

Rotary
Club of Kona



Archive of
Coffee Blossom
Newsletters

2026/2027

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At the Podium – Gonzo & Mark – Presidents' Addresses



This Thursday is our biannual President's Address. This is the time when your presidential leadership outline our club goals & action plan for the next six months, based largely on the work we completed at the Strategic Planning Meeting last month. The address is designed to be a two-way engagement; we'll tell you what we heard & agreed to last month, & the membership offers suggestions & improvements to the plan. That's why it's vital that we have a good turnout this Thursday; Gonzo, Jenaya & I want to hear from you, & we're looking for buy-in on the goals & plans we'll outline. Please make every effort to make it to this week's meeting. We're counting on you!

Just Last 2 Weeks – Jeff Sorenson – Lokahi Farms HI



Lokahi Farms Hawaii is a small batch, estate-to-bar chocolate farm located in Kona and Hilo, HI. They represent less than 1% of chocolate makers worldwide who grow, ferment, and craft their chocolate on a single piece of land. Because harvests are small, their organic chocolate bars are released in limited drops. Every step – from cracking the pods and fermenting to roasting, winnowing, and hand-molding – is done by hand on the farm with zero machines for packaging. Grown in rich volcanic soil and tropical island air, their small batches are designed for exceptional quality and estate sovereignty. Because they have a tiny production team and process everything by hand, they frequently sell out. The original farm is in Keauhou, and they will offer plantation and factory tours, starting this fall.

Lokahi Farms Hawaii is run by Jeff Sorensen and his family. They operate on a 5 acre orchard at the top of Nani Kailua Dr. They are expanding into the 5 acres adjacent to their original farm, an organic farm with 850 grafted cacao trees of exceptional quality. Their chocolate is different than any other in Hawaii. They also have over 100 varieties of mangoes on their farm, which is the largest mango collection in the state.

Video of the presentation: <http://surfhawaii.net/Rotary/Presentations> Click on 062526.mp4

Just Visiting



Makala
Kailua Kona, HI



Mario Becerra
Kailua Kona, HI

Musing



Makala
Kailua Kona, HI

Victoria Morse, our favorite Poet in Residence, graced us with an 'oldie, but goodie,' "What is being a Rotarian, Rap."

July 9, 2026

This Week

12 Noon - Lava Java,
75-5719 Ali'i Dr, #1A,
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

Program:

Gonzo & Mark
Presidents' Addresses

Greeter:

Mahlon Whittle

Coming Up

Programs:

Sheri/Doug Reynolds 07/16
Big Island Stained Glass
Speaker TBD 07/23
Hawaii Honor Flights
Speaker TBD 07/30
Golf by Kids

In This Issue

At the Podium
Just Last 2Weeks
Just Visiting
Musing
In the Community
In the Community
At the Helm

Rotary Prayer

Almighty God, bind us together in the true spirit of Rotary, keeping our hearts pure, our lives clean, our spirits humble and our thinking straight. Amen.

President's Position Olayinka H. Babalola Rotary International



July 2026

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when a small project in one neighborhood ripples outward in ways you never imagined. And it may surprise you when you realize that the person Rotary has changed most ... is you.

That is why this year, we are called to harness the change within ourselves, to look to the future, and to Create Lasting Impact. Now, I want to be clear about what those words mean. Change is only the beginning. Impact is what endures. We must think of the long-term impact of every project. How can a new water system contribute to the long-term health of a community? Can residents help other communities build their own? How can a new classroom be part of a wider strategy to improve education in the area? That is the sort of thinking we need.

As we prioritize impact, we must also consider how our actions can contribute to peacebuilding. Peace does not happen by accident. It must be built deliberately and strategically. As you plan your next project, ask yourself: "How does this create the conditions for peace?" Consult the Pillars of Positive Peace to learn how we can bring the world one step closer to peace in everything we do.

The more you change your community and the world, the more you will change. Don't just tell people about the projects you have run or the funds you have raised. Tell them how Rotary has shaped who you are. Those personal stories open doors, inspire new members, and remind all of us why we are here.

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The Coffee Blossom

Rotary
Club of Kona



In the Community – West Hawaii Clubs Transition Gala



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In the Community – West Hawaii Clubs Transition Gala



Rotary Calendar

Meet N' Eat (Grab N' Go)
is held Tuesday evenings 6:00
PM to 6:30 PM at the Kealakehe
Intermediate Parking Lot . Call:
Larry Web at 808-989-6336 if you
would like to help out.

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Every First Friday, 5:30 P to 8:30 P
BLOCK PARTY - Holualoa

July 19, 1 P to 6 P
KAILUA KONA VILLAGE
STROLL - Alii Drive

July 18, 2026, 10A to 4P
ANNUAL MANGO FESTIVAL -
Hale Halawai, Kailua-Kona

July 18, 2026, 10A to 2P
TANABATA FESTIVAL - Re-
gency Hualalai Senior Living,
Kailua-Kona, more info: 808-289-
2625

Member Birthday

Rebecca Hamar
July 2
Jenaya Rockman
July 10

Wedding Anniversary

Daniel & Jennifer Colimon
July 14, 2001 - 25 Yrs
Jim & Emily Kilgore
July 17, 2003 - 23 Yrs

Joined Anniversary

Erin Thompson
July 1, 2006 - 20 Yrs

Island Clubs

Kona Sunrise:

Wednesday, 7:00AM
PaPa Kona Restaurant
75-5770 Ali'i Drive
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

Kona Mauka:

Tuesday, 12 Noon
Teshima's Restaurant
Honalo, HI 96740

North Hawaii:

2nd Friday if the Month
Hospice Board Room
75-5925 Walua Rd, #101
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

Volcano:

Tuesday, 7:30AM
Kilauea Military Camp
Hawaii Volcanoes Natl Park
Highway 11
Volcano, HI 96740

Hilo:

Friday, 12 Noon
Moku'ola Room
Hilo Hawaiian Hotel
71 Banyan Drive
Hilo, HI 96720

South Hilo:

Tuesday, 11:45AM
Queen Court Restaurant
Hilo Hawaiian Hotel
71 Banyan Drive
Hilo, HI 96720

Hilo Bay:

Wednesday, 6:45AM
Hilo Yacht Club
77 Laehala Street
Hilo, HI 96720

Submissions

Submit articles, meeting notices, pictures, suggestions and other information to Richard Farnham by Monday, 12:00 Noon.

All material must be in digital format, NO EXCEPTIONS.

Richard@Surfhawaii.net
Mobile: 808-896-0314

The Coffee Blossom

Rotary
Club of Kona



At the Helm



Paul Harris
Rotary Founder



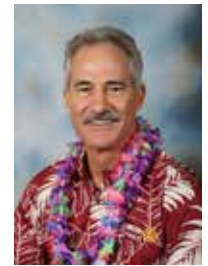
G. Garcia/M. England
Kona President



Olayinka H. Babalola
RI President



Benson Medina
D5000 Governor



Scott Unger
WH Asst Gov.

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President Elect: Mark England
Secretary: Jenaya Rockman
Treasurer: Janice Gustin
Past President: Jenaya Rockman
Sergeant-at-Arms: Daniel Colimon

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Club Administrator: Stephen Johnson
Public Relations: Jeremy Mich
Rotary Foundation: Mahlon Whittle
Community Service: Becca Hamar

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TheUltimateJer@Gmail.com
MahlonWhit@Gmail.com
RebeccaHamar@Gmail.com

Committee Chairs:

International Service: Tom Daniel
New Generations: Tricia Hynes
Programs: Mark England
Golf Tournament: Larry Webb/Kris Hazard
HYRE: Janice Gustin/Tricia Hynes
Meet N' Eat: Larry Web
Club Bulletin/Archives: Richard Farnham
Website: Richard Farnham

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Treasurer: Andrea Myslicki
Scholarship Coord: Chrystal Yamasaki

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Andrea.Myslicki@gmail.com
Chrys@WTAHawaii.com

Rotary International:

President: Olayinka Hakeem Babalola
Past President: Francesco Arezzo

District 5000:

Governor: Benson Medina
WH Asst Governor: Scott Unger

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Is it the TRUTH? Is it FAIR to all concerned? Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIP? Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?



At the Podium – Member Engagement

This week's scheduled speaker (HI Stained Glass) had to postpone due to a sudden health issue, and we were unable to shift other potential speakers on such short notice.

Therefore, we would like the membership to engage us all! As you remember from last week at the Presidential Address, many members shared their story of why they became Rotarians. Many of those stories were quite uplifting! So this week we're going to continue with that same routine.

First, please sit down with another member who you may not know as well; it's easier to get involved (one of our primary goals this year) if you know each other a little better.

Second, we will be calling on all members at the luncheon to share two things nobody else in the room knows about you (I might be sharing something from my Boy Scout or Army days). Everyone has interesting stories from their past, and we ask everyone to participate. So be prepared!

Just Last Week – Gonzo & Mark – Presidents' Addresses



Last Thursday was our biannual President's Address. Your presidential leadership outlined our club goals & action plan for the next six months, based largely on the work completed at the Strategic Planning Meeting last month.

Our presidents summarized the outcome of the SPF, and outlined the committees that have been formed to try and implement the goals and plans. Members are encouraged to join one or more of the committees, to meet the Rotary commitment of "Service Above Self."

Video of the presentation: <http://surfhawaii.net/Rotary/Presentations> Click on 070926.mp4

In the Community – Scholarships Awarded – \$25,500 Total



Lucy Cameron, Clewett Scholarship, Chapman University.

Noah Izawa-Okazaki, Bedingfield Scholarship, University of Hawaii



Sei Smith, Lightner Scholarship, Yale University.

Timothy Ney, Nursing Scholarship, Hawaii Community College



July 16, 2026

This Week

12 Noon - Lava Java,
75-5719 Ali'i Dr, #1A,
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

Program:
Member Engagement
Greeter:
Mahlon Whittle

Coming Up

Programs:	
Stephanie Sharpe	07/23
Hawaii Honor Flights	
Dr. Shellie Norman	07/30
Island Dermatology	
Dark	08/06

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Just Last Week
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Just Visiting
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The Coffee Blossom

Rotary
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Just Visiting

Sei Smith, Lightner Scholarship winner who is planning to attend Yale University, visited us with his proud parents, David and Maiko, and told us a bit about his dreams and goals.

Also, Sombra, in training to be a service dog.



At the Club



Outgoing president, Jenaya Rockman, was thanked by the Club for two years of outstanding service and leadership.

She was awarded a gift certificate of (admittedly of a modest amount) to show the Club's appreciation for her two years of excellent work.

At the Club



At last week's meeting (Presidential Address), we discussed the Seven Goals of the 2026-2027 RCOK Strategic Plan; potential service projects for the upcoming year; the 10 RCOK Committees; & the need for members involvement in every aspect of the club. The Strategic Plan will be published within the next week. I encourage everyone to read the 8-page document to better understand where we are headed as a club. We discussed a number of potential service projects, big & small, including cleaning up scenic viewpoints; working with the Ocean

Defenders Alliance on pier & beach cleanups; repairing the Manuka shooting range; providing eye screening for elementary students; working with the Forensic Nurse Examiners Program; & more.

Here are the 10 RCOK Committees & their current members (bold indicates chairperson; xxx indicates an opening):

Membership (recruiting new & retaining current members): **Anita**, Janice, & Jenaya, xxx.

Community Service (developing service projects & delegating members to carry them out): **Becca**, Steve, xxxx.

Foundation (managing the RCOK Foundation): **Mahlon**, Alan, xxx.

Public Relations (managing & growing the RCOK name in the public domain): **Gonzo**, Wendy, Jeremy, Steve.

International Service (working with Rotary International to develop international projects with other clubs): **Tom**, Brett, Scott, Alan.

New Generations (working with Rotaract & other young people to develop future Rotarians): **Tricia**, xxxx.

Programs (developing & managing our guest speaker program): **Mark**, Steve.

Environmental (working/managing specific environmental programs/projects with the Community Service Committee): **Mark**, Jenaya, Gonzo, George.

Meet & Eat (Managing RCOK support to this vital effort providing food to the community): **Larry**, Daniel, Darlene, Andrea.

Kona Brewers Festival (managing all aspects of the annual KBF): **Gonzo**, Jenaya, Mark, Daniel, Marjorie.

If you as an active member of the RCOK have not signed up yet to be a committee member, please respond back to this email, noting which committee you would like to serve on. You can also text me or let me know at one of the weekly lunch meetings. Everyone is expected to be involved in one way or another. Committees should meet monthly, & report to the RCOK board quarterly.

Mahalo for all that you do as Rotarians! Mark England, RCOK President, 443-995-5554

The Coffee Blossom

Rotary
Club of Kona



In the Community – Hilo Brewfest

The Rotary Club of Hilo put on the Hilo Brewfest as an annual fundraiser. This year the event was held on Saturday, July 11. Several members from RCOK were in attendance.

The Brewfest is a celebration of beer, food, and Hawaiian culture, the Rotary Club of Hilo's annual Hilo Brewfest was an afternoon party offering a huge selection of different brews, dozens of food vendors, and live music. It was held at the Hilo Yacht Club with gorgeous views of the ocean, there was lots of fun to be had at Hilo's largest brew festival.

Like the festival's counterpart on the western side, the Hilo Brewfest celebrates the homebrew movement in craft brewing with a competition as part of the festival itself. Home brewers from all over the Hawaiian islands and the mainland bring their creations to the Big Island's eastern side for a celebration of the art of beer making and share their secrets with fellow brewers and attendees alike.



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Mobile: 808-896-0314

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Rotary Founder



G. Garcia/M. England
Kona President



Olayinka H. Babalola
RI President



Benson Medina
D5000 Governor



Scott Unger
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TheUltimateJer@Gmail.com
MahlonWhit@Gmail.com
RebeccaHamar@Gmail.com

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International Service: Tom Daniel
New Generations: Tricia Hynes
Programs: Mark England
Golf Tournament: Larry Webb/Kris Hazard
HYRE: Janice Gustin/Tricia Hynes
Meet N' Eat: Larry Web
Club Bulletin/Archives: Richard Farnham
Website: Richard Farnham

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Treasurer: Andrea Myslicki
Scholarship Coord: Chrystal Yamasaki

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Rotary International:

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Past President: Francesco Arezzo

District 5000:

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WH Asst Governor: Scott Unger

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At the Podium – Stephanie Sharpe – Hawaii Honor Flights



Following her retirement from the US Navy, Stephanie Sharpe transitioned her passion for service into local community leadership and environmental stewardship in Hawaii. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Hawaiian Islands Honor Flight (HIHF), working tirelessly to honor and transport local veterans to Washington, D.C.

HIHF, is a local hub of the National Honor Flight Network, a national nonprofit organization comprised of independent hubs working together to achieve the Honor Flight mission. In furtherance of this common goal, we

have the enormous privilege of showing our nation's veterans the appreciation and honor they deserve.

Participation in an Honor Flight trip gives veterans the opportunity to share this momentous occasion with other comrades, remember the fallen, and share their stories and experiences with other veterans. Honored veterans always travel free of charge, thanks to generous donations to our organization.

While initially focused solely on America's World War II era veterans, Honor Flight Network has expanded its mission to include those who served during the Korean War and the Vietnam War eras. The Honor Flight TLC program also honors veterans of any service era who are critically ill.

Deeply committed to protecting Hawaii's unique ecosystem and supporting its residents, Stephanie also volunteers her time with the Oahu Honu Nesting Team, where she helps safeguard endangered sea turtles, and continues her lifelong mission of care as a volunteer with the American Red Cross and as a steward at several Native Hawaiian Cultural sites.

Just Last Week – Member Engagement



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July 23, 2026

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Hawaii Honor Flights

Greeter:

Mahlon Whittle

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Island Dermatology	
Dark	08/06
Speaker TBD	08/13
Visitor Aloha Society	

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President's Position Olayinka H. Babalola Rotary International



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Club of Kona



Just Visiting

Noah Izawa-Okazaki, winner of the Bedingfield Scholarship, who will be attending University of Hawaii and Lucy Cameron, winner of the Clewett Scholarship, who be attending Chapman Univiversity visited and told us of their plans and hopes.



In the Community – Scholarship Winner



Azalea Thorp is Rotary Club of Kona's HRYF student scholarship choice. She will receive a \$5000 scholarship from District 5000. Congratulations Azalea!

Azalea is shown with Tricia Hynes and with her proud parents.

At the Club



At last week's meeting (Presidential Address), we discussed the Seven Goals of the 2026-2027 RCOK Strategic Plan; potential service projects for the upcoming year; the 10 RCOK Committees; & the need for members involvement in every aspect of the club. The Strategic Plan will be published within the next week. I encourage everyone to read the 8-page document to better understand where we are headed as a club. We discussed a number of potential service projects, big & small, including cleaning up scenic viewpoints; working with the Ocean

Defenders Alliance on pier & beach cleanups; repairing the Manuka shooting range; providing eye screening for elementary students; working with the Forensic Nurse Examiners Program; & more.

Here are the 10 RCOK Committees & their current members (bold indicates chairperson; xxx indicates an opening):

Membership (recruiting new & retaining current members): **Anita**, Janice, & Jenaya, xxx.

Community Service (developing service projects & delegating members to carry them out): **Becca**, Steve, xxxx.

Foundation (managing the RCOK Foundation): **Mahlon**, Alan, xxx.

Public Relations (managing & growing the RCOK name in the public domain): **Gonzo**, Wendy, Jeremy, Steve.

International Service (working with Rotary International to develop international projects with other clubs): **Tom**, Brett, Scott, Alan.

New Generations (working with Rotaract & other young people to develop future Rotarians): **Tricia**, xxxx.

Programs (developing & managing our guest speaker program): **Mark**, Steve.

Environmental (working/managing specific environmental programs/projects with the Community Service Committee): **Mark**, Jenaya, Gonzo, George.

Meet & Eat (Managing RCOK support to this vital effort providing food to the community): **Larry**, Daniel, Darlene, Andrea.

Kona Brewers Festival (managing all aspects of the annual KBF): **Gonzo**, Jenaya, Mark, Daniel, Marjorie.

If you as an active member of the RCOK have not signed up yet to be a committee member, please respond back to this email, noting which committee you would like to serve on. You can also text me or let me know at one of the weekly lunch meetings. Everyone is expected to be involved in one way or another. Committees should meet monthly, & report to the RCOK board quarterly.

The Coffee Blossom

Rotary
Club of Kona



In the Community – Hilo Brewfest

The Rotary Club of Hilo put on the Hilo Brewfest as an annual fundraiser. This year the event was held on Saturday, July 11. Several members from RCOK were in attendance.

The Brewfest is a celebration of beer, food, and Hawaiian culture, the Rotary Club of Hilo's annual Hilo Brewfest was an afternoon party offering a huge selection of different brews, dozens of food vendors, and live music. It was held at the Hilo Yacht Club with gorgeous views of the ocean, there was lots of fun to be had at Hilo's largest brew festival.

Like the festival's counterpart on the western side, the Hilo Brewfest celebrates the homebrew movement in craft brewing with a competition as part of the festival itself. Home brewers from all over the Hawaiian islands and the mainland bring their creations to the Big Island's eastern side for a celebration of the art of beer making and share their secrets with fellow brewers and attendees alike.



Rotary Calendar

Meet N' Eat (Grab N' Go)
is held Tuesday evenings 6:00
PM to 6:30 PM at the Kealahou
Intermediate Parking Lot. Call:
Larry Web at 808-989-6336 if you
would like to help out.

Community Calendar

Every First Friday, 5:30 P to 8:30 P
BLOCK PARTY - Holualoa

July 19, 1 P to 6 P
KAILUA KONA VILLAGE
STROLL - Alii Drive

July 18, 2026, 10A to 4P
ANNUAL MANGO FESTIVAL -
Hale Halawai, Kailua-Kona

July 18, 2026, 10A to 2P
TANABATA FESTIVAL - Re-
gency Hualalai Senior Living,
Kailua-Kona, more info: 808-289-
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Member Birthday

Rebecca Hamar
July 2
Jenaya Rockman
July 10

Wedding Anniversary

Daniel & Jennifer Colimon
July 14, 2001 - 25 Yrs
Jim & Emily Kilgore
July 17, 2003 - 23 Yrs

Joined Anniversary

Erin Thompson
July 1, 2006 - 20 Yrs

Island Clubs

Kona Sunrise:

Wednesday, 7:00AM
PaPa Kona Restaurant
75-5770 Ali'i Drive
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

Kona Mauka:

Tuesday, 12 Noon
Teshima's Restaurant
Honalo, HI 96740

North Hawaii:

2nd Friday if the Month
Hospice Board Room
75-5925 Walua Rd, #101
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

Volcano:

Tuesday, 7:30AM
Kilauea Military Camp
Hawaii Volcanoes Natl Park
Highway 11
Volcano, HI 96740

Hilo:

Friday, 12 Noon
Moku'ola Room
Hilo Hawaiian Hotel
71 Banyan Drive
Hilo, HI 96720

South Hilo:

Tuesday, 11:45AM
Queen Court Restaurant
Hilo Hawaiian Hotel
71 Banyan Drive
Hilo, HI 96720

Hilo Bay:

Wednesday, 6:45AM
Hilo Yacht Club
77 Laehala Street
Hilo, HI 96720

Submissions

Submit articles, meeting notices, pictures, suggestions and other information to Richard Farnham by Monday, 12:00 Noon.

All material must be in digital format, NO EXCEPTIONS.

Richard@Surfhawaii.net
Mobile: 808-896-0314

The Coffee Blossom

Rotary
Club of Kona



At the Helm



Paul Harris
Rotary Founder



G. Garcia/M. England
Kona President



Olayinka H. Babalola
RI President



Benson Medina
D5000 Governor



Scott Unger
WH Asst Gov.

Officers:

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President Elect: TBD
Secretary: Jenaya Rockman
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RebeccaHamar@Gmail.com

Committee Chairs:

International Service: Tom Daniel
New Generations: Tricia Hynes
Programs: Mark England
Golf Tournament: Larry Webb/Kris Hazard
HYRE: Janice Gustin/Tricia Hynes
Meet N' Eat: Larry Web
Club Bulletin/Archives: Richard Farnham
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Treasurer: Andrea Myslicki
Scholarship Coord: Chrystal Yamasaki

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Andrea.Myslicki@gmail.com
Chrys@WTAHawaii.com

Rotary International:

President: Olayinka Hakeem Babalola
Past President: Francesco Arezzo

District 5000:

Governor: Benson Medina
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The Coffee Blossom

Rotary
Club of Kona



At the Podium – Shellie Norman – Island Dermatology



Dr. Shellie Norman is a Board-Certified Family Nurse Practitioner and a Dermatology Certified Nurse Practitioner in Kailua-Kona with 40 years of experience in the fields of nursing and healthcare. She is the founder of Island Dermatology. She graduated top of her class as a Registered Nurse in 1986, obtained her undergraduate degree from Lewis and Clark State College in Idaho, and obtained her Doctorate of Nursing Practice at the University of Utah in 2014. Shellie has worked in many aspects of health-care, from hospital and home-care nursing, owning her own elderly care home and daycare, to hospice care and school nursing, eventually operating Idaho's first school-based health clinic.

Shellie chose to focus her advanced practice in the field of Dermatology so she could help others that struggle with skin diseases. Shellie has been practicing in the field of dermatology since 2012, both at a progressive North Idaho Clinic and here on the Big Island of Hawaii. She opened her own Dermatology Clinic, Island Dermatology LLC, in 2017. Island Dermatology offers Skin Cancer Screening, Skin Infection/Condition Treatment, Skin Growth Removal, Acne Treatment, and Medical Grade Products.

Shellie has always been passionate about helping her patients achieve their best. Her medical practice is focused on treating the whole person and not just the health issue or problem, as well as educating and giving her patients the tools to keep themselves looking and feeling great. In her spare time, Shellie enjoys spending time with her loved ones. With a passion for the outdoors and traveling, she spends as much of her free time as possible staying active.

Just Last Week –Stephanie Sharpe – Hawaii Honor Flights



Following her retirement from the US Navy, Stephanie Sharpe transitioned her passion for service into local community leadership and environmental stewardship in Hawaii. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Hawaiian Islands Honor Flight (HIHF), working tirelessly to honor and transport local veterans to Washington, D.C.

HIHF, is a local hub of the National Honor Flight Network, a national nonprofit organization comprised of independent hubs working together to achieve the Honor Flight mission. In furtherance of this common goal, we have the enormous privilege of showing our nation's veterans the appreciation and honor they deserve.

Participation in an Honor Flight trip gives veterans the opportunity to share this momentous occasion with other comrades, remember the fallen, and share their stories and experiences with other veterans. Honored veterans always travel free of charge, thanks to generous donations to our organization.

While initially focused solely on America's World War II era veterans, Honor Flight Network has expanded its mission to include those who served during the Korean War and the Vietnam War eras. The Honor Flight TLC program also honors veterans of any service era who are critically ill.

Video of the presentation: <http://surfhawaii.net/Rotary/Presentations> Click on 071626.mp4

July 30, 2026

This Week

12 Noon - Lava Java,
75-5719 Ali'i Dr, #1A,
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

Program:

Stephanie Sharpe
Hawaii Honor Flights

Greeter:

Mahlon Whittle

Coming Up

Programs:

Dark	08/06
Chelsea Ahern	08/13
Visitor Aloha Society	
Blake Parsons	08/20
Scouting America	

In This Issue

At the Podium
Just Last Week
Just Visiting
At the Club
At the Club
From the Archives
Lucky We Live Hawaii
At the Helm

Rotary Prayer

Almighty God, bind us together in the true spirit of Rotary, keeping our hearts pure, our lives clean, our spirits humble and our thinking straight. Amen.

President's Position Olayinka H. Babalola Rotary International



July 2026

Rotary has a way of surprising you.

It surprises you when a stranger across the table becomes a lifelong friend. It surprises you

when a small project in one neighborhood ripples outward in ways you never imagined. And it may surprise you when you realize that the person Rotary has changed most ... is you.

That is why this year, we are called to harness the change within ourselves, to look to the future, and to Create Lasting Impact. Now, I want to be clear about what those words mean. Change is only the beginning. Impact is what endures. We must think of the long-term impact of every project. How can a new water system contribute to the long-term health of a community? Can residents help other communities build their own? How can a new classroom be part of a wider strategy to improve education in the area? That is the sort of thinking we need.

As we prioritize impact, we must also consider how our actions can contribute to peacebuilding. Peace does not happen by accident. It must be built deliberately and strategically. As you plan your next project, ask yourself: "How does this create the conditions for peace?" Consult the Pillars of Positive Peace to learn how we can bring the world one step closer to peace in everything we do.

The more you change your community and the world, the more you will change. Don't just tell people about the projects you have run or the funds you have raised. Tell them how Rotary has shaped who you are. Those personal stories open doors, inspire new members, and remind all of us why we are here.

Storytelling is also an excellent way to recruit new members and raise funds. We need more people standing with us and more resources if we are to end polio, spread peace, and have a lasting impact on the world. We have set a goal of increasing membership to 1.25 million Rotarians and more than 125,000 Rotaractors by 2030, just in time for Rotary's 125th anniversary.

Sit down with your club and look back over your accomplishments in the last few years. Find your best year. Maybe it was a record year for new members. Maybe you reached a fundraising milestone. Maybe you completed a project that the whole community is still talking about. Once you find that year, I challenge you to do better than your best.

In these ways and more, we will Create Lasting Impact across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

Page 2

The Coffee Blossom

Rotary
Club of Kona



Just Visiting



Timothy Ney
Hawi, HI



Jacqueline Karol
Lake Oswego, OR

At the Club – Meetings Now at King Kam Hotel



Aloha Fellow Rotarians,

We are excited to announce that, beginning August 13, we will be meeting at a new location: King Kamehameha Kona Beach Hotel (in the meeting room you access by passing through Honu's Restaurant).

We have truly enjoyed meeting at Lava Java, and we are grateful for their outstanding service and hospitality. However, as many of you have experienced, road noise can make it difficult to hear our speakers, and the bright outdoor setting can make presentations hard to see. We hope our new meeting space will provide a more comfortable and enjoyable experience for both attendees and presenters.

King Kamehameha Kona Beach Hotel will be providing a Chef's Choice buffet, and validated parking will be complimentary. Please bring your parking ticket inside so we can place a validation sticker on it during check-in. Lunch will now be \$32, and the no-lunch option will remain \$10. Please be mindful that the no-lunch option includes beverages only.

If you have a current lunch punch card, it will still be honored. Beginning August 13, we simply ask that you pay the \$2 difference for each remaining punch. For example, if you have 3 punches remaining, you would pay an additional \$6.

We look forward to seeing you at our new meeting location!

Thanks, Jenaya

At the Club – Let's Show Tawny Some Love

Aloha all,

To thank her for her excellent service over the years we are going to give our Lava Java server Tawny a monetary gift. The club will contribute an amount but we would love if individuals would also donate.

On our last meeting at Lava Java, tomorrow July 30, Mark will have a card to sign and will collect donations (final tips). So if you would like to contribute please come prepared with cash.

Thanks, Jenaya



The Coffee Blossom

Rotary
Club of Kona



From the Archives – July 30, 2009



Kona Coffee Blossom

The Rotary Club of Kona Newsletter



July 30, 2009

This Week's Speaker

Rotarian Bill Cliff, International Service Chair

The Rotary motto Service Above Self conveys the humanitarian spirit of the organization's more than 1.2 million members. Strong fellowship among Rotarians and meaningful community and international service projects characterize Rotary worldwide. International Service encompasses efforts to expand Rotary's humanitarian reach around the world and to promote world understanding and peace. It includes everything from contributing to PolioPlus to working on International Service Projects, to helping with visiting Group Study Exchange teams. Please attend the meeting today to learn more about our club's efforts in this area, and our goals for the coming year.

ROTARY OF KONA AND COMMUNITY NEWS

- Upcoming Meetings: August 6th - Returning Exchange Students Presentations. August 13th: Club Assembly. August 20th: Dark for Sen Inouye's speech on the 17th. For tickets or information call the Chamber of Commerce or see Liz Zagorodney.
- Vocational Services Chair Chrys Yamasaki reminds everyone to bring their business cards this week for the vocational networking board on display in the back of the room.
- Aloha Performing Arts Company "A Night with Andrew Lloyd Webber" fundraiser this Saturday, August 1 at 6pm. Go to <http://www.apachahawaii.org> for tickets.
- Thursday July 30, Rotary of Kona Board Meeting. 5pm at President Dave's Office.
- Hawaii Island Aids Foundation "Annual Taste of Life" fundraiser. Call 331-8177 for tickets. Saturday, August 22nd at 6 pm.

Lucky We Live Hawaii



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July 2
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Mobile: 808-896-0314

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Club of Kona



At the Helm



Paul Harris
Rotary Founder



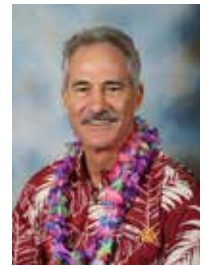
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New Generations: Tricia Hynes
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Treasurer: Andrea Myslicki
Scholarship Coord: Chrystal Yamasaki

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Rotary International:

President: Olayinka Hakeem Babalola
Past President: Francesco Arezzo

District 5000:

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At the Podium – Chelsea Ahern – VASH



The Visitor Aloha Society of Hawai'i Island (VASH) is a community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to sharing the aloha spirit with visitors affected by adversity while traveling on Hawai'i Island. Through compassionate support and practical assistance, VASH helps visitors cope with and recover from unexpected situations such as medical emergencies, crime, lost travel documents, the death of a loved one, and other crises that can occur far from home. Working closely with the Hawai'i County Police Department, local hospitals, airport and hotel security teams, and other community partners, VASH receives referrals and evaluates each situation individually to connect visitors with appropriate resources and support services. The organization serves as a temporary lifeline for travelers who may not have access to their normal support systems while away from home. Volunteers are the heart of VASH Hawai'i Island. Through the generosity of trained and compassionate volunteers, along with support from local businesses, hotels, restaurants, and service organizations, VASH assists hundreds of visitors each year. The organization's vision is simple: that every visitor touched by adversity will also be touched by the aloha spirit. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, VASH is funded in part through support from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, the County of Hawai'i, and community donations. Since its founding, VASH has helped ensure that visitors facing difficult circumstances experience the care, compassion, and hospitality that define Hawai'i spirit of aloha.

Chelsea Ahern has served as the West Hawai'i Program Director for VASH since November 2024, working closely with hospitality partners, government agencies, and community organizations to provide support, resources, and compassionate assistance to visitors in need. Prior to VASH, Chelsea spent four years with Girl Scouts of Hawai'i, most recently serving as Regional Island Manager, where she supported youth leadership development, volunteer engagement, and statewide programming. She also serves as the Managing Director of Aloha Theatre in Kailua, helping oversee operations and community programming for one of West Hawai'i's historic performing arts organizations. Chelsea is also the District 8 representative on the Hawai'i County Transportation Commission and remains actively involved in her local community.

Just Last Week –Shellie Norman – Island Dermatology



Dr. Shellie Norman is a Board-Certified Family Nurse Practitioner and a Dermatology Certified Nurse Practitioner in Kailua-Kona with 40 years of experience in the fields of nursing and healthcare. She is the founder of Island Dermatology. She graduated top of her class as a Registered Nurse in 1986, obtained her undergraduate degree from Lewis and Clark State College in Idaho, and obtained her Doctorate of Nursing Practice at the University of Utah in 2014. Shellie has worked in many aspects of healthcare, from hospital and home-care nursing, owning her own elderly care home and daycare, to hospice care and school nursing, eventually operating Idaho's first school-based health clinic. Shellie chose to focus her advanced practice in the field of Dermatology so she could help others that struggle with skin diseases. Shellie has been practicing in the field of dermatology since 2012, both at a progressive North Idaho Clinic and here on the Big Island of Hawaii. She opened her own Dermatology Clinic, Island Dermatology LLC, in 2017. Island Dermatology offers Skin Cancer Screening, Skin Infection/Condition Treatment, Skin Growth Removal, Acne Treatment, and Medical Grade Products. Shellie has always been passionate about helping her patients achieve their best. Her medical practice is focused on treating the whole person and not just the health issue or problem, as well as educating and giving her patients the tools to keep themselves looking and feeling great. In her spare time, Shellie enjoys spending time with her loved ones. With a passion for the outdoors and traveling, she spends as much of her free time as possible staying active.

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July 30, 2026

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Chelsea Ahern
VASH

Greeter:

Mahlon Whittle

Coming Up

Programs:

Blake Parsons	08/20
Scouting America	
Board Meeting (Zoom)	08/26
Speaker TBD	08/27
Hope Services	
Dark	09/03

In This Issue

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President's Position Olayinka H. Babalola Rotary International



August 2026

Peace does not happen by accident. It must be pursued deliberately, built strategically, and woven intentionally into everything we do.

That is the challenge I am placing before the Rotary world this year.

Rotary recognizes peacebuilding as one of our areas of focus. But I believe peace must be more than a category of work we set aside for certain projects. It must become a lens, one we choose to look through every time we plan, every time we serve, every time we ask what kind of impact we truly want to leave behind.

The Institute for Economics and Peace has identified eight Pillars of Positive Peace: well-functioning government, a sound business environment, equitable distribution of resources, acceptance of the rights of others, good relations with neighbors, free flow of information, high levels of human capital, and low levels of corruption. These pillars describe the conditions that make lasting peace possible. And when I look at them carefully, I see enormous potential for Rotary. Not because our work automatically advances peace but because it can when we are deliberate about it.

That is the key word: deliberate.

A water project does not build peace on its own. But a water project designed with the Pillars of Positive Peace in mind — one that asks how equitable access to resources strengthens community trust — can begin to lay that foundation. A vocational training program does not guarantee reconciliation. But one that intentionally brings divided communities together around shared economic opportunity can start to build it. The project does not change. The intention does.

In Colombia, Rotary's Pathways to Peace and Prosperity program shows us what this looks like in practice. Working in communities shaped by decades of armed conflict and displacement, the program combines economic empowerment with conflict resolution training and community-led reconciliation. Peace was not a hoped-for side effect. It was central to the design. That is the standard I am calling all of us to follow.

The Coffee Blossom

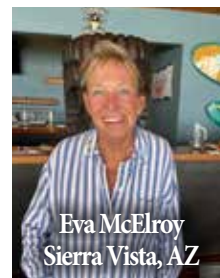
Rotary
Club of Kona



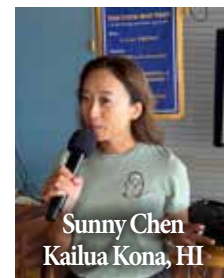
Just Visiting



Brian Adams
Peculiar, MO



Eva McElroy
Sierra Vista, AZ



Sunny Chen
Kailua Kona, HI

At the Club – Meetings Now at King Kam Hotel



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We look forward to seeing you at our new meeting location! For the first meeting at the King Kam, on Thursday, Aug 13

We are asking to please RSVP so we can get a general idea of how many people will be there. We are obligated for 20 so if we are going to have more than that it will be good to let them know.

Thanks, Jenaya



The Coffee Blossom

Rotary
Club of Kona



From the Archives – July 30, 2009



Kona Coffee Blossom

The Rotary Club of Kona Newsletter



August 13, 2009

This Week's Speaker

Dave Ross from Special Olympics



Dave Ross from Special Olympics will be here to talk about the program, accompanied by two athletes, Adrien Cleintuaur and Casey Hayden. They will also speak briefly about their experiences in Special Olympics.

Rotarian, Renee Kraft will also give a brief overview about the Club's Community Service Plans for the year and how Rotarians can get involved.

ROTARY OF KONA AND COMMUNITY NEWS

- August 20th: Dark for Sen Inouye's speech on the 17th. For tickets or information call the Chamber of Commerce or see Liz Zagorodney.
- Vocational Services Chair Chrys Yamasaki reminds everyone to bring their business cards this week for the vocational networking board on display in the back of the room.
- August 23, 2009 - Hulihe'e Palace Monthly Sunday Concert Series and Village Stroll. For more info email info@kona-kohala.com.
- Hawaii Island Aids Foundation "Annual Taste of Life" fundraiser. Call 331-8177 for tickets. Saturday, August 22nd at 6 pm.

Lucky We Live Hawaii



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Mahlon Whittle
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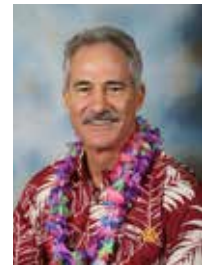
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Richard@SurfHawaii.net

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Scholarship Coord: Chrystal Yamasaki

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Andrea.Myslicki@gmail.com

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Past President: Francesco Arezzo

District 5000:

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At the Podium – Blake Parsons – Scouting America



Blake Parsons is an Eagle Scout, graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, and CEO and Scout Executive of Scouting America, Aloha Council. He has spent much of his career in Hawai'i, previously serving as Executive Director of SMACNA Hawai'i before becoming Director of Labor Relations for a construction industry association in Minnesota. His career has focused on nonprofit and association leadership, labor relations, community affairs, and organizational management. Blake currently serves on the Honolulu Police Commission, is a frequent speaker on leadership and organizational issues, and was recognized by Pacific Business News as one of Hawai'i 40 Under 40 in 2025. As an Eagle Scout himself, he has a personal connection to Scouting's mission and a strong belief in developing young people who are prepared to lead and serve their communities.

For more than a century, Scouting has helped young people across Hawai'i build character, confidence, leadership skills, and a commitment to service. Through Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouts, outdoor adventure, and community service, Aloha Council gives young people opportunities to learn things that are increasingly difficult to teach from behind a screen: how to lead, solve problems, work as a team, and take responsibility for something bigger than themselves. Scouting has deep roots on Hawai'i Island, supported by generations of local families, volunteers, and community partners. Today, Aloha Council is working to preserve the best traditions of Scouting while building a program that meets the needs of Hawai'i next generation.

Just Last Week –Chelsea Ahern – VASH



The Visitor Aloha Society of Hawai'i Island (VASH) is a community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to sharing the aloha spirit with visitors affected by adversity while traveling on Hawai'i Island. Through compassionate support and practical assistance, VASH helps visitors cope with and recover from unexpected situations such as medical emergencies, crime, lost travel documents, the death of a loved one, and other crises that can occur far from home. Working closely with the Hawai'i County Police Department, local hospitals, airport and hotel security teams, and other community partners, VASH receives referrals and evaluates each situation individually to connect visitors with

appropriate resources and support services. The organization serves as a temporary lifeline for travelers who may not have access to their normal support systems while away from home. Volunteers are the heart of VASH Hawai'i Island. Through the generosity of trained and compassionate volunteers, along with support from local businesses, hotels, restaurants, and service organizations, VASH assists hundreds of visitors each year. The organization's vision is simple: that every visitor touched by adversity will also be touched by the aloha spirit. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, VASH is funded in part through support from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, the County of Hawai'i, and community donations. Since its founding, VASH has helped ensure that visitors facing difficult circumstances experience the care, compassion, and hospitality that define Hawai'i spirit of aloha.

Chelsea Ahern has served as the West Hawai'i Program Director for VASH since November 2024, working closely with hospitality partners, government agencies, and community organizations to provide support, resources, and compassionate assistance to visitors in need. Prior to VASH, Chelsea spent four years with Girl Scouts of Hawai'i, most recently serving as Regional Island Manager, where she supported youth leadership development, volunteer engagement, and statewide programming. She also serves as the Managing Director of Aloha Theatre in Kainali'u, helping oversee operations and community programming for one of West Hawai'i's historic performing arts organizations. Chelsea is also the District 8 representative on the Hawai'i County Transportation Commission and remains actively involved in her local community.

Video of the presentation: <http://surfhawaii.net/Rotary/Presentations> Click on 081326.mp4

August 20, 2026

This Week

12 Noon - King Kamehameha
Kona Beach Hotel, 75-5660 Palani Road in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.
Meeting room next to Honu's.

Program:

Blake Parsons

Scouting America

Greeter:

Alan Clark

Coming Up

Programs:

Bd Meeting (Zoom)	08/26
Speaker TBD	08/27
Hope Services	
Dark	09/03
Speaker TBD	09/10
HI Food Basket	

In This Issue

At the Podium
Just Last Week
Just Visiting
At the Club
At the Club
In the Community
Lucky We Live Hawaii?
At the Helm

Rotary Prayer

Almighty God, bind us together in the true spirit of Rotary, keeping our hearts pure, our lives clean, our spirits humble and our thinking straight. Amen.

President's Position Olayinka H. Babalola Rotary International



August 2026

Peace does not happen by accident. It must be pursued deliberately, built strategically, and woven intentionally into everything we do.

That is the challenge I am placing before the Rotary world this year.

Rotary recognizes peacebuilding as one of our areas of focus. But I believe peace must be more than a category of work we set aside for certain projects. It must become a lens, one we choose to look through every time we plan, every time we serve, every time we ask what kind of impact we truly want to leave behind.

The Institute for Economics and Peace has identified eight Pillars of Positive Peace: well-functioning government, a sound business environment, equitable distribution of resources, acceptance of the rights of others, good relations with neighbors, free flow of information, high levels of human capital, and low levels of corruption. These pillars describe the conditions that make lasting peace possible. And when I look at them carefully, I see enormous potential for Rotary. Not because our work automatically advances peace but because it can when we are deliberate about it.

That is the key word: deliberate.

A water project does not build peace on its own. But a water project designed with the Pillars of Positive Peace in mind — one that asks how equitable access to resources strengthens community trust — can begin to lay that foundation. A vocational training program does not guarantee reconciliation. But one that intentionally brings divided communities together around shared economic opportunity can start to build it. The project does not change. The intention does.

In Colombia, Rotary's Pathways to Peace and Prosperity program shows us what this looks like in practice. Working in communities shaped by decades of armed conflict and displacement, the program combines economic empowerment with conflict resolution training and community-led reconciliation. Peace was not a hoped-for side effect. It was central to the design. That is the standard I am calling all of us to follow.

The Coffee Blossom

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Just Visiting



Kerstin Blunt
Kailua Kona, HI
Ironman Vol.
Coordinator



Gavin Phillips
Baltimore, MD

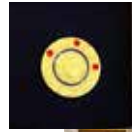


Marjorie Zensen
Kailua Kona, HI



Marla McCasland
Naalehu, HI

At the Club – Janice Gustin – Paul Harris Times Nine



Kudos to Janice Gustin for receiving a Paul Harris Times Nine Pine. That's a total of \$9000 in doantions over her Rotary membership years.

She's a little lady with a huge heart!

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In the Community – Support Needed After Storm



Aloha RCOK,

I just finished a Zoom call with District Governor Benson Medina & many of the other club presidents on island. The district is looking to support the three organizations that have taken the lead in rehabilitating the hardest hit places on island: **Salvation Army, Vibrant HI, & the HI Community Foundation**. At this point, there is nothing planned for us to do as a club to assist in the cleanup, but the district is meeting with the county to determine where we might help. Vern Lowery, past president of Kona Sunrise RC, is coordinating the effort of the five Rotary clubs on W. HI island. More on that as we get updates. At this point, there are two things that we can do: You can donate directly to the three organizations that I mentioned above on their individual websites.

Also, we need a Disaster Response Officer (DRO) for RCOK. The person would essentially be coordinating any response between our club & Kona Sunrise. A background or experience in disaster relief would be beneficial, but not required. If you're interested, please get back to me ASAP.

Yours in Rotary, Mark England - President RCOK - 443-995-5554

Lucky We Live Hawaii?



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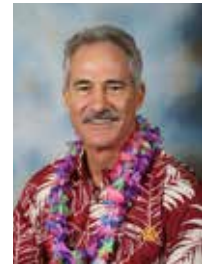
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