

## Rotary Minutes 4/14/20

Member **Brian Dunkel** opened a chat and zoom tutorial at 12:30 pm preceding the regular meeting. Sixty-two members zoomed in by 1 pm when **President Paul Saito** called the meeting to order and welcomed all to the first zoom meeting of the Rotary Club of Honolulu. Two international guests joined the meeting, one from Nigeria and another from Bristol England. **Susan Robinson** gave a poignant inspiration about the importance of keeping in touch during a time such as the one we are now experiencing. **Bob Robinson** led the Pledge of Allegiance and **Lyla Berg** the singing of "God Bless America". **President Paul** listed the birthdays of the week and the club anniversaries. (See the *Tradewind*.) He encouraged members to attend the Rotary International Convention next year in Taiwan. Those who had registered and paid for this year's cancelled convention should have received an email from Rotary International about their refunds. If not, members may contact RI. In response to RI's and the District's encouragement for clubs to get involved in communities during the pandemic, the Executive Committee is meeting tomorrow to discuss what our club can do. Please give them your suggestions. **Rob Hale** gave an update on the status of the Centennial Park. Basically the project is on schedule, despite a few glitches, and looks to be completed in early June. Trees are to be planted next week. **Reese Liggett** will be organizing a hands-on project needing volunteers for part of the upcoming work. **Rob** encouraged those who have made pledges to pay them now, as bills for work done must be paid. He indicated that the doings at the park have engendered a lot of interest. **Dave Shanahan** gave a report on the international projects. The funds for the Philippines project were received and put to use despite the pandemic. However, the volunteers from our club and the Japanese Rotary club were unable to travel to Manila to participate. Both **Dave** and **Don Anderson**, who were in Bali and Manila respectively, ran into travel difficulties, thanks to the virus—but are safely home. **Dave** described the next project, building a dormitory in a small town in Bali, which will allow rural students to attend secondary school. It is planned for August 15-19, virus permitting. He will have a zoom meeting in early May about the project. **PE Rich Proctor** gave a brief report about the PETS conference he attended. An on-line District Conference is being planned for July.

The day's program dealt with the enhancement of Kupuna resources during the Covid-19 crisis. **Rick Tabor** introduced the three program speakers. Kathy Wyatt of Hale Hau'oli Day Care Center presented first and described the transitions her center has had to make because of the crisis. Hau'oli Day Care Center is for adults with diminishing mental abilities and serves clients whose caregivers are currently essential workers. She described the practices set up to keep everyone safe (not one has yet gotten the virus) and the change in daytime programs to keep the attendees occupied since they no longer can have visitors or go on individual outings. Michelle Cordero-Lee of Hawaii Meals on Wheels, one of five Meals on Wheels organizations on island, described the significant changes her program has had to make since the quarantines began. The organization is volunteer driven. Of the 300 volunteers, 80% are older than 60 and no longer allowed to deliver meals. This organization's specialty was delivering hot meals and medically prescribed meals. Because of the drastic loss of delivery volunteers, there has been a shift to frozen meals supplying for one or two weeks. There are still some daily deliveries for those who have no one in the home who can prepare the meals or who are in hospice. Since the crisis began,

they have been slammed by phone calls of many, many more people who need their services. They are part of a Kupuna Food Security Coalition that has been organized in the last three weeks, that includes 15 different agencies. Some restaurants have organized and are supplying 600 meals a day, which need delivering. The former eligibility age to receive deliveries of 65 has been lowered to 55 because of the crisis. She said there is much need and much generosity in the community. Our club member **Dr. Poki'i Balaz** of Kokua Kalihi Family Services and Project Grace was the third speaker. Her agency caters to bringing resources into the home of those 55 and older in the Kalihi area. It (usually) has a wellness center, after-school programs, gardens, bike building, etc. They serve people of 29 different languages. They have had to suspend their usual programs and are delivering meals in cooperation with Kamehameha Schools. She also works with an agency in the Lunalilo area, where there are new lockdown protocols for residents and staff members. Because of the importance of socialization for the residents and that now visitors are not allowed, tele-visits have been set up for residents and their families. They are incorporating more socialization projects within the daily programs. There is a need for contributions of clocks, radios, fidget toys, etc. One of the major questions asked of residents and their families is do they have a plan should someone become ill, resident or caregiver. They are encouraged to make plans and to complete advance directives. Her slide presentation gave many of the facts about both agencies. People are encouraged to know their resources, many of which she listed on slides. On a broader scale there is much concern for those in the gap years, who do not qualify for the usual resources, those who have graduated from high school (no school meals) and 55 years of age.

**President Paul** thanked the speakers and explained that a book would be donated to Palolo Elementary School. There was a Q&A with the speakers after the formal adjournment.

**Nancy White**, Scribe