

# CORONAVIRUS Chronicles

HGEA Hawaii Chapter Retirees had last seen each other in January 2020 for their New Years General Membership Luncheon meeting. Six weeks later they were quarantined to stay home, safe distancing between each other, limited number of persons gathered and required to wear a face mask. Despite the restrictions, they pulled up their boot straps to call and volunteer to carry on the Islands' Community Action activities and Political Action activities. Many of the activities were conducted virtually or in small (5 people) groups in two or three hour shifts. We conducted political phone banks, passed out Coronavirus testing registration forms, did political sign waving, and folded and sized 21,000 pieces of clothing donated by Old Navy clothing store to the Boys and Girls Clubs for distribution to the communities on Hawaii Island.

There were 144 retirees that volunteered for 16 days in July, August, October and November. They gave their precious time to support our HGEA efforts to support the community. To all, we look forward to 2021 to work together with all of you. Thank you so very much for your generosity.

Take care, be safe. Aloha.  
Evelyn Togashi, Hawaii Chapter President



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## MARCH CHAPTER BOARD ELECTIONS

Each chapter bylaws require that chapter elections for officers and directors be held at the regular membership meeting in the year of the Biennial Assembly. That means for board term 2021-2023, the elections will be held in March, 2021 on the specific date, time and place that your chapters regularly meet.

As the December issue stated, Kauai members will vote on Monday, March 22nd, Maui on Tuesday, March 23rd, Hawaii on Wednesday, March 24th and Oahu members will vote on Thursday, March 25th 2021 during the hours of 9:00 a.m. until noon. As a reminder, deadline to submit nominations is February 26, 2021. Nominations from the floor have been suspended by the AFSCME International Executive Board.

Following the February 26, 2021 nomination deadline, election notification cards specific to your island chapter will be sent to each member informing you who is running for what seat OR the card will indicate who is already elected because there was only one candidate. The voting will take place at your general membership meeting site, (see above dates) between 9a.m. and noon. With COVID-19 restrictions still in place, voting will be done from your car. Face covering or masks will be required, and you must bring identification so that we can verify your retiree membership.

Should you have any questions regarding the election process, please call the Retirees office, contact your chapter president or call the HGEA office on each island.

## WORDFIND daily sounds

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Airplane     | Laugh      |
| Bark         | Meow       |
| Birds        | Percolator |
| Chimes       | Tea Kettle |
| Computer     | Telephone  |
| Drums        | Thunder    |
| Dynamite     | Timer      |
| Echo         | Train      |
| Firecrackers | Waterfall  |
| Foghorn      | Waves      |
| Gong         | Whistle    |
| Growl        | Yodel      |
| Hammer       |            |

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

# HO`OLAHA

PUBLICATION OF THE RETIRED PEOPLE

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## HO`OLAHA

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# WALKER WRITES ... 2021 NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS



I extend to you and your families  
**a very happy and prosperous new year.**

I am looking forward optimistically and with much anticipation to 2021 because already the outlook is bright, uplifting and enlightening.

For example, COVID-19 vaccinations from Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca and a couple of others have been available to the states, and already shots have been administered to first responders, nurses, health care providers and residents in care homes. Seniors 75 years and older are signing up for vaccinations and receiving appointments, many having already received their shots. It won't be too long when there will be opportunities for more seniors and other members of the community receiving vaccinations. I believe these events to be all good news.

I also anticipate bright new days in the future with the inauguration of our new President and Vice President because I am confident that with President Biden and Vice President Harris, our country is in good hands. They bring to their offices, experience, integrity and honesty, qualifications necessary to run our country accordingly. They both will operate under the rule of law and serve the public honestly.

Other encouraging news: President Biden has proposed a 1.9 trillion dollar recovery package. He also proposed administering COVID shots to 100 million individuals in his first 100 days, which Dr. Anthony Fauci supports as "doable."

Continued on next page ...

Knowing that our country is in good strong hands makes me sleep more soundly, wake up with a song in my heart, eager to start the day smiling and walk with a bounce in my steps.

Like the rest of you, I look forward to days when we can get together for our HGEA meetings. Before the pandemic, we enjoyed everyone's company at Chapter Christmas parties. Although we did adapt to Zoom meetings for AFSCME Council meetings, HGEA Board meetings and our state and chapter board meetings, we missed coming in contact with our friends. But until the COVID 19 virus is controlled, I will gladly wear my mask and observe social distancing to protect my friends and my family. Yes, I can hardly wait to get back to normal and the "good ole days."



# BEWARE



## Coronavirus-related fraud

Scammers are currently trying to take advantage of retirees and those at greater risk for COVID-19, especially with the new vaccine and accompanying misinformation.

The best way to stay away from scams is to make sure you are checking reputable websites for information on how to access the vaccine and when it will become available, like your state's department of health website or the [CDC Website](#).

### Here are some additional pieces of information about the new COVID-19 vaccine to defend yourself against scammers:

- You likely will not need to pay anything out-of-pocket to get the vaccine during this public health emergency.
- You cannot pay to put your name on a list to get the vaccine or for early access to the vaccine.
- You will not be solicited door-to-door to receive the vaccine. No one from a vaccine distribution site or health care payer, like a private insurance company, will call you asking for your Medicare number, Social Security number, or your credit card or bank account information to sign you up to get the vaccine.

### And if you are a Medicare beneficiary, here are some tips for combatting scammers during this tumultuous time:

- Do not give out your Medicare number, Social Security number, or personal information in response to unsolicited calls, texts, emails, or home visits.
- Be suspicious of anyone going door-to-door to offer free COVID19 testing, supplies, treatments, or vaccines.
- Beware of providers offering other products, treatments, or medicines to prevent the virus. Check with your health care provider before paying for or receiving any COVID-19 related treatments.

This new vaccine has offered hope to retirees and their communities, but we need to remain vigilant and protect ourselves from scammers who are eager to take advantage of this moment. Be alert, and if you hear anything suspicious, it's okay to call a friend, family member, or neighbor to double check.

# CHAPTER NEWS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all retiree activities and meetings have been cancelled. However, your chapter boards continue to meet and plan for re-opening activities and meetings. Your unit board of directors attend regular board meetings via Zoom and look forward to gathering again soon.

Please see article on March Chapter Board Elections and be on the look-out for election cards in the mail following the February 26, 2021 nomination deadline. The current board term ends on June 30, 2021 with the new boards term beginning July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

If you are interested in participating in a virtual bingo game, please contact your island office or Tammy at 543-0054 in the Retirees Unit office. More information will be provided, with limit of 25 participants. You must have a smart phone or computer to access the game from your own location. We will not be having participants in the HGEA facilities.

Lastly, President Saunders stated earlier this week, "the quickest way back to normal is for everyone to take the COVID vaccine when it becomes available to them." Current information can be found at:

- [cdc.gov/coronavirus/](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus/) or 800-232-4636
- [health.hawaii.gov/coronavirus/](https://health.hawaii.gov/coronavirus/) or 586-8332, 1-833-711-0645
- 2-1-1 hotline