

ROTARY CLUB OF HONOLULU
ROYAL HAWAIIAN HOTEL MONARCH ROOM
DATE: DECEMBER 3, 2019
PRESIDING: PRESIDENT PAUL SAITO

Prior to the official start of the meeting of the Rotary Club of Honolulu, members, visitors and guests were welcomed by **Brian Dunkel**, **Kekoa Tsukikawa**, **Haumea Ho**, and **Martha German** handling registration duties.

President Paul Saito called the meeting of the Rotary Club of Honolulu to order at 12:00 pm. After the President's welcome, **Brian Dunkel** inspired us by encouraging all to recall holiday memories. **Maria Lopez Haney** led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Kent Reinker** led us in America the Beautiful, accompanied by **Craig Robinson** on the piano. **Alice Tucker** introduced our guests and special visitors.

President Paul Saito announced club anniversaries for the week of December 3 to December 9, including **Kerri Van Duyne** who has been a Club member for 6 years, **Bub Wo**, a Club member for 34 years, **Jeff Martin**, a Club member for 1 year, **Jack Roney**, a Club member for 1 year, **Montine Hansl**, a Club member for 13 years, **Ludwig Seidl**, a Club Member for 13 years, **Jack Dwyer**, a Club member for 36 years, **Walt Flood**, a Club Member for 3 years, **Edwina Lee**, a Club member for 6 years, and **Erik Soderholm**, a Club member for 36 years. Do y'all realize that this is a total of 149 combined years?! Wow!

There were several announcements. **Robyn McCreary** announced a Gift Bag Giving Out event on December 11, 2019. Christmas gift bags prepared by residents of Kahala Nui will be given to folks in the Palama Settlement area. **Lyla Berg** announced the Holiday Community Service Activity at Shriners and Fernhurst on December 19, 2019. Sounds like fun! And **James Pierce** announced a toiletries drive for IHS. **James** volunteered to deliver your donations of toiletries such as bar soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste (and rice and saimin), to IHS. Bring these items to the next meeting. Volunteers are also needed for the IHS December 26 dinner service.

Club member **Don Anderson** introduced our guest speaker, Laurie Moore, Executive Director of Armed Services YMCA, who presented on "Strengthening Military Families in Hawaii." Laurie is an energetic lady who has doubled the services of the Armed Services YMCA under her leadership at the same time as keeping the budget balanced. She was recently named as the Hawaii Nonprofit Executive of the Year by the Cades Schutte Foundation.

Laurie began her discussion by describing the origins of the Armed Services YMCA. It began in 1861 through coffee wagons serving soldiers from both the North and the South in the Civil War. The coffee wagon continues to serve as a symbol of delivering comfort. Its roots in Hawaii began in the original Royal Hawaiian Hotel which was located downtown at the corner of Richards and Hotel Streets. Later it moved to what is now the Hawaii State Art Museum, where it remained until the late 1980's. In the beginning, its mission was to

deliver “organized entertainment” to military members and was known as the “Army-Navy YMCA.” It acquired its name of Armed Services YMCA later. After December 7, 1941, the Red Cross asked the Army-Navy YMCA to provide assistance to 1000 misplaced families in Honolulu, which it did.

In the 1980’s, the mission of the Armed Services YMCA evolved to serving military personnel and their entire families. The Department of Defense recognized that deployments, separations, and other unique military situations create special challenges in military families and that support in various forms was required. The Armed Services YMCA works to provide educational and social programs to assist military personnel and their families. They work with commanders to meet the needs of the personnel and to support their families.

Laurie outlined a few of the many programs which the Armed Services YMCA of Honolulu created, supports and administers. These programs include the Children’s Waiting Room at Tripler Army Medical Center, where child care is provided for children who are waiting for other members of their family who are being seen and treated. The Armed Services YMCA of Honolulu sponsors Operation Hero, which helps the student children of military members with academic, emotional and social support. Camp Hero is a 10 week program which teaches children what their military parents are doing. The Armed Services YMCA also provides many early childhood education and learning readiness programs. Laurie described other programs which the Armed Services YMCA provides. Laurie concluded her discussion with an invitation to contribute to the Armed Services YMCA.

Laurie then addressed questions from the audience.

The meeting concluded by the members singing *Hawaii Aloha*.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Karin Holma, Scribe