

**ROTARY CLUB OF HONOLULU
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES
04 January 2022
PRESIDING: PRESIDENT GWEN YAMAMOTO LAU**

CALL TO ORDER

President Gwen called the meeting to order at noon, welcomed everyone for attending, and gave thanks to the participants of the day.

Inspiration by Rich Proctor:

I take it as no coincidence that on 1/1/22 the first article I read on the NYT was titled “Volunteering is a Cure for Loneliness”. We all know that loneliness is pervasive and since COVID it’s become an epidemic. Today 3 in 5 Americans report feeling lonely. Since the pandemic ¼ of all people over 65 feel isolated and detached from their loved ones and friends.

Studies show that volunteering can ease feelings of loneliness and improve health. And why is this? Most of you get it because you’re Rotarians and giving to others is second nature. I know how I feel after working for the benefit of others.

Volunteering, for me, acts as a buffer against stress. I feel more in balance and more positive about myself and others. Working with others physically enables connections that don’t exist when sitting at home, and even being on Zoom.

Opportunities for giving back are more commonplace now, even with COVID restrictions, whether volunteering for Rotary projects or committees or volunteering for other organizations with which you have a connection. As we start 2022 the RCOH will present today ideas and opportunities for you to become involved with our projects. If you think you will have time constraints, start small and work your way up. Join a committee. Say “yes” when called upon to serve. And if it’s not for Rotary, find another organization that needs your help.

So if you’re feeling lonely and disconnected – get involved, volunteer, and the benefit will be better health and a better sense of wellbeing. Rotary and your community need you.

Aloha

Sally Mist led the *Pledge of Allegiance* and **Kent Reinker** led our singing of *The National Anthem*.

Visitors welcomed by **Club Pres. Gwen** included Rotarians **Robert Comper** (CA and HI) and **Kevin Parle** (UK), soon-to-be-inducted Nancy Youngren, and prospective member Chris Edwards.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

January Club Birthdays

Max Besenbruch	1/1	Paul Saito	1/21
Linda Coble	1/10	Keane Santos	1/24
Rob Van Tassell	1/16	Mitch Weld	1/28
Karin Holma	1/19	Madeleine Gardner	1/30
Kathie Cooke	1/21		

Centennial Park Weeding Opportunities – **Peg Jackson** reminded everyone that Friday (1/7) is our first Pau Hana Weeding of 2022, from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm. Second weeding opportunity will be Saturday (1/15) from 8:00 am to 10:00 am. Thanks to **Bob Sumpf** who brings weeding equipment. **Peg** brings kneepads. Bring water and wear sunblock and hats! Bring gloves if you have them. Let's get together for our community!

RCOH Luncheon at Café Julia – **Tom Coyne** announced today was the last day to RSVP for your spot to attend our meeting in person! It will be a hybrid meeting.

Breakout Rooms: Topic was about hopes for you, family, Club and/or community for 2022.

ANNUAL CLUB ASSEMBLY UPDATE REPORTS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

President Gwen Yamamoto Lau began by sharing:

On July 6, 2021, your Board shared their plans and visions for this Rotary year. At this halfway mark, we'd like to provide an update and plans for the remaining fiscal year. One of the goals this year was to update Club Operations and I am happy to report that 45% of our members opted to pay their annual dues by check, which decreased the time and expense of Martha running 244 credit card charges during the year.

Additionally, 91% of our members have been engaged by attending meetings, helping at service projects, or contributing to the Foundation *Service Above Self* for the first six months of this year.

Our next Action Item will be to review the Club's Constitution and Bylaws to determine if they need updating.

Rotary Foundation President – Joanna Amberger:

Funds:

1. *Paul Harris* – This is a Rotary International Fund so your donations to Paul Harris annual campaign are sent to Rotary International.
2. *John Warren* – These funds are for immediate use. When you donate to the John Warren fund, it is used in the year donated. This fund is used to support club projects and Administration.

3. *Maile Hale* – This is a permanent fund; an Endowment kind of fund, which means the earnings are only for Service Projects. So when you donate, your funds go into the corpus and the earnings are used to go to support our club service. How we calculate the available balance, or the available amount that goes to the Club, is up to 4% of the five-year average balance out of the earnings.
4. *Will J. Henderson* - This funds our annual local scholarship.

Goals:

1. For the Foundation to build the corpus to \$1,000,000 (1 million), and once we hit that goal, to begin distributions from the Foundation to begin club projects.
2. We are working on redefining what our current goals are. But the idea is that the Endowment Funds will provide stable and reliable funding for our club projects, and this would be able to substantially fund those service projects that we support every year. Ultimately this will reduce the need for our annual fund raising.
3. The Trustees are in the process of working on our goals for the upcoming year.

Governance:

- We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, so we have a charitable purpose requirement.
- There are nine Trustees that oversee the Foundation. They are staggered 3-year terms and our Club members elect the Trustees.
- The Trustees provide oversight and due diligence in managing the investments, spearhead the fundraising, and provide oversight to make sure the funds are used according to donor intent so that we can maintain that charitable purpose.

Annual Campaign:

- As many of you know we have an annual campaign - sometimes it might not feel like it is annual – but we have a one-time ask each year. Other clubs engage in year-round funding when different projects come up. We decided years ago to eliminate repeated, constant, funding requests, and to have a single ask from our members, which allows us to strategically plan for our annual service projects.
- In the current year, the Foundation provided about \$90,000 for club scholarships and service projects. Then the annual campaign, which we just closed out, had a total pledged amount of \$103,000, so congratulations everybody! Out of that \$103,000 about:
 - \$30,000 was donated to the *John Warren Fund*, which means this is money that will be made available to the club for next years' service projects.
 - \$28,000 was donated to the *Maile Hale Fund*, so that will be added to the corpus and then those earnings will continue to support our future service projects.
 - \$5,000 was added to the *Will Henderson Scholarship* corpus.

- \$17,000 was donated to the *Paul Harris Fund*, which was sent to Rotary International.
- \$23,000 of the donations were undesignated. The Trustees will allocate where that \$23,000 goes, depending on the needs of the club.
- Approximate balance amount of funds currently:
 - *Maile Hale Fund* - \$2,000,000 (2 million) and that is spinning off earnings.
 - *Will Henderson Fund* - \$280,000.
- The amounts that can be spent each year are based on a 5-year rolling average of our balances. So as the corpus grows larger, we will be able to generate more income from our investments. So at \$2,000,000 (2 million), approximately \$80,000 (80 thousand) can be spent from earnings, but again, we are catching up based on our previous fundraising experiences.

Thank you everybody for your generosity. We will be kicking off the campaign again later this year. Please look for and stay tuned to those details and listen to the rest of the Club Assembly to see how those funds are used.

Club Trainer – Rich Proctor:

Thank you, **Joanna!** That was very instructive and one of the things members should know about.

As your Club Trainer, it is my job to bring information to the membership that others may not be bringing, in order to improve your Rotary IQ and help you, and all Rotarians, in our Club to understand the relationship of our Club to Rotary at large.

For example, this month is Vocational Service Month in Rotary and throughout the country and throughout the world. Rotary is promoting that doing business with Rotarians is good for the recipient, the buyer, and the club. You will learn more about Vocational Service from **Rick Tabor**.

Beyond this, my job is to conduct orientation for new members and prospective members. I am also coordinating with the **Erin Auerbach** and **Bob Sumpf** for the *Hui' Ho'owali* meetings. There are new member social/information events that we want to have on a regular basis. Back in the day, we utilized this format for turning a yellow badge into a white badge. We don't wear the badges on Zoom, but hopefully someday we will be back to wearing them. We have a new box that **Tom** put together with all the badges in it. We have had several orientations in the last six months and had a successful Hui/Social meeting last month.

So going forward in the next six months, I am intending to find and bring relevant information to the membership, so I will be inserting myself into the meetings from time to time. I will conduct more member orientations as we have members that come on board and at least one more Hui meeting and several Pau Hana with COVID permitting – let's pray things get better!

If anyone has questions concerning the Club, the District, or Rotary International, please send me an email or give me a call and I will be happy to talk to you about it.

Treasurer - Kevin Hall:

The Rotary Club itself is a 501(c)(4), a Member Organization, so it is a little different than a non-profit. Most of the funds that go to the budget that we get annually come from two different places.

1. Membership Dues: Dues usually cover things like
 - a. Administration salary for **Martha**, our one employee,
 - b. Lunches which cover guests and **Martha** who join our meetings,
 - c. And other items similar that need covered each month.
2. Foundation Fund: Part of the \$90,000 covers service projects.

The Budget is reviewed, discussed, and voted on at the Board meetings every month to make sure we are following all Rules and Regulations that are set out by the Club. Be assured that the Budget is voted on every month to make sure the spending is going to the right places.

The Budget: This year we have done a good job of staying on budget. We predicted this year's dues to be at 140 members, but we were lower than that, which caused us to be a little lower on the revenue side. But on the same token, because of COVID, there has been less expense on the lunch costs. We now have a surplus of approximately \$256. We are doing an excellent job. Our actual net asset balance is \$46,970 and we typically target right about \$50,000 to remain in a comfortable position to make sure all of our costs are met and that we keep a comfortable position in our bank accounts.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me.

Weekly Operations - Tom Coyne:

[**Tom** and **Kevin** Zoomed in from the same room and they highly recommend it!]

We all know how important it is and how valuable it is that we meet in person. The goals are to meet in person and find one consistent venue that works for our needs:

- Hybrid Meetings: Will be held the first & third Tuesdays of every month, meaning we will be live and Zooming together. This begins this month. However, part of the difficulty we are having is to find a venue where we can have these hybrid meetings. **Tuesday, Jan. 11, we have a meeting at Café Julia.**
- Café Julia: We decided that Café Julia is the best option for our club. It has the best set up for our hybrid meetings and has a capacity up to 200 people, assuming that is allowed. There is Public Parking in the building next door, at Ali'i Place.

We want our meetings to be consistent, everyone can plan knowing the first and third weeks will be live hybrid meetings at Café Julia, until the Monarch Room

becomes available again. I want to emphasize that this is temporary. **Our goal is to end up back in the Monarch Room at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel.** A year ago, I would have thought we'd be there right now, so I am making NO predictions for 2022. We are going to try and be as consistent as we can be with this.

One more thing, believe it or not, we have a **Beer Festival** scheduled for June 25 at the Bishop Museum. Assuming we can do this, it will be outdoors. Put this on your calendar. We will be seeking 20-25 volunteers from our club to assist. Hopefully we will be able to do this and begin to do more events!

Secretary - Scotty Anderson:

I've been tasked with trying to figure out what we are going to do with all the stuff we have in storage at the office that we rarely go to these days. There are pictures and memorabilia. As I asked the last time, if anyone has any ideas on how to store them, let me know. Our club is over 100 years old and we have pictures going back.

My question is: How do we store them going forward? We can do something on the Cloud, but that isn't free. If someone can come up with some brilliant [Scotty paused a moment as he had a brilliant thought.] Probably the guy at Punahou would know this because they have to keep all the memorabilia. My dad was Captain of the '29 Football team. Anyway, there must be a way to do this that is logical, sensible, and doable. I don't have an answer, but I'd sure like to hear from someone who might have one.

Thank you very much!

Weekly Programs – Beth-Ann Kozlovich:

Hello, everyone!

Thanks for all the information about the memories that we have from the past. Looking to the future, my job is to create speaker programs that will engage and entice members to join us.

We told you at the beginning of the Rotary year that we were looking to restructure. We have been doing just that. We went from a very tiny group of us to two handfuls of people who are diligent in creating good program with positive feedback from the membership. The other goal was to create variety for everyone so that we have different speakers that will appeal, things that are historical, educational, cover topical issues, and more, so there is an interest for everyone to keep showing up weekly.

We have been challenged by uncertainty of whether meetings will be in person or by Zoom. Next week we are scheduled to hear from Ernie Lau from the Board of Water Supply, live and hope that will go forward. There are wonderful speakers with good fellowship, some of the reasons we joined Rotary. For all these reasons and more, we want great speakers, who are truly compelling and engaging so we

have something for everybody, even though not everyone will be enthralled every time, we hope we have enough of a variety so that in the aggregate, we will have enough wonderful, compelling speakers to keep us coming back weekly whether in person or on Zoom.

For any member who would like to recommend a speaker, there is a Speaker Recommendation form in the *Tradewind*. All suggestions will be reviewed, and you can engage in this.

Membership Recruitment - Erin Auerbach:

[Erin was stuck in a COVID testing line at the airport, so Bob shared her updates.]

- Current membership count is 135 active, and 3 honorary. Since July we have added eight new members, and four members resigned.
- We had a good Pau Hana/Hui on December 7 with about ten potential members in attendance. One new member, **Nancy Youngren**, will be inducted next week.
- Weekly meeting attendance is averaging around 42%-45% of membership.

Member Retention - Bob Sumpf:

- **Lee LaBrash** continues to do a wonderful job as chair of the Sunshine committee, bringing sunshine to members in need of support. Please contact **Lee** if you would like to participate as a member of the Sunshine committee.
- On December 8th, **Martha** sent out the 2021-2022 member roster prepared by **PP Carol Sakata**. If you missed it, let **Martha** know. Please look over the roster. It would be great to have members reach out to those Rotarians who, for whatever reason, may not have been attending the Tuesday meetings and encourage/facilitate their participation.
- We are looking to revitalize the Member Activities committee. We currently don't have a chairperson for this. We need someone to step up and become a chair and plan social activities. Beyond RATPack and Park Care, there have not been many opportunities for member activities. Covid restrictions notwithstanding, it would be great to organize some social activities. If you would like to be a part of the Member Activities committee, please contact **Bob Sumpf**.

Community Service – Lyla Berg:

I want to resonate with Bob for all of us to find someone on the roster that we haven't seen and to reach out and call them. Hearing someone's voice means so much right now. From the Community Service's prospective, it is who we are and what we do.

The 4 major district priorities this year:

1. Increase our impact (more visibility and varied activities to "find the need and fill it")
2. Expand our reach (collaboration with other clubs, agencies, and organizations)
3. Engage our members (variety of activities, including social)

4. Increase adaptability (personal and professional growth opportunities)

Activities suspended this year due to health situation:

- Eco/Environmental – we now partner with other clubs, specifically the Eco Club of Kakaako. There are funds left. Looking for ideas on how to enrich the environment. I was looking to organize a march down to the Navy Base and encourage those wonderful people to help our water system.
- Holiday Activity – It was not possible to get into Shriner’s Hospital or Fernhurst Women’s Residence, so the funds were reallocated to other projects.
- Literacy Project – no access to schools, so **Diana Sakurai’s** Literacy was put on hold, but will be back on the books for next year.

Projects Accomplished and Ongoing activities:

- RATPack
 - Nov. 2021 - Lunalilo Home Restoration with Painters Union. (Mahalo to **Reese, Ben, Poki`i, Gwen** for organizing)
- Upcoming
 - Rotary Village cabins at Camp Erdman Renovation - jalousies, ceiling fans, doors, whatever is necessary to make it more livable. (Mahalo to **Don Anderson** and **Reese** for initiating)
 - Kalihi-Palama Center Renovation (Initiated by **Poki`i**)
- Centennial Park Care [NEW]
 - Twice a month weeding and maintenance (Mahalo to **Peg Jackson & Bob Sumpf** for organizing). Many clubs have come together with us to weed and plant and to enjoy the work as well.
- Rotary Gives Thanks
 - Specific activities TBD by U45’s (Mahalo to **Amanda Kelly** for facilitating). They are still articulating and trying to figure out how to spend their \$2,500.00 in the next six months.
- Kōkua Kupuna
 - 9 Hearing aids for eligible senior citizens (see **Rick Tabor** or **Martha** for link to flyer). Many are in need, surely we can help find at least nine!

Peacemakers:

- ‘Olelo (Statewide) Youth Xchange Video Contest – judging for our sponsored category, “Creating Peace”, a project on all islands, will be in March if you would like to join the Peacemakers committee. The awards ceremony will be held by ‘Olelo in April at the Convention Center. There is still time to have youth enter – see TW for the flyer!
- Pledge to Promote Peace - District leadership to promote
 - Our very own **Ben Eger** ran for Peace and organized a Rotary group for the Marathon!
 - Dec. 2021 - Volunteers for Rotary Marathon “District Team” Water Station showed up at 4am, which was a little early for me, but **Gwen** was a designated Fairy Godmother. So if you went, THANK YOU SO MUCH!

The sky is the limit for new members and guests just tuning in. Whatever your heart can think about, we can initiate! Please let us know and thank you for being a part of the Club this year.

International Service - Ann Miller:

Aloha Rotarians, I want to give a shout out to those who serve on the International Committee.

Nancy Pace, Hai Cha Lambert, and Hiroko Dewitz head up the sister club aspect of this committee and do a fabulous job for us. **Dave Shanahan** and **Don Anderson** plan the overseas portion and help establish new projects for our members on the international front.

Madeleine Gardner joined the committee in 2021 and I hear that Nancy Youngren is going to get involved as well. For any Rotarians interested in joining our committee, I will put my email in the chat so feel free to contact me.

At the Dec. 14 meeting, we toasted the Rotary Club of Taipei on their recent 73rd charter anniversary. **President Gwen** sent them a congratulatory email plus a video of us raising a glass on their behalf. Thanks also to **Brian Dunkel** for helping make this video a reality!

Don Anderson has been communicating with a contact of his in Sri Lanka in hopes of planning a hands-on project for October 2022. Sri Lanka is getting a proposal together and we should know more in the coming new year. We are hoping to have at least 20-30 participants on our end to help with this project. Stay tuned.

Youth Services - Brian Dunkel:

As you probably can imagine, we had struggles in Youth Services with Interact Club. The high schools were not interested in having their kids go out and running around doing useful things. Rotaract also struggled, especially with Youth Exchange, which has been district wide. We are hopeful things will get better.

A couple of bright spots – the district wide RYLA activity is happening in a few weeks. We are having weekly meetings, putting everything into place. We have about 20 kids signed up with a goal of 100. A few of us, I know from the Club, have been going to the Oahu planning meetings in addition to the District wide planning meetings. Thank you! If anyone is interested, we will need help with delivering pizzas, and other things. Please contact **Brian** or **Rick Tabor**.

I received positive feedback at the last District Youth Services Chair meeting talking about a District wide, sort of multi-tiered, Four-Way Test Speech/Essay Contest. Look for information on the Speech contest in the new few weeks.

Reminder: The Deadline for the HRYF Scholarships is coming up in February. Hopefully, we will get some good traction with this as well.

That's my report!

Rotary Relations - Donalyn Dela Cruz:

Rotary Relations rundown:

- Social media: Facebook Followers are at 949. Instagram followers are at 5,067. Even if you don't follow one of them, if you give a 'Like' it will place it at the top of other feeds.
- The goal was to increase Facebook followers. December 2021 numbers increased so we are on our way of gaining more followers.
- In December we had good things for promoting our Centennial Park, as well as Lunalilo, and then our Holiday Luncheon. So this has given some good reach.
- Media Promotions: We have had good media promotions from the volunteer work we have been doing [such as the Lunalilo Home project]. Look forward to connecting with **Peg** and others so we can continue to that.

Thank you very much.

Vocational Services - Rick Tabor:

1. Marketplace Trade Show: Tuesday, Feb. 1 at Noon @ Julia's in Fuller Hall. Lunch will be served. \$50 per table, another \$50 to be a sponsor. 12 vendors. Notify **Martha & Rick** to RSVP.
2. Vocational Minutes are given on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday. One-to-two-minute company presentations. Feb. 18 is our next Vocational Minute. Please let **Rick** know if you'd like to share your job with us.
3. Vocational Meetings are held twice a year. The next Vocational Meeting is on March 8th. Three members will each talk about their business. Again, please let **Rick** know if you'd like to present.
4. Paul Harris Events, with **Samantha Hass & Gwen's** assistance: We enjoyed the zoo tour, Goodwill, and the Art Museum. Hopefully when the Holiday Covid surge subsides, we can start those fun events again.
5. RYLA & Gift of Sound were covered by **Brian & Lyla**. Thank you!

CLOSING

President Gwen gave thanks for all their hard work and shared her and all our appreciation for them. Anyone who may have questions are invited to remain after the meeting to receive answers. **Gwen** stated that we wouldn't want to miss next week's meeting with the Board of Water Supply's manager Ernie Lau, on the controversial Red Hill Water issue. As Tom mentioned previously, the luncheon will be held at Café Julia/Fuller Hall. Everyone was encouraged today's meeting and by email to contact **Martha** right away to RSVP.

Virtual Meeting Maestro **Brian Dunkel** played our *Hawaii Aloha* video in closing.

Photographer **Robyn McCreary** took photos.

Pres. Gwen closed the meeting at 1:03 pm.

Anyone who wished to remain after the meeting and ask questions were given time to do so. **Robyn** asked about the social media tags. **Alice** asked where the weekly pictures are placed - they are shared in the *Tradewind* and on our Club website.

Humbly Submitted,
Lee LaBrash, Scribe