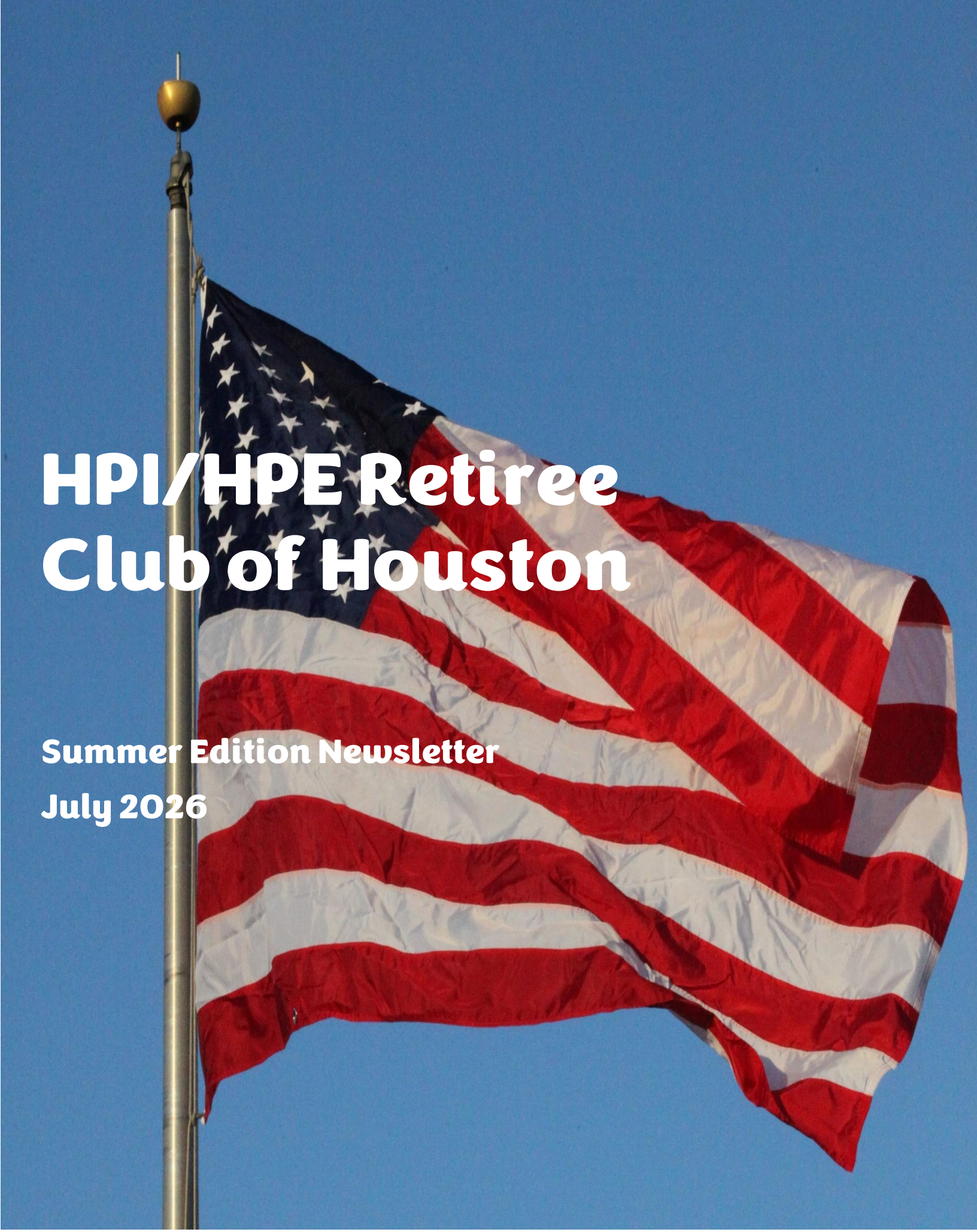


HPI/HPE Retiree Club of Houston

Summer Edition Newsletter

July 2026

Planning Committee

Leader: Carlos Fernandez

Committee Members

Karen Brown
Herman de Hoop
Jackie Dillemuth
Michael Duhs
Greg Franke
Jan Frazier
Mike Maglothin
Debbie Thompson

How to stay connected and informed of group activities

Website

http://www.hprchou.com/

Facebook Group

HPI/HPE Houston Retiree Alumni Group

Email/Evites Distribution

mailto:carlosfernandez@fernandez.net

Message from Carlos

Dear Houston HPI/HPE

I do not know about you, but I personally enjoyed the 2026 World Cup. I was able, along with a long time fútbol fan friend, to secure via the FIFA lottery process decently priced, face-valued tickets for several matches in Houston, Monterrey Mexico, and Dallas. In total I attended in person eight matches in the group stage as well as the rounds of 32 and 16 matches. That is a lot of games … but hey! I will not have a similar opportunity any time soon.

We were able to invite many friends and family to the games including one of my sisters to two games in Monterrey and one of my granddaughters, to a match in Dallas.

Of the 104 games played in the World Cup I saw most of them in a variety of sport bars and restaurants, at a Fan Fest in Monterrey, or at home and on the go on TV, iPhone, iPad, or computer. The best experience was attending the games in person. Being along and interacting with hard core fans from all over the world that traveled from the smallest countries like Curaçao and Cape Verde to larger ones like Japan and Brazil is hard to describe. The soccer vibe in the stadiums has no equal to other sport events. My granddaughter does not recall the details of the game she went with me (Australia vs Egypt) … but she talks a lot about her experience before, during, and after the match.

Of the three venues the most striking aesthetically was the Monterrey stadium, see photo. Now with the World Cup over I will be suffering of fútbooooooooool withdrawal!

Now to the club business, I hope you are having a great summer; the much-needed recent rains in Houston are very much welcomed as they help bring the temperatures down a bit.

On behalf of the club's coordination committee, I would like to welcome all the new retirees from HP Inc. Last month we had the opportunity to have three club leadership members take part at the HPI retirement celebration. HPI went all way out to celebrate and recognize the achievements and contributions of many new retirees. We signed up more than eighty new members during the celebration and hope to see them soon at any of our upcoming events.

Those of you that participated in our April social witnessed the largest in-person gathering of retirees at El Palenque; I was able to count about 47 in attendance … we kept adding tables that a point that we filled one half of the restaurant and many of you had to go to the bar area as an overflow. Our Facebook posting on the event was a way to bring many fresh faces, and many were added to our mailing distribution list. If you have not already joined the FB page, please do so now and share with your fellow retirees. You will find a link in this newsletter. Looking forward to seeing more of you in the upcoming October 22nd social at Los Cuco's.

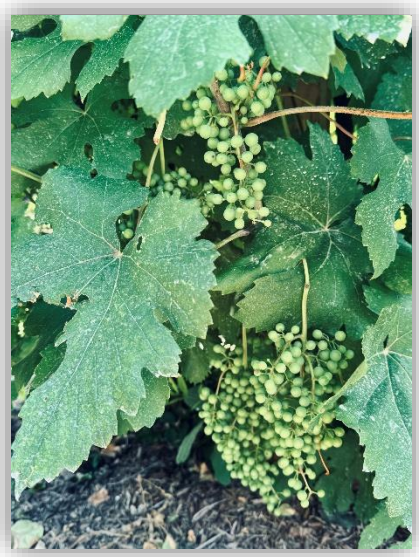
Stay cool and I hope to see many of our newly minted retirees in one of our scheduled events.

2026 Upcoming Events

July 28	Bus Trip to Brookwood Community Tour, Lunch & Shopping
August 26	Amazon Distribution Tour & Lunch
September (TBD)	In-person seminar & Lunch
October 22	Social event at Los Cucos
November 11	Volunteer event at Kids' Meals & Lunch
December (TBD)	Holiday outing

RECENT GROUP TRIPS & EVENTS…

Bernhardt Winery



The HPI/HPE Retiree Club recently spent an enjoyable day at Bernhardt Winery, taking in the Texas countryside, sharing great conversation, and sampling an impressive selection of wines.

Bernhardt Winery, located in Plantersville just northwest of The Woodlands, sits on a stretch of quiet countryside and offered a comfortable, relaxed setting for our visit.

A highlight of the tour was the group's private discussion with **Jerry Bernhardt**, the winery's founder. Jerry's passion for winemaking and dedication to the land came through in every story he shared — from building the winery from scratch to navigating the challenges of growing grapes in Texas soil. Hearing directly from the owner added depth to the experience and gave everyone a greater appreciation for the wines they were about to enjoy.

The tastings was a standout experience, held in the winery's newly opened tasting room, Clifford's Social House — a stylish, comfortable space that made the afternoon feel even more special

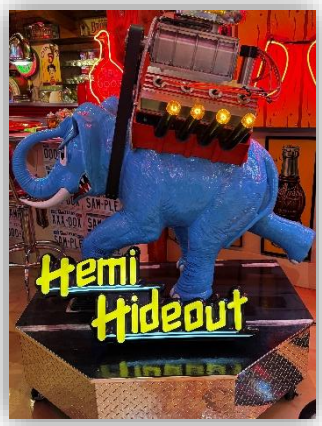
The group sampled at least ten different wines, ranging from the 2024 Blanc du Bois Estate, a crisp and dry white, to the 2024 Pinnelli, a beautifully balanced sweet wine.

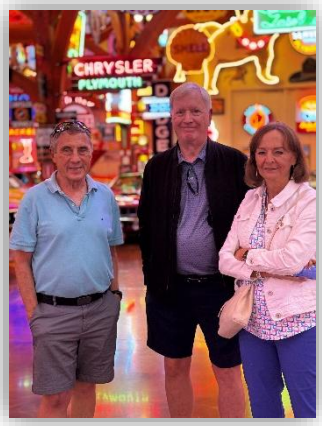
The staff guided the tasting with warmth and expertise, offering notes on flavor profiles, aging, and food pairings. It was relaxed, informative, and thoroughly enjoyable — the kind of tasting that leaves you with a deeper appreciation for Texas winemaking.

Thank you, Karen Brown, for organizing an excellent trip.

Bernhardt Winery Location: 9043 County Road 204, Plantersville, TX 77363

Website: www.bernhardtwinery.com





HPI/HPE Retiree Group Explores

Brookwood Community and the Hemi Hideout

The HPI/HPE Retiree Group enjoyed a memorable summer outing that blended purpose, history, and Texas-sized charm with a visit to Brookwood Community in Brookshire, TX, followed by a private tour of the spectacular Hemi Hideout in Waller County.

Nestled on a peaceful 485-acre campus, Brookwood Community is a nationally recognized nonprofit providing residential and vocational opportunities for adults with disabilities. The group began the day with a relaxing lunch at the Brookwood Café, known for its fresh, chef-prepared dishes and warm hospitality.

Afterward, retirees browsed the Brookwood Gift & Garden Center, where handcrafted pottery, seasonal décor, and vibrant plants—created and cultivated by Brookwood's citizens—offered a meaningful way to support the community's mission.

The afternoon continued with a guided tour of the Hemi Hideout, a 21,700-square-foot timber-frame masterpiece that houses the private collection of owner John Hovas. Often described as the ultimate Texas man-cave, the Hemi Hideout showcases one of the nation's finest assortments of classic Mopar muscle cars, vintage neon signs, gas pumps, and Americana memorabilia.

The soaring wooden beams, polished concrete floors, and museum-quality displays created an atmosphere that was both nostalgic and awe-inspiring. The group enjoyed learning about the history behind Hovas's collection, the craftsmanship of the building itself, and the personal stories woven into each restored vehicle and artifact.

Thank you Michael Duhs for planning such a great day out!

NEW FEATURES

Welcome New Retirees: Celebrating the Next Chapter

Retirement marks the beginning of an exciting and active time of life—a chance to explore new interests, reconnect with friends, and enjoy experiences that fit your own rhythm. For many former HPI (Compaq, HPE) employees, it's also an opportunity to stay engaged with a community that has been part of their lives for decades.

Our group recently participated in **HP Inc.'s retiree celebration** held at the HPI campus in **Spring, Texas**, where employees transitioning into retirement were honored for their years of service. The event gave our club a wonderful opportunity to meet new retirees, share information about our activities, and enroll them in our organization's updates and newsletters.

We were thrilled by the response—over 80 new retirees signed up to participate in our group and stay connected through our monthly events, outings, and communications. This enthusiastic turnout reflects how many retirees are eager to remain active, social, and involved in the HP community.

This celebration wasn't just about looking back—it was about opening the door to what comes next. Retirement offers the freedom to travel, learn, volunteer, and stay socially connected, and our retiree group is here to support that journey. We look forward to welcoming these new members to our upcoming events.

Thank you to our club committee members, Debbie Thompson, Greg Franke and Michael Maglothin for representing the club at the retiree event.

Our HPI/HPE Retiree Group thrives on connection, curiosity, and the joy of discovering new places together. To keep our monthly outings running smoothly, we're inviting a few new volunteers to join the Retiree Planning Committee.

The committee meets once a month over lunch, providing a relaxed setting to brainstorm destinations, coordinate logistics, and shape the calendar of events that our retirees look forward to. Members help select restaurants, arrange tours, confirm schedules, and—importantly—reserve buses through Harris County Precinct 3 to ensure safe, comfortable transportation for the group.

We're seeking 2–4 volunteers who enjoy planning, teamwork, and helping create memorable outings. No special background is needed—just enthusiasm, reliability, and a willingness to participate.

If you've ever wanted to be more involved or have suggestions for future events, this is an easy, enjoyable way to make a meaningful impact. Contact Carlos Fernandez at carlosfernandez@fernandez.net

Travel Tip – Laptops

Airport security checks always separate you from your belongings....

By Mike Maglothin (the travel guy, Michael.maglothin@cruiseplanners.com)

Sooooo.... you're traveling, and you bring your laptop. What can you do to keep it safe?

Two of the top five places laptops get stolen are Airport Security Lines (yes, even with security…I'll explain) and cars.

Here are two simple rules that will lessen the chance of your laptop getting stolen.

(1) Airport Security Lines - This may be a surprise to some with all the security around, but in airport security lines, you are separated from your laptop. Security really does not know what luggage belongs to whom. How many times have you seen someone asked "is this your luggage?" when security wants to look at something further. Worse yet, until you go through the line, you cannot reconnect with your laptop even if it's being stolen and trying will just get you tackled by security. So if you're not yet through when your laptop comes through, it makes it an easy target.

Simple tip: make your laptop (and anything really valuable) the last thing to enter the security machine, then make sure it enters the machine before stepping through the portal. That greatly increases the chances you'll be on the other side when it exits the machine making it impossible for someone to steal it.

(2) Cars - it's probably not a surprise to anyone that this is one of the top 5 ways laptops get stolen. Some people realize this and put their laptops, shopping, and other valuables into the trunk before they go into the restaurant, store, museum, or other venue. That's great thinking, but it doesn't go far enough. Thieves, watching the parking lot will see laptop bags and shopping bags going into the trunk, making that trunk a known source of something valuable and worth taking. I know personally of 5 businessmen on a business trip who put their laptops in their trunk then went in for lunch. When they came out they found the trunk had been pried open and the laptops had been taken. A $10,000 score for the thieves.

Simple tip: Move your valuables to the trunk BEFORE you reach your destination. That way your trunk just becomes one of many random trunks instead of the one with known valuables.

NOT in the top 5 places laptops get stolen.. Cruise Ships, Hotels, Airplanes. (the hotel one surprised me).

Thank you to Prey Labs for some of the data for this article.

The Gift of Letting Go: Why Regular Decluttering Matters Long Before We're Gone

By Jacqueline Dillemuth

My 90-year-old mother-in-law recently passed away, and the experience has underscored a truth many families quietly face: when a loved one leaves behind decades of belongings, the emotional and physical burden on their children can be immense. Her 3 sons are now sorting through closets full of clothing, mountains of photos and memorabilia, multiple generations of inherited china, silver, and crystal….with each item carrying its own history, its own weight, and its own emotional tug. What might have felt manageable during her lifetime has become overwhelming in her absence.

This is the reality for so many families. Decluttering isn't just about tidiness; it's an act of love that spares those we care about from facing a mountain of decisions during one of the hardest moments of their lives. By letting go regularly, you curate a legacy that is thoughtful, manageable, and meaningful. Your family will remember your laughter, your wisdom, your presence, and not the belongings left behind.

Make Decluttering a Periodic Habit: Schedule the Task on Your Calendar. You don't need a dramatic overhaul to make a meaningful difference. Small, steady habits keep your home aligned with your life as it is today:

- ✓ Seasonal sweeps to keep closets and drawers manageable
- ✓ Paper discipline—shred, digitize, and keep only what's current
- ✓ Sentimental curation—choose a few meaningful items instead of boxes of memories
- ✓ Digital tidying to keep your online life as organized as your home

Tips to Consider When Decluttering:

- ✓ Have I worn this clothing in the last 9-12 months? If not, donate it, sell it, throw it away. Clothing should serve your life today, not the life you lived years ago.
- ✓ Check for duplicates. Do you really need 10 extension cords? Keep the best, let the rest go.
- ✓ Look for emotional weight. If an object brings guilt or obligation rather than joy or usefulness, it's not serving you.
- ✓ Think about your family. Ask: Would this be a burden for someone else to sort through?
- ✓ Start with easy wins. Junk drawers, expired toiletries, old linens, unused kitchen gadgets.
- ✓ Organize photos: Add notes to help your loved ones know their ancestry. Throw away duplicates, digitize hard copy photos when possible. Sort photos into packets for each of your children or beneficiaries.

Where to Donate Clothing and Household Goods in the Houston Metropolitan Area

Something Special Resale Shop (The Woodlands): Supports the Montgomery County Women's Center; accepts gently used clothing, accessories, and household items. Website: mcwctx.org

Dress for Success Houston: Provides professional attire to women entering or reentering the workforce; ideal for business clothing, handbags, and shoes. Website: dfshouston.org

The Salvation Army Family Stores (Houston & Spring): A reliable option for all types of clothing and household items. Website: https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/

Goodwill Houston: Accepts most clothing categories and helps fund job training programs across the region. Website: goodwillhouston.org

Medicare Enrollment Guide for First Time Enrollees

(2027 Coverage)

When to Enroll: Most people enroll in Medicare at age 65. If you're not already receiving Social Security benefits, you'll need to sign up yourself.

Initial Enrollment Period (IEP): A 7-month window around your 65th birthday (3 months before, your birthday month, 3 months after).

Key Dates for 2027 Coverage

- **Annual Enrollment Period: Oct 15 – Dec 7, 2026.** Make changes to Medicare Advantage or Part D. **Coverage begins Jan 1, 2027.**
- **Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment: Jan 1 – Mar 31, 2027** One-time switch between Advantage plans or return to Original Medicare.
- **General Enrollment Period: Jan 1 – Mar 31, 2027** For those who missed their Initial Enrollment Period.

Your Medicare Choices

Original Medicare

- Part A (Hospital)
- Part B (Medical) Optional: Part D (Drug coverage), Medigap (Supplemental coverage)

Medicare Advantage (Part C)

- All-in-one private plans
- Often includes Part D plus dental, vision, hearing

How to Enroll

Online, by phone, or in person through Social Security

- Medicare Enrollment: www.ssa.gov/medicare
- Social Security: www.ssa.gov
- Medicare Plan Finder: https://www.medicare.gov/
- Medicare Phone: 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)

What You'll Need to Enroll:

- Social Security number
- Birth certificate
- Proof of citizenship/residency
- Employer coverage details (if delaying Part B)

Lone Star College Academy for Lifelong Learning

The **Lone Star College Academy for Lifelong Learning (ALL)** offers retirees a vibrant, enriching way to stay engaged through education, creativity, and community. Designed specifically for adults age 50 and older, the ALL program provides access to a wide range of low-cost classes, lectures, and social activities across Lone Star College campuses.

Membership is open to anyone 50+, and the annual fee is modest, making ALL one of the most accessible lifelong learning programs in the region. With multiple campuses—including locations convenient to Spring, Tomball, The Woodlands, and Kingwood—there are plenty of opportunities to get involved.

To explore classes, membership details, and upcoming events, visit the official ALL website: **https://www.lonestar.edu/all**

Open House Schedule

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 12

LSC-University Park
10 A.M. – NOON
EMI Building, 2nd Floor
11521 Compaq Center West Drive • Houston, TX 77070
346.395.3215

LSC-CyFair
NOON - 2 P.M.
Student Commons, CENT Building
9191 Barker Cypress Road • Cypress, TX 77433
832.482.1067

THURSDAY, AUG. 13

LSC-Tomball
10 A.M. - NOON
Beckendorf Conference Center
30555 Tomball Parkway • Tomball, TX 77375
281.357.3676

LSC-Kingwood
1 - 3 P.M.
Student Conference Center (SCC)
20000 Kingwood Drive • Kingwood, TX 77339
281.312.1750

LSC-Montgomery
1 - 3 P.M.
Maverick Conference Center
3200 College Park Drive • Conroe, TX 77384
936.273.7446

FRIDAY, AUG. 14

LSC-Houston North Victory
10 A.M. - NOON
VC-102 - Multipurpose Room
4141 Victory Dr. • Houston, TX 77088
281.260.3573

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 19

LSC-North Harris
10 A.M. - NOON
Performing Arts Theatre Lobby
2700 W.W. Thorne Drive • Houston, TX 77073

281.618.5602

HP/HPI/HPE
RETIREE RESOURCES

HP Inc. Retiree Benefits & Enrollment

- **MyHPBenefits.com**
  - Enroll in HP retiree coverage
  - Access plan documents and provider directories
  - Get help via the “Need Help?” button for live support
- **HP Benefits Center:**
  1-800-890-3100
  Hours: Mon.–Fri., 6 a.m.–6 p.m. PT

HPE Retiree Benefits & Enrollment

- **Annual Enrollment Guide**: Covers healthcare options, Medicare eligibility, and how to enroll.
- **Toolkit Access**: Visit MyHPERewards.com/retiree for benefits, discounts, and virtual healthcare.
- **Contact Info**:
  HPE Benefits Center: 1-844-537-5304
  Hours: 8 a.m.–8 p.m. CT, Monday–Friday

Clubs / Alumni Groups / Discounts

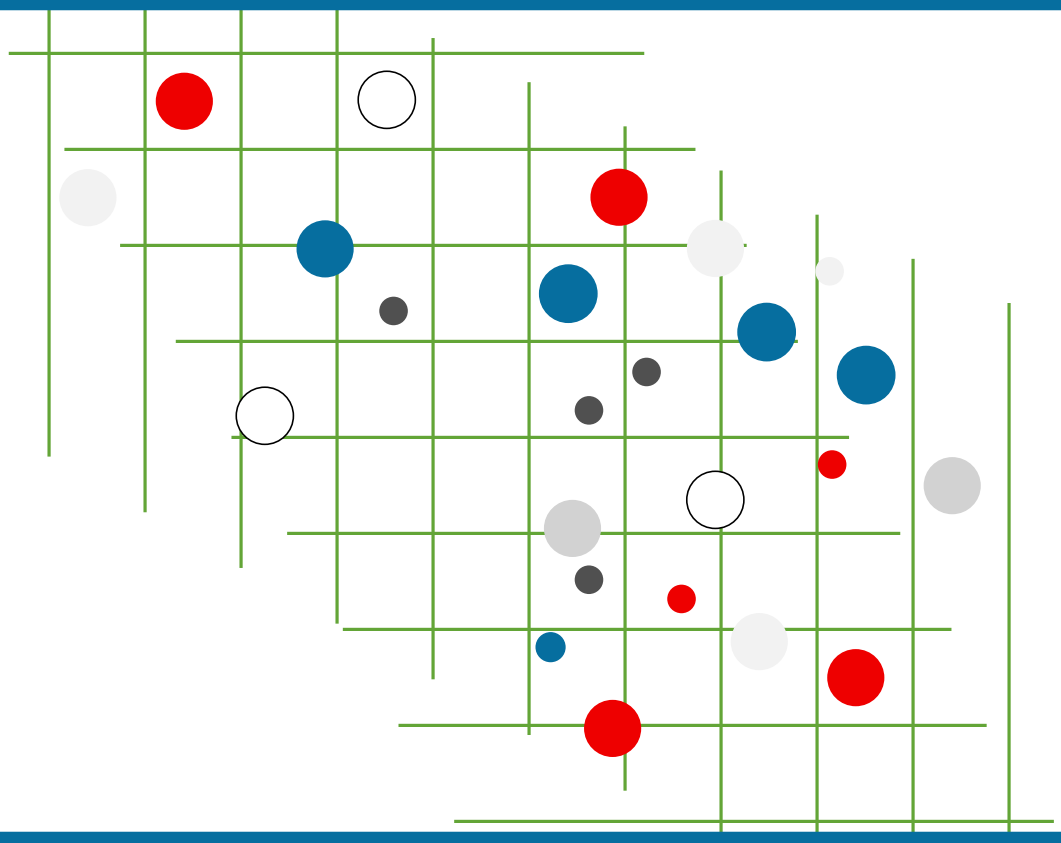
Clubs/Alumni Groups

- **HP Continuum**: Central hub for benefits, discounts, and retiree news
  HP Retirees Official Site
- **Alumni Group:** HP and HPE Alumni

HP Discounts

- www.beneplace.com/hp_employee/

Thank you from the
HPI/HPE Retiree Club of Houston
Planning Committee



Next newsletter publication

Sept 2026