

Rotary Minutes 21 Sept 2021

Rotary Club of Honolulu Zoom Meeting

PRESIDING: **PRESIDENT GWEN YAMAMOTO LAU**

The inspiration was given by **Terry George**, who spoke of being inspired by Denise Perez and Allison Skilbread, Community Navigators at the Key Project in Kahaluu helping families access the City and County rent and utility assistance program staving off the prospects of eviction for those affected by the economic effects of the COVID Pandemic.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Sally Mist**. The singing of “The National Anthem” was led by **Lee LaBrash**. **President Gwen** introduced our visitors who included: Judy Saranchock, RC East Honolulu; Roberta Mayor, Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board; Kili Namau’u, BOE Board member, Maui; Alan Okinaka, RC Hilo Bay; Kevin Parle, RC Bristol UK; Hideo Yamanaka, RC Kyoto; Halona Norton-Westbrook – Approved prospective member

Member Induction: Katherine Wellington. **Erin Auerbach** introduced Katherine who is a friend of Martha German. Born and raised in Hawaii, her father played for the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra. Katherine serves as a flight attendant for Delta Airlines now based in Hawaii. She appreciates the impact Rotarians make in the community and looks forward to applying herself to Rat Pack and Conservation projects.

Club Anniversaries:

Tim Johns	27 years	9/1/94
Diana Sakurai	6 years	9/1/15
Paul Saito	10 years	9/6/11
Kitty Yannone	30 years	9/17/91
Al Linton	17 years	9/21/04
Ernest Hui	36 years	9/24/85
Michael Marsh	3 years	9/25/18

Announcements:

Peg Jackson announced a work opportunity for members on Centennial Park: There is a need for Volunteers for the **Fri 24 Sep from 4-6pm and Sat 25 Sep 8-10am**.

Past President Carol Sakata asked each member to take note of an email soliciting their help in updating their Club Runner profiles. Those with outdated photos were encouraged to update them as well

Breakout Discussion:

Club members and guests participated in breakout room discussion with the question: “What business did you always want to start and what happened to your dream?”

Program: Catherine Payne, Chair of Hawaii Board of Education. **President-elect member Lyla Berg** introduced our speaker. Lyla began with self-recognition of her recent appointment by the Governor to the Board of Education and announced that she would be making a donation to the Maile Hale fund. **Catherine Payne** has a wonderful background as an educator available online. Lyla acknowledged her role as Principal of Farrington HS years ago welcoming the RC of Honolulu Kids Voting program into her school. Catherine welcomed the remembrance of the civics education

that was enabled by the RC of Honolulu's efforts. The program proceeded with Lyla interviewing Catherine. One of the first issues Catherine spoke of was the transition of the Board for an elected to a Governor appointed Board which has provided more expertise and accountability through the Governor for the board since its inception. She has grown to appreciate the School Boards role and work since her days as a principal and seemingly on the receiving end to the boards work. The Board role as she described has the function of hiring the School Superintendent and the State Librarian and otherwise is not involved in the management activities of schools. The Boards serves primarily as a conduit and sounding board for public interests and concerns using their public meetings to enable the public to have voice in the school system. The COVID timeframe has put most of this engagement on virtual platforms online. The board role is as an influencer. Examples of their ability to influence has been the transition the changes that COVID necessitated for online opportunities for students. The access that has been forged because distance learning necessity has created the opportunity to bring more students who otherwise would be exclusively home schooled into the school system and provide resources to parents that were otherwise unavailable to them. This paradigm has the prospect to outlive COVID and change the relationship between traditional and home school education for any students and their families. The Board encompasses all islands and areas and has the capacity to represent and influence the differential approaches needed for the geographical school complexes. Catherine addressed the valuable roles that non-profits can have in helping schools and promises to work hard to ensure there are systems emplaced to enable their appropriate access. She closed with appreciation for the hard working and under-sung frontline educators who make up the heart of Hawaii's education system

PRESIDENT Gwen closed the meeting by thanking Catherine Payne on making our children's education and welfare her kuleana and announcing that next Tuesday our guest speaker is **Meli James**, Co-founder Of **Mana Up**, A Statewide Initiative to Support Hawaii's Entrepreneurs.

The Meeting closed with our Video of Hawaii Aloha featuring members of our club including **PE Lyla Berg, Bub Wo, Erin Auerbach, Paul Saito, Pres Gwen Yamamoto, Ann Stamp Miller, Kent Reinker, and Past President Rich.**

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