



# Rotary News *lava* FLOW

February 3, 2012

92 YEARS OF SERVICE

Reporter: Ketura Waiki

*The Weekly Review of the Rotary Club of Hilo*



For the members who were present at the meeting, a wonderful flashback was experienced as **Stu Hussey** pulled back the gavel, sounded the gong and called the meeting to order. **Russ Oda** willingly agreed to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Alberta Dobbe** then shared two very

colorful and inspirational messages which were chosen in honor of Friday being "wear red day" for the Heart Association and February being Black History month. We learned that the only thing that should be separated by color is our laundry.

**Our greeters Helen Hemmes** and **Newton Chu** greeted us all, after which **Helen** introduced our visiting Rotarians from the Club of Hilo Bay,



**Steve Bader** and **Dr. Richard Crowe**. Visiting from the N. Hawaii club was **Richard Castro** and we had a Past District Governor in our presence; from Oak Bay, Victoria Canada, **Joan Firkins**. Although she was fashionably late because she got lost, **Stu** eventually presented her with our club banner, which was when he realized that



this "gentlemen", as he mistakenly thought, was in fact, a "lady". Joining **Doug Arnott** was **Jeff McKnight**, a potential new member.

The meeting then progressed into **announcements**, of which there were many. First up, **Alan Kusunoki** was pleased to announce that the additional **\$1700** in Japan Relief money was properly transferred, with the assistance and undying efforts of **Saeko Hayashi**. Humble **Saeko** stood and deflected her credit back to the members for all of their goodwill.



**Wally Wong** then announced that donations were still being accepted to make baskets for foster children. Donations of travel sized toiletries, travel bags & suitcases and children's clothing (from newborn to teenage sizes, new or gently used) will be made into baskets to present to the social workers in honor of March being Social Worker Appreciation month. You may bring your donations to **Misti Tyrin**, and even though she may still not be able to voice her thanks due to a bad case of laryngitis, we all know that she is thankful!



**Jon McElvaney** then proudly announced that 42 computers, 47 cameras and 2 more "high-end" staff cameras were delivered to Ka'u, allowing the students to express themselves visually, which in turn will develop other abilities, literally. We are looking forward to a future press release on this contribution in the Hawaii-

Tribune Herald. This reporter looked for, but did not see **Ted Dixon**... **Jon** further credited the **Hilo Rotary Foundation** along with the many clubs that contributed to this effort, including 4 Taiwanese clubs and the Pahoa club. Then on a serious note, **Stu** mentioned that the club banner had mysteriously disappeared last week, with no log of it being checked out. It did miraculously reappear at just about the time **Jon** had arrived for our meeting... funny coincidence. Side skirting a possible **\$50** fine for this act, **Jon** admitted to the thievery but noted that it was actually worth thousands of dollars in publicity for our club.



**Steve Yoshida** then further drew on the idea of connecting on an international level by giving back to the Taiwanese club who is coming to Hilo on February 15th. Host families or even a "host hotel", possibly, a... lodge... is needed for three more Taiwanese members. Additionally, two functions still need to be coordinated while they are here; possibly one, a golf event.

This reporter will be the first to admit, that she doesn't know what a 7 handicap means, but someone has it, so we should play golf.



**Rand Mundo** then shared an inspiring story about a Kamehameha student who will be participating in the Rotary Youth Exchange program and has expressed interest in going to France, Spain or Italy. This very mature young man turns 16 in April and will serve as an excellent representative.

**Jim Cheney** almost scolded the room by stating that our effort to increase the membership has not been extremely overwhelming. Having said that, he inspired the group by announcing that the next 6 weeks are going to be "Bring Somebody To Lunch Month". This reporter thinks **Jim** named it that because "Bring Somebody To Lunch Over The Next Six Weeks, But Maybe Not On The 24th Because That's Club Assembly" is just too long. So from February 10th through March 16th all members are being asked to bring a friend, a co-worker, an



Birthdays:

- Helen Hemmes February 8
- Jimmy Yagi February 18
- Lorraine Shin February 20
- Wayne Atebara February 23
- Naomi Menor February 23
- Jim Cheney February 28

Club Anniversary:

- Toshi Aoki February 1
- Chuck Porter February 4
- Bobby Stivers-Apiki February 9
- Helen Hemmes February 13
- Dirk Yoshina February 14
- Bob Fox February 24
- Ed Hara February 27

Wedding Anniversary:

- Lorraine & Vernon Inouye February 21

Announcements:

- Fri. February 10  
Susan Jarvi, PhD
- Fri. February 17  
Taipel Twins Rotary Club
- Fri. February 24  
Club Assembly
- Sat. February 25  
Heart Walk

- President ..... Joseph Hanley
- President Elect ..... Alan Kusunoki
- Vice President ..... Alberta Dobbe
- Immediate Past President ..... Stewart Hussey
- Secretary ..... Richard Johnson
- Treasurer ..... William Dolan
- Sergeant-at-Arms ..... Chris Tamm
- Director - Club Administration ..... Kerry Glass
- Director - Service Projects ..... Mitchell Dodo
- Director - Rotary Foundations ..... Susan Munro
- Director - Membership ..... James Cheney
- Director - Public relations ..... Robert Hanley
- International Service ..... Steve Yoshida
- Community Service ..... Wallace Wong
- Vocational Service ..... John McVickar
- New Generations ..... Rand Mundo
- Club Service ..... Thomas Brown
- The Rotary Foundation ..... Susan Munro
- Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation .... Mitchell Dodo

associate, any prospective member to our lunch meeting or suffer the shame of public humiliation.

Stu briefed over the birthday recognitions because there were none, but recognized Toshi Aoki for his anniversary on February 1st.

It was then Happy Dollars, not Happy Hour, as we were used to hearing during Stu's tenure. Kerry Glass celebrated a "self anniversary" on February 3rd, and announced he was \$13 happy for being cancer free for 13 years! Mitch Dodo then shared how he is regularly stalked by Doug Arnott and offered various morbid ideas, relating to Mitch's profession. Mitch, being the "stand up" kind of guy that he is, voluntarily sat next to his stalker at the beginning of the meeting. Doug then decided to play the Chinese Fire Drill and abandoned his table-mate. Somehow Jon McElvaney got involved with all of this and Mitch ended up dropping \$1 for himself and \$1 for Jon. Doug then handed over \$5, suggesting that embalming someone in a seated position would allow them to still sit with us for lunch. This reporter feels that she should have some sort of personal disclaimer in her attempt at reiterating these demented details. Joan Firkins, our visitor from

EVERY ROTARIAN EVERY YEAR

club was at 77% for EREY contributions. For \$11, Rick Newkold shared his story about renting a room in France for \$11/night, even though he was not allowed to bring in his baguette. (That would've made it a crummy room!) Helen Hemmes was \$5



happy and announced that it's official... "Acrasis Kona" is the name of the slime mold species that was named in honor of Dr. Don Hemmes whose help in several collecting trips was invaluable. "Kona" is the Hawaiian translation of "Don". Pun intended. John McVickar was \$2 happy because he thought he was off the hook in helping with RYLA. Lorraine Inouye quickly interjected that she would put him to work which made John \$3 more happy!

Susan Monroe then introduced our guest speaker, Major Neill Franklin, Executive Director of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP).

Maj. Franklin, visiting from Maryland, has over 30 years of experience with a plethora of titles, positions and accomplishments as a narcotics agent in his war on drugs. In a nutshell, the LEAP membership believes that if drugs were legalized, it would save lives, reduce disease, crime and addition and conserve tax dollars. They stand for the regulation and control of drugs, not the prohibition of it. This politically controversial subject was presented in such a way, including facts, statistics and true stories, that it seemed the room was able to see it from a different perspective. Maj. Franklin shared a very emotional story about the assassination of his close friend and associate, which served as the turning point for him. It took such a tragedy for him to realize that there was something wrong with the "policy". He then detailed for us how the law enforcement and criminal justice system is not working in our society, laden with drug dealers, addicts and related crimes. Maj. Franklin closed with two requests. He asked that we continue to educate ourselves with the facts and to encourage discussions on the failure of the policy with local, state and national representatives. LEAP's website is www.leap.cc and Maj. Franklin can be reached via email at neill@leap.cc



Rick Newkold closed the meeting by leading us in the 4-way test.



Photos by Kerry Glass

