

Rotary on KPUA's Community Forum September 25, 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 (Hawaii)

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 – rep. by **Tracie Yoshimoto**

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

Rotary Club of Volcano – Don Hughes, President

September = New Generations Month (Interact, Rotaract, RYLA, Youth Exchange)

(B) Community Service Projects:

Keiki Vision – screening of 3rd 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. The Hilo Bay Club and the Waiakea Lions Club joined forces to test Hilo Union students last week, and are at Waiakea Elem. this week.

Hawaii Rotary Dictionary Project: Rotary clubs donate dictionaries to 3rd 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.

(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. 497 new cases have been reported in 2007 (433 cases in endemic).

National Immunization Day Excursion to Nigeria (November 10-20): This year, our District 5000 NID group will depart for Nigeria on Saturday, 10 November, where they will overnight in Amsterdam before arriving in Abuja on 12 November. They will return to the U.S. on Tuesday, 20 November, before Thanksgiving. The size of the group is limited to 100 people. These Rotarians will have the opportunity to help immunize every child there under 5 with oral polio vaccine. Those that have participated say that it is a life-changing experience.

Youth Exchange Program: Rotary Club of Hilo is sponsoring an outbound student, Leilani Rapaport from West Hawaii, who will be going to Spain. She's one of 11 outbound students for the next school year. The Rotary Club of South Hilo is sponsoring an inbound student, Nana Ishikawa from Japan, who will be going to Hilo High School, beginning in Fall 2007.

Group Study Exchange Program: Rotary Club of Hilo Bay Membership Chair Karolyn Lundkvist is leading the Group Study Exchange team of four young Hawaii business people from Maui and Oahu to Denmark in October. In turn, a similar group from Denmark will be touring our islands and ending their visit at the District 5000 Conference to be scheduled May 23-26, 2008, at the Wailea Beach Marriott Resort & Spa, in Maui.

International Student Association "Aloha Reception": International students at UHH and their families attended this dinner event on September 7, which was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Hilo Bay. ISA's primary objective is to promote cultural awareness and understanding on and around campus, much as the goal of Rotary International is to provide humanitarian service, as well as to promote peace and understanding around the entire world.

(D) Club Service Projects:

Hale Pohaku Star Party: An East Hawai'i quad-club Dinner and Star Party, attended by 22 Rotarians and 34 guests, was held at the 9200-foot level of Mauna Kea on Sept. 8, hosted by the Rotary Club of Hilo Bay. The evening included a talk on Hawaiian astronomy by Paul Coleman, and provided much awareness about the history of how astronomy has been a very important aspect of Hawaiian culture for generations. Only about 5% of the information has survived to the present because 19 out of 20 Hawaiians living in the islands died off due to widespread disease after exposure to foreign visitors. The stars were brilliant after the talk!

Oktoberfest:

WHEN:	October 3, 2007, 5:30 pm	COST:	\$30 a person
WHERE:	Wailoa State Park	HOST:	Rotary Club of Hilo Bay

(E) Other News:

World Food Day

October 16th is World Food Day, when Rotary clubs celebrate international focus days that promote Rotary's commitment to serve their communities. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization celebrates World Food Day on October 16 each year. "The Right to Food" is the theme for 2007 World Food Day and TeleFood demonstrates increasing recognition by the international community of the important role of human rights in eradicating hunger and poverty, and hastening and deepening the sustainable development process. The right to food is a universal right. It means that every person – woman, man and child – must have access at all times to food, or to means for the procurement of food, that is sufficient in quality, quantity and variety to meet their needs, is free from harmful substances and is acceptable to their culture. Here in East Hawai'i, The Food Basket is the hub for county-wide collection and distribution of food for over 100 non-profit organizations which provide for people in need such as the hungry, the homeless, the abused, and chronically ill.

International Day of Peace

The International Day of Peace "is meant to be a day of global cease-fire, when all countries and all people stop all hostilities for the entire day. And it is a day on which people around the world observe a minute of silence at 12 noon local time. [...] And let us pledge to do our utmost to carry out the important decisions on peace taken by last week's [2005] World Summit." -- Kofi Annan -- United Nations Secretary-General, 21 September 2005

(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>