

Rotary Minutes 9 March 2021

Rotary Club of Honolulu

Speaker: **Lt. Gov. Josh Green: Update on Covid-19**

PRESIDING: **PRESIDENT Rich Proctor**

The inspiration was given by **Amanda Kelly**, who shared a story from the Tao teaching of Chinese philosopher (circa 600 BC) Lao Tzu who charged all to simply “be ourselves” living “close to the ground, in thinking keep[ing] to the simple” and to be Servant leaders serving our community with humility and simplicity.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Julia Allen**. The singing of “the National Anthem” was led by **Kent Reinker**.

President Rich introduced our visitors who included Visiting Rotarians: Elana Levin-Craig, San Diego Lakeside RC CA, Kevin Parle from U.K., Hideo Yamanaka from the Kyoto Club, Izabela Kobylinska, R Lee Donaldson, and Robert Comper. Joining as well were: prospective members Joshua Nam, Madeleine Gardner, Kathie Cooke, and other guests including Byron Eliashof and Nancy Youngren (President Rich’s wife).

Vocational Minute: Rick Tabor spoke on **Generations Magazine** which he joined in October 2020, a bi-monthly “free” Magazine for a “mature” audience. Linda Coble and her ‘First Dude’ Kirk Matthews were the feature article subjects in the 1st issue 10 years ago. They have a comprehensive web site www.generations808.com and the organization’s goal is to be a Hawaii resource for elder life issues. They partner with other non-profits and try to identify complementary ways in which the senior population of the Hawaii can be best served.

Birthdays this Week: March 9-15

Bryan Watkins	3/11
Kitty Yannone	3/11
Rick Towill	3/13
Lyla Berg	3/15

Club Anniversaries:	Jesse Lopez	1 Years	(Sponsor Paul Saito)
	Sid Snyder	51 Years	(Sponsor Bob Robinson)
	Susan Robinson	24 Years	(Sponsor Ray Engle)
	Mitch D’Olier	36 Years	(Sponsor Dallas Smith)

Announcements:

Dave Shanahan announced an update for the Bali International Project that will now be conducted on site 16-20 Aug with bookend RT travel and an optional Bali Tour opportunity after the project. Limited to 32 participants, sign-ups (with \$500 pp deposit) will be exclusively for RCOH members and their families until 1 April. Thereafter other Rotarians and former members will be eligible to sign up. More details are available in the *Tradewind* or by contacting **Dave** at: rotaryshanahan@gmail.com

Lyla Berg announced that the **Peace Committee** would meet after the meeting and will discuss judging the Peacemaker Video Contest and other topics.

Gwen Yamamoto Lau announced an opportunity to support for Pearl Haven Trafficking Victims. PDG Win Schoneman has asked for shopaholic volunteers to purchase food service supplies needed for the April 5th opening of the 20k sq/ft 30 bed residential facility Ho’ola Na Pua. Rotarians will be reimbursed for their purchases. Please contact **Gwen** or Martha if you are interested.

President Rich announced there is limited Gunstock Ranch Tree Planting opportunity on Sat 13 March. Limited space to participate would close today (Tues).

Breakout Discussion:

Club members and guests participated in breakout room discussion with the question:
“Have you gotten a vaccine/will you?, which one did you get?, side effects?”

Program: Lt Gov Joshua Green

Beth-Ann Kozlovich introduced our speaker whose public service as a legislator and now Lt Governor has always held 2d place to his role as a physician. He organized the Samoa measles vaccination mission and efforts to ensure health care for our homeless population. Born in Kingston NY, raised in Pittsburgh PA, BA from Swarthmore College, and medical training at Penn State and University of Pittsburgh. He joined the National Health Service Corps where he was assigned to Hawaii in 2000 to perform as a physician in Rural Hospitals and Clinics on Hawaii Island. He was elected to the Hawaii State House of Representatives in 2004-2008. And then to the Hawaii State Senate from 2008-2018. He is husband to Jamie (wed 15 years), and father to Maya 14, Sam 10.

Lt Gov Green started his presentation with some of the good news statistics describing Hawaii as a success story based on isolation AND policies put into place to protect vulnerable populations; 445 fatalities so far. He encouraged the 3 W's Wear (mask), Wash (hands) Watch (your distance). Though Hawaii has overall done very well we had a significant scare in August when we were down to 10 ICU beds. Safe Travels starting in October has been welcome and very effective in reducing transmission from visitors and has helped the economy open up measuredly and safely. As of today 406,857 have gotten shots. That number is expected to be 900,000+ by the end of May. He predicted Tier 1C (65+ and Medically compromised folks) to be able to receive the vaccine as early as end of March.

Our tiered approach to vaccinations has aided in our good numbers. Though it's a bit slower and focusing initially on higher aged Kapuna (75+, 70+ and then 65+), doing so has allowed rapid vaccination of needed health and other essential workers to keep our economy opening up. As of today we are averaging 47 cases per day statewide and have 23 COVID patients being treated in our hospitals.

Overall effects on the economy have been significant. Dependent of waning tourism revenue our unemployment rate tops the nation and will only slowly move back to pre COVID levels. Ballooned Medicaid /Quest population has placed a strain on our public health system. Food insecurity has skyrocketed, and 11% of population threatened with housing disruption, Unaccounted so far in its long-term effect has been the effect on the community's Mental Health and the resources needed to address it.

Josh predicted that the restrictions related to COVID will be largely over by November. He also made clear that he is called to continued public service and will run for Hawaii State Governor in 2022.

PRESIDENT RICH closed the meeting at 1 pm by announcing that next Tuesday our guest speaker will be **Mark Spain**, new director of the Hawaii-Pacific Islands District Office of the U.S Small Business Administration.

Meeting recording link

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/88K1u3F4HJztH1YTqEdaWgTvbUEad_4nBoRsptACPOIYsR5Ri4TNktPN3lh4_jE.h1vHxEtfeFAZzMzr Passcode: pa^5*R*X

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