

Rotary Club of Hilo
Installation Ceremony: Rotary Serving Humanity
June 28, 2016

On Tuesday, June 28, 2016, Rotarians from clubs across the island, family members, and friends gathered at the Hilo Yacht Club to take part in a formal “changing of the guard” ceremony for Rotary Club of Hilo’s 2016 -2017 presidency position. President Randy, a retired military veteran, was embraced and welcomed for valiantly undertaking the responsibility as the club leader, as outgoing President Wally Wong was acknowledged and appreciated for his year of “Service Above Self” and then some. Nonetheless, the club could not have chosen a better aspirant to pervade this rank of premiership, especially since President Randy is a 26-year Rotarian and has 38-years of experience serving our country and scaling to the ranks of commander of Kilauea Military Camp prior to retiring.

Opening Remarks & Welcome ~ Mr. Tom Brown:

To begin, opening remarks, welcome, and introduction of special guests was presented by long time Rotarian, and a friend to many, Mr. Tom Brown. What seemed to be a roast of distinguished guests and our guest of honor by Tom Brown, paved the way to a good-humored festivity.

To set off dining, Tom, likened the diners to passengers on a plane, allowing first class members such as President Randy, his guests, and distinguished speakers, incoming 2016 – 2017 District Governor, Clint Schroeder, and Del Green, current District Governor, to tackle the buffet line first. As stated by Tom, handicaps and cripples (like him and Pete Mueller), and those from Volcano who traveled the farthest to attend the meeting could also join in at the start of the buffet line. Lucky for all, there was more than enough food for everyone to enjoy. The delicious dinner buffet was bursting with a variety of flavors that included a tasty chicken dish, a juicy roast, and seasoned fish; however, before dining, the invocation was delivered by, Helene Tajiri, a stalwart Rotarian.

Invocation ~ Ms. Helene Tajiri:

To begin, Helene familiarized the crowd with President Randy’s motto for the year:

*If you want to travel fast, travel alone.
If you want to travel far, travel together.*

~ African Proverb

Thanks and praise was given to the Lord above for Rotary and its founder, Paul Harris, for his vision and passion for service to our communities around the world. Recognition was also given for all Rotarians to be a part of this good cause, and request for guidance

and help as we embark upon keeping “Service Above Self” in the upcoming year in the forefront of our lives as Rotarians. Thanks were also given to the Lord for Wally Wong and all that he has done this past Rotary year. Gratitude was similarly bestowed upon the Lord for President Randy and his newly appointed leadership team for taking on this responsibility. Furthermore, requests for wisdom, guidance, and good health for President Randy and his board was solicited of the Lord, as President Randy and his team will make decisions that will affect all of us. Thanks, praise, and blessings was also given for all in attendance, our fellowship, and our food for this congenial event. Amen.

Object of Rotary & Installation of Officers ~ District Governor – Clint Schroeder:

During dinner, incoming District Governor, Clint Schroeder, was honored to be present for the invocation despite his very busy schedule. He, and soon to be, past District Governor, Del Green is always grateful to visit the Big Island. According to District Governor Clint, the object of rotary is important but the basis is to strive for high standards in every part of our lives. Rotary exemplifies high standards in all that we do, and this can be seen through the Rotary efforts put forth to end polio; we are very close. Charlene Meyer was recognized for being his end polio campaign chairperson for 2016 – 2017. Charlene is also to be thanked for organizing the sale of the color-changing D5000 Rotary mug that features photography from Charlene Meyer as a backdrop, as hot water is added to the mug, the color changes from black to a brilliant picture of the erupting volcano. Polio Plus is an integral part of Rotary International’s 100th anniversary, and three billion dollars have gone through this foundation in the last 100 years to help with projects and service all around the world. A lot of the rotary projects help us right here in our community as well. In fact, according to District Governor Clint, our island benefitted following the most recent hurricane. This year’s goal is to get stronger with membership and understand the goals of the foundation; we are seeking individuals who are willing to put “sweat equity” into community service. It is important that we invite people every time we get the opportunity and tell them what we are doing. He continued, “Rotary is a fantastic organization that continually changes and grows for the benefit of all of its members, but most importantly for the beneficiaries of all of the projects that we do, both at home and abroad.”

With that being said, District Governor Clint called President Randy to the podium. He recognized that it was a solemn day for him when his year as president for his club ended, and he wishes the same for President Randy because that is a true sign of a successful year as president. As an expression of our club’s confidence in his leadership, incoming President Randy has been selected as president for this upcoming year. Raising his right hand, Randy Hart did solemnly swear that he will faithfully execute the office of president of the Rotary Club of Hilo, and he will, to the best of his ability, give support and assistance to the District Governor and to Rotary International. Most importantly, he will uphold the constitution and by-laws of this club. Following his oath, all in attendance stood to welcome our club’s new president, Randy Hart.

Prior to calling the officers and board members to the front of the room to be installed to their new positions, a special thanks was given to outgoing President Wally for a job well done. The incoming officers and directors were declared as installed and welcomed as seen below:

Board of Directors 2016 – 2017 Officers

- Randy Hart, President
- Steven Handy, President – Elect
- Wally Wong, Past President
- Mitch Dodo, Vice President
- Treena Breyfogle, Secretary
- Corey Kawamoto, Treasurer
- Dirk Yoshina, Sergeant-At-Arms

Directors (Standing Committee Chairs)

- Connie Ichinose, Membership
- Marcia Prose, Public Relations
- Kerry Glass, Rotary Foundations

The Five Avenues of Service Committees

- Kui Costa, Club Service
- Stew Hussey, International Service
- Reese Mates, Community Service
- Gail Takaki, New Generations
- Cindy Boots, Vocational Services

Foundation Chairs

- Lisa Rantz, The Hilo Rotary Club Foundation
- Kerry Glass, The Rotary Foundation
- Mitch Dodo, The Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation

Mahalo to Past Presidents 2006 – 2015

- Wally Wong, 2015
- Richard Johnson, 2014
- Kerry Glass, 2013
- Alan Kusunoki 2012
- Joe Hanley, 2011
- Stew Hussey, 2010
- Diana Van De Car, 2009
- Rick Newkold, 2008
- Gay Porter, 2007
- Helen Hemmes, 2006

Congratulatory Remarks ~ Past District Governor – Del Green:

The newly installed President Randy was proud to introduce the crowd to the current District Governor (for two more days), Mr. Del Green. District Governor Del thanked Wally for a wonderful year. At this time he shared an adaptation of a story concerning his local grandpa Komatsu. He shared a story of human progress to build a better community for those who will come after all of us. Nevertheless it is our responsibility to cultivate what we have inherited, and to plant trees for everyone to enjoy the fruit of our labor. He identified that it is important that we remember how we feel when helping others.

Outgoing President's Message ~ Past President – Wally Wong:

Outgoing President Wally Wong gave many thanks to the club members and to those who served on the board during his presidency. He even blessed those in attendance with a slide show that elucidated upon his experiences and accomplishments as our club's president for 2015 – 2016. Wally also gave gifts of thanks to his exiting board members in appreciation for their time and effort. Thank you President Wally for a well accomplished year.

Incoming President's Message ~ President – Randy Hart:

President Randy started his reign by giving special recognition to Tom Brown, an old time friend, and thanks to all in attendance, especially to his oldest friend in Hawaii, Ms. Shimasaki. Their friendship started in 1989 when he worked for her at Kilauea Military Camp (KMC) for many years. He also recognized her sister, Jane, and identified she has a lot to offer our club; he even hinted at having membership applications available on site to prompt her membership along. Continuing on, President Randy also thanked his wife, Lydia, for standing by his side over the years as he served in the United States Army, and for her support in his Rotarian endeavor during his current presidency.

On that note, President Randy hinted on voiced concerns of having a retired military person in command of the Rotary Club of Hilo. He identified that, "Rotarians are like soldiers, you can't tell them what to do." He sustained that, like Rotary, the U.S. Army is a voluntary organization, and Rotarians are like soldiers; however, the motivation may be a little different because he may not be able to ask those who are not in agreement with him to, "Drop down and give me twenty." Nevertheless, a club member sitting on the "Bad BoyZ" table chimed in and proposed that those non-compliant members can give President Randy twenty dollars instead of twenty pushups with President Randy consenting to that thought.

Thanks were given to his current Board of Directors as listed above. He also recognized that Susan Munro was on point when she branded him as a "delegator," especially since this Rotary mission is not about him and it's about team building. He reflected upon the

days when he first joined the Rotary Club of Hilo; when membership was 100+ members. Hence, his focus will be on growing our club's membership with quality members through establishing and building upon friendships.

Furthermore, President Randy recognized the "Good BoyZ" table and his friendship with Tom Brown as the reason why he remained a Rotarian for many years. He noted that we grow membership with new members, but we can't afford to lose those who have been in the club over the years; he stated, "We build membership through friendship."

President Randy recognized exiting president, Wally Wong, as energetic and big hearted. He was amazed at how much Wally was involved on a daily and weekly basis, and it is for this reason that he, President Randy, must delegate because he knows for certain that he is not able to keep up with Wally's energy. This has been Wally's second term serving as president for a Rotary, once at North Hawaii and this past year at Rotary Club of Hilo. President Randy stated that Wally even hinted on a three-peat term had he, President Randy, not agreed to assume the role. Making it all about Tom, Tom Brown tolled, "Hey Wally, with all that nice things that Randy said, who sponsored you into the club?" "Tom Brown," said Mr. Wally Wong as the crowd roared. President Randy recognized tonight as Wally's night and gave him thanks.

At this time, outgoing President Wally, took the floor to present incoming President Randy with an oversized shamoji (rice paddle). The shamoji has also been a symbol of unity between the mother and wife in Japanese society. According to President Wally, this tradition was started and passed down by a Japanese monk from Hiroshima. The shamoji was passed down from one generation to the next to symbolize the family duties that were handed down, and being a part of Rotary is like having an extended family. Our sister gave club of Hiroshima gave this shamoji to President Wally, and he had the shamoji engraved with the names of all of the club's past presidents, starting with Russ Oda. President Wally hopes that our club will adopt this tradition for years to come, passed on from past president to new president. He also president his successor with a hoppi coat to accompany the shamoji.

Without letting Russ Oda off the hook, President Randy called him out for his traditional annual fine of \$100; however, before fining him, he thanked Russ for his friendship. At this time, the crowd cheered Russ on for one of his jokes, but for the life of him, Russ affirmed that he was not able to recall how this strange tradition materialized.

A joke by Mr. Russ Oda:

Just Sitting in the Bar

Man in bar: There I was sitting at a bar staring at my drink.

Man in bar: Then a large trouble-making biker came up to me, grabbed my drink, and gulped in down in one swig.

Biker: "Well what you're gonna to do about it"

Man in bar: The man cried.

Biker: “Come on man. I didn’t think you would cry. I can’t see a man cry.”

Man in bar: “This is the worst day in my life. I am a complete failure. I was late to a meeting and my boss fired me. I went to a parking lot, and I found that my car had been stolen. I don’t have any insurance. I left my wallet in a cab and went home. I found my wife with another man, and then my dog bit me. So, I came to this bar to work up the courage to put an end to it. I bought a drink and dropped a capsule into it and I sat here watching the poison dissolve. Then you show up and drink the whole damn thing. But hell, enough about me... How you doing?”

With the crowd going wild, President Randy suggested that Russ could tell another joke for another \$100; however, when he consulted with his good friend about this tradition, Mr. Tom Brown recommended that Russ Oda be “cut some slack and fined \$10 for every meeting that he takes a nap in the meetings.”

To end his acceptance speech, President Randy recognized Treena Breyfogle for helping him to secure his motto:

“If you want to go fast... Go alone. If you want to go far... Go together. And that’s where I’d like to take the club next year.”

Four-Way Test ~ Past District Governor:

Although outgoing District Governor – Del Green was listed to lead the crowd in the Four-Way Test, he and incoming District Governor – Clint Schroeder needed to leave in time to catch their return flight; therefore, President Randy asked President Wally to lead us in 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 *GOODWILL* and *BETTER FRIENDSHIPS*?
- 4 – Will it be *BENEFICIAL* to all concerned?
- 5 – Most importantly, *HAVE FUN*

As a note, a squad is only as good as its leader, and, President Randy, your fellow Rotarians are ready to be of assistance as we pursue the upcoming tasks set forth to expand upon this year’s theme of “Rotary Serving Humanity.” Thank you for taking on this responsibility.