



Rotary on KPUA's Community Forum June 24, 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 **Helen Hemmes**

Rotary Club of South Hilo – Jack Stevenson, President

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

Rotary Club of Volcano – Don Hughes, President – rep. by **Marie Alvarenga**

June = Rotary Fellowships Month

(B) International Service Projects:

Polio Plus: Polio Plus is Rotary's flagship program. Rotarians have contributed over US \$700 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: Nigeria, India, Afghanistan and Pakistan. A total of 599 new cases are reported in 2008 (560 in endemic, 540 just in India and Nigeria). In 2007, by June 17, there were 213 new cases (1,313 by 12/31/07); a net increase of 181% .

World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan has made polio eradication the organization's 'top operational priority'. Dr. Chan made the announcement at this week's annual Rotary International Convention in Los Angeles, USA. Addressing an international audience of more than 20,000 Rotary members and representatives of the

world's press, Dr. Chan said: "Polio eradication is not just about eradicating polio. It is about our ability as a society to reach all children to attain the United Nations Millennium Development Goals." Through the International Health Regulations (2005) mechanism, WHO has informed its Member States of an increasing risk of international spread of polio from northern Nigeria. This year, a new outbreak of type 1 polio in northern Nigeria has already begun to spread internationally (to Benin and Niger), and risk of further spread is magnified due to the upcoming rainy season (associated with increased intensity of virus transmission), and anticipated large-scale population movements for the Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia) in the second half of the year. The new outbreak in northern Nigeria has the potential to cause major international outbreaks, as occurred between 2003 and 2006 (when 20 polio-free countries became re-infected, resulting in 1,475 cases).



(C) 2008-09 Rotary Theme:

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 (one every 3 seconds) 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."

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

Los Angeles, California, from 15-18 June 2008, was home to the 99th annual RI Convention, titled "See the Stars!" And we saw them! Home to the stars of the small and big screens, Los Angeles was also a city of Rotary stars, as it welcomed 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 offered 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 offered much to see and do outside the convention venue as well. And the Host Organization Committee kept

convention goers highly entertained with events at the Hollywood Bowl (Burt Bacharach), Nokia Theatre (Natalie Cole), and tours of Hollywood and Los Angeles. Every Rotarian should experience at least one Rotary convention. Literacy, health, and the future of Rotary were in the spotlight on 18 June at the fourth and final plenary session of the RI Convention in Los Angeles.

Literacy

Dolly Parton, appearing via video, talked to Rotarians about her Imagination Library program, which mails a new book every month to children under age five and which Rotary clubs have been helping expand. "We're active in the USA, Canada, and the United Kingdom, and my hope is that every single child in all three countries will be guaranteed that they can have a house full of books," said the country music singer. Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty took the stage to speak about illiteracy. Noting that 800 million people in the world are unable to read, he stressed the need for Rotarians to continue their work in this area. "Illiteracy not only comes at a high cost for the individual," he said, "it comes at a great cost to our society as a whole."

Rotarians at the 2008 RI Convention demonstrated their commitment to literacy by setting a Guinness world record for the most books donated during a seven-day period. Exactly 242,624 books were collected this week for public school students in Southern California and Southern Nevada. Danny Girton Jr., an adjudicator for Guinness World Records, confirmed that Rotary now owns the record for Most Books Donated in Seven Days at the final plenary session on Wednesday. The book drive, co-sponsored by the *Los Angeles Times* Reading by 9 program, will benefit public school students in kindergarten through grade 3 in the region, where studies show too many children read below grade level. At the convention, a symbolic "mountain of books" display provided a backdrop for reading sessions allowing Rotarians, celebrities, and other notables to read to students visiting on field trips. Project organizers set a goal of collecting a quarter of a million books. Convention registrants from more than 140 countries brought books representing their home cultures and languages.

Health

In a powerful speech, Stephen Lewis, co-director of the advocacy organization AIDS-Free World, saluted Rotarians for their indispensable role in polio eradication but reminded them that HIV/AIDS is "taking an indescribable toll, especially in Africa." Today, 33 million people worldwide are living with AIDS, he said, 23 million of them in Africa. Lewis, a former Canadian ambassador to the United Nations and UN special envoy on HIV/AIDS in Africa, called the failure to halt HIV infections during childbirth "heartbreaking. We have drugs that the mother can take to prevent transmission of the virus, but half a million children are still born HIV-positive every year." Drugs commonly used in the United States, meanwhile, can cut transmission by up to 99 percent. "Why is it that the life of an African child is worth so much less than the life of a Western child?" he asked. "There's something wrong with the world's moral anchor," he concluded. "But there are moments of hope and optimism, and Rotary International is one of those moments." William Asiko, president of the Coca-Cola Africa Foundation, spoke about the importance of partnerships in combating AIDS in Africa. "We [at Coca-Cola] have long been advocates of public-private partnerships," he said. "And our partnership with Rotarians for Fighting AIDS [a Rotarian Action Group] ... is one of which we are particularly proud." He stressed that these partnerships must also address local needs and involve local partners.

The Rotary Foundation

The goals of The Rotary Foundation for 2008-09 were addressed by Jonathan Majiyagbe, chair-elect of the Foundation Board of Trustees. In addition to keeping their promise to the children of the world to eradicate polio, Majiyagbe said, Rotarians need to support the Foundation's Annual Programs Fund and Permanent Fund. "To refuse to support [the Annual Programs Fund] is like refusing oxygen to a living being," he said. "If every Rotarian gives at least \$100 every year, this translates to more than \$120 million annually -- money that will allow us to provide clean water, alleviate poverty, and fight hunger and illiteracy." Majiyagbe also asked club and district foundations to partner with The Rotary Foundation by committing at least 10 percent of their funds to help fully endow the Rotary World Peace Fellowships program.

Rotary's Future

RI President Wilfrid J. Wilkinson concluded the session by speaking about the future of Rotary. "Each year," he noted, "hundreds of thousands of young people around the world participate in our youth programs, developing a relationship with Rotary that we must foster, in the hope that some of them, if not all of them, will one day become Rotarians and be the very future of Rotary."

WHO declares polio eradication top operational priority

LOS ANGELES (June 17, 2008) -- In the final push to rid the world of a crippling and potentially fatal disease that has plagued humankind throughout history, Rotary International today launched its US\$100 Million Challenge, a fundraising effort to end polio worldwide. Funds raised will match, dollar-for-dollar, a challenge grant recently awarded to Rotary by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation -- a funding agreement that will provide \$200 million to the global health initiative over the next three years. Rotary is also expanding its reach by establishing a Web site to accept donations from individuals outside the organization interested in helping eradicate polio: www.rotary.org/endpolio. Since 1985, ending polio has been Rotary's top philanthropic goal. Since then, polio cases have been slashed by 99 percent worldwide. "While most of the world is polio-free, this vaccine-preventable disease still threatens children in parts of Africa and South Asia," said Robert Scott, chair of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. "And because polio is a virus that moves from child to child, it is capable of re-emerging anywhere in the world if we let down our guard. Rotary is committed to eradicating this disease once and for all."

"Rotary International is a global leader in the fight to eradicate polio, and I have no doubt that Rotarians worldwide will rise to this challenge," said Dr. Tachi Yamada, President of the Gates Foundation's Global Health Program. "With Rotary leading the charge, no child will have to live in fear of polio and the world will see that by working together we have the ability to defeat a terrible disease." As part of a joint keynote address by the leaders of the spearheading organizations of Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) to an international audience of 20,000 Rotary members at the volunteer service organization's convention in Los Angeles, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) Dr. Margaret Chan said, "*Today, I am making polio eradication the top operational priority of the WHO. We have resolved the technical challenges to polio eradication, but we still need to overcome the remaining logistical and financial challenges to delivering the vaccine to every child.*"

Polio eradication -- which hinges on vaccinating all children under the age of five years -- is seen as a model and a test for reaching children worldwide with other benefits, whether health or development-related. "It's not just about eradicating polio," Dr. Chan

continued. "It's about our ability as a society to reach all children to attain the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals."

"Rotary's \$100 Million Challenge is a continuation of their longstanding commitment to protect every child from this devastating disease," said Dr. Julie Gerberding, Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). "If not for the generosity, passion and leadership of Rotary members worldwide, it is safe to say that we would not be at the point we are today." Since the launch of the GPEI in 1988, when polio paralyzed more than 350,000 children in 125 countries, cases have been reduced to 1,313 in 2007, and just four countries remain polio endemic (Afghanistan, India, Nigeria and Pakistan). A two-year intensified effort was started in 2007 to eliminate the last vestiges of polio in these remaining areas. Since then, polio has been stopped under extreme conditions -- conflict-ridden Somalia is now polio-free and the most endemic part of India has seen a dramatic decline in cases (from 520 in 2006 to one so far this year). "The progress made in some of the most challenging areas of the world proves that with enough commitment and support, we can end polio worldwide," said Ann Veneman, Executive Director of UNICEF. "We hope that the commitment from the private sector will challenge other donors to step up and make sure we have the resources needed to eradicate polio." As the volunteer arm and top private sector contributor to the GPEI, Rotary has contributed US\$700 million since 1985 -- a figure that will increase to \$850 million when polio is eradicated -- along with countless volunteer hours to the protection of more than two billion children in 122 countries. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is spearheaded by national governments, WHO, Rotary International, the CDC and UNICEF. The Initiative currently faces a funding gap for 2008-09 of US\$490 million.

(E) 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 Hilo Yacht Club (starting July 2)

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? ('Oia i'o i keia 'olelo?)
- (2) Is it FAIR to all Concerned? (Pono ia kakou?)
- (3) Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
(Kukulu lokomaika'i a me pilialoha maka'i a'e?)
- (4) Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned? (Kupono ia kakou?)

For more information:

<http://www.rotary.org>

<http://district5000.clubwizard.com>