



The Weekly Review of the Rotary Club of Hilo

On an absolutely gorgeous Friday morning/afternoon, here we all are cramped into this tiny room (we were upstairs today) at the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel honoring our weekly commitment to Rotary. What a dedicated bunch of people we are!

And, apparently because we were upstairs, the initial turnout near the start of the meeting could be called a little sparse, seeing that there were a lot of empty chairs at the tables. Seemingly many of our members forgot we were to be upstairs (as announced last week AND in the Lava Flow last week) and routinely went to the banquet rooms downstairs and, thusly, had to be redirected to come upstairs, hence the reason for the late arriving crowd.

GREETERS

Welcoming all to our meeting today with smiles and open arms were **Corey Kawamoto** and **Yoko Hayano**. Nice job guys!



PLEDGE & INVOCATION

Sounding the gong at just about noon-ish, **Pres. Kerry** called the meeting to order. He started out by stating that March was Literacy Month and was quickly made aware from many of those who knew that March was also:



- Women's History Month
- American Red Cross Month
- Irish-American Heritage Month
- National Nutrition Month
- Save Your Vision Month
- Workplace Eye Wellness Month
- Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

(Actually most of these were not mentioned but in doing my internet investigation, this reporter discovered the other observances.)

Taking the correction in stride, **Pres. Kerry** called on **Alan Kusunoki** to lead us in the recitation of the Pledge to the Flag, which **Alan** did so with his usual aplomb.

Cindy Boots then came up to talk about the nice thoughts that



Glenn Harris made her think about last week when he urged everyone to think of all the good things that happened to you that day. **Cindy** mentioned a few of the things which made her happy and felt this was a good idea for all of us to do all the time, rather than being pessimistic. All of us should have something wonderful to be thankful for every day and should cherish the feeling.

VISITORS AND GUESTS

Greeter **Yoko** was called upon to introduce our visitors and guests which were:

- Ryan Costa**, hosted by spouse **Kui Costa**
- Shirin Faridi** hosted by **Treena Breyfogle**
- Dr. Kristine McCoy** hosted by **Treena**

and visiting Rotarians:

- Keith Apelgren** from Pittsburg, PA
- Walt Thisrenatte** (location not listed)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks and kudos were given to last week's Lava Flow Reporter and Photographer, our Club's 2 **Jims, Kennedy** and **Cheney** respectively.

A quick review of upcoming events which most of us were already aware of:

- 03/15 – Hilo Heart Walk
- 03/15 – East Hawaii District Assembly
- 04/19 – Rotary Work Day
- 04/24 – 5 Club Steak Fry for Aussie RFE
- 04/26 – Merrie Monarch Parade
- 05/2-4 – District Conference
- 06/14 – Hilo Brewfest

Various details were provided about a few of these events to help encourage us to partake in them. **Wally Wong** was distributing tee-shirts for next weekend's Heart Walk and **Bobby Stivers** was mentioned for setting up Business Visitations for our May 2nd meeting since it appear **Pres. Kerry** will be at the District Conference and this would be a good way to handle his absence. A photo of all the colors and designs of the Rotary Shirts to be made available for the 5 Clubs participating in the Merrie Monarch parade and ours would be the standard Royal Blue (not hot pink or neon yellow?).



BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARIES

Bobby Fujimoto's birthday was yesterday, March 6th, stating that he was 39 for the 35th time (or thereabouts).

Sam & Sandy Wallis celebrated their wedding anniversary on March 1st.

And today, March 7th is **Cindy Boots'** Club anniversary, making her a 17 year veteran of our Club, for which she donated \$17.00 to our Club's Foundation.

HAPPINESS AND RECOGNITIONS

Lorraine Inouye was to be cited for the article and photo in our daily newspaper about her deciding to run again for the Senate seat in her district but she was not present to accept the acclaim.

Being in retirement and having the time to do this, **Chris Tamm** stated he will be gone for 6 weeks in his visit to South Africa (where he is originally from for those not in the know) and is looking forward to the trip. \$10.00

Mike Robinson was \$2.00 happy to have a fellow Pennsylvanian (visitor **Keith**) at the table.

Theresa English was \$3.00 happy to have **Rand Mundo** join the board of directors of the Hilo Rotary Foundation.

Nancy Cabral was \$50.00 unhappy because she was having no luck in finding her replacement as Membership Chairperson for next year. She then stated, as an incentive, she would donate another \$50.00 for that person's foundation choice for a volunteer to take over the

Birthdays:

Bob Fujimoto March 6
Helene Tajiri March 25

Club Anniversary:

Cindy Boots March 7 (17)
Tom Brown March 17, (25)
Laurie Bass March 18 (3)
Ian Hatch March 18 (3)
Naomi Menor March 18 (26)
Theresa English March 19 (4)
John McVickar March 19 (4)
Tammy Silva March 23 (2)
Chris Tamm March 24 (19)
Helene Tajiri March 25 (20)
Gail Takaki March 28 (6)

Wedding Anniversary:

Sam & Sandy Wallis March 1
Mitchell & Karen Dodo March 12
Jim Cheney & Xiao Ying Sun March 18
Jerry & Sandy Watanabe March 19
Helenel & Harvey Tajiri March 23

Announcements:

Fri. March 14 - Rochelle Bibbentrop
Affordable Care Act - AARP
Fri. March 21 - Sally O'Brien
Reiki for Health and Life
Fri. March 28 - Dr. Donald Straney
Chancellor UH Hilo

President	Kerry Glass
President Elect	Richard Johnson
Immediate Past President	Alan Kusunoki
Vice President	Alberta Dobbe
Secretary	Susan Munro
Treasurer	Corey Kawamoto
Sergeant-at-Arms	Cindy Boots
Membership	Nancy Cabral
Public Relations	Robert Hanley
Club Administration	Tom Brown
Service Projects	Mitchell Dodo
Rotary Foundations	Alan Kusunoki
Club Service	Tim Beatty
International Service	Jenny Johnson
Community Service	Wallace Wong
Youth Service	Glenn Harris
Vocational Service	Bobby Stivers-Apiki
Hilo Rotary Club Foundation	John McVickar
Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation	Mitchell Dodo
The Rotary Foundation	Alan Kusunoki
Attendance	Judy Gibson
Greeters	Helene Tajiri
Programs	Treena Breyfogle
Lava Flow Editor	Tammy Silva

Membership helm next year. No takers as of yet, but hopefully soon.

Pennsylvania visitor **Keith** gave \$3.00 for Hilo's great weather and for seeing what great activities our Club is involved with.

Alberta Dobbe was \$5.00 happy about what Hospice does and **Dr. Craig Shikuma's** involvement with them. At which point the good **Dr. Craig** stood up and gave \$100.00 to the **Rotary Foundation** in memory of what Hospice did for his mother and father and generally what they do for the survivors and family of someone in their program. Hospice does an outstanding job in making everyone's plight easier.

Biff Kennedy was \$5.00 happy for some reason concerning the Worldwide Conference about invertebrate pests, glad that it was about bugs and stuff and not people.

Steve Handy was \$20.00 happy in announcing that all the books we collected arrived in Fiji and that he and a small group of others (**Corey, Tom Brown**, etc.) will be leaving on March 23rd to do their thing over there. And apparently McDonald's Corp. is joining in with this project and more will be reported on that later.

GUEST SPEAKER

Treena then went to the front to read a long bio of our guest speaker, **Dr. Kristine McCoy**, which was informative but never did answer the questions as to whether she is the great, great, great grandmother of Dr. Leonard McCoy of Star Trek fame or if she was an ancestor of the McCoy family renowned for their feuds with the Hatfields. Guess that information will have to be forthcoming at a later date.

Dr. McCoy talk was about the Hawai'i Health System and showing how our support has helped immensely. Basically our major need is for the stability and settling in Hawai'i of Primary Care physicians.

Statewide there are only about 70% of the doctors available that we should have. And that the Big Island's need is further down from all the other islands, thus a greater factor in getting the program that we have going running and convincing medical students and doctors to come here and stay here.

Yes, this is a growing problem around the country too since studies show that 52,000 more Primary Care Physicians will be needed by the year 2025. Where are they going to come from?

There is no Federal or National solution in the works to meet this need and our strategy in setting up the Residency Program is the exception in trying to get doctors. Still in 3 years it is estimated that we will lose about 1/3rd our our doctors on our island due to retirement, relocation and death. Not a good

sign of things to come.

So with the Residency Program in effect, it has been discovered that the doctors who train here tend to stay here. What a good result benefit!

Also, innovation is the key to solving our Primary Care problem currently. Teams composed of doctors, nurses and care givers and handle and care for more patients than individual doctors alone. More clinics and organizations are moving to this type of format.

Dr. McCoy displayed a large set of %'s of patients and activities involved with working with these patients. Many of our local programs, such as the U of H school of Nursing, UHH Pharmacy, I Ola Lahui psychologists, are helping out doing a lot of the basics in taking care of patients, reducing the workload for the doctors.

Our basic Residency Program just attained full approval and should start July 1, 2014 and has 115 applicants for 4 slots. With 4 openings per year in the 4 year program, 12 doctors in training will be the end result after the 1st full cycle is complete and then be maintained throughout.

Primary Care tends to save money and, with all the teams and workers involved, is a job multiplier. The Hawai'i Legislature is working to fund this program (with 3 million being bandied about in the budget now) and we really need to have the money in the budget released to make sure the program can run according to plan.

Dr. McCoy appreciates our support with our fundraisers and realizes the effort the community is doing to get doctors to come and stay here.

The Hawai'i Health System now accepts most insurance coverages and unfortunately has more patients than they can adequately work with. Hilo Hospital will be the main facility for the 4 residents per year in training (again up to 12 total).

She is glad the community is involved with making a difference in trying to get doctors and keep doctors.

After a few questions, **Pres. Kerry** thanked her for coming to speak with us and said a donation will be made in her name to one of our local charities.



CLOSE OF MEETING

Pres. Kerry announced that **Rochelle Bibbentrop** would be our speaker next week about the Affordable Care Act thru AARP. This could be important for many of us.



And with that **Tom Brown** did his best in leading us in the recitation of the **4-Way Test** of the things we think, say and do after which the meeting was called to an end.

See you all next week. Pau.

Photos by **Stew Hussey**