Rotary Club of Kona Sunrise

"Peace Through Service"

The Coffee Press

September 2, 2026

Please join us on Tuesday, September 1 at Kealakehe Intermediate School for the monthly Meet N Eat Program.

We will gather at 4:30 to put together grocery bags, followed by plating about 60 servings of chili and rice for the food insecure in our community.

Many hands make lighter work!



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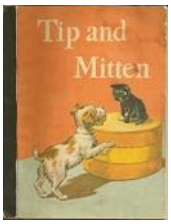
The Rotary Club of Kona Sunrise meets the 2,3,& 4th Wednesdays at 7:00 am
Papa Kona Restaurant
75-5770 Alii Drive
Kailua Kona HI.
For additional information contact Vernon Lowrey
573-465-2874 or
konasunriserotary@gmail.com

Club President's September Message

Hello My Sunrise Friends!



September is Rotary Basic Education and Literacy month. When I saw this on the Rotary calendar, I thought of my first-grade teacher, Mrs. Jane Krankota of Glennon Heights Elementary School in Lakewood, Colorado. I remember how she taught us to read, not just the letters and words on a page, but with a smile on her face and kindness in her voice. Tip and Mitten, my first book. Do you remember learning to read?

Dolly Parton. "The singer's upbringing, particularly her father's illiteracy and his shame around what he considered a shortcoming, was what inspired her to launch the Imagination Library.... Reading, she believed, was the gateway to dreaming, and dreaming, the first step in the path toward success." (Los Angeles Times, August 26, 2026) Dream on, Dolly!

For those who were not at our previous meeting (August 26), let me catch you up. Our Club was recognized at the District 5000 Conference for our wonderful-ness—International Service, Polio Plus, Public Image, and Rotary Foundation. I am so proud of you Club members; I'm proud to be a member of our Club! Past-President Vern Lowrey has graciously stepped up to be your President-Elect!! As we move forward, I'm sure we will continue to do great things under his leadership.

Nancy Lowrey

President 2025 - 2027

The Rotary Foundation

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

END POLIO NOW

Rotary Club of Kona Sunrise
"Peace Through Service"

Conference Message from Past DG Nancy Cabral

I want to Mahalo all of those who attended our District Conference this past week and all those who helped to organize and sponsor our events. We had a lot of FUN because over 200 amazing Rotarians attended the Conference. Because of our great SPONSORS we could keep our prices affordable and with community assistance we had dynamic SPEAKERS and top-notch Entertainment.

Our Conference theme, Peace Through Leadership, was addressed in a variety of ways. Governor Josh Green took time out of his busy day to come and honor all Rotarians and thank us for the work that we do throughout Hawaii and the world. He commented on the damage from Hurricane Lala and the need for Rotarians to continue to help our neighbors as we have in Maui and with our 'Keiki' and 'Kupuna' programs and our food distribution assistance throughout the year and throughout the state of Hawaii.

Dr. Maya Soetoro with the College of Social Sciences at UH and with the Obama Foundation and Global Girls Alliance. Past Director for the Matsunaga Institute for Peace, instructor for UH in Peace Movement, Education and Conflict Management. Co-Founder of Ceeds of Peace, the Peace Studio and the Institute for Climate and Peace.

Ray Matsumiya is a leader in cross-cultural exchange and peacebuilding. He is a Director of Rotary Engagement at the Jubitz Peace Park in Melbourne and has worked with US State Department, UNESCO and Spanish Ministry of Foreign affairs in Japan, Spain, and middle Eastern and North African countries. Ray lives in Boston and is a member of the WE Rotary Club for International Peace with District 5000.

Dr. Kent Keith has authored 19 books including the Paradoxical Commandments which was first published in 1968 for student leaders. He was raised in six states, including Hawai'i and graduated from Roosevelt High School. He attended UH Manoa along with Harvard University, Oxford in England, Waseda in Tokyo and University of Southern California. He was the first graduate from a Hawai'i public school to be a Rhodes Scholar. He has worked in Hawai'i as a lawyer, in government and with the YMCA of Honolulu and internationally with Servant Leadership in the U.S. and Asia-Singapore. He was President of both Chaminade and Pacific Rim Christian Universities. Kent is a member of the Rotary Club of Honolulu Sunrise and donated, Anyway: The Paradoxical Commandments to all conference attendees.

Ambassador James Moriarty is a consultant for national security affairs and has been an Ambassador, Special Assistant to the President, and career diplomat. He has worked with Bangladesh, Yugoslavia, Nepal, China, Taiwan, and with East and South Asia. He is a Senior advisor to the Pacific Forum and consults with U.S. Government entities. He has recently joined the recently joined the Rotary Club of Pearl Harbor.

Faculty from Ke'elikolani Middle School in Honolulu represented Principal Joe Passantino to talk about the great relationship between this public school and the Rotary Club of Downtown Honolulu. The club meets weekly at the school for breakfast. They engage with students on the campus and support school supply drives, tutoring assistance, and help set an example of what people do in the community to work and help others. The school and Rotary have a special connection with Principal Joe and staff members often cooking breakfast for the Rotarians. Joe is a member of the Rotary Club of Downtown Honolulu.

Johrita Solari came to the conference as the Rotary International President's Representative. She has served as International Vice President and Director and Vice Chair of the International Programs Committee and on the Polio Eradication Advocacy

(Continued on page 3)

Conference Message from Past DG Nancy Cabral

(Continued from page 2)

Task Force. She has assisted with immunizations in Mexico, Nigeria and Pakistan. Johrita is a member of the Rotary Club of Anaheim and a Past District Governor. She, along with her husband Bruce and daughter Gianna, were all able to join us. They own Solari Enterprises that provides quality affordable housing, and they work on global aid projects within their own family through Rotary.

For the first time in three years our District Conference was able to present Club Awards and Recognitions for the full Rotary Year at a conference. Many clubs were recognized and awards were presented for Youth, Club, Community, International and Vocational Service, Membership, Public Image and The Rotary Foundation. Congratulations to our Clubs of the Year!

During the conference we were able to recognize and honor the Club Presidents from this past 2025-2026 Rotary Year and the current Presidents and District Leadership Team for this 2026-2027 Rotary Year along with those Rotarians who have graduated from our "District Leadership Academy". We also had a heartfelt moment to honor our fellow Rotarians that have left us with a Celebration of Life that followed our Interfaith/ Peace Service.

Current Governor Benson introduced a new concept of E Ola Mau to be a Lifelong Rotarian. Over 60 Members were recognized for making that commitment during the conference with a small pin.

In addition to recognizing our District Conference, I want to Thank ALL of our D5000 Rotary members and clubs for the great work that was done this past year throughout Hawaii. I thank everyone for attending Zoom meetings, working hard to provide more services for our communities, to increase our membership, and to collect more funds for The Rotary Foundation. Because of the help of each individual Rotarian, our combined efforts provided for a GREAT YEAR in District 5000. We did Unite for Good with multiple service projects throughout Hawai'i and a Global Project to Micronesia. Our membership increased with the addition of our third Rotaract Club and a new Satellite Club. Plus, we exceeded our goals for donations to The Rotary Foundation and Polio Plus. It was an amazing year for me because I got to meet Rotarian throughout Hawaii and I know combined we can do all things! I thank all of you for supporting me this past year as your 2025-2026 District Governor and I look forward to a new year as we Create Lasting Change.

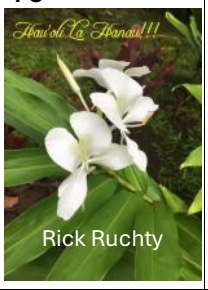
MAHALO,

Nancy Cabral, Past District Governor

Rotary | BARCELONA 2027

The Coffee Press

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 8:00 am Program: Boys to Men Mentoring	10 	11	12
13	14	15	16 Regular Meeting Papa Kona 8:00 am Program: Forensic Nurse Examiner Program	17	18	19
20	21 International Day of Peace 	22	23 Regular Meeting Papa Kona 8:00 am Program: FBI Board Meeting	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Regular Meeting Papa Kona 8:00 am Program: Community Alliance Partners			

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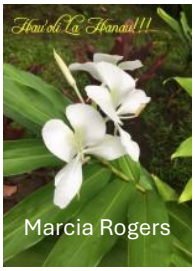
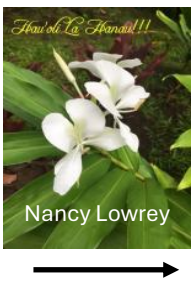
October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 	6 Meet N Eat Kealakehe Intermediate School 4:30 till pau	7 	8	9	10 
11	12	13	14 Regular Meeting Papa Kona 8:00 am Program TBA	15	16	17
18	19	20 	21 Regular Meeting Papa Kona 8:00 Program: Taipei Convention Board Meeting	22	23	24  Papa Kona Event
	26	27 	28 Regular Meeting Papa Kona 8:00 Program: TBA	29	30	31

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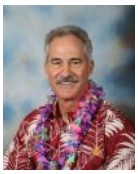
Paul Harris
Founder of
Rotary



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

Club News



The above thank you card was received in the mail from our HRYF Scholarship recipient.





Thank you to all members who have paid their dues! There are still 6 members who have not yet submitted their dues - Please do so as soon as possible.

Mark your calendars for the following upcoming events: **September 21, 2026** is World Peace Day. Plans are being considered for the annual "Sunrise to Sunset Peace Pole Designation". **October 24, 2026** is World Polio Day, and we will have an informational booth at Papa Kona Restaurant. Volunteers will be needed to be at the booth during the day to answer questions about Polio (and Rotary). More information forthcoming.

Christmas is just around the corner, and suggestions are needed for what type of project we want to do, and where our support is most needed. In consideration of the availability of our members, and our individual limitations, Ding Dong Dinner Ditch is again put on hold for this year. We will continue to support the Domestic Abuse Shelter and it's residents by providing gifts, stockings and a Christmas meal. Please email President Nancy with your ideas.



The Rotary Foundation

END POLIO NOW

EVERY ROTARIAN EVERY YEAR

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

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