**Rotary Club of West Kauai**

**Prospective and New Member Orientation Guide**

 **Aloha,**

**Welcome to The World of Rotary!**

West Kauai Rotarians welcome you to peruse this guide; it is intended to assist prospective & new members to learn more about the World of Rotary.

# The purpose of this guide is to…

* Give you an overview of Rotary
* Explain what you may expect of your Rotary membership
* Explain what West Kauai Rotary Club expects of you
* Answer any questions you may have of Rotary in general, and the Rotary Club of West Kauai in particular.

The purpose of this guide is ***not*** to tell you everything about Rotary. Rotarians are encouraged to continue learning about Rotary through the…

* West Kauai Rotary website, www.rotarywestkauai.org
* participation in Rotary Club of West Kauai committees and projects
* fellowship with other Rotarians – near and far
* Club newsletter e-mailed weekly to all West Kauai Rotarians
* District 5000 website, www.rotaryd5000.org
* *Rotarian* magazine, mailed monthly to all Rotarians
* Rotary International website, [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

**WHAT IS ROTARY?**

**Rotary International is the world's first service club organization, with more than 1.2 million members in 34,200 clubs worldwide. Rotary members are business and professional leaders who volunteer to work locally, regionally, and internationally to combat hunger, improve health and sanitation, promote education and eradicate polio. Members provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and promote peace in the world.**

**WHAT IS THE ROTARY MOTTO?**

“Service Above Self”

**WHAT IS THE ROTARY EMBLEM?**



A wheel has always been the graphic symbol of Rotary since our earliest days. From a simple wagon wheel to today’s emblem, the Rotary wheel symbolizes “civilization and movement”. In 1923 the wagon wheel gave way to the present gear wheel with 24 cogs and six spokes.

**WHAT ARE THE OBJECTS OF ROTARY?**

The objects of Rotary are to encourage and foster the ideals of service as the basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

FIRST: The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

SECOND: High ethical standards in business and the professions; the
 recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the

 dignifying of each Rotarian’s occupation as an opportunity to

 serve society;

THIRD: The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian’s
 personal, business, and community life;

FOURTH: The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and
 peace through a world fellowship of business and professional
 persons united in the ideal of service.

**WHAT IS THE FOUR-WAY TEST?**

Of the things we think, say, or do…

1. Is it the **truth**?
2. Is it **fair** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **good will** and **better friendships**?
4. Will it be **beneficial** to all concerned?

The Four-Way Test, more than anything else, represents what it means to be a Rotarian. All Rotarians receive a printed version of the Four-Way Test, and Rotarians are encouraged to display the Four-Way Test in their place of business. Each Rotary Club of West Kauai meeting includes a recitation of the Four-Way test.

The Four-Way Test was created in 1932 by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor when he was asked to save a struggling company from depression-era financial difficulties. Survival of the company was credited to this simply philosophy that served as a guide for sales, production, advertising, and all relations with dealers, suppliers, and customers.

**WHAT IS THE FIRST RULE OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF WEST KAUAI?**

HAVE FUN!!!

**HOW WAS ROTARY STARTED?**

Paul P. Harris organized the first Rotary Club on February 23, 1905 in Chicago. Paul Harris was a young lawyer who gathered a group of men who shared a spirit of friendship and understanding, and each person in the initial group was engaged in a different vocation. Vocations are the basis for the industry classifications still in use by Rotary today. The original group of Rotarians met for the purposes of honoring service to the community and building a bond of friendship. Initially, this group met in rotation at each member’s place of business, and this suggested the name “Rotary”.

**HOW WAS ROTARY IN HAWAII STARTED?**

Planning for Rotary in Hawaii occurred in 1915 when V.O. Lawrence, a member of the Rotary Club of Oakland, California and James L. Coke, who later became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Territory of Hawaii were discussing Rotary as they sailed from San Francisco to Honolulu aboard the *Lurline*. Justice Coke invited several Honolulu business professionals to meet and The Honolulu Club was chartered on July 1, 1915.

The Rotary Club of Hilo was chartered in 1920 and the first Rotary clubs on Kauai and Maui were chartered in 1937. Many other Rotary Clubs followed, today there are 48 Rotary Clubs in the State of Hawaii.

The most significant event of Rotary in Hawaii was the hosting of the 60th Rotary International Convention on Oahu in May 1969 to which 15,000 Rotarians from 66 countries attended.

The Rotary Club of West Kauai was formally chartered December 4, 1944 with 33 members. The Rotary Club of Kauai is our "Mother" club.

In 1990 the American Red Cross honored Rotary Clubs in Hawaii for outstanding community and public service with its Humanitarian Award. This was the first time that one international service organization was honored by another international service organization here in Hawaii.

**HOW IS ROTARY ORGANIZED?**

Rotarians are members of local Rotary Clubs, in this case, “The Rotary Club of West Kauai.” Rotary divides the world into geographical areas known as Rotary zones and districts. There are 34 zones and 534 districts in the Rotary world, and the Rotary Club of West Kauai is in Zone 26 and is part of District 5000, along with 47 other Rotary clubs in Hawaii.

Rotary International is governed by a president and board of directors elected from all over the world. Each Rotary district is governed by a District Governor who is nominated by each district and elected by delegates (electors) to Rotary’s annual International Convention. Each Rotary club is led by a club president and board of directors who are elected annually. Our weekly newsletter lists the Rotary Club of West Kauai’s officers, directors, and information about the Rotary Club of West Kauai’s activities.

**HOW BIG IS ROTARY?**

There are more than 1,214,714 Rotarians in the world, and Rotarians are members of more than 34,216 Rotary Clubs that exist in more than 160 countries Rotary International is the association of these Rotary Clubs.

**HOW BIG IS THE ROTARY CLUB OF WEST KAUAI?**

There are currently 25 members in the Rotary Club of West Kauai and more than 2,000 Rotarians in District 5000 (Hawaii).

**WHAT IS THE ROTARY CLUB OF WEST KAUAI’S MISSION STATEMENT?**

The Rotary Club of West Kauai is dedicated to “Service Above Self.” It provides a social and friendly venue where Rotarians work together for our local, national and international beneficiaries. The “Four Way Test” is our mantra that enables our Rotarians to accomplish many tangible & positive results both locally and internationally.

As dedicated Rotarians, we can do much more together than we can individually.

Our Club Program Goals are:

…Education

…Youth

## …Family

…Business

…Community.

**HOW CAN I BECOME A MEMBER OF ROTARY?**

A West Kauai Rotarian has to sponsor your membership. The Membership Committee verifies your personal reputation in your business and in the community. The Board of Directors then approves you as being an individual worthy of Rotary membership.

**WHAT ARE YOUR PRIVILEGES IN ROTARY?**

Rotary membership offers you the privilege to serve others, including…

* The privilege of friendship with business and professional leaders

… in your community

… in neighboring communities

… all over the USA

… throughout the world

* The privilege of giving valuable service to others in your community, your country and internationally.
* The privilege of developing international goodwill and understanding.
* The privilege of helping to build higher ethical standards through your vocation, your club, and family.

**WHAT ARE YOUR OBLIGATIONS IN ROTARY?**

Your important obligations as a member in Rotary are financial obligations, attendance, and participation. Financial Obligations include:

***Initiation fee & Dues***

Dues are $200 per year, Dues may be paid semi-annually at $100 per 6 months. Most Rotarians pay annually.

***Financial support of the Rotary Foundation***

The Rotary Foundation is the “backbone” of our financial network. It provides funding for efforts locally and internationally. Contributions are voluntary, but every member of the Rotary Club of West Kauai contributes.

The minimum suggested contribution this year is $100. This is often supplemented through ticket sales at fundraising events the club participates in. Our club averages more per year due to the generosity of a few of our benefactors. The Rotary Club of West Kauai is proud to be one of the higher ranking contributors in District 5000.

***Club Meets at The Waimea Plantation Cottages,***

***in Waimea, at 5:30pm every Tuesday***

Cost: $12-15 avg. purchase of dinner/drinks.

This is optional, but encouraged.

" When my Rotary meeting day comes around, I do not have to decide whether to attend or not… it's one of the obligations I accepted upon joining Rotary!"

*Attendance*

West Kauai Rotary members work hard to offer meetings, information, and service opportunities interesting and worthy of your time. Many Rotarians pride themselves on achieving 100% attendance year after year. The Rotary

Club of West Kauai Constitution specifies three conditions under which a Rotary membership may be terminated for non-attendance:

1. failure to attend or make-up four consecutive club meetings;

2. failure to attend or make-up 50% of meetings in a six month period;

3. failure to attend at least 30% of the meetings at West Kauai in each six month period.

The Rotary Club of West Kauai Board of Directors may pre-approve non-attendance by granting a leave of absence for good and sufficient reason. Payment of dues is required for approval of a leave of absence.

*Attendance – Making Up Is Easy*

Maintaining a sufficient attendance record is easy when you have to miss a meeting because there are numerous opportunities to “make-up”. Attending a meeting at another Rotary club either on Kauai or on the mainland counts toward your attendance record, and Rotarians are welcomed at any Rotary Club in the world. There are 48 Rotary Clubs in our State, 6 on Kauai and more than 24 on Oahu, so maintaining a sufficient attendance record is easy. There are numerous other opportunities to “make-up” including attendance at West Kauai approved committees and activities, West Kauai Rotary board of directors meetings, district conferences, district assemblies, and the annual Rotary International convention. For attendance credit, make-ups must occur either two weeks before or two weeks after the regular club meeting that was missed. Make-ups can also be done online at the Rotary website ([www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)). Attending the weekly meetings or making up for missed meetings is an obligation of Rotary.

*Participation*

To be a Rotarian you are expected to give of your time and talents…

…to your fellow Rotarians

…to community work

…to the Rotary Club of West Kauai fund-raising events

…at Rotary social functions

…in Club and District activities

Within the first 3 months after induction into the Rotary Club of West Kauai, you are expected to complete a “New Member Checklist” of activities. When the checklist is completed, you will receive recognition and your “New Member” status will change to Active Member.

There are many opportunities for Rotarians to participate. Except for weekly Rotary meetings, no member is expected to attend all planned activities. Rotarians make their own choices about which projects and functions to participate in.

**WHAT ARE THE AVENUES OF SERVICE?**

The “Avenues of Service” refer to the elements of the Objects of Rotary: Club Service, Vocational Service, Community Service, International Service, and New Generations. The avenues of service are not specified in any formal part of the constitutional documents of Rotary, though they have been accepted as a means to describe the primary areas of Rotary activity.

**Club Service** refers to all of the activities necessary to make Rotary Clubs function successfully.

**Vocational Service** describes the opportunity each Rotarian has to represent the dignity and utility of one’s vocation to other members of the club and the community.

**Community Service** describes the activities of Rotarians to improve the quality of life in their community. It frequently involves assistance

to youth, the aged, handicapped, and others who look to Rotary in hope for a better life.

**International Service** describes the programs and activities that Rotarians undertake to advance international understanding, goodwill, and peace. International Service projects are designed to meet the humanitarian needs of people in many countries.

**New Generations** youth servicesrefer to the programs and activities focused on young people in the local and international community.

**WHAT ARE OTHER WAYS THAT I CAN CONTRIBUTE?**

In addition to participation in club meetings and activities, and choosing service opportunities under the Avenues of Service, The Rotary Club of West Kauai contributes generously toward many programs within the club, in Hawaii, and Internationally. These include various annual club events, the Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation, and The Rotary Foundation.

**WHAT IS THE ROTARY FOUNDATION?**

The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through improvement of health, support of education, and the alleviation of poverty. The Rotary Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation that is supported solely by the voluntary contributions from Rotarians and friends of The Rotary Foundation who share its vision of a better world.

*Rotary Foundation Programs*

The *Ambassadorial Scholarship Program*; the most extensive international scholarship program in the world, is among the many worthwhile endeavors

of The Rotary Foundation. Since 1947, more than 41,000 scholars from

110 countries have received scholarships totaling more than $532 million.

Scholarship recipients are expected to serve as “ambassadors of goodwill”

for a year in their host countries and educational institutions.

The *Group Study Exchange* program pairs Rotary districts to send and receive study teams that consist of non-Rotarians and Rotary team leaders. Study teams visit schools, farms, industrial plants, professional offices, and government establishments to serve as ambassadors of goodwill.

PolioPlus was Rotary's commitment in 1985 to immunize the world's children against polio and in 1988 became the spearheading partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative with the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF. To date, Rotary has contributed over one billion dollars to the eradication effort and Rotary club members have volunteered their time and personal resources to reach more than two billion children in 122 countries with the oral polio vaccine. When Rotary began its eradication work, polio infected more than 350,000 children annually. In 2008, fewer than 2,000 cases were reported worldwide. The cases are in 4 war-ravaged countries inaccessible to Rotary.

*Paul Harris Fellows and Paul Harris Society*

When a Rotarian's contributions to The Rotary Foundation total $1,000, they are recognized as *Paul Harris Fellows*, in memory of the founder of Rotary. Most Rotarians receive their Paul Harris Fellowship by making their annual donation over a period of time. Our West Kauai members are requested to make sustaining contributions of at least $160 per year (about the price of a cup of coffee once a week!) to The Rotary Foundation. This is voluntary, but every member of the Rotary Club of West Kauai contributes. The Rotary Club of West Kauai is proud to be 100% Paul Harris Fellows. The *Paul Harris Society* is recognition of Rotarians who contribute at least $1,000

every year to The Rotary Foundation.

*How to Contribute to The Rotary Foundation*

Contributions by check or credit card may be submitted to the Rotary Club of West Kauai Foundation Chair. Make checks (payable to: The Rotary Foundation) or you can fill out a credit card contribution form. You can also contribute online through the members only section of the Rotary International website (www.rotary.org.) Please let your Hanalei Bay Foundation Chair know if you make a contribution online so they can record your contribution and submit it directly to The Rotary Foundation. Rotary International will mail you receipts for your tax-exempt contributions.

**WHAT IS THE HAWAII ROTARY YOUTH FOUNDATION?**

The Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation was started by District Governor

Maurice Sullivan (the founder of Foodland Stores) to provide generous scholarships to outstanding high school seniors in Hawaii. Each Rotary Club in Hawaii has an opportunity to nominate candidates for these scholarships. Started in 1976, to date, the Rotary Clubs have awarded over 1,461 HRYF Scholarships totaling $5,120,203. Members who contribute $1,000 or more

to the Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation become Sullivan Fellows.

**WHAT ARE ANNUAL ROTARY EVENTS?**

**Club Assembly:** The Rotary Club of West Kauai holds a club assembly once or twice a year. These assemblies highlight the agenda and achievements of the avenues of service, and to give all of the West Kauai Rotarians the opportunity to choose committees that interest them.

**District Assembly:** District 5000 holds its District Assembly on Kauai each year to provide leadership and training to each club's incoming officers, board members, and committee chairs.

**District Conference:** This event is for all District 5000 Rotarians and their spouses, and its purpose is fellowship, fun, and inspirational speakers that create greater awareness of the Rotary experience. District 5000’s annual conference rotates among the four islands. In 2013; May 17-19, on Oahu.

**Rotary International Convention:** This convention is open to all Rotarians and their spouses throughout the world. Its purpose is to inform and inspire Rotarians at the international level. The convention is also the annual meeting to conduct the business of Rotary International. The Rotary International Convention will be held in Bangkok, Thailand May 6-9, 2012 and will be attended by over 26,000 Rotarians.

**WHAT ARE SOME CURRENT AND RECENTLY COMPLETED KAUAI COMMUNITY PROJECTS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF WEST KAUAI?**

**Fundraising efforts for scholarships include:**

**“Pronto Pups booth”, Annual vending - Waimea Town Celebration**

**Annual Robert Burns Scottish Supper and Silent Auction, held at Waimea Plantation Cottages**

**“Gifts for Grands, a charitable community gifting program for Nursing home and senior residents on the West Side.**

**Annual Kauai Track Meet; sponsored and volunteered for all High Schools track students on Kauai**

**Provide dictionaries each year to all West Side 4th grade students**

**Donating life-saving Rescue Tubes for Kauai's unguarded beaches**

**Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation & Ambassadorial Scholarships**

**West Side students, Vocational studies Scholarships**

**Adopt a Highway Program - Monthly two mile Kuhio Hwy clean-up**

**Substantial food and monetary contributions for West Side Salvation Army Food Bank and kitchen to continue providing for families & individuals in-need on the West Side.**

**Thanksgiving & Christmas meals, clothes & toys to homeless families**

**Mahalo !**

Thank you for your interest in the Rotary Club of West Kauai, and please know that all of your fellow West Kauai Rotarians are excited to have you as a new quality member to share fellowship and to help with our work in the local and international communities. Your Rotary sponsor, your mentor, the membership committee and other West Kauai Rotarians are available to receive your comments and/or gladly answer any questions you may have.

Remember that all of our efforts follow the first rule of the Rotary Club of West Kauai …….**Have Fun!**

**(Guide updated April 22, 2012)**