

Rotarians gathered on-screen for one of our rare Zoom-only meetings, and we were fortunate to have such a terrific speaker, fun breakouts and energizing meeting led by **President Lyla Berg**. A healthy-looking **Al Linton** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and in singing God Bless America. In his inspiration, **Rick Tabor** noted all the special days of May we celebrate, including Mother's Day...and he noted the value of Mental Health Awareness Month. Rick noted Rotary's next International President's focus will be on Peace and Mental Health, with his theme "Create Hope in The World".

President Lyla shared the quote that 'adversity gives birth to greatness', and it was with that in mind, we shared breakout time in on-line groups to discuss: when it comes to adversity, what is our silver lining? I am sure your chat was as engaging and fun as mine.

Samantha Haas was called on to introduce our speaker, President and CEO of Chamber of Commerce Hawai'i Sherry Menor-McNamara. Sherry shared her upbringing in Hilo, where her mother is a 40-year member of the RC of Hilo. After college on the mainland, Sherry returned to Hawaii, and for 17 years has been with the Chamber of Commerce Hawai'i in Honolulu...the last 10 years as President/CEO (the first female in that position in the Chamber's 173-year history...and the first Asian to serve as a Chamber leader in the nation).

There are 2,000 business and non-profit members representing 200,000 employees in Hawai'i. Sherry outlined the Chamber's services, noting the Education and Workforce Development service is especially important in working with the community to develop a talent pipeline of students, businesses and non-profits, healthcare engineers, IT, and other community members to proactively foster partnerships and collaboration.

Sherry was asked about the Chamber's response to the Red Hill debacle, and she said long-term conversations are in the works...the Navy must re-build its trust relationships within the community. Another question concerned agriculture in the islands, and Sherry said the Chamber is supporting farmers in identifying wholistic and comprehensive approaches to the seed-stage and beyond. Sherry said we are on the right track for a healthy economic future, noting among other things...recent construction and tourism stimulation. Hawai'i is unique, she noted. The Aloha Spirit fosters partnerships and collaborations, to strengthen the business community...and will help us to get out of the 'worst workplace' category.

President Lyla suggested Rotarians can be helpful and adjourned our meeting with a video of Hawaii youngsters singing our closing mele.

Respectfully Submitted with Aloha,
PP, PDG **Linda Coble**