

**(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

October = **Vocational Services Month** (vocational speakers, business visitations)

**(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. The Hilo Bay Club and the Waiakea Lions Club got together to test Waiakeawaena Elementary school students last week (3<sup>rd</sup> of three).

**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. The South Hilo Club is and Hilo Clubs have carried out their Dictionary Project at local schools during the last week.

**District Simplified Grants:** District Simplified Grants are a tool for Rotary districts to support short-term humanitarian projects that benefit the community. Districts can request up to 20 percent of their District Designated Fund (DDF) for grants to support multiple projects either locally or internationally. A fraction of the funds from contributions to Rotary Foundation three years ago are returned to the clubs for use within their own communities. The deadline for applications in Hawai'i District 5000 was September 15. Clubs are using this money now.

### **(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. 613 new cases have been reported in 2007 (542 cases in endemic). At this time in 2006, there had been 1,441 new cases reported, which is a decline of ~ 58% .

***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 Carolyn Lundkvist is leading the Group Study Exchange team of four young Hawaii business people from Maui and O'ahu to Denmark. They departed for Europe on Sunday and will return to Hawai'i in late November. 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.

**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!

**Oktoberfest:** An East Hawai'i quad-club Dinner, attended by over 140 people, Rotarians and guests, was held at the Wailoa State Park Pavilion on October 3, hosted by the Rotary Club of Hilo Bay. The evening included a silent and live auction. Over \$4,000 was raised for Rotary Foundation. Since July 1, the Rotary Club of Hilo Bay and its 52 members have contributed almost \$14,000 for Rotary Foundation. This is the second highest total among the 43 clubs in Hawai'i District 5000, 2<sup>nd</sup> only to the Honolulu Club with its 320 members. Hilo Bay has exceeded its goal for the 2007-2008 Rotary year by 40%, all within the first quarter. District 5000 was the most generous (to TRF) district in the U.S. in the 2005-06 Rotary year.

## **(D) New Generations:**



### **World Interact Week (November 5-11)**

Interact is Rotary International's service club for young people ages 14 to 18. Interact clubs are sponsored by individual Rotary clubs, which provide support and guidance, but they are self-governing and self-supporting. Club membership varies greatly. Clubs can be single gender or mixed, large or small. They can draw from the student body of a single school or from two or more schools in the same community. Each year, Interact clubs complete at least two community service projects, one of which furthers international understanding and goodwill. Through these efforts, Interactors develop a network of friendships with local and overseas clubs and learn the importance of:

- Developing leadership skills and personal integrity
- Demonstrating helpfulness and respect for others
- Understanding the value of individual responsibility and hard work
- Advancing international understanding and goodwill

As one of the most significant and fastest-growing programs of Rotary service, with more than 10,700 clubs in 109 countries and geographical areas, Interact has become a worldwide phenomenon. Almost 200,000 young people are involved in Interact. The Rotary Club of South Hilo has sponsored the newest Club in East Hawai'i at St. Joseph Jr.-Sr. High School.

## **(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 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>