

Rotary Minutes 18 Jan 2022

**Rotary Club of Honolulu
Zoom Meeting**

PRESIDING: PRESIDENT GWEN YAMAMOTO LAU

The inspiration was given by **Bob Sigall**, who spoke of his recent heart attack. He described his symptoms prior which included weak arm muscles, soreness in this throat and discomfort, but no pain, in his chest. He had low cholesterol and blood pressure and exercises regularly. He decided to go to bed, trusting the symptoms would resolve. When they hadn't by the next morning he went to Straub ER. The doctor initially thought his symptoms were consistent with acid reflux but ordered a stress test to rule out heart issues. On the treadmill he became exhausted and had to stop. At that point the staff told him he was having a heart attack and was immediately surrounded by a bevy of medical staff who within 20 minutes had initiated a procedure to place a stent in one of his coronary arteries after which he felt very good. **Bob** used his experience as an opportunity to exhort us to not ignore or downplay early warning symptoms of heart attack and stroke. Better to be safe than sorry.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Gigi Davidson**. The singing of "*When You're Smiling*" was led by **Lyla Berg**.

President Gwen introduced our visitors who included: Prospective member Kathy Wyatt; Hideo Yamanaka, RC Kyoto; Emily Hauk, and Rotarian Kevin Parle from the UK.

Our Vocational Minute was presented by **Glenda Anderson** who described her company Details International also signed as Small Spaces located in The Gentry Pacific Design Center on Nimitz Hwy. As she related "We do design for small spaces, lots of uses out there even though it's small but basically we do universal design. We do handicap accessible design, but if we do something for aging in place where most people make it look like a hospital, ours are just beautiful; you would never know that they were usable for people with a handicap. We'd like people to come in for a free consultation bringing pictures of their space when they have a curiosity about doing something and make an appointment with me and if you do, I don't charge anything, and I will not let you sign any contracts. This is just from my heart to you to be able to keep people from making expensive mistakes. All the products we sell are very fine quality but I never charge retail so that allows more people to have fine things. We also work a lot with *Balancing Energy*. If I go to your house and I feel that it needs perhaps a wild color to brighten a ceiling in your house, something like that I would do. We do things like that or moving around furniture; it's sort of like feng shui but it's for the western world. Most people want to take out tubs and put in walk-in showers. We do that all the time- nothing is too small. We've done a royal palace in Malaysia for the *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous* people, but we also do mailmen, mechanics, teachers, people who don't have a lot of money. They need something good because they don't want to ever redo it. Lastly, we're going to start giving cooking demonstrations. I have a chef coming in and I think probably it's going to be podcast with Joe McGarry, and I have a pasta machine here now and do you want to come in and make noodles. I love doing things like that with people; we have a fully equipped kitchen. Come in and cook with us. Thank you."

Club Anniversaries:

Mike Latham	1 year	1/5/21
Craig Nakanishi	23 years	1/5/99
Alika Mau	18 years	1/6/04

John Henry Felix	32 years	1/9/90
Mike Herb	21 years	1/16/01
Dawn Marie	16 years	1/17/06
Rob Van Tassell	2 years	1/21/20
Bryan Watkins	9 years	1/22/13
Max Besenbruch	29 years	1/26/93
Terry George	19 years	1/28/03

Announcements:

Rick Tabor: Marketplace Trade Show tables at Café Julia Feb 1st. A round robin format to introduce each business/vendor. Members who will be participating are:

Tom Coyne: Five Star Transportation
Peg Jackson: Peg Jackson & Associates
Gwen Yamamoto Lau: Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority, State of Hawaii
Kathy Wyatt: Hale Hau'oli Adult Center
Sam Haas: WestPac Wealth Partners
Tracey Wiltgen: Mediation Center of the Pacific
John McDermott: State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program
Poki'i Balaz: Lunalilo Home
Michelle Cordero Lee: Hawaii Meals on Wheels
Karen Glasser: Best Buddies Hawaii
Joanna Amberger: 3 Financial Group
Jessica Lani Rich: VASH

Jennifer Oyer is taking over from **Alice Tucker** as Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation Scholarship committee chair. Deadline is Feb 1st for scholarship applicants. **Jennifer** is looking for 2 more committee members for a fulfilling role. Please volunteer!

Breakout Discussion:

Club members and guests participated in breakout room discussion with the question: "What should Legislature address this year?"

Program: Neal Milner, columnist for Civil Beat, a contributing editor for and Political Analyst for KITV among other roles, will present "Hawaii Politics: The Next Six Months." **President Gwen introduced** our speaker citing his varied career elements which included being a Professor of Political Science at UH.

Neal started his presentation, which he said would be mostly about the Legislature, by outlining the elements of a lens that would help in understanding what is going on in the Legislature especially in the coming term. He referred to these as the "essences":

1. The Legislature has money available for every conceivable purpose and every member of the House and Senate is up for reelection. They all want points on the board, and they don't want to raise taxes.
2. By the end of the session all have pledged to get back to the important regular order issues deferred by COVID.
3. One party dominance means we don't suffer some of the polarizing issues that bedevil other states.

4. Overarching Legislative characteristics remain: One party does not imply unity. There are still factions and caucuses that characterize the flow of work and how things get done. Caution and Consensus are norms that prevent the Legislature from lurching to fast.
5. Certain issues defy short or even long-term solution and are “structural” problems. Examples include Affordable Housing and Economic Diversification. These types of problems will confront each Legislature, but they represent complex problems that defy solution and can only be managed.

Neal described the Senate’s stated priorities for the coming term as: Affordable Housing, Economic Diversification, Mental Health, Minimum Wage increase, Food Hub establishment, Women’s Health and Reproductive Rights. He then turned to identify the problems that COVID has caused or silhouetted which include: Need to increase Minimum Wage, Child Care for working families, Respite care for elderly caregivers, Paid sick leave, Tax cuts for working people. Federal stimulus money that was going to these things is going away and will need to be replaced sustainably. Some supposed legislative packages like those taxing tourists more are more of a laundry list than systematic packages. Highlighted issues like Mental Health are woefully underfunded as are many elements of the DOE and Dept of Health. Attempts will be made to reform the process of Gut and Replace whereby the normal process of legislative vetting through committee is subverted. These attempts will likely fail except around the edges as the process is seen by legislators as too useful to completely die.

Money and access are the grist of politics. The administrative rules that enable access are the key to getting influence and the fundamental ways things get done will unlikely be moved dramatically. People and organizations that understand the administrative processes of access will always do better than those who don’t.

PRESIDENT Gwen closed the meeting by thanking **Neal Milner** and announcing that next Tuesday our guest speaker is **John Fink**, President & CEO Of Aloha United Way, Columnist for Midweek, Author And Public Speaker. John’s Topic Is “An Overview of Hawaii’s Nonprofits and What’s Next – Now And Post-Pandemic.”

The Meeting closed with our video of Hawaii Aloha featuring members of our club including **PE Lyla Berg, Bub Wo, Erin Auerbach, Paul Saito, Kent Reinker, Pres Gwen Yamamoto Lau, Ann Stamp Miller, and Past President Rich Proctor.**

Respectfully submitted, **David M Shanahan**, Scribe