



Rotary on KPUA's Community Forum March 18, 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

Rotary Club of South Hilo – Jack Stevenson, President – rep. by **Audrey/Jim Wilson**

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

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

March = Literacy Month

(B) Community Service Projects:

Work Projects: Thirty-five people from the *Rotary Club of Hilo Bay* came out on February 23 (Rotary's 103rd anniversary) to fix up the Kilohana Girl Scout Camp on Saddle Road. For almost six hours, the members did grounds-keeping, painting, door installation, screen repair, and general cleaning. The workday is an annual event; in exchange for 100 hours of labor from 25 members, Weinberg Foundation donates \$10,000 to the charity of the club's choice. Girl Scouts will use the funds to buy a permanent generator. Thirty people from the *Rotary Club of Volcano* came out on January 26 to refurbish the Cooper Center bookstore and its storage closets. Ka'u Hospital Nursing Director Nona Wilson was thrilled to receive the \$10,000, which will buy medical equipment that is desperately needed for long-term patients.

Rotarians at Work Day: On April 29, 2006, District 5340 held the first “Rotarians at Work Day” when each of the 60 clubs in the District came forward and identified one or more projects that they performed. Many clubs partnered with other clubs including those in Mexico, and nearly all of the clubs integrated other groups to assist such as Rotaract Clubs, Interact Clubs, and the Family of Rotary. Rotarians planted trees, performed much needed maintenance to our communities’ highways, senior centers, a variety of public buildings such as schools, parks and even the facility which hosts RYLA each year. In 2007, more Districts across the Rotary World participated to help this project grow. At this point in time at least 14 Districts spanning 8 countries have agreed to participate in the coming years. For 2008, **April 26** will be “Rotarians at Work Day” and District 5000 will be part of it. Remember that every club in our District did a significant Centennial Project. We have been doing “Rotary Gives Thanks” in November each year. Now, we will join in this world-wide day of Service Above Self. The four East Hawai`i clubs are joining forces to renovate the Hilo Fire Station.

(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. A total of 164 new cases reported in 2008 (157 cases in endemic). In the year 2007, by March 11, there were 45 new cases reported; a net increase of ~ 264% !

World Water Day on March 22: 'Coping with Water Scarcity' was the theme for World Water Day 2007, which is celebrated each year on 22 March. Last year's theme highlighted the increasing significance of water scarcity worldwide and the need for increased integration and cooperation to ensure sustainable, efficient and equitable management of scarce water resources, both at international and local levels. Speaking at the World Water Day celebration at FAO Headquarters in Rome, FAO Director-General Dr Jacques Diouf called coping with water scarcity the “challenge of the 21st century”. The bulk of that challenge lies in finding more effective ways to conserve, use and protect the world’s water resources. Global population is expected to reach 8.1 billion by 2030. To keep pace with the growing demand for food, 14 percent more freshwater will need to be withdrawn for agricultural purposes in the next 30 years. “As population grows and development needs call for increased allocations of water for cities, agriculture and industries, the pressure on water resources intensifies, leading to tensions, conflicts among users, and excessive strain on the environment,” said Dr Diouf. Climate change has raised the stakes. Global warming has been blamed for more frequent droughts. Climate change has also intensified storms and flooding, which destroy crops, contaminate freshwater and damage the facilities used to store and carry that water. Small landholder farmers, who make up the majority of the world’s rural poor, often occupy marginal lands and rely on rainfall to sustain their livelihoods, making them particularly vulnerable to climate variability.

This year, **World Tuberculosis Day** is March 24th and **World Health Day** is April 7th.

Matching Grants: In January, members of the *Rotary Club of South Hilo* traveled to Lampang, Thailand, as part of an International Service literacy project, which also involves partner clubs (the other three in East Hawai`i). While there, Audrey and Jim Wilson and others assisted the local Rotarians in delivering oral polio vaccine to kindergarten children.

(D) New Generations:

RYLA: At the end of February, all 7 Big Island Rotary clubs and 43 high school students took part in the 2008 *Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Camp* at KMC in Volcano. One of the activities was to clear huge thickets of wild ginger at the Cooper Center, led by Don Hughes of the *Volcano Club*. The students did many team-building exercises that weekend!

Rotary District 5000: Four Way Test Contest

Rotary International is a world-wide organization dedicated to humanitarian service. This is a Rotary sponsored written contest among high school students. It is an opportunity to spread the themes and motto of Rotary (<http://www.rotary.org>)

1. The contest is open to ALL high School Students in Public, Private, Charter and Home Schools.
2. Written Essay of 400 to 500 words (see below for Topic and Theme)
3. There will be three (3) District Winners.
4. In recognition of the winning entries and to further their education, the three winners will each receive \$400 plus (2) round trip tickets to the Maui District Conference on May 25, 2008. (Winners from Maui will receive a cash prize of \$500.00 and no air travel).
5. District Winners will read their winning essay at the Maui District Conference
6. Deadline for all entries is no later than March 31, 2008 (mailed entries postmarked no later than March 31, 2008 will be accepted for review).

PEACE SCHOLAR PROGRAM APPLICANTS WANTED!



Do you know someone who could be a potential candidate for this two year Rotary Peace Scholar Program? Please click here to download and read carefully the criteria information, which will help you in finding suitable candidates. This program IS NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH THE ROTARY AMBASSADORIAL ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS, WHICH IS SEPARATE. PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE DEADLINE AND INSTRUCTIONS AS WELL AS WHAT IS IN THE APPLICATION FORM! Applications are due to the District Chairperson, 2007-2008 - Dr. Charlie Weems by **April 15, 2008**.

(E) 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.”

(F) 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.

(G) 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>