

Rotary Club of Kona Sunrise

"Peace Through Service"

The Coffee Press

August 5, 2026

This week: No Meeting

Please join us for the monthly Meet N Eat at Kealakehe Intermediate School to provide meals/groceries for the food insecure in our community.

Bagging of groceries starts at 4:30 and the gates open at 6:00.

Many hands make less work!



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Club President's August Message

Hello my fellow Sunrise Rotarians!

As we begin August, I'm grateful for the energy, dedication, and fellowship that continue to define the Rotary Club of Kona Sunrise. YOU consistently demonstrate that even small acts of service, when done together, create meaningful and lasting impact in our community.

This past month brought several accomplishments worth celebrating. We were honored to dedicate a Peace Pole at the Domestic Abuse Shelter in honor of Mike Fraser, as a lasting symbol of hope, healing, and our commitment to promoting peace in our community. Thank you to everyone who helped make this meaningful project a reality. Especially Nestorio for putting it in!

was another wonderful opportunity to celebrate our community while showcasing the spirit of Rotary. Thank you to all who volunteered their time and enthusiasm to represent our club so proudly. We're also excited about improvements to our regular meeting experience with our gift of eight new tables at Papa Kona. These tables will help create a more welcoming and comfortable environment as we gather each week to enjoy fellowship and plan our service projects. Our monthly Meet-N-Eat gatherings continue to strengthen the friendships that make our club so special as we provide food for the food-insecure of our community.

Behind the scenes, members have also been making progress with club resources, including our website and the Peace Pole Latitude & Longitude

(Continued on page 2)

Our July 4th Parade participation

The Rotary Club of Kona Sunrise meets the 2,3,& 4th Wednesdays at 7:00 am Papa Kona Restaurant 75-5770 Alii Drive Kailua Kona HI. For additional information contact Vernon Lowrey 573-465-2874 or konasuniserotary@gmail.com

The
Rotary
Foundation



CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT



Rotary
Club of Kona Sunrise
"Peace Through Service"

Club President's August Message continued

(Continued from page 1)

Finder project. Thank you Vern and Bev for working with Josh Laguana for creating a beautiful website, showing who we are and what we do. Check it out! <https://konasunriserotary.net/> These efforts help preserve our work, improve communication, and make it easier for others to connect with our club and our commitment to peace.

As we look ahead, I encourage each of us to continue inviting guests, participating in service

projects, and sharing the story of Rotary with others. Every new connection creates another opportunity to make a positive difference.

Thank you for your commitment, generosity, and friendship. Together, we are building stronger relationships, serving our community, and living Rotary's motto of Service Above Self.

Yours in Rotary,
Nancy Lowrey

Message from DG Benson Medina

Aloha, Rotary District 5000 Ohana,

Leading up to the Rotary International Convention that was scheduled to take place in Honolulu in 2020, local host-hospitality events were organized through partnerships between O'ahu clubs and Neighbor Island clubs. The Rotary Club of South Hilo was paired with the Rotary Club of Downtown Honolulu. I remember working with its president, Sean Slentz, as we planned an event our clubs would host together at the Waikiki Elks Club.

The convention was ultimately canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and our event never materialized. Yet I still remember how enjoyable and rewarding it was to work closely with another Rotary club from a different island. It gave us the opportunity to exchange ideas, develop new friendships, and experience Rotary beyond the boundaries of our own club.

I believe sister club partnerships within District 5000 could create those same opportunities. Paired clubs might collaborate on service projects, attend one another's meetings, exchange speakers, support fundraisers, share successful membership practices, or simply spend time getting to know one another. A large club might be paired with a smaller club.

An established club might support a newer club. An O'ahu club might build an ongoing relationship with a club on Hawai'i Island, Maui, Kaua'i, or help start a new club on Moloka'i, or Lāna'i. We will begin exploring this concept during our District Conference in Honolulu on August 21, 22, and 23. The conference will give us an opportunity to reconnect, exchange ideas, celebrate the accomplishments of our clubs, and begin building new relationships across our District.

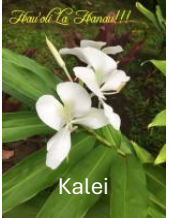
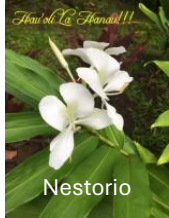
My hope is that we will leave the conference not only inspired, but more connected to one another and more committed to working together. In Rotary, no club should ever feel that it must work alone.

A'ohe hana nui, ke alu'ia. No task is too great when we work together.

Me ke aloha,
Benson Medina
District Governor, Rotary District 5000
2026–2027

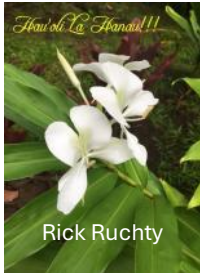
The Coffee Press

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1  Kalei
2	3	4 Meet N Eat Kealakehe Intermediate School 4:30	5 	6	7	8
9	10  Chuck R	11  Nancy/Vernon (12th) → Cooper	12 Regular Meeting Papa Kona 7:00 am Program: POLIO PLUS Zoom with Roz	13	14  Nestorio	15  Bernice/Bruce
16	17	18	19 Regular Meeting Papa Kona 7:00 am Program: TBA	20	21 District Conference 21 - 23 	22
23 	24	25	26 Regular Meeting Papa Kona 7:00 am Program: TBA	27	28	29
30	31					

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September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Meet n Eat Kealakehe Intermediate School 4:30	2 	3	4	5
6	7 	8	9 Regular Meeting Papa Kona 7:00 am Program TBA	10 	11	12
13	14	15	16 Regular Meeting Papa Kona 7:00 am Program TBA	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Regular Meeting Papa Kona 7:00 am Program TBA	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Regular Meeting Papa Kona 7:00 am Program TBA			

The Coffee Press

Club and Community News



Paul Harris
Founder of
Rotary



Olayinka
Hakeem
Babalola
Rotary
International
President
2026 - 2027



Benson
Medina
District 5000
Governor
2026 - 2027



Scott Unger
West Hawai'i
Assistant
Governor
2026 - 2027



Nancy
Lowrey
Rotary Club
of Kona
Sunrise
President
2025 - 2027

UPCOMING PRIMARY ELECTION & ROTARY

At the Board Meeting of the club last month, a lively discussion took place regarding inviting political candidates to be guest speakers. This is not the first time the issue has been raised - back in 2016 the Board of Directors voted to NOT invite political candidates as speakers, but to invite the elected representative to address the club after the election. This year's Board made the same decision, based on the four way test "Is it fair to all concerned" in that if one candidate is invited to speak, then ALL candidates must be given the same opportunity. Another reason is that Rotary is a non-political organization. There is no Rotary International or District 5000 rule that says that political candidates can't address any club, so the decision is up to each individual Rotary Club. There is at least one Rotary Club that choose to invite a candidate as long as there was "no campaigning".

Whether you agree with the Board's Decision or not, the most important thing that you can do is VOTE!!



Speaking of guest speakers, if you have any suggestions please email them to Floyd Nordstrom who is Club Service Chair. His email is fnordstrom1@icloud.com



At last week's meeting, after discussing some club business, President Nancy asked those in attendance, the following two questions: ***Why did you join Rotary, and why do you stay?***

Four or five members responded to the question, and their stories were incredibly interesting! There were a few "chicken skin" moments, some laughter, and even a few tears.

As a result of that meeting, there is now going to be a new feature once per month in the newsletter with one or more of our club members answering the same questions. It is a great way to get to know your fellow members and to strengthen relationships. You will receive an email when it is your turn, so please keep an eye out and respond with your answers!



On Monday evening, a District wide Zoom meeting was hosted by Vernon Lowrey regarding the Peace Pole Project in Kosovo. Arden Hoti, from the Rotary Club of Prishtina International joined the meeting and shared information about the other projects that they are currently working on.

We are in the early stages of preparing a global grant application to continue to help the Kosovo residents with clean drinking water and address sanitation issues.



The Coffee Press is published weekly and emailed to club members, fellow Rotarians, and friends around the world. To add or remove your name from our mailing list, email konasunriserotary@gmail.com. All rights reserved.