- Christmas
- Coca
- Crossword Puzzle
- Dewey Decimal System
- Dice
- Eggnog
- Flashlight
- Gingerbread House
- Human Rights
- Maple Syrup
- Nobel Prize
- Oatmeal Muffin
- Pearl Harbor
- Pastry
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Proclamation
- Roots
- Salesperson
- Soak
- Thank You
- Underdog
- Violin
- Wright Brothers
- Yule

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



American Heart Walk Hilo Bayfront March 10, 2018
Retiree walkers: Elsie Iida, Winston Towata, Pearl Towata, Lorraine Medeiros, Virgil Medeiros, Pauline Fukunaga, Ruth Walker, Charlene Sugihara, Carol Denis, Joanne Yokote

HO'OLAHA

PUBLICATION OF THE RETIRED PEOPLE

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WALKER WRITES ...

AN INSPIRING STORY, AN INSPIRING PERSON,
KAUAI HGEA RETIREE ASAKO IWAMOTO



Asako Iwamoto

Faced with obstacles, Asako persevered and completed her Masters' Degree in Social work in two years. It was 1959, Asako was married with two children, Lynne (4) and Kyle (2), and was living on Kauai when she applied for a stipend from her employer, the State Department of Public Welfare to pursue a Master's Degree. When Asako was interviewed by the School of Social Work Admission Committee, she was considered high risk with odds of dropping out of the program so was almost rejected.

Asako has always gratefully acknowledged her success to the sacrifices made by her husband John, her children, her siblings, and will always be profoundly thankful for their support. Her two sisters who were attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and a brother who worked at Pearl Harbor were very helpful in meeting some of the needs of the children.

As you can imagine, her first month of the first semester was the most difficult for that's when she remembers deliberating, "I want to quit," but her supportive husband said no. Asako reflects, "Going to school was no problem," but as a mother, she felt a deep maternal concern for her two kids because they had difficulty coping and being separated from each other. Kyle was with Asako in Honolulu and Lynne was with dad on Kauai so being separated and having to adjust to strange living arrangements upset the children.

Second semester was less stressful, so says Asako, as Lynne and Kyle lived with her in Honolulu. Lynne was in Kindergarten and Kyle spent his days with sitters while John visited on weekends. Asako's sisters and brother were very helpful in picking up the children for school activities and taking them out to enjoy the Ala Moana Shopping Center while mother Asako went to school and spent whatever time was available to study.

What motivated Asako to return to school after having earned a Bachelor's Degree? Asako wanted to work with clients and child welfare cases, individuals with handicaps, and work on cases that would require a Master's Degree. "I wasn't satisfied aiding clients with their welfare check approvals and doing clerical work."

Asako can look back at those hard times when everyone sacrificed, when finances were tight, when the children needed mother's time and love, and when husband required her attention. Thanks to everyone she survived. She says she had the "best Job ever" doing the work she earned as a result of her Masters' Degree, and that she was able to manage the struggles because, "I was younger then."

Lynne was four during Asako's term at UH but she remembers being in kindergarten in Honolulu and giving her teacher orchids from Kauai, going to Ala Moana, eating at popular Likelike Drive Inn and getting \$1 bills from grandma for ice cream, a real treat. "And mom was smart and organized." Ah, the lovely and positive memories of childhood.

Congratulations to Asako for her accomplishment. You are an inspiration for all. Your husband must be very proud of you even though he tries to hide his feelings behind his stoic mask.

FROM YOUR ADMINISTRATOR ...

URGENT, PEOPLE campaign message.

Most of you recently received in the mail an URGENT message from AFSCME Retiree Director Ann Widger to sign up for the PEOPLE program. I know this is not the first time you heard about the PEOPLE program nor is it the first time you have received mail asking for your support.



As you have read in this newsletter and heard at many general membership and outreach meetings, the PEOPLE program is our unions' way of trying to fight the battles of right wing groups that today threaten our retirement security, programs like Medicare and Medicaid and Social Security. Special interest groups like the Koch Brothers and corporate billionaires are funneling millions of dollars into organizations like the Grassroots Foundation right here in Hawaii that seek to undermine us. They want to rob our pension funds to give tax breaks to the wealthy and engage in bogus PR campaigns that are misleading and untruthful. But what they do not think about is that the power of many people, especially retirees, united together is stronger than their millions. Please join your board of directors and HGEA staff, all MVP PEOPLE members and sign up today. Please contact me or any HGEA office for information or to begin your monthly deduction. You will receive a nice AFSCME jacket as an MVP PEOPLE member.

As we celebrate the year's end, let us remember those retiree friends, family and co-workers that have past. Let us celebrate that we were fortunate to have them in our lives, even if just for a short time, that we are better people today for knowing them.

A special thank you to our State Board Directors and all the Chapter Board Officers and Directors who without their work and commitment to the HGEA, and especially to the retiree section, we could not have the successful programs that members enjoy. I would like to personally thank President Ruth Walker who continues to enlighten us with the stories she shares in her Walker Writes column, but also for her dedication to the HGEA and our retiree members. Her wisdom and friendship I truly appreciate.

From Executive Director Randy Perreira, your retiree section Tammy Tanouye and myself, along with our HGEA 'ohana, we wish you Mele Kalikimaka and a Happy, Happy New Year. Looking forward to the Year of the Pig, 2019!

CHAPTER NEWS

BIG ISLAND

January 21, 2019: East and West Hawaii Martin Luther King Day volunteerism with Kaiser.

March 20, 2019: General Membership Meeting. Election of chapter officers and directors. HGEA hall at 9:00 a.m.

KAUAI

December 10, 2018: Christmas Party, Sheraton at 9:00 a.m.

February 25, 2019: Movie Day, HGEA office at 9:30 a.m.

March 11, 2019: Chapter Executive Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

March 18, 2019: General Membership Meeting, HGEA office at 9:30 a.m. Election of chapter officers and directors, also delegate selection to the 2019 convention. Please call Roy Nishida at 635-6676 if you are interested in serving or going to the convention.

MAUI

February 20, 2019: Movie Day, "Crazy Rich Asians". HGEA office at 9:30 a.m.

March 19, 2019: General Membership Meeting, UPW Hall at 9:00 a.m. Election of chapter officers and directors.

April 1, 2019: Bingo* HGEA at 5:00 p.m.

*Please call HGEA office, 244-5508 to RSVP no later than one day before event.

OAHU

January 7, February 4, 2019: Bingo at HGEA hall, 9:00 a.m

January 8 & 22, February 12 & 26, 2019: Basic Mah Jong teaching, HGEA hall 9:00 a.m.

January 11, February 8, 2019: Hanafuda at HGEA hall, 9:00 a.m.

March 21, 2019: General Membership Meeting. Election of chapter officers and directors. HGEA hall at 9:00 a.m.