

**ROTARY CLUB OF HONOLULU
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES
DATE: JULY 6, 2021
PRESIDING: PRESIDENT GWEN YAMAMOTO LAU**

CALL TO ORDER

Our new President Gwen Yamamoto Lau started our meeting off at Noon.

Welcome and thank you all for joining us, and for allowing me to serve as your club president. My name is **Gwen Yamamoto Lau**.

During today's program, we will share our vision and objectives for the upcoming rotary year.

Mahalo to **Brian Dunkel** our Virtual Meeting Maestro; **Nancy Grekin**, our scribe; and **Robyn McCreary**, our photographer.

Inspiration by Rob Hale:

Aloha everyone, and aloha and mahalo to **President Gwen**. It is quite a privilege to be the first individual to be able to say that in a meeting context.

It is Friday afternoon and I have a call from **Jessica Rich** asking if I would do this inspiration. You know if she calls you that late in the week she is getting desperate so I said yes while wondering what to say. Over the weekend, it occurred to me that saying 'yes' is exactly what I need to talk about.

July 1 is the start of the new Rotary year and July 4th was the 245 anniversary of our country. If we have learned anything in the passion and blood of the past 245 years it should be that we are a work in progress. It is not enough to have established a set of goals and values. Each of us must do our part to move us closer to where we aspire to be as a country.

The same applies to Rotary. Later in this meeting **Gwen** and **Lyla** will outline goals and a program of work for our club. Getting there will be up to you the members. We are coming off what I regard as an incredibly successful year under very challenging conditions. We are however, a work in progress and our future depends on you saying 'yes,' perhaps even before being asked!

Have a great day and a better tomorrow!

Glenda Anderson led us in the *Pledge of Allegiance*, followed by singing *America the Beautiful*, which was led by **Lyla Berg**.

Visitors welcomed by President Gwen: **Robert Comper** (R), **Kevin Parle** (R), Edward Cordasco, Maja Grajski, and Katherine Wellington.

NEW MEMBER INDUCTION - MARK SPAIN

New member introduction by **Bob Sigall**:

I've been a member of the Hawaii Small Business Administration Advisory Committee for about 20 years and I've known **Mark Spain** for about 10 of those years.

Last July, Jane Sawyer retired as head of the Small Business Administration here in Hawaii and Mark has been appointed as the new District Director for Hawaii and the Pacific. His real first name is **Thornton**, but he goes by **Mark**. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our District.

In his position, **Mark** will share his Discipline Performance Foundation, which he attained while serving our Country as a US Marine during the Vietnam War. He has an undergraduate and graduate education from the University of California and he worked his way in the financial services industry from the ground up and earned his first executive position in 1984. He has been married to Helen for 54 years!

Please welcome, Mark Spain!

Induction of **Mark Spain**, by **President Gwen**:

Mark, Rotary is an international organization of business and community professionals with clubs in more than 200 countries. When one joins Rotary, he or she becomes a part of a worldwide fraternity. You can travel throughout most of the world and find a Rotary club within easy distance. Rotarians will welcome you warmly, even though the language may be different, the food unusual, and the location far from home.

Fellow Rotarians, it is our duty to add new members from time to time, so that we may not only expand our network and influence as a club, but also to extend the spirit of Rotary throughout the community.

Mark, you have been invited into membership in the *Rotary Club of Honolulu* because your fellow members believe you to be a leader in your profession and because you manifest our "*Service Above Self*" qualities.

Your willingness to support the goals and objectives of our Club and Rotary International is a welcomed asset. When you become involved with our service projects, you will find a sense of gratification that is grounded in sharing Rotary and helping others.

It is my privilege and honor to induct you as a member of the *Rotary Club of Honolulu*.

Fellow Rotarians, please join me in welcoming **Mark Spain**, our newest member.

Mark, we invite you to share a few words with your fellow Rotarians.

Words from our New Member, **Mark Spain**:

Thank you all! I really appreciate two people that I have had the privilege of working with. **Bob Robinson** has been an inspiration to me. He is a World War II Veteran and a person that I have admired since I came to the island in 2012. And I appreciate **Bob Sigall** and his outreach to me throughout the years as I was a Deputy to Jane.

I look so much forward to being a part of the Rotary Club, to bring my inspiration, to bring my passion to the necessary efforts that the Club will define as we go forward in 2021 and into 2022.

Thank you **Gwen** for the invite. **Bob**, thank you for your kindness. I look forward to serving you all. Mahalo for your time!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthdays:

The Rotary Club of Honolulu	106 on July 1st
Kevin Hall	July 5
Amanda Kelly	July 6
Tammy Everard	July 7
Aaron Wallen	July 7
Kent Reinker	July 15
Terry George	July 18
Ludwig Seidl	July 19
Rob Hale	July 20
Dave Shanahan	July 28

SERVICE ABOVE SELF - Update by Carolann Beiderman:

Thank you, President **Gwen**! Happy to be able to say that. Thank you too, to the 74 members who have already made their pledge commitment to the 2020/2021 *Service Above Self* Campaign. Mahalo for your generosity.

As of today, the Campaign is nearing \$84,000 of our \$100,000 financial goal; 49% already in the bank! Your donations support the Clubs many remarkable projects, an impact we can make in this new Rotary year to serve to change lives.

Please consider taking action today of your good intentions if you haven't already pledged. It is easy to do. Please use the link for the Pledge form that will be appearing in the chat box to your right. [Service Above Self Pledge Form](#) You can look at the *Tradewind* every Friday as we have the link in there as well. If you prefer a hard copy Pledge form to mail in with your donation, we will be happy to send you one, just ask.

If your personal goal is to become a *Paul Harris, John Warren, or Maile Hale Fellow*, just ask **Martha**. She has your personal data and that might help you decide how to divy up your Pledge contribution.

Together, we will continue to change the world! Mahalo once again and on behalf of the Service Above Self Campaign Committee; that's **Joanna Amberger, Dawn Marie**, and me. Mahalo **President Gwen**. Mahalo for everybody participating. That is really what we are looking for - 100% participation.

Breakout Rooms: A place to get to know more about each other with fun topics. Today's topic: "When did you feel most Patriotic or proud to be an American and why?"

After our breakout rooms we return to the music theme from "*Friends*"

President Gwen:

If you're thinking, I've heard that song before, but I just can't place it - it's the theme song from the television show *Friends*, which is so appropriate because where else but Rotary includes within its guiding principles, to build goodwill and better friendships?

Welcome back from your breakout rooms. I trust you heard some interesting, patriotic stories – reinforcing how lucky we are to be Americans.

Traditionally, the first meeting in July provided the incoming President an opportunity to share his or her vision. However, I really believe it takes a village and we are blessed to have such a strong leadership team. So today, our entire board will join me in sharing **our** vision for the upcoming year.

Under **Past President Rich's** leadership last year, the board developed a Strategic plan which still remains relevant. Your board's goal for this year is to increase and engage our membership while strengthening club operations.

We seek to provide our members with value in a variety of ways.

As a recovering banker, you'll need to forgive me because data is "my thing" but in analyzing this data, we found that historically, over 80% of our members pay their dues on a quarterly basis with a credit card. I'm not sure if you're aware, but the club is assessed fees on every credit card transaction. You may have noticed on the Dues assessments that Martha just sent out, that we are offering a discount for paying the entire annual dues by check. Instead of paying the merchant fee, your board wanted to provide our members this option for a little bit of savings while also decreasing Martha's administrative workload every quarter. When we are allowed back at the Royal, the fee structure may change to include meals, at which time, an adjusted dues assessment will be distributed.

In addition to offering interesting and relevant programs and a variety of service projects to choose from, we want to increase our focus on our Members, by highlighting members in our weekly *Tradewind*. To gather this data, a "Getting to Know You" form will be made available for members to complete and submit.

Currently, members under 45 years old comprise only 16.5% of our club and we are committed to growing this segment by recruiting, engaging and empowering our young professionals. You'll hear more about this from our Directors.

As you know, the best employees often come from referrals from people you know and trust. Therefore, we'll be adding a "Jobs Board" to our weekly *Tradewind* where our members can post job openings within their organizations so that opportunities can be circulated within our circle of influence. If you have any job openings at your organization, please send the posting to **Martha** for publication.

And, last but not least, look for more fellowship opportunities throughout the year.

Beth Ann wasn't able to attend today's meeting and wanted to share that suggestions and feedback from our members are very important to us. The *Programs Committee* has developed a speaker selection process and a Speaker Recommendation Form. If you have suggestions, please submit the completed form to Martha. The *Programs Committee* will be meeting regularly to discuss recommendations in the queue.

Up next, I'd like to call on **Past President Rich Proctor**.

[NEW] Club Trainer - Past President Rich Proctor:

Thank you **President Gwen**! It gives me great privilege to say that! Honestly! So happy!

I am sticking around as Past President and developing a new position that will be a Board Position moving forward. This position was developed by the District over the past year and it is called, "The Club Trainer." What does a Club Trainer do?

The Club Trainer, theoretically will assist in Leadership Development and Transition; and there is a lot of development that can be done there along those lines which will be evolving throughout the course of the year. Regularly provide information to the Club members, so I will be inserting myself from time to time to give relevant and valuable information regarding our Club, our District, and Rotary International.

Will help manage the Club's identity along with our Relations Chair, so we will probably be working together to make sure the image of our Club is in sync with the way we want it to be presented. And from time to time I will be a Rule Advisor to the Board and to the President.

This position will move from Past President to Past President. So next year I will give it to Club President **Gwen** and she will pass it onto **Lyla** as we move forward. Because the institutional knowledge we gain as President is going to be invaluable for this position moving forward.

I will also insert myself into the Orientation process, making sure the message is consistent to any new members who join. This will also be used to help set up the

Hui' Ho'owali events; we have four planned, which will be more like social events off campus with an educational component. It will fall upon me, as Club Trainer, so make sure this happens regularly and at different venues. It will be a lot of fun and give opportunities to our newer members to become involved in projects and also on committees that we will be establishing as we move along, and get out in the world as we are doing today.

I am excited to create this along with Gwen. Together we will make it happen.

Secretary - Scotty Anderson:

[NEW Digitization Project] One of the things **Gwen** has asked me to take on is kind of interesting. I will be working very closely with **Martha**, looking in closets and drawers and everything else to see what we have that needs to be filed; either filed in the trash or filed away nicely. One of the things I may need a lot of help with from many members are photographs and how we should keep those photographs in the future, and maybe put them on a disc or some high tech stuff. I will need help identifying them and getting them organized so it is good for the future and the people on our 200th anniversary can look back and really be proud of what we have accomplished this year!

Weekly Operations - Tom Coyne:

It is a pleasure to be here and talk about weekly operations - one of my favorite things to talk about. We have a new category within the weekly operations and I am looking for Vice Chair people and committee members who might want to be a part of that, and that is - temporary Venue Logistics.

A part of that has to do with our meetings in-person and hybrid meetings going forward until we get confirmation from the *Royal Hawaiian Hotel* that we will, in fact, be able to be there.

[Next meeting is in-person/hybrid - July 20 at Cafe Julia]

So, as a point of interest to all of you, July 20th will be our next in-person/hybrid meeting at *Cafe Julia*, which is downtown Honolulu; I believe it is the old YWCA building. We will get back to you with more information on parking. The wonderful people at *Cafe Julia* are accepting us live. They will have a plated lunch. It should be a great venue and a great place to socialize.

[NEW] [In-person meetings twice a month]

After that, based on President Gwen and the team here at Rotary, we want to have two in-person meetings a month. That will be starting in August and will be the first and third weeks of every month. We have booked out August and September. We will give you a schedule of where those venues are. We want to do at least two in-person meetings a month - the first Tuesday and third Tuesday of the month - until we can get back to the Monarch Room and start getting back to our old home.

[Help Needed for: IT]

A couple other things I need some help on: Our Virtual Meeting Maestro is **Brian Dunkel**, and we all know that. But we also want to see if we can get some help for

him - some committee members, other people who have experience in IT. We'd like to get a team together to support **Brian** in these weekly operations, so it is not only **Brian** doing it ALL the time. So please get back to **Martha**, myself, or even **Brian**, if you have experience in that or if you want to be a part of it.

[**Brian** is willing to train!]

[Help Needed for: Attendance, Check-in, Greeters, Inspiration, Pledge]

Also seeking volunteers for attendance and check in. We rely on **Martha**, but we would like some backup in place who can help out when needed. Greeters: I will be contacting people once I get the list from **Martha** - for each of the live meetings, I will be reaching out to people saying, "Hey, we need a couple of Greeters, can you be a Greeter?" and we will rotate this. Same for Inspiration and the Pledge. **Jessica Lani Rich** is reaching out to everybody. Please be available for this and help her. She could probably use an assistant as well to back her up on that.

[Help Needed for: International Visitor Rotary Registration]

Another area we definitely need help in is the International Visitor Rotary Registration. We are not sure if **Kekoa** will be coming back to the club. We are waiting to hear back from him. He should have a back up. This is for the live meetings. We are looking for someone who can sit in and help out as a Chair, Co-Chair or committee member. Please contact me.

Membership Recruitment - Erin Auerbach:

I am the Chair of our Recruitment Membership Appointment. We have a few goals for the year.

- 1) Our goal is 15 and with the addition of **Mark Spain** today, that is now 14. Congratulations **Mark** and welcome to our Club! We have a stretch goal of 20. We are not putting that on paper, but I am just putting it out there into the Universe so that we can attract many wonderful people to this organization.
- 2) [**Fairly NEW**] We will have two Pau Hana this year for Membership recruiting, like we did in May. These are calendared for October 26th and April 12th. Please mark your calendars! I will send more as we plan these.
- 3) [**NEW**] We are creating a committee for folks under 45 and are calling it the U45 Committee! This new committee is to recruit, engage, and develop young professionals within the Club. I will be working with **Amanda Kelly** and **Ben Eger**, and a late addition, **Poki'i Balaz**! Thank you for joining! If you are interested in this or any other recruiting opportunity, please let me know - the more the merrier! As **President Gwen** said, "It takes a village!"

Member Retention - Bob Sumpf:

I am the Chairman of the Membership Retention Committee. I work closely with **Erin** and **Rich** on the *Hui* to make sure those go off in a way that everyone who wants to can participate. I'd love to see as much participation in the *Hui*'s as possible from existing members, new members - it's really for everybody. We will try and make this as much of a social event as anything else. Those are scheduled for once a quarter with the first one being in August.

Our Retention Goal is 85% with a stretch goal of 90%. People leave the club for all kinds of reasons, but what we would like to do is give them all kinds of reasons to stay and not leave. So we are more than willing and encouraging you to submit ideas on how we can make events or projects or activities more accessible and more appealing to a broader membership. We would like to encourage everybody to participate in something because that 'seals the deal'. When you become more involved, you feel more like a Rotarian.

In the past, we had an annual golf outing. We can have other types of outings - maybe pickle ball or whatever the idea may be - something strictly for fun for Rotarians.

[Seeking assistance with ideas for fun]

I am looking for help, so if anyone would like to join our committee, and help out with ideas or legwork, join! We want to provide an atmosphere where Rotarians want to stay in the Club and make the world a better place.

Community Service - Lyla Berg:

Hey, **Erin!** If we have a group for under 45, can we have another group for under 90? Cuz 45 is like half - just a thought! :)

Following **Bob's** comment of wanting to have more members engaged, Community Service is an umbrella for everything. **Mark**, the information I am going to share with you, and a refresher for our members; we have three goals that our **President Gwen** has set out for the Board and all of our Members.

1. To enlist more members, because membership is everybody's business.
2. Engage more members, so they are participating in different ways that are interesting and that touch their passion.
3. Enhancing leadership, personal and professional opportunities, and development.

We have the traditional subcommittees:

- The Peacemaker Committee. Within the Peacemaker committee we have the Olelo video contest, Mediation training, the Holiday activities that **Poki'i** is undertaking, the Pledge to Promote Peace. There are many areas we can begin to nurture with other clubs.
- The Kokua Kupuna Committee: "Gift of Sound" Finds seniors who need hearing aids and if they qualify, we provide the hearing aids.
- Centennial Park and RatPack: Sometimes because these two are so active, it seems like they are stand-alones, but they fall within the Community Services.

Three new aspects we are creating this year are:

1. Eco Projects, as opposed to Environmental Activities. Our own, **Joshua Nam**, with the U45, is going to take the lead on this. Something I reassured him as a new coordinator is that all of us can come up with ideas - it is not his sole

responsibility to find something to do that's to support the environment. We all have our ideas and we will filter them through **Joshua**.

2. **[NEW] Centennial Park Care Committee:** Apart from Centennial Park which is more fund-raising and promoting the park, this is about maintaining the park - the weeding, mulching, moving gravel around, and whatever needs to be done to make sure the park is in top shape when the International Convention comes in a few years.
3. **[NEW] Rotary Gives Thanks Project:** Rather than having the President Elect responsible for this is now in the capable hands of our U45's. So our U45 group under the coordination of Amanda Kelly, Ben Eger, and Poki'i Balaz, will come up with some projects under the banner of "Rotary Gives Thanks" that we can participate in.

Community Service is one of the avenues that is a signature for Rotary and I am hoping that everyone listening and, even in your own circles, will come up with ideas and bring them to us so that we, kakou, can all make that happen in our community.

International Service - Ann Miller

I am the Director of International so the first thing I have to do is give a BIG SHOUT OUT to **Dave Shanahan** and **Don Anderson!** Without them, we would not have these amazing International Projects that we have. With all the organizing that goes on - we are so *thankful* for them!

The Bali Trip: **Dave** has been working on this for some time and we had to push it back. He is hoping that in March 2022 this trip will actually take place, but stay tuned! A lot is still going on with COVID and so forth, so we need to have some patience.

[NEW] Sister Clubs: The other exciting news is that we are going to re-engage with our Sister Clubs this year! If you are not familiar with some of the friendships with the Sister Clubs we have, here is a list: Tokyo Shimbashi, Kyoto, Taipei, Busan (Pusan), Osaka-East, and Fukuoka Heisei. I also need to give a SHOUT OUT to **Nancy Pace, Hiroko Dewitz, and Hai Cha Lambert.** They do so much behind the scenes with our Sister Clubs and we are extremely grateful for all the things that they do.

One of the things we would like to do this year is reach out through Zoom and have a Zoom meeting with the Sister Clubs. We would like to share what has happened with Centennial Park and we want to hear what those Clubs are doing - perhaps they will want to share about some of the projects they are working on. So this is in process and we will keep you posted!

[NEW] Future of 2023 with Sister Clubs: We would love to get together with Sister Clubs and have an International Project where we are all working together, side by side. We are excited and feel this would be a cool thing and are hoping that comes to fruition. We will keep you tuned in on this.

[NEW] A couple of other new things. We just signed an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Rotary Club of Kobe East and the Foundation for Kobe International Medical Alliance on a Hospice Volunteer Hawaii Training Project. So what is this?

Kobe East got a District grant from Japan, so they are going to bring some members to come and work on this. The exciting part is they are going to come to our October 19th weekly meeting, so you will get to actually meet some of them. We are very excited about this!

Another new item - we may have the opportunity to collaborate with the Rotary Club of Usa-city, Japan. More information to come as this progresses.

We are looking forward to an exciting year. More information to come!

Rotary Relations - Donalyn Dela Cruz:

Rotary Relations encourages promotions of the different items discussed. The goals that our President has initiated falls in line with much of what Bob and Erin are doing to increase membership and engage members. We want to increase participation in some of these activities and service projects.

We've gotten good responses to the park this last year - it was very difficult due to COVID - but now that we are starting to reopen, there will be more activities which you are hearing from the Committee Chairs, about all the plans to re-engage the Club in our community. This is part of the Rotary Relations and Club Operations as well.

Within this Committee:

- We have Grants, with **Gwen** and **Lyla** both leading the charge and assisting in the grants and matching grants - so thank you for that!
- Rotary International Foundation Sub-Committee that is led by **Joanna Amberger**. She is promoting the work of the Rotary Foundation, encouraging all of you to give.
- Rotary Conferences and Convention are all **Linda Coble** who is experienced and now she is encouraging attendance at the District Conference.
- Public Media and Social Relationships are being handled by me. I look forward to getting the word out about all the various activities that we are doing. So consider me your Professional PR person as well as this committee. So, if you see an opportunity for us to market ourselves, to the community at large, please let me know.

Vocational Services - Rick Tabor:

I am the Chair for Vocational Services. We have some things we are working on.

- Paul Harris Week: **Sam Haas** will continue to head the Paul Harris Week. These weeks are scheduled for August 24th, November 9th and May 10th. Thank you Sam for continuing to do these!
- **[NEW]** Vocational Meetings: These are to provide visibility to our own members and what you do for a living. Right now we would like to focus on

the new members and have them present. They are currently scheduled for September 28th and March 8th. Then we will go from there!

- **[NEW] Rotary Club of Honolulu Marketplace:** This is scheduled for January 25th. The vision is to be a fun tradeshow style event where members of our Club and the District will have an opportunity to showcase their business or nonprofit organization. We will have tables and you can place your information on them, take a mic around for the people to share. More to come later!

Youth Services - Brian Dunkel:

Thank you everyone! I am going to bring it home by talking about the Youth Services. My theme for the year, which I tried to get to last year, but will do this year, is to take advantage of some of the Synergy between our various Youth Services - of which we have many and not everyone is aware of all of them. I would also like to concentrate on getting some interaction between our Youth Services at the Club level with some of the District programs, and the next level above District, in the Administrative structure of Rotary, which is the Zone.

Rick has been with me on a couple of conferences that were done at the Zone level and we've gotten some very good ideas for programs like RYLA, Interact, and Rotaract for our Youth Services. I feel there are good opportunities there for us to learn from them and to give them some of our best practices when it comes to Youth Services.

With Youth Services, we are trying to build a larger base of folks to help manage the services than we currently have. We have a number of subcommittees under Youth Services, which are official programs of Rotary, including:

- RYLA, which I mentioned and **Rick** is able heading up for us. RYLA is a Rotary Youth Leadership Award camp that we host every year, including last year in the middle of COVID. We held it virtually and it was incredibly successful!
- Rotaract, which is our college level program and has its own status. **Tom Coyne** is helping with this.
- Interact Program, which is for high school and those going into high school. This year I am very excited to announce that Madeleine Gardner has volunteered to help me champion this.
- Scholarship Programs, the Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation will be Chaired by **Jennifer Oyer** with **Michael Marsh** as Vice Chair.
- **[kinda NEW] Four-Way Test Speech Contest**, which was previously under the Peacemakers, will now be under the Youth Services Committee.

President Gwen thanked all the Directors. She then opened the floor for some Q&A.

CLOSING

President Gwen:

We have a full year planned that you can look forward to! Please join us on Zoom next week to hear Ron Mizutani, CEO of PBS Hawaii on “Turning the Page Together” and don’t forget to let Martha know to reserve your seat at Cafe Julia for our July 20th meeting.

And, last but not least, **did you know** that today is National Fried Chicken Day? In honor of this delicious day, Martha has included the names of everyone attending this meeting and will be spinning the wheel. Take it away Martha!

Congratulations to Katherine W. You are the lucky winner of a \$35.00 Popeyes gift card!

President Gwen rings the bell at 1:00pm. Meeting adjourned.

Have a fabulous week.

Humble Scribe,

Lee LaBrash