



## Rotary on KPUA's Community Forum October 16, 9:00 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 1.22 million Rotarians are now members of 33,234 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographic areas. In Hawai'i, there are 48 clubs, with approximately 1,990 members. The Big Island now has 9 clubs: 5 clubs in East Hawai'i, 4 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 \$700 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 2009-2010 – John Kenny

District 5000 (Hawai'i):

District Governor – Lisa Foster

Assistant District Governor for East Hawai'i – Tom Brown, Rotary Club of Hilo

Rotary Club of Hilo – Diana Van de Car, President – rep. by

Rotary Club of Hilo Bay – Jay Curlee, Pres. – rep. by **R. Crowe, J. Curlee, T. Rodrigues**

Rotary Club of Pahoehoe Sunset – Karolyn Lundkvist, President – rep. by **Karolyn Lundkvist**

Rotary Club of South Hilo – Randy Kurohara, President – rep. by

Rotary Club of Volcano – Linda-Jane Irwin, President – rep. by **Linda-Jane Irwin**

October = Vocational Service Month

**2009-2010 Rotary Theme:** The 2009-2010 RI theme acknowledges the important role individual Rotary clubs will play in shaping the future of Rotary. RI President-elect John Kenny unveiled the theme, *The Future of Rotary Is in Your Hands*, during the opening plenary session of the [International Assembly](#), an annual training event in San Diego, California, USA, for incoming district governors. "The future of Rotary will not be shaped at RI headquarters -- it will be shaped in each and every Rotary club," Kenny said, "because it is for each of us -- as Rotarians -- to do what is necessary to keep Rotary strong." Kenny acknowledged the foundation established by past Rotary leaders and laid the responsibility for building upon that success on every Rotarian. "Each one of us is standing on the shoulders of generations of Rotarians past, and it is our responsibility to determine Rotary's future," Kenny said. "Everything begins and ends with our clubs. Our clubs can and do work together; they work through their own districts, in cooperation with other clubs and districts, and with the support of our Foundation. But at the end of the day, everything that we accomplish is done through the strength of our clubs. And so each club must have autonomy to serve where and how it can serve best. The Rotary Strategic Plan is designed to strengthen and proclaim the core values of Rotary: service, fellowship, diversity, integrity, and leadership," Kenny said. He concluded his remarks by sharing a favorite saying from his homeland, Scotland: "We must look beyond our own parish pump. It means that we must look beyond our own home and our own community. We must look beyond our own needs, and we must be aware that ours is only one community, of one country, of the many communities and countries in this world."

## **The Basics of Rotary (by Jay Curlee):**

Rotary has 33,234 clubs with over 1.22 million members in 200 countries and geographical regions. All 33,234 clubs changed leadership on July 1st. East Hawai'i Rotary now has five new presidents. Rotary International has a new president every July 1st. This year's president is John Kenny from Scotland. Last year's president was Dong-Kurn Lee from Korea. Rotary has themes for every month (*e.g.*, August's theme is Membership and Extension).

The core of what Rotary is and does is the club, *not* the international leadership. Clubs are made up of individuals from all walks of life. Our club has lawyers, teachers, real estate agents, filmmakers, college professors, and people in the insurance and investment business, as well as several members who are leaders or just work at important nonprofit organizations. Rotary is a non-political and secular organization, made up from people of all faiths and political persuasions. We just don't talk politics and religion at meetings. We get together to find out what is happening in our community and in the world, and then address those needs.

Rotary was originally established as an organization of mostly business people who wanted to network. That was in 1905. It quickly became an organization committed to fostering ethical standards in business and reaching out to address needs in local communities. The motto is Service Above Self. Each club has a board of directors, officers, and standing committees, to address the areas of International Service, Community Service, Club Service, and Vocational Service (the Four Avenues of Service), as well as Youth (New Generations).

Rotary Members pay dues as determined by individual clubs, typically about \$250. Members are usually asked to contribute voluntarily to The Rotary Foundation, Polio Plus Partners, The Wheel Chair Foundation, Rotaplast, and Hawai'i Rotary Youth Foundation. Members are asked to give their time, talent, and treasure. All three are vital. Some have more time, some have more treasure. Rotary is an attendance organization. As Woody Allen said: "Half of life is just showing up." Members are expected to show up at meetings. Rotary is an excellent vehicle to give back to the community when you want to actually work with the dollars you give to an organization to help others in need. Also, the dollars get leveraged with dollars from other contributors and with matching dollars from The Rotary Foundation .

## **(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, Pakistan and Afghanistan. A total of 1126 new cases are reported in 2009 (861 in endemic with 777 in Nigeria & India). In 2008, by October 6, there were 1341 new cases (1,651 by 12/31/08); a net decrease of 16.0%. Recently, **Dr. Trevor Rodrigues** from the Rotary Club of Hilo Bay participated in the National Immunization Day in Nigeria. He is here today to share some of his experiences.

**Gates Foundation Challenge Grant:** To support the global campaign against poliomyelitis (polio) — a contagious virus that paralyzes and sometimes kills young children — the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awarded two challenge grants (the most recent in January for \$255 million) to the service organization Rotary International. Together, the two grants total \$355 million and must be matched by new donations of \$200 million over the next 3 years. The grants support the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), a partnership launched in

1988 by the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and UNICEF, working together with national governments. For this initiative, the U.S. government has contributed approximately \$1.3 billion since 1991. There also have been donations from private U.S. organizations and individuals, including contributions from U.S. Rotary Clubs of almost \$204 million.

### **(C) Community Service:**

**Operation Aloha:** Approximately 40 Rotarians from the Rotary Clubs of Hilo Bay, Pahoa Sunset, and Volcano recently collected items to assemble into Christmas gift boxes for 240 Hawai'i-based Marines who are deploying to Afghanistan. These Marines, who are based in Kaneohe, did some of their training at Pohakuloa, and participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. The project, started by the Rotary Club of Kona Sunrise, was named **Operation Aloha**. The East Hawai'i effort (about 220 person-hours) took place at KTA Puainako and at Hilo Wal\*Mart on Friday, October 2 and 9, Saturday, October 3 and 10, and Sunday, October 4 and 11. Our Marines will be serving in very difficult condition, and items such as snacks, pens, pencils, stationery, socks, boot laces, T-shirts, toiletries, and baby wipes were all on the shopping list. Boxes and boxes of these items were collected. Many items will be given to the children of Afghanistan by Marines helping to build secure and sustainable communities. These items will be wrapped in gift packages and sent to Afghanistan in time for Christmas.



**Keiki Vision:** Keiki Vision is under way this fall in East Hawai'i elementary schools. Members of the Rotary Club of Hilo Bay and the Waiakea Lions Club took part in vision screening the third grade students of Waiakeawaena Elementary School on October 12. Approximately 115 keiki were checked for far- and near-sightedness, reading vision, depth perception, and external eye problems, such as redness, crustiness of lids, eye motion, etc. The Keiki Vision program is led in East Hawai'i by Dr. Cedric Mitsui, optometrist with the Big Island Vision Center. During the past several years, Rotary's Keiki Vision program has tested and referred numerous children in East Hawai'i for additional evaluation and treatment. The results of the vision screening are shared with the parents. If your elementary school is not participating with Keiki Vision, contact one of the Rotary Clubs in the East Hawai'i area for help. The Rotary Clubs of Hilo, Hilo Bay, South Hilo and Volcano will be doing vision screening for all the local Grade 3 students in the coming months.



## **(D) Club Service and Fundraisers:**

**Embalmers Ball:** On Friday, October 30 (Hallowe'en Eve), from 6:00 p.m. to midnight, the Rotary Club of Hilo will hold a semi-formal masquerade party "Embalmer's Ball" at the Naniloa Hotel Polynesian Room. There will be heavy pupus, cocktails, music and dance to the sounds of Thriller or Time Warp. The cost is \$50 a person, with \$25 being tax deductible. 75% of the proceeds will go to the rural Family Practice Residency Program to bring physicians and other medical professionals to the Big Island, while 25% will go to the Hilo Rotary Club Foundation for local community service projects. A silent auction will also be held. For more information, contact [markheritage19@msn.com](mailto:markheritage19@msn.com).

## **(E) Membership:**

### **DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S FALL MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE**

Each Rotarian may have joined Rotary for a different reason - but they all had something in common – each was invited to become a member of Rotary. Somewhere, there is a potential member waiting for that same invite. **Rotary membership starts with YOU!** Meet District Governor Lisa Foster's **Fall Membership Challenge!** Any club inducting 5 members between Aug. 1 and Oct. 31, 2009, will receive a recognition emblem for their club banner.

## **(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 Hilo Yacht Club

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 Yacht Club

Rotary Club of Pahoehoe Sunset meets Tuesday 5:45 p.m. at Luquin's Mexican Restaurant

Rotarians end their meetings with the 4-Way Test of the Things We Think, Say, or Do. Invented by Herbert Taylor in 1932 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 lokomaikai'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://www.rotaryd5000.org>