

Rotary on KPUA's Community Forum December 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 – rep. by **Jim Cheney**

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 – rep. by **Albert Jeyte**

December = **Family of Rotary Month**

(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.

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.

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 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.

Work Projects: Recently, the Rotary Club of Hilo Bay presented a check for \$1,000 to the Rainbow Friends Animal Sanctuary, located near Kurtistown. The Sanctuary's mission is to help, heal, and find good homes for abused, neglected, or otherwise homeless animals. The Sanctuary also tries to reunite lost animals with their human companions, and offers an opportunity for people to interact with animals through volunteering and participating in Sanctuary programs. None of the animals taken in at Rainbow Friends is euthanized.

(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. 820 new cases have been reported in 2007 (728 cases in endemic). At this time in 2006, there had been 1,791 new cases reported, which is a decline of ~ 54% . *National Immunization Day Excursion to Nigeria (November 10-20) has been completed.*

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 October 21 and returned to Hawai'i on November 28. 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!

(D) Rotary Foundation:

The Rotary Foundation is the engine that drives Rotary's international humanitarian service. Without the Foundation, many of Rotary's signature programs wouldn't exist. There would be no PolioPlus, no Humanitarian Grants, no Ambassadorial Scholarships, no Rotary World Peace Fellowships. Without the Foundation, Rotary would be a very different and less powerful force for good in the world. As Rotarians, we give generously, yet we gain so much

more: the pleasure of helping others, the satisfaction of knowing that we're doing the right thing, the joys of fellowship and friendship. As club members, we gain the global power of Rotary in our service and the power of more than 1.2 million Rotarians all over the world, each a potential partner in our projects. It's a basic principle of Rotary that we can do much more together than we could ever do alone. The Rotary Foundation allows us to pool our resources, help each other, and thereby reach heights of service that would be simply unattainable otherwise. The Foundation is there for all Rotarians, and it's our responsibility to be there for it. And that's why each of us must answer the call of Every Rotarian, Every Year, a program which has been so successful already in increasing support for Foundation.

(E) 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.

(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>