

Minutes of the Rotary Club of Honolulu Meeting

July 20, 2021

Hybrid Meeting (In person and via Zoom), Café Julia

President Gwen Lau welcomed Club members and called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

Brian Dunkel served as the Virtual Meeting Maestro. **Susan Robinson** gave us a great Inspiration on the value of smiles.

After Susan's inspiration, **Bob Robinson** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Lyla Berg** led us in Hawai'i Pono'i. **President Gwen** then welcomed our visitors.

Carolann Biederman introduced our New Member, **Dave Moss**. **Dave** was inducted by **President Gwen** and given an enthusiastic welcome by the Club.

President Gwen then asked all of the New Members who have been inducted since March 9, 2020 to stand and be acknowledged by the Club as there have been no in person meetings.

President Gwen announced Member Anniversaries in July: **Patti Lyons**, 33 years; **Amanda Ellis**, 3 years; **Haumea Ho**, 9 years; **Nancy White**, 21 years; **Chris Cloward**, 11 years; and **Carolann Biederman**, 21 years.

Joanna Amberger provided us with a great update to the Service Above Self Campaign.

Tom Coyne announced that August 3 will be a Hybrid Meeting at Oahu Country Club. Email to Martha to sign up.

Rick Tabor announced volunteer positions for the Paul Harris Committee and the Rotary Marketplace Committee.

Peg Jackson announced opportunities to care for the Park: August 6 – 4-6 pm and August 14 – 8-10 am.

Ben Eger announced the Running for Rotary program. It meets Wednesdays at 5:30 pm at Ala Moana Beach Park. For more information, contact **Ben** at 808-594-3511.

President Gwen thanked **Don Anderson** and **Reese Liggett** for their leadership on the Camp Erdman project.

Beth-Ann Kozlovich introduced our guest speaker, Colin Moore. Colin is the Director of the Public Policy Center. His discussion was on "The Bumpy Road to Recovery: Politics and Policy in Post-Pandemic Hawai'i."

Colin gave a captivating presentation on politics in Hawaii through and after the pandemic. He provided his observations of the 2021 Hawaii Legislative session, noting the following: (1) the Capitol was closed to the public during the session for the first time in history, which may have had an impact on the bills that were passed and those that were not; (2) the approval rating for Governor Ige and the Hawaii Legislature is currently at 22%; (3) the goal of the 2021 Hawaii Legislative session was to “stop the financial bleeding”; fortunately, Hawaii was bailed out by the federal government; (4) an increasing disconnect between the Hawaii House of Representatives and the Hawaii Senate, which may be attributable to Democratic progressive ideas vs. Democratic centrist ideas; (5) the power of tourism was noted to be very low. Colin also discussed some of the notable bills that passed and some of the notable bills that did not pass. He also noted the record breaking number of vetoes by Governor Ige, and overrides by the Hawaii Legislature. Colin discussed the topic of tourism and the Legislature’s budget reduction of the Hawaii Tourism authority. Colin concluded his discussion with speculation on who would run in the 2022 Hawaii Governor and Lieutenant Governor races.

At the conclusion of Colin’s discussion, **President Gwen** presented a book to be signed by Colin and **President Gwen** and donated to a local elementary school.

Our next meeting is on July 27, at which our guest speaker will be Crystal Rose, who will discuss Kamehameha Schools. The meeting will be via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Aloha,
Scribe, **Karin L. Holma**