



## Rotary on KPUA's Community Forum January 22, 9:30 a.m.

### (A) What is Rotary?

- Rotary is a non-profit organization, a 501(c)(4), founded in Chicago by lawyer Paul Harris on Feb. 23, 1905. Originally, there were 4 members. The word "Rotary" conveyed the original plan of the members to meet "in rotation" at their various places of business.
- Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians are now members of 32,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographic areas. In Hawai'i, there are 43 clubs, with approximately 2,200 members. The Big Island has 7 clubs: 4 clubs in East Hawai'i, 3 in West Hawai'i.
- Rotary Club members are business and professional leaders who volunteer in their communities, provide humanitarian service, and who help promote peace and understanding throughout the world.
- Rotary Foundation, begun in 1917, provides US \$100 million a year toward humanitarian grants, educational programs, and Polio Plus.
- Polio Plus is Rotary's flagship program. Rotarians have contributed over US \$600 million to immunize two billion children against polio from 1985 to the present. Polio has been eradicated in 210 countries and geographical regions.
- 4 areas of emphasis by Rotary International: water management, literacy, health and hunger, and family of Rotary.

Rotary International President in 2007-08 – Wilfrid Wilkinson

District 5000 (Hawai'i)

District Governor – George Fontaine

Assistant District Governor for East Hawai'i – Albert Jeyte (telephone 896-5769)

Rotary Club of Hilo – Gay Porter, President – rep. by **Stew Hussey**

Rotary Club of South Hilo – Jack Stevenson, President – rep. by Tracie Yoshimoto

Rotary Club of Hilo Bay – **Richard Crowe**, President

Rotary Club of Volcano – Don Hughes, President – rep. by Albert Jeyte

December = Rotary Awareness Month

### (B) Community Service Projects:

Keiki Vision – screening of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at various schools. Needed: permission from the parents, observation (red eyes, crustiness of lids, etc.), and reading of charts for nearsighted and farsighted challenges. Results are shared with the parents – results may indicate that the child may need to be checked by an optometrist.

Hawaii Rotary Dictionary Project: Rotary clubs donate dictionaries to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students. Members of the clubs present the dictionaries to the children in their classrooms. Rotary volunteers will visit each school to distribute the dictionaries. Students are asked to write their names in their books in the space provided on the Rotary label. A brief lesson on how to use the book is given and students are asked to find certain words to demonstrate their

comprehension. At the end of the visit, the children are asked to use the dictionary to write a thank you note to the Individual and/or Rotary club. For each book, labels with the Rotary logo and the Four Way Test will be provided. International Literacy Day, observed annually on September 8, focuses attention on worldwide literacy needs. More than 780 million of the world's adults (nearly two-thirds of whom are women) do not know how to read or write, and between 94 and 115 million children lack access to education.

**Work Projects:** Each year, prior to Christmas, the *Rotary Club of Hilo* hosts a holiday luncheon at the Kamana Seniors Center. Club members do all the cooking, and make donations of food to the seniors. Christmas entertainment is usually provided, most recently by Yummy the Clown. Hilo Rotary Club members also help the Salvation Army in their annual bell-ringing campaign to collect donations for the underprivileged. In 2007, they assisted the Salvation Army by painting kettles. On February 23, the 103<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Rotary, the *Rotary Club of Hilo Bay* will be holding a work day at the Kilohana Girl Scouts Camp on the Saddle Road. This is the annual Weinberg Friends Project, wherein 25 or more Rotarians each donate 4 hours of labor, in order for a non-profit organization to be given a \$1,000 check from the Weinberg Foundation. Recently, the Hilo Bay Club donated \$1,000 to the Rainbow Friends Animal Sanctuary, located near Kurtistown. The Sanctuary's mission is to help, heal, and find good homes for abused, neglected, or otherwise homeless animals. The Sanctuary also tries to reunite lost animals with their human companions, and offers an opportunity for people to interact with animals through volunteering and participating in Sanctuary programs. None of the animals taken in at Rainbow Friends is euthanized.

### **(C) International Service Projects:**

**Polio Plus:** Polio Plus is Rotary's flagship program. Rotarians have contributed over US \$600 million to immunize two billion children against polio from 1985 to the present. Polio has been eradicated in 210 countries and geographical regions. It has nearly been eradicated in four other countries - where it remains endemic in limited areas - Nigeria, India, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Total of 1,083 new cases reported in 2007 (984 cases in endemic). In the year 2006, there had been 1,912 new cases reported, which is a net decline of ~ 43.4%

**Matching Grants:** Over the last 3 years, clubs in District 5000 have contributed \$200,000 toward international matching grant projects. As a result, \$1.8 million (which includes matching funds from other Rotary sources) have been used to carry out 72 humanitarian service projects in 23 different countries. That is an 800% return, quite the bang for the buck!



### **(D) 2008-09 Rotary Theme Unveiled:**

At the 2008 International Assembly, Rotary International (RI) President-elect Dong Kurn Lee announced the RI theme for 2008-09 "Make Dreams Real", revealing a beautiful image of a baby being lovingly held. Lee said he was in disbelief when he learned that 30,000 children under the age of five die every day from preventable diseases such as pneumonia, measles, and malaria. "Once I understood the issues behind that terrible number, I knew what I needed to do," Lee said. He told the incoming district governors that Rotary will keep the service emphases of recent years -- water, health and hunger, and literacy -- but asked them to focus their efforts in each of these areas on children. "In 2008-09, I will ask you all to Make Dreams Real for the world's children," he said. "Children are killed by illnesses that become deadly in combination with poor sanitation and malnutrition," Lee said. He challenged the audience to do their part to give children "hope and a chance at a future" by reducing the rate of child

mortality in the world. “We will bring clean water to their communities and create sanitation projects that keep children healthy,” Lee said. “Rotarians can improve children's health, even in small ways, such as delivering mosquito nets, rehydration salts, vitamins, and vaccines,” he continued. “So much more can be done with just a little more: a trained birth attendant, a simple clinic, a school feeding program, a visiting nurse. These are simple and direct ways to save children's lives. Children die not because nobody can help them, but because too often, nobody does. But you and I, here in this room, are Rotarians, and helping is what we do best,” he said, adding that “our job is to Make Dreams Real for children. If every one of us does this, at the end of our year, we will all have achieved something wonderful.”

## **(E) Rotary International Convention June 15-18, 2008 in L.A.:**

Los Angeles, California, from 15-18 June 2008, will be home to the 99th annual RI Convention, titled “See the Stars!” Home to the stars of the small and big screens, Los Angeles will also be a city of Rotary stars, as it welcomes thousands of Rotarians from all parts of the world. A Rotary convention is an event like no other — a time to connect with Rotarians you wouldn't ordinarily have a chance to meet. Attending an international convention helps one to understand the international scope of Rotary — and what can be accomplished through it. The convention offers a host of resources for international service and fellowship: inspiring plenary speakers, informative workshops, the Club and District Projects Exhibition, the House of Friendship, and so much more. As the movie capital of the world and a center for shopping and international cuisine, Los Angeles offers much to see and do outside the convention venue as well. And the Host Organization Committee promises to keep convention goers highly entertained with events at the Hollywood Bowl, Nokia Theatre, and more. Every Rotarian should experience at least one Rotary convention.

## **(F) General Information:**

Membership is by invitation only.

Rotary Club of South Hilo meets Tuesday 11:45 a.m. at the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel

Rotary Club of Hilo Bay meets Wednesday 6:45 a.m. at the Naniloa Volcanoes Resort

Rotary Club of Volcano meets Thursday 6:45 a.m. at Volcano House Restaurant

Rotary Club of Hilo meets Friday 11:45 a.m. at the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel

Rotarians end their meetings with the 4-Way Test of the Things We Think, Say, or Do. Invented by Herbert Taylor in 1934 as a set of moral principles adopted to save a struggling business, the 4-Way Test will guide those who dare to use it for worthy objectives: choosing, winning, and keeping friends; getting along well with others; ensuring a happy home life; developing high ethical and moral standards; becoming successful in a chosen business or profession; and becoming a better citizen and better example for the next generation. Eloquently simple, stunning in its power, undeniable in its results, The Four-Way Test offers a fresh and positive vision in the midst of a world full of tension, confusion and uncertainty:

- (1) Is it the TRUTH?
- (2) Is it FAIR to all Concerned?
- (3) Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- (4) Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

For more information:

<http://www.rotary.org>

<http://district5000.clubwizard.com>