



## Rotary on

## KPUA's Community Forum

Sept. 26, 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 1.2 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 2,100 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 \$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 2008-09 – Dong Kurn Lee District 5000 (Hawai'i)

District Governor – Ayman El-Dakhkhni

Assistant District Governor for East Hawai'i – Tom Brown

Rotary Club of Hilo – Rick Newkold, President

Rotary Club of South Hilo – Jack Stevenson, President

Rotary Club of Hilo Bay – Mary Begier, President – rep. by **Richard Crowe**

Rotary Club of Volcano – Charlene Meyers, President – rep. by **Marie Alvarenga**

### September = New Generations Month

**2008-09 Rotary Theme:** At the 2008 International Assembly, Rotary International (RI) President-elect Dong Kurn Lee announced the RI theme for 2008-09 "Make Dreams Real", revealing a beautiful image of a baby being lovingly held. Lee said he was in disbelief when he learned that 30,000 children under the age of five die every day (one every 3 seconds) from preventable diseases such as pneumonia, measles, and malaria. "Once I understood the issues behind that terrible number, I knew what I needed to do," Lee said. He told the incoming district governors that Rotary will keep the service emphases of recent years -- water, health and hunger, and literacy -- but asked them to focus their efforts in each of these areas on children. "In 2008-09, I will ask you all to Make Dreams Real for the world's children," he said. "Children are killed by illnesses that become deadly in combination with poor sanitation and malnutrition," Lee said. He challenged the audience to do their part to give children "hope and a chance at a future" by reducing the rate of child mortality in the world. "We will bring clean water to their communities and create sanitation projects that keep children healthy," Lee said. "Rotarians can improve children's health, even in small ways, such as delivering mosquito nets, rehydration salts, vitamins, and vaccines," he continued. "So much more can be done with just a little more: a trained birth attendant, a simple clinic, a school feeding program, a visiting nurse. These are simple and direct ways to save children's lives. Children die not because nobody can help them, but because too often, nobody does. But you and I, here in this room, are Rotarians, and helping is what we do best," he said, adding that "our job is to Make Dreams Real for children. If every one of us does this, at the end of our year, we will all have achieved something wonderful."

## **(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 1253 new cases are reported in 2008 (1178 in endemic, 1103 in Nigeria and India). In 2007, by Sept. 23, there were 519 new cases (1,315 by 12/31/07); a net increase of 141% .

World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan has made polio eradication the organization's 'top operational priority'. Dr. Chan made the announcement at last year's annual Rotary International Convention in Los Angeles, USA. Addressing an international audience of more than 20,000 Rotary members and representatives of the world's press, Dr. Chan said: "Polio eradication is not just about eradicating polio. It is about our ability as a society to reach all children to attain the United Nations Millennium Development Goals." Through the International Health Regulations (2005) mechanism, WHO has informed its Member States of an increasing risk of international spread of polio from northern Nigeria. This year, a new outbreak of type 1 polio in northern Nigeria has already begun to spread internationally (to Benin and Niger), and risk of further spread is magnified due to the upcoming rainy season (associated with increased intensity of virus transmission), and anticipated large-scale population movements for the Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia) in the second half of the year. The new outbreak in northern Nigeria has the potential to cause major international outbreaks, as occurred between 2003 and 2006 (when 20 polio-free countries became re-infected, resulting in 1,475 cases).

### **WHO declares polio eradication top operational priority:**

LOS ANGELES (June 17, 2008) -- In the final push to rid the world of a crippling and potentially fatal disease that has plagued humankind throughout history, Rotary International today launched its US\$100 Million Challenge, a fundraising effort to end polio worldwide. Funds raised will match, dollar-for-dollar, a challenge grant recently awarded to Rotary by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation -- a funding agreement that will provide \$200 million to the global health initiative over the next three years. Rotary is also expanding its reach by establishing a Web site to accept donations from individuals outside the organization interested in helping eradicate polio: [www.rotary.org/endpolio](http://www.rotary.org/endpolio). Since 1985, ending polio has been Rotary's top philanthropic goal. Since then, polio cases have been slashed by 99 percent worldwide. "While most of the world is polio-free, this vaccine-preventable disease still threatens children in parts of Africa and South Asia," said Robert Scott, chair of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. "And because polio is a virus that moves from child to child, it is capable of re-emerging anywhere in the world if we let down our guard. Rotary is committed to eradicating this disease once and for all."

"Rotary's \$100 Million Challenge is a continuation of their longstanding commitment to protect every child from this devastating disease," said Dr. Julie Gerberding, Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). "If not for the generosity, passion and leadership of Rotary members worldwide, it is safe to say that we would not be at the point we are today." Since the launch of the GPEI in 1988, when polio paralyzed more than 350,000 children in 125 countries, cases have been reduced to 1,315 in 2007, and just four countries remain polio endemic (Afghanistan, India, Nigeria and Pakistan). A two-year intensified effort was started in 2007 to eliminate the last vestiges of polio in these remaining areas. Since then, polio has been stopped under extreme conditions -- conflict-ridden Somalia

is now polio-free and the most endemic part of India has seen a dramatic decline in cases (from 520 in 2006 to one so far this year). "The progress made in some of the most challenging areas of the world proves that with enough commitment and support, we can end polio worldwide," said Ann Veneman, Executive Director of UNICEF. "We hope that the commitment from the private sector will challenge other donors to step up and make sure we have the resources needed to eradicate polio." As the volunteer arm and top private sector contributor to the GPEI, Rotary has contributed US\$700 million since 1985 -- a figure that will increase to \$850 million when polio is eradicated -- along with countless volunteer hours to the protection of more than two billion children in 122 countries. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is spearheaded by national governments, WHO, Rotary International, the CDC and UNICEF. The Initiative currently faces a gap for 2008-09 of US\$490 million.

**Canada announces \$30 million for polio eradication:** The Government of Canada announced on September 4 financial contributions of Canadian \$30 million towards the eradication of polio in sub-Saharan Africa, in partnership with Rotary International. This announcement came on the heels of a June pledge of \$60 million to finance polio eradication activities in Afghanistan. The funding will help immunize children in sub-Saharan Africa, with \$15 million already earmarked for Nigeria, where polio is still endemic. An outbreak in northern Nigeria is currently putting the region at risk; stepped-up vaccination activities are essential to preventing and minimizing the consequences of spread. With these two latest contributions, Canada has committed close to Canadian \$331 million towards polio eradication and is working toward new strategies in to stop the disease in endemic countries.

**International Student Association "Aloha Reception":** International students at UHH and their families attended this dinner event on September 4, 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.

### **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" was 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.

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

**Oktoberfest:** On October 22, the Rotary Club of Hilo Bay will hold their annual fundraiser at the 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 three years.

## **(D) Community Service Projects:**

**Cooper Center Playground:** In late August, members of the Volcano Community gathered to assemble much-needed playground equipment at the Cooper Center. The Volcano Rotary Club provided a lunch for the volunteers.

## **(E) District 5000 Membership Goals:**

1. The club president must have sponsored a new member between July 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009.
2. Devote a regular meeting exclusively to membership by September 15, 2008 with progress report by October 15th and February 15th (required)
3. The club must increase membership by 25% gross, or 10% net.
4. Implement a strategic retention plan in your club.

To this end, membership workshops are being conducted throughout the District in preparation for membership planning. The Big Island held its workshop on Saturday, August 16, in Waimea, and representatives from all seven clubs were present (21 people in all came).

## **(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 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? ('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 lokomaika'i 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://district5000.clubwizard.com>