



TIKI WA'HA ROTARY CLUB OF ALA MOANA



Lend a Hand

July 14, 2004

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE "WHAT DOES ROTARY MEAN TO ME?"

BUTCH BUKES

By Sam Shenkus



I was born in Pittsburgh, but since my Mom was born and raised on Oahu, it's a bit complicated. My grandparents owned and operated the only functioning cafeteria at Pearl Harbor after December 7, 1941. My greek grandfather met a very nice greek soldier at their cafeteria and brought him home for dinner during the war. At the time, this nice greek soldier was 24 years old and my Mom was only 13 years old. Dad knew a good thing when he saw it and after the war, he re-enlisted in the Marines so he could date, then marry my Mom when she was 19 years old. Mom and Dad moved back to Pennsylvania and that's how I was born in Pittsburgh. When I was 16 years old, the family moved back to Hawaii and I graduated from Maryknoll High School in 1970. I attended the University of Hawaii at Manoa as a business major with a minor in real estate since I thought working in real estate would be a lot easier than going back into restaurants. I graduated with a business degree in 1975 and very luckily was hired by Sand Sea Realty as a property manager. I oversaw a portfolio of over 100 residential properties and in 1980, I decided to start my own property management company, JMC Realty. I specialized in the residential market until 1983 when my Dad decided to retire and I also assumed the family's commercial real estate portfolio. My residential and commercial real estate business continued to grow and in 1986, while I was negotiating with Bank of Hawaii for a construction loan, I met Bruce Luxton and he invited me to his Rotary lunch. At the first lunch, I remember thinking that Rotary was an interesting new group of people and I would gladly make the time for weekly Rotary meetings. At my second lunch, I witnessed Sam Shenkus being inducted as the club's first woman member and as a traditional greek guy, I thought I'd enjoy Rotary even more with some women in the room. Rotary to me is all about service to both the international and local community. I'll never forget our club's first Rotary Gives Thanks project during my year as President. We had committed to painting all 12 dormitory rooms at the School for the Deaf and Blind, and we all cheerfully assembled on a Saturday morning to paint. After about two hours, we all knew we were in "way over our heads" and at the end of the day, we had only applied one coat of primer on all the walls. We were making plans to come back on another Saturday when fellow Rotarian Baboo "conned" his friends at the Painters Union to finish the 12 dorm rooms as one of their community projects. In fact, they committed over \$17,000 to complete that painting project. I still smile about how we hopefully dreamed of painting that dorm and finally honoring the Painters Union with a special recognition lunch and lots of gratitude for finishing our "way over our heads" great project. Rotary has given me a deep appreciation for all that we can accomplish in the world and as the RI/ HRYF Chair for five years, I saw first hand how our donations as Rotarians can change the world and our Hawaii in so many ways. Rotary gives me an avenue for giving back with both money and time, and the time spent has been rewarded with many good friends and the knowledge I've gained from our program speakers. I know that I'm a better person because of Rotary and I'm still hopeful for all that we will continue to achieve in our club.

ALA MOANA HOTEL

- LUNCH -

THURSDAY NOON

JULY PROGRAMS

15th

Bob McDermott
Navy League

22nd

Club Assembly
12:00 Noon
Japanese Cultural Center

29th

John Harvey Hall
Salvation Army

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New Generation – Victor Corpuz
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Club Service and
Sergeant-at-Arms – Mary Ann Berry
Fnds (RI & HRYF) – Rich Courson
Membership & PR – Sam Shenkus
Attendance – Wally Young
Fundraising – Dave Berry
Indoctrination – Dick Bento
Historian – Ethel Ching

Upcoming Service Projects: A couple of our perennial service projects are upcoming in the near future:

Sheridan Park Beautification: Our next service installment is on 31 July 2004. Sign-up sheets are posted at the front table.



Our initial service installment at Sheridan Park.

Pahole Rare Plant Nursery:

We will have a service installment is on 28 August 2004. More details to follow.

Future Guest Speakers: An informal vote of the membership to decide whether or not we should allow the two mayoral candidates to address our club during upcoming meetings was taken. The voting results appeared to be split fifty-fifty. More details to follow.

The Four-Way Test
Of the things we Think, Say and 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?





Club Weekly Meeting Venue: President Milton announced that we have been in negotiations with the Ala Moana Hotel with regards to our weekly lunch meeting. A proposed contract was presented to our club and there will be changes to our regular routine, if we elect to execute the contract. Reductions from what we have become accustomed to are as follows:

1. **Charge Cards:** The hotel will no longer provide this service to us. We looked into doing this service ourselves, but it did not appear to be economically viable. We will therefore need to collect cash or checks and pay the hotel after each meeting.
2. **Cancellation of Meetings:** The hotel can cancel our meeting with four weeks notice. We can cancel our meetings with two weeks notice.
3. **Menu:** The hotel will reduce the number of choices for our menu. In addition, the cost per lunch will be increased.
4. **Storage Space:** We will not be provided with additional storage space.
5. **Contract:** The duration of the contract is for one year from 22 July 2004. Further changes after the duration of the contract are complete are anticipated.

President Milton has been checking on alternative venues for our meetings. The criterion being used is as follows:

1. It needs to be a nice place.
2. The food needs to be good.
3. Additional storage space is desirable.
4. The price needs to be reasonable.
5. Club signage is desirable.
6. It needs to be in the general vicinity of the Ala Moana area.

President Milton asked the membership for options and/or suggestions with the above. The deadline for a decision is 22 July 2004. We've been with the Ala Moana Hotel for a while, however, we need to also look towards the future. Any comments/ideas would be welcome!

Club Assembly: We will have a club assembly on 22 July 2004 at the Japanese Cultural Center Hawaii on Beretania Street, at 12:00 Noon. JCCH happens to be one of the strong candidates for the new venue for our weekly meetings, so come out and check it out!