



Rotary News

Lava FLOW

January 13, 2012

OUR 91ST YEAR

Reporter: Double H

The Weekly Review of the Rotary Club of Hilo

Before we get started in this report, first a short editorial by your esteemed reporter. Today is Friday the 13th and though this reporter has been doing the Lava Flow for a long (and I mean really long) time, I cannot ever remember doing one on a Friday the 13th. Let's hope everything all goes well and there are no unlucky errors or mistakes. Also compared to last week's edition by the "Don", who finally used a lot of creativity and imagination in his report, this report might seem a little mundane. It's hard to write with that kind of pizzazz on a regular basis and following something like makes one feel his writing is just blahh! So I will just do the best I can for today's meeting and everyone please be understanding.

GREETERS



Today's pleasant and gracious greeters were **Gene Tao** and **Christina Dhillon**. They welcomed everyone with a smile and a sincere openness.

PLEDGE & INVOCATION



At exactly 12:03pm, **Pres. Hanley** gonged the meeting to order with the usual "We are the oldest Rotary Club on the Big Island, 2nd oldest in Hawaii (92 years), having been chartered on December 1st, 1920" (was **Russ Oda** involved in our charter, do you think?) and, as has been his style this year, asked for a volunteer to lead us in the pledge to our flag. **Stew Hussey** quickly stepped up and did the deed for us.

Our inspirational moment was provided by **Cathy Cole**, about something involving a battle of 2 wolves (good vs bad) inside all of us. You had to be there.



VISITORS AND GUESTS

Pres. Hanley then requested one of the greeters to introduce our visitors and guests which resulted in an unusual sight. **Gene Tao (GENE???)** was seen giving pronunciation hints to **Christina** about who our visitors were. Amazing!!! Anyway, according to the word of **Christina**, we had:

From the Rotary Club of Hilo Bay were: **Richard Crowe** and **PDG Pete Muller**.

Stew Hussey's guest was announced as **Marta**, **Pete Muller's** daughter (and that's the name that was written in the visitor's sign-in log), but somewhere, somehow there must be a mistake because **Pete's** daughter's name is **Maile**. Presumably she knows who she is and someone just wrote it in wrong.

A visitor to listen to our Guest Speaker was **Matthew Rifkin**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Rotary picnic** scheduled for this upcoming Sunday (already past once you get this report) has been cancelled and will be rescheduled for either February 19th or the 26th. More info will be forthcoming on this once the various memberships have been polled to determine which date is more suitable for everyone.

Every Friday afternoon around 4:00pm **Wally Wong** is doing practice walks for **Shauna's** heart walk event. Anyone interested in walking should come to the parking lot by Coconut Island around that time and socialize by exercising.

Rotary International just made the announcement that India celebrated its 1st polio free year. What terrific news from a country that has been plagued by this malady like forever. Yes, it seems our polio eradication program is actually working. Wonderful, wonderful!!

Our long worked on computers for **Kau school project** is reaching culmination. **Pres. Hanley** has purchased 41 HP computers (this from much of the work **Jon McElvaney** has done for this project) and they should be here shortly and will be distributed to Kau school accordingly. Those kids will feel like they've gone to heaven once they see what's in store for them. This is the result of a joint effort by various Rotary Clubs and something to be proud of (the cost of these computers is over **\$30,000**).

Everyone was urged to visit our **Rotary Club of Hilo** runner web-site on a regular basis as **Kerry** has done a magnificent job of putting a top-notch site together that is very informative and helpful to all of us. Its there for us to make use of and we should do so regularly.

We are close to fulfilling our **EREY** (every Rotarian every year)

commitment for **Rotary Foundation** contributions this year. Almost everyone of us has given something and **Pres. Hanley** will gently contact and nudge the few remaining so we can meet this goal.



Photos by **Mitchell Dodo**

Birthdays:

- Doug Espejo January 8
- Ketura DeMattos January 10
- Bobby Stivers-Apiki January 17
- Gail Takaki January 17
- Newton Chu January 19
- Mitchell Dodo January 19

Club Anniversary:

- Yoko Hayano January 7
- Judy Gibson January 13
- Scott Brand January 14
- Bob Hanley January 14
- Stew Hussey January 15
- Nancy Cabral January 29
- Jenny Johnson January 30
- Richard Johnson January 30

Announcements:

Fri. January 20
Barbara Troegner

Fri. January 27
Club Assembly

Fri. February 3
Neill Franklin

Fri. February 10
Susan Jarvi, PhD

Fri. February 17
Eric Hagiwara

President	Joseph Hanley
President Elect	Alan Kusonoki
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

Thanks and xiexies (that's Chinese for thank you for those of you not in the know) went to Mitchell Dodo and Newton Chu for last's week's marvelous photos and Lava Flow. Nice job guys.

And, as a result of a lot of work put into the Kau school computer project, and because of the efforts of a few dedicated members of both Rotary Clubs, we will be announcing the start of a Sister Club relationship (on or about February 17th or so) with the Rotary Club of Taipei. This could be the start of really good arrangement for both Clubs and is something we should be looking forward to.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Doug Espejo celebrated his birthday on January 8th while Ketura DeMattos had hers on January 10th. Neither one was at today's meeting so presumably they did not want to be publically feted personally.

Two Club Anniversaries occurred this past week - Yoko Hayano on the 7th (1year already as a member - how time flies when you're having fun - sponsored by Steve Yoshida) and Judy Gibson, our attendance proctor, on the 13th (today) sponsored by Cindy Boots 7 years ago.

HAPPY DOLLARS

Kui Costa was \$10.00 happy because Steve Handy stepped into the cause by providing a healthy concession item for sale for the Waiakea Interact Club which has netted them over \$145.00 so far.

Shauna Tuohy was \$10.00 happy that her Heart Walk scheduled for February 25th is coming along really well and that Wally Wong is going overboard in getting people from our Club to walk (for healthy reasons, of course).

Gail Takaki was \$5.50 happy because 55 kids, the most ever, are signed up for the RYLA convention to be held at KMC on the weekend of February 3-5th.

Yoko was \$10.00 happy from just coming back from Japan where her dad and family are doing well after all the troubles that have gone on over there and that she had a great time in her visit.

Doug Arnott kicked in \$10.00 for being happy about the cruise ships bringing in a bunch of visitors to our lovely city and that, in general, the hotels here are starting to do better (which means more transit business for him), praised the police presence and help in Keaukaha in keeping things safe, and that his establishment is rated #2 as a trip advisor for visitors to our island.

Nancy Cabral gave \$100.00 to our Club's Foundation to remind everyone of the annual Rodeo event coming up on Feb 18th & 19th and wants everyone to go to that, if possible, that Michelle Carvalho's youth camp is coming up and we should be generous for her and that she is thankful for India finally being polio free and Rotary's efforts in making that happen.

Tom Brown provided \$5.00 in reminding us that

whenever Pete Muller is introduced at a Rotary function, his title of Past District Governor should be used.

Lorraine Shin was \$20.00 happy for becoming a new grandmother (whatever makes you happy I guess) in the middle of the night sometime last week.

Kerry Glass was \$5.00 happy to be back in some place warm after his recent trip to the mainland, basically glad to be back home.

Pres. Hanley provided \$20.00 in announcing that his son has been assigned to the 82nd Airborne and is waiting for his transfer orders to where-ever.

PDG Pete Muller was \$5.00 happy in saying his daughter has been accepted to John Hopkins University for her Medical Studies.

And finally, Ted Dixon gave \$5.00 cause he ran into Buddy Gordon in Las Vegas (we do live in a small world) and Buddy, in his gravelly voice, says "Hi" to everyone.

GUEST SPEAKER

Our guest speaker today is the esteemed County of Hawaii Police Chief Harry Kubojiri and he was given a long biographical introduction by Pres. Hanley listing a lot of dates and achievements, too many to itemize here, which validate his 30 year career in the Police Dept.



Chief Kubojiri is also a Rotarian, being a member of the Rotary Club of Hilo Bay (the morning Club).

Chief Kubojiri mentioned that, at first, he wasn't sure what to speak about in his presentation to us but the enacted medical marijuana (known as MJ from now on in this report) laws legislation is something we should all be aware of so he focused on that.



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

The law, as enacted by our State Legislature, was not meant to legalize MJ completely, though it probably seems that way, and the passed ordinance in Hawaii County made the enforcement of violation of the MJ laws a low priority activity (supposedly) for the Police.

At this point **Capt. Richard Sherlock** was



brought up and introduced to talk about the medical MJ law and what is happening because of it. He provided a lot of facts and figures and a terrific slide show presentation about it.

The medical MJ law was initially signed into being by past governor Ben Cayetano on 06/14/2000 and Hawaii was the 1st state to enact such a law by legislation.



As of last year, there were 4,149 patients, by permit, entitled to receive medical MJ and 463 care givers here on the Big Island. There are a few less this year for whatever reason. These numbers account for 61% of ALL the permits issued in the entire State of Hawaii compared to our island having only 13% of the population – obviously a distorted breakdown of what the permit count should actually be based on our population percentage. One doctor in Hawi, alone, has issued 2,471 permits.

Permits should be issued for reasons involving cancer, HIV, glaucoma and severe pain but general pain seems to be the over-riding reason (almost 97% of the permits issued) for getting a permit for use. The police tend to see things in a different perspective but because of the permit system, there is not much they can do about this.

Qualifying care-givers are allowed 3 mature MJ plants and 4 budding plants per prescriber but there appears to be a lot of leeway in how this is set up. First off, 3 mature plants and 4 budding plants are BIG (as shown in the Capt.'s photos) and outdoor plant can run to be as large as 12-14 feet tall. That's big! Then the care-giver law allows the husband, the wife and any grown child to get a care-giver permit, and with each entitled to 7 plants for each patient and with up to a signed allowance of 7 patients per care-giver, you are now talking about a LOT of MJ plants.



There is a maximum daily amount of MJ presumably allowed (like about 4 ounces or so) but because of all the plants, the care-givers can generate up to 4-1/2 pounds of dry MJ on a regular basis, more that supposedly allowed. Someone could call the police about suspicious activity about MJ growing and production but the law tends to protect the care-givers and the police do not have a master list of all those entitled to grow and provide the drug. The State Medical dept. has a list and for every investigation the police has to file a request from the Health Dept. to see if the grower or user is legal or not.

Capt. Sherlock then talked about "Companion Centers" and their involvement in the distribution of medical MJ. There is quite an interpretation here about these centers and what they can do and some the results of their activities. What a mess for the Police Dept.

Overall the laws keep changing (or so it seems anyways) and new concerns about regulations and associates come up. They have to keep abreast and maintain a low key vigilance over everything (as mandated by the B.I. ordinance).

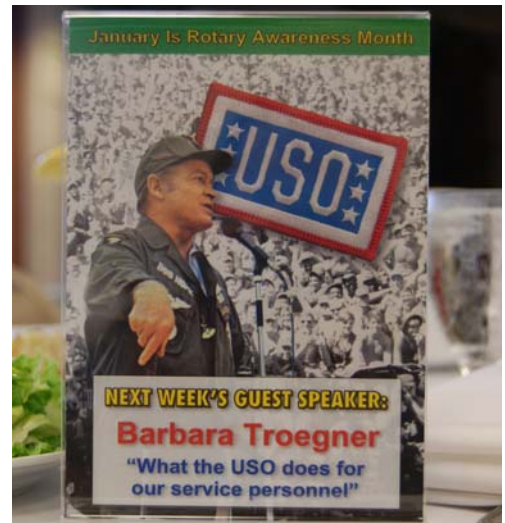


Time was running out so the presentation was closed up and questions were allowed from our members about the medical MJ laws and what is actually happening in our neighborhoods and areas around us. A lot of the questions were pointed and opened up a lot of concerns by what is happening. Eventually **Pres. Hanley** had to halt the questions and ask that the Capt. and Chief stay after the meeting to answer any more that many of us still had, and they were glad to do so.

Our illustrious Koa Pens, as made by **Gerard Carter**, were presented to each of our speakers with our thanks for their informative talk.

In closing, the **4-Way Test** was led by volunteer **Cindy Boots**.

Pres. Hanley informed us that next week's speaker would be **Barbara Troegner** on "What the USO does for our service personnel" and that we should be safe until then. With that, he gonged the meeting closed.



See you all next week.
pau.

