



# TIKI WA'HA ROTARY CLUB OF ALA MOANA



**August 7, 2004 - Special Edition**



Hi Leon<

Thanks for your suggestions about the lunch yesterday. It seemed like our members enjoyed Rodney Haraga.

As a not to one of your ealier emails, if the articles in the TIKI seemed a little strong please accept my apologies. My lack of experience as president and eagerness to do a good job coupled with the transition of boards and the request from the hotel for a contract of sort collided.

The hotel wanted the contract signed right away but Mary Ann go them to give us a few weeks extension. At our very first meeting in the new year (With the District Governor) the hotel gave us their new contract with new prices and the added clause that they would have the right to cancel our lunch if they had other bokings.

Since a contract was a new thing for the club, the Board made an effort to check what might be available outside. Many different sites were considered, including using Tri to cater which was rejected because of a lack of meeting space and his place is too small. Some of the other places included the Convention Center, Willows, other sites in Ala Moana shopping center and Ward Warehouse and of course other hotels.

Looking around is an exhausting process as you well know. When we started we did know what was out there of if anywhere else came close. We did feelthat since a long term contract was new for the club, we should at leastmake an effort to see what was available.

We stumbled across JCCH and were surprised to find them competitive. Thelist we published in the TIKI was the short list.

Mary Ann did her usual great job in coordinating the lunch dates with Ala Moana and everything was set for our first lunch at Ala Moana after our assembly at JCCH.

The week of that lunch the hotel called to tell us that if they did not get a signed long term contract that they would not provide lunch for us that week.

ALA MOANA HOTEL - LUNCH - THURSDAY NOON

## MILTON CONTINUES

Roger felt that the contract the gave us did give us an escape clause if needed. The contract sent to them with the clarification that we could cancel with proper notification.

There is a lot of stress in being the first club president in 30 years to have to sign a long term contract for the club with just weeks to make the decision. Just being the new club president with only three years in Rotary is pretty tough.

I do apologize for my lack of experience in trying to deal with so many critical issues. There are probably many things that could have been done better but experience or lack there of does make a difference. Please know that my intent was and will be to seek what is best for the club.

Your willingness to step forward to help the club with your experience and your guidance is appreciated.

Thanks again. See you next Thursday.

milton

## Dave Berry's views.



Leon,

I wrote this up, but have mixed feelings about making it public because I am not sure that it would be taken in the way it is intended, which is to approach the issue logically if we have to approach it at all. I am in favor of staying at the Ala Moana Hotel. Having said that, I do think that whenever a Rotary Club is presented with new circumstances such as we have been by the hotel, it is very prudent to consider options. I can sympathize with Milton since he was hit with this issue the very first week he was

Club President. I have told Milton many times over the past year that I think he will be a good president for our Club and that he had my support. I still feel that way. I firmly believe that his presentation of the JCCH as an alternative was generated because he believes that such a move is in the best interests of the Club.

Unfortunately the way this was presented to us has given the impression that he and he alone decided that we had to move, we had to move now, and we had to move to JCCH. The information presented to us was heavily biased, however unintentionally that may have been, in favor of JCCH.

An atmosphere has also been created that implies that we cannot go on with the business of Rotary until we decide on this issue. As more facts emerge it seems that there are many questions about JCCH that still need to be answered.

## **Dave Berry Continues**

**Before we rush to judgment there is one very vital fact that we should all consider. Based on comments from many Club members, there are those who feel so strongly that if we do move to JCCH they will resign from the Club. From the comments I have heard this would mean approximately a 10% decrease in our membership. Also, for many years other Rotary Clubs have made overtures to the hotel about meeting there. Although there are many cases where more than one Rotary Club meets in the same location, the hotel has always rejected those overtures out of loyalty to us. If we move it is very probable that in the very near future another Rotary Club would move into the Ala Moana Hotel. If this were to happen, and I have experienced situations like this many times in my Rotary career, it would not be an exaggeration to say that up to 40 or 50% of our members would opt to join that Club. This may not happen, and I would hope it would not, but are we willing to take that gamble when there is no rush for us to make any decisions on moving. Also, if we do move and it turns out to be a mistake, and in the interim another Rotary Club moves into the hotel, there is no turning back for us. This is a very serious decision and it should be made based on facts and not emotions. A rush to judgment, especially when there is no reason for a hasty decision, could deal a very damaging blow to our Club. I would urge you to reject the proposal to move to JCCH. Lets put this issue behind us and move on with the business of Rotary. It may very well be that it is in the long term best interests of the Club to make a move. If this is the case I would suggest that a committee be appointed to explore all possibilities and compile a fair and balanced presentations of the pros and cons of each alternative and report back to the membership in six to eight months, well in advance of the time our current agreement with the hotel expires, so that the members will have time to carefully and logically digest the information before making a decision.**

**Dave Berry**

## **Editor's Comments:**

**Both Milton and Dave are the epitome of what a dedicated Rotarian should be. They each want what is best for the Rotary Club of Ala Moana; they are looking at a complicated problem and seeking the best possible solution.**

**On August 12, 2004, at the JCC there will be a luncheon meeting. Attend that meeting and participate in arriving at a decision. Your vote should not be based on what is most convenient for you; it should be on what is best for the Rotary Club of Ala Moana.**

**While you are in the process of arriving at a decision spend a few moments thinking of the Four-Way Test.**