

Rotary Minutes February 9, 2021

After a pre-meeting discussion of the need to once again see lips and noses, **President Rich Proctor** called the February 9, 2021, Rotary Club of Honolulu meeting to order at twelve noon. **Tom Coyne** gave an informative inspiration about the origins of the Valentine's Day tradition, including the history of the three martyred Saint Valentines right up to the fact that 145 million valentines are purchased each year. **Sally Mist** led the Pledge to the Flag and **Al Linton** the singing of "America the Beautiful". **President Rich** welcomed visitors, who included Lee Donaldson, Robert Comper, and Kevin Parle from Great Britain. Also present was Hideo Yamanaka from Kyoto. **Lucci Pinoliad** gave a Vocational Minute about her management consulting business and the trend toward digitization in that industry. Member birthdays for the upcoming week include **Judy Lind**, February 12, and **Mike Herb**, February 15. Member anniversaries for the week include **Bob Robinson** (56 years!), **Nancy Grekin** (13 years) and **Dave Shanahan** (15 years).

President Rich thanked members for their input about possible speakers and club projects during the past two weeks' breakout sessions and urged the club members to find ways to make things happen. Highlighting the daylight we are seeing with local diminishing Covid numbers, he announced this week's breakout question, "Where will you travel next and why?"

Following the breakout sessions, **President Rich** introduced **Past President Bub Wo** who introduced Jennine Sullivan, a local girl, who is the Executive Director of The Pantry for a discussion. He cited the good work of The Pantry and the opening of the Centennial Park as the two highlights in a very difficult year for him. After years of impressive business involvement on the mainland, (see Friday's *Tradewind*), Ms. Sullivan returned to head The Pantry and its efforts to address food insecurity in Honolulu. One in five in Honolulu experience food insecurity. After moving in April because of Kakaako development, the 20 year old organization opened in Kalihi and served eight families on its first day. Last Friday they served 475 families. The numbers served sky-rocketed from 2,000/month in April/May to 13,000 month currently. Volunteers make it happen. She and one other are the only paid staff. What singles out this organization is that it is the only one in the country that provides weekly service to families. Others are only monthly and/or serve with occasional food drives. **Bub** took members on a virtual tour of the facility, while Jennine narrated. Shelves of food and coolers filled with meat and fish products were evident and impressive. Volunteers were dodging out of sight. Also shown were the custom packed boxes of food. Families email or call in their orders, which volunteers fill and then distribute to cars as the families arrive. Needless to say, volunteers are incredibly important. **Bub** and his wife have been volunteering once or twice a week since last April. He encouraged the club and individuals to become involved. Funds of our club that had to be repurposed because of Covid were given to several local food charities. The money received by The Pantry from RCOH enabled them to buy a huge, new freezer which can hold 32 palletes of food, compared to not quite one in the old freezer, and has a door wide enough for palletes to be rolled inside. Jennine said it was an enormously important contribution and was most appreciated. After a question from **Bub** asking what she would like to see happen in the future, Jennine mentioned working on an app which gives better access to clients, an affiliation with Leeward CC to teach about cooking, partnering with health services to teach about healthy

food, and to build more partnerships so no-one goes hungry. **Bub** closed the duo's presentation by plumbing his deep trove of Chinese proverbs and applied a common one to the operations of The Pantry. Maestro **Brian Dunkel** opened up the Q & A from the Chat Room, which added information and particulars about The Pantry's operation and service.

President Rich thanked the speakers and announced next week's meeting. Wishing everyone a great week, he turned the meeting over to the "Hawaii Aloha" minstrels, and subsequently adjourned the meeting.

Nancy White, Scribe