



President and Board of Directors of The Rotary Club of Honolulu Annual Update and Announcements

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My Fellow Rotarians of the Rotary Club of Honolulu,

As we approach the holidays, I am taking this opportunity to thank each of you for your dedication and continued support. Your active involvement in our Club activities ensures the success of our shared mission, and we are excited about the opportunities and challenges 2025 presents.

I am writing to share several important updates regarding our services and operations for the upcoming year. These changes are necessary to strengthen our core mission and ensure our ability to serve effectively.

The Coke & Lawrence Operations Fund

To further enhance our ability to serve in these changing times, we are launching The Coke & Lawrence Operations Fund. This fund is named to honor James L. Coke (later Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Territory of Hawai'i) and his social acquaintance Volkert O. Lawrence (a member of the #3 Rotary Club of Oakland, CA) who worked together to charter our Club in 1915. In that spirit, the fund is intended to ensure that our Club's capacity to build camaraderie and business connections through friendship and service-above-self continues to live on well into the future..

This *non-tax deductible* and unrestricted fund will allow the Club to address critical operational needs such as technological upgrades for seamless active member participation, staff support, stability of meeting location, member recruitment and retention, etc. Enclosed with this letter is a more detailed basis for the use and function of this newly created fund.

I invite each of you to contribute to this fund generously, as I know you would, to support the long-term goals of our Club. Contributions are entirely voluntary. And because this fund is unrestricted and non-tax deductible, funds can be used for operations and towards service project expenses that cannot be met by RCOH Foundation funds. Every dollar makes a difference and helps to ensure that we can meet the operational demands of our Club.

Membership Due Increases

At the start of this fiscal year, we raised our member dues while also maintaining various categories of membership at discounted levels. After careful evaluation of our budget and operational needs, the Board has approved the institution of a singular type of membership. Therefore, effective February 1, 2025, those who are categorized as Under 45, Non-Resident and Spouse members shall pay the Regular membership dues of \$750. This dues change will not affect those who have elected a single annual payment, meaning that current Under 45, Spouse and Non-Resident members who have paid their annual dues in full will see no change until the next Rotary year dues cycle.

This adjustment is essential to address rising costs for national and district dues, third party bookkeeping services, staffing, lunch meeting expenses, member development, and other operational expenses. The additional funds collected from a singular type of membership will allow us to continue having an Administrator, third party bookkeeper, and rebuild our operational cash reserves depleted during the pandemic, while expanding our membership base for the future.

We understand that this change may require additional commitment from you, and we are confident it will yield significant benefits for our Club's sustainability and growth.

Monthly Meeting Charge

In keeping true with our core mission of camaraderie and business connection development, the Board has decided to strongly encourage in-person attendance at our weekly meetings. As a result of this shift, effective January 1, 2025, the club will charge each member for one (1) in-person regular Tuesday meeting every month. This change is necessary to cover the costs of meals and other meeting-related expenses, but also so that our Club returns to our roots of building better friendships and nurturing business connections through fellowship and service.

In addition, starting January 1, 2025, lunches are now priced at \$50 per regular Tuesday lunch meeting. Those who have chosen and have paid in advance for their lunches are grandfathered in until their prepayments end. Optional prepayment of lunches is still available with a new structure: \$159 for monthly; or \$636 for Mar-Jun lunches.

Venue Change

Finally, I am happy and excited to announce our new home for our regular weekly gatherings: The Pacific Club, located at 1451 Queen Emma St, Honolulu, HI 96813. This change reflects our commitment to providing a comfortable and accessible environment appropriate for all members of the first Rotary club chartered in Hawaii.

I believe these changes will create a stronger, more unified Club, and I appreciate your understanding and cooperation. If you have any questions or would like to discuss these updates further, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Thank you for your unwavering support. Together, we can ensure another successful year for our Club and continue making a positive impact.

Warm regards,



Tom Coyne
President

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