

Rotary on KPUA's Community Forum September 18, 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 **Helen Hemmes**

Rotary Club of Hilo Bay – Jay Curlee, Pres. – rep. by **R. Crowe, Alan Okinaka, Klaus Hodapp**

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

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

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

September = New Generations 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 969 new cases are reported in 2009 (732 in endemic, with 663 in Nigeria & India). In 2008, by September 8, there were 1,173 new cases (1,651 by 12/31/08); a net decrease of 17.4%. Recently, a team from Hawai'i participated in National Immunization Day in Nigeria.

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.

“Rotarians, government leaders and health professionals have made a phenomenal commitment, so polio [currently] afflicts only a small number of the world’s children,” Bill Gates, co-chair of the Gates Foundation, said in announcing the new grant in January. “However, complete elimination of the polio virus is difficult and will continue to be difficult for a number of years. Rotary in particular has inspired my own personal commitment to get deeply involved in achieving eradication.” In January 2009, the United Kingdom announced a contribution of \$150 million to the GPEI, and Germany gave \$130 million. Other countries, including Canada and Russia, also have made significant donations.

“Since 1988, the GPEI has been very successful in reducing polio cases by over 99 percent. Polio has been eliminated from more than 200 countries by proven strategies, and we are very close to victory globally, but are stalled at the threshold of success by difficulties in the four remaining polio-endemic countries— Nigeria, Afghanistan, India and Pakistan — where polio has never been completely eradicated,” said Dr. Steve Cochi, senior adviser on polio eradication at CDC’s Global Immunization Division. Polio is a highly infectious, potentially fatal disease that invades the nervous system and causes muscle paralysis in a matter of hours. Polio has no cure but can be prevented through multiple vaccinations. “People can be infected with polio and silently transmit the virus to others without displaying symptoms, which can pose a challenge to controlling the epidemic spread of the virus,” Dr. Cochi said.

(C) Club Service and Fundraisers:

Rotary Club of Volcano: On Sunday, September 6, the Rotary Club of Volcano held their annual club project fundraiser “Labor Day Lobsters” at Wailoa Park in Hilo. Mahalos to all those who supported that fundraiser. On Thursday, September 24, Rotarians are invited to join an excursion to Ainahou Ranch in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, after their meeting.

Oktoberfest: On Wednesday, September 30, at 5:30 p.m., the Rotary Club of Hilo Bay will hold their annual fundraiser at Wailoa Park in Hilo. For \$30.00, each person will receive all the beer, wine, bratwurst, sauerkraut, and other traditional German dishes he/she can eat. A silent and live auction will be held as well. The money raised will be contributed toward Rotary Foundation’s \$100 million campaign to match the Gates Foundation Challenge Grant over the next two years.

Embalmer’s 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.

(D) Membership and District Conference:

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S FALL MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

August is Rotary Membership and Extension Month! Each one of us may have joined Rotary for different reasons - but we all shared something in common - someone invited us become a member of a Rotary Club. 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 that inducts 5 members between August 1, 2009 through October 31, 2009 will receive a special recognition emblem for their club banner. Take Lisa's membership challenge now!



Building Bridges of Peace and Hope

DISTRICT 5000 FALL CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2009 SHERATON WAIKIKI

This past year, Rotarians made Dreams Real in their community and the world. We have the opportunity to continue the great work of our clubs by getting together at the beginning of the Rotary year, on September 25-27, 2009, to network, share ideas, and work together on projects that address water, health, hunger, and literacy. A conference in September allows for more economic flexibility in travel, hotel stay, and room rates and we get to focus on what lies ahead.

The theme of the conference is **The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands...Building Bridges of Peace and Hope**. The Fall conference promotes fellowship, workshops and keynote speakers who will inspire us to shape Rotary's future through service above self. A youth leadership conference especially for youth will be held concurrently during our session, allowing Rotarians to meet and interact with our young leaders.

Conference chairs, Beth and Jim Hoban, and the conference committee are gearing up to make this a worthwhile experience for you! Sign up for the District Fall Conference now!

(E) New Generations:

Group Study Exchange - 2009-2010 (Chair Marietta Bustamante):

The Group Study Exchange (GSE) program of The Rotary Foundation is a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for young business and professional men and women between the ages of 25 and 40 and in the early years of their professional lives. The program provides travel grants for teams to exchange visits between paired areas in different countries. For four to six weeks, team members experience the host country's institutions and ways of life, observe their own vocations as practiced abroad, develop personal and professional relationships, and exchange ideas. The GSE Team from Thailand and Cambodia will arrive here in East Hawai'i on Thursday, September 17, and will depart for Waimea on Monday, September 21. The Rotary Club of Hilo will hold their annual Chicken Hekka for the GSE team on September 17, 6 p.m. at Wailoa Park, for \$15 a person. Also, Audrey and Jim Wilson will host dinner at their Volcano home on Sunday, September 20, 5 p.m. for \$20 a person.

(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

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 Pahoa 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>