

It was an absolutely glorious day in Beautiful Hilo, Hawaii. As we have done for over 97 years, Hilo Rotarians gathered together for fellowship and "Service above Self" in the quaint Hilo Hawaiian Hotel. Greeted with a smile, and warm handshakes by Greeters Atsuko "Day Lum" Winston and ADG Randy "not West" Hart. Then we Hilo Rotarians happily accepted our badges and prepared to enjoy the feast prepared by the chefs of the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel.

Our fearless 97th President Steve "Footlong" Handy was so exhausted after spending so much time wrapping gifts and performing community service, he asked past-president Wally "Hokulea" Wong to run the meeting. PP Wally asked Joshua "Bull Market" Countess to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. So PP Wally reminded everyone that the Rotary theme for the year under his leadership of Rotary was "Malama Honua" caring for our earth! Mahalo master navigator Wally! We also sang the Doxology in Hawaiian to show our thankfulness for our good graces.

Maureen "not Perrier but" Poirier then gave us a great Thought of the Day poem about the New Year!

"Wishing you a powerful 2018, may you enjoy
12 Months of success,
52 weeks of laughter,
365 days of fun,
8760 hours of joy
525600 minutes of good luck
And 31,536,000 seconds of happiness"

Thanks Wally and Maureen!

PP Wally then brought up the Greeter ADG Randy "not West" Hart to introduce our guests. Guest of Biff "not Jim" Kennedy and visiting from the Rotary Club of Carmichael California was Jeff Thompson. Jeff's Rotary club puts on a great food festival every year. Another visiting Rotarian was Becky Goerkner from the Rotary Club of Normal, Illinois. Becky's club is the only "normal" rotary club in the world. Lisa "raves and" Rantz brought incoming Rotarian JD Domizio. Welcome guys! Thanks were given to Jenn "K&J" Tanouye and Anna "Happy Valley" Liu for the last Lava Flow.

Announcements

PP Wally announced that our Mauka to Makai cleanup at Kaiwao Farms is January 20. Also, we have Lilioukalani Park Cleanup on January 27. ADG Randy reminded us to sign up for the Rotary Foundation dinner and seminar on January 23 at the Naniloa. You need to RSVP by January 19 with Connie "Membership" Ichinose. Malcolm "robotics" Chun came up to present

Paul Harris Pins to Lisa “Raves and” Rantz, Shane “da Rev” Okimoto and Barbara “Ke Ola” Garcia. What a great group of new members.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Anna “Happy Valley” Liu celebrated turning 21 or something young like that. Happy Birthday kiddo! Eric “Holy Cross” Anderson celebrated 1 year as a member of the Rotary Club of Hilo! WOW that was fast!

Happy Dollars

Marcia “Palace” Prose was happy that there was a new bunch of programs at the Palace Theater for January. Anna “Happy Valley” Liu was happy to have a new 2018 car!

Jenn “K&J” Tanouye was happy that 2017 is over and was excited for RYLA. Nancy “Day Lum” Cabral was happy about her new granddaughter.

Malcom “robotics” Chun was simply happy to be here!

GUEST SPEAKERS

Because January is Vocational Service month, we had a new member, Joshua “Bull Market” Countess give us a summary of his Life. Joshua is a Hilo Boy, Waiakea High and UH Manoa graduate who was born in Palau to a couple of Peace Corp workers who met in Honolulu and after stints in Micronesia, moved to Hilo. He started out as a teacher, but recently joined Merrill Lynch where he has become a certified Investment Advisor. He loves his new career because he helps other realize their investment potential. He shared a happy moment when he was able to help someone who inherited a lot of money maximize and protect her investment for her future. His first true love is photography and Joshua volunteered to take photos of people who need updated photos for LinkedIn or Rotary. Thanks Josh!!!

Our next speaker was JD Domizio, born and raised in Kalapana, JD is a graduate of Keaau High and UH Manoa. His father was also in the peace corp and now works at the Puna Community Health Center. JD is working on a special project in coordination with the UH John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) where he works with local students to encourage them to look into careers in health care. He coordinates and brings educators and researchers to schools to educate and inspire students. Terrific JD, thanks for all that you do.

Malcolm “robotics” Chun then came up to present Helen “mushroom” Hemmes her Paul Harris plus 5 pin for all her donations. Helen encouraged us all to give to the foundation and thanked her husband for being so well endowed or something like that.

PP Wally announced that next week's speaker will be our very own Treena "50 shades of" Breyfogle who will speak on something very exciting and exotic. Be there!

Past President Wally then asked Joshua "Bull Market" Countess to lead us in the 4-way test, and then we were out of there. And that's a fact Jack.