

Rotary Minutes 12 Jul 2022

Rotary Club of Honolulu Hybrid Meeting – Nico's Upstairs

PRESIDING: **PRESIDENT Lyla Berg**

The meeting started prelude with a playing of the John Lennon's *Imagine* signifying our new Rotary Year Motto of the same name.

President Lyla started the meeting by recognizing the lovely venue and the staff who served us. She then recognized three guests: Peter Grossman who has applied for membership in our Club; Amy and Jaisen Stango from Philadelphia who are exploring Rotary; and Nicole Rodriguez who is transferring to our club from Honolulu Sunset in the next couple weeks.

President Lyla decided rather than the traditional bell to start and close our meeting she would instead use a **Lā'au Kīkē** or Hawaiian Poi Pounder gavel. She described the significance of Poi pounding in Hawaiian Culture and recognized the great gift **Past President Gwen** has given to her to use in carrying out the mission of our Club in fostering nurturing and righteousness in our hearts and our community.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Eileen Hilton** (on Zoom). The singing of "Hawaii Pono'i Anthem" was led by **Kent Reinker**.

The inspiration was given by **Bob Sigall**, who spoke of the tenuous connection between our Club and Disney Mouseketeer Annette Funicello. He played one of her songs from which in the instrumental portion was taken the theme music for Johnny Carson's *Tonight Show*. This theme music was used by **PP Gwen** to open all our meeting during her just-completed tenure as President. It was written by Paul Anka and entitled *Its Really Love*. Stitch Henderson the bandmaster was not enamored with giving the limelight of writing the headline music but when Paul Anka offered Johnny Carson half of writing credit and royalties Johnny agreed to use the music. The music played 1.4 mil times while Carson was heading the *Tonight Show* and generated in its prime about \$800k each per year. Annette Funicello produced an album of Hawaiian songs the most successful of which was entitled *Pineapple Express*.

PDG Linda Coble shared her reflections on our past in the inaugural of a meeting feature going forward entitled: **Our Club Our Story**. In her reflection Linda first posed the "Why" question. Why are we here, why do we gather, why do we stay. PDG Linda recalled her 1987 introduction to Rotary and breaking through the barriers of what had been an all-male organization. She described the lifting of the "testosterone curtain" and the solicitation of her KGMB colleague Tucker Gratz who expounded the wonders of "RI" which Linda came to learn was not about Rhode Island but Rotary International. She agreed to come into Rotary to support the handful of women who had joined RCH in the aftermath of its opening to women. She said she found a family, a place to sweat together in projects and later to be able to speak on behalf of the Club as its first female President and later the first female District Governor. She recalled the embrace and

support our Club gave to her when her beloved husband of 35 years "First Dude" Kirk Matthews died. Her final commendation to all was: So think about "Why" you are here in that seat each Tuesday and how we can keep each other encouraged to make a difference through our service above self.

President Lyla introduced the breakout discussions by reflecting that what spills out of our cup reflects what is inside. What is inside our Club's cup?

Breakout Room/Table Discussion - "How would you describe our club in an elevator ride?"

Program:

Pres Lyla – Gave an overview of what this coming year *Imagine* would emphasize and thereafter invited the Club Directors to give an overview of their respective areas of oversight. She described the focus of this year will be the care and comfort of our members – both our legacy members, present members, new members, framing all the things we do and the decisions we make in terms of what is best and fair to all concerned. The objectives that we will focus on are increasing our impact, better engaging our members, and increasing our adaptability. Our board is charged with finding ways to better Inform, Inspire, Influence, and Increase our Impact.

Tom Coyne – Weekly Operations - We will need to find a home for the Club after 61 years at the Monarch Room of the Royal Hawaiian. We will engage the membership with focus groups and surveys to help inform decisions. ClubRunner will be the backbone of our Club operations.

Maja Grajski – Weekly Programs - We need to balance the legacy and future orientation in our programs. We will balance our invitations to for-profit and non-profit leaders.

Erin Auerbach – Membership Recruitment - We are all recruiters. We brought 17 new members last year and we look to bring in 35 new members this year. Who can you bring to our 'Ohana?

Bob Sumpf – Membership Retention – Care and Comfort of membership is key as well as each feeling they have a place and a voice. Be candid as to what you are getting and what you need from your membership!

Peg Jackson – Community Service - Did you know our community service projects are funded by our Foundation, not our dues? This means your contributions to our Service Above Self Campaign is critical to our impact in the community. Our Projects include Rotary Action Team projects (led by **Ben Eger**), our Literacy program, Mediation efforts, Christmas programs for underserved keiki, Centennial Park care, and a Rotary Give Thanks program in combination with District 5000 Clubs.

Dave Shanahan – International Service – The Club has a legacy of sponsoring one or two international service projects for each of the last 20 years. This Rotary year RCH is on track to sponsor 2 international projects, one in Bali 29 Oct-5 Nov, and another in Philippines in the Spring dates and location TBD. Please contact **Dave Shanahan** for the latest details on these and to answer questions as to how you might participate.

Rick Tabor – Youth Service – Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA) will go again this year as well as all other Youth programs we have done in the past. We are 18 years into sponsoring an 'Olelo Peacemaker Video competition.

Lee LaBrash – Public Image/Communications - Linda Coble and Donalyn Dela Cruz are mentoring me in ways to get our Club's great work understood and recognized by more people.

Beth-Ann Kozlovich – Vocational Service - We are doers and carers. As we do that, we need to ensure we know what each other does for a living. Vocational minutes that will feature in coming meetings.

Dawn Marie – Foundation SAS Committee - Imagine – We need to act to make vision become reality. That comes from the power of our donors who have participated in our *Service Above Self* Campaign.

PRESIDENT Lyla closed the meeting by inviting **PP Bub Wo** to join here in live singing ***Hawaii Aloha*** to the in-person attendees while the video played for our virtual participants. Our video of *Hawaii Aloha* features members of our club including **PE Lyla Berg, Bub Wo, Erin Auerbach, Pat President Paul Saito, Kent Reinker, Past Pres Gwen Yamamoto, Ann Stamp Miller, and Past President Rich Proctor.**

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