



# Rotary Club of Kona Sunrise

*"Peace Through Service"*

## The Coffee Press

June 26, 2024

### THIS WEEK - Let's PARTY!!

Today is the last meeting of the 2023 - 2024 Rotary Year! And, we have lots to celebrate!!



#### Inside this issue:

Rest in Peace  
Dennis Rast 2

Please join us to reminisce about our very successful year, and to recognize our impact on our community.

July  
Calendar 3

### Year End Message from President Vernon

President's Year  
End Message 4

Aloha my Rotary Club of Kona Sunrise Ohana!

success to you and your passion for Rotary, I am honored to serve an additional term as Club President for 2024-2025.

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](mailto:konasunriserotary@gmail.com)

As I reflect on my year as your Club President from 2023-2024, I find myself amazed with all we accomplished as a club and where we are going forward into our next Rotary year. Thanks to you, our club members, for helping me in so many ways this past year. I owe our

We took our April 2023 Strategic Action Plan to heart and focused on our new club-focused "Peacebuilding" efforts that supported the Rotary International theme of "Create Hope on Earth". We

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### JOINT CLUBS INSTALLATION

On Saturday evening, members of the Rotary Club of North Hawaii, Rotary Club of Kona Sunrise, Rotary Club of Kona, and Rotary Club of Kona Mauka came together for a joint installation of the upcoming 2024 - 2025 Club President's.

overview of what is coming up in the next Rotary year, followed by the swearing in of the Club Presidents:

Kona Mauka - Eric Curtis/Karen Wilson  
Kona - Jenaya Rockman  
Kona Sunrise - Vernon Lowrey  
North Hawaii - Kari Clark/Robert Stout

Current District Governor Mark Merriam gave a quick address, thanking everyone for their work this year. Incoming District Governor Ted Faigle gave an

The new West Hawai'i Assistant Governor is Scott Unger, Past President of the Rotary Club of Kona.



The Rotary Foundation



Rotary Club of Kona Sunrise

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REST IN PEACE DENNIS Dec 1942 - June 2024



Just a few random photos of Dennis - always smiling!

# The Coffee Press

July 2024

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

	1	2 Meet N Eat Kealakehe Intermediate School 4:30	3  July 4th Parade	4  Derek & Al	5  Cheryl	6
7	8	9	10 Regular Meeting Papa Kona 7:00 am	11	12	13
14	15	16 Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom 5:00 pm	17 Regular Meeting Papa Kona 7:00 am	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Regular Meeting Papa Kona 7:00 am	25	26	27
28	29	30	31  Chuck C.			



# The Coffee Press

## Club News Etc.



Paul Harris  
Founder of  
Rotary



R. Gordon  
McNally  
Rotary  
International  
President  
2023-2024



Mark  
Merriam  
District 5000  
Governor  
2023 - 2024



Nestorio  
Domingo  
West Hawaii  
Assistant  
Governor  
2023-2024



Vernon  
Lowrey  
Rotary Club  
of Kona  
Sunrise  
President  
2023 - 2024

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provided “May Peace Prevail on Earth” themed floats during the 2024 King Kamehameha, Fourth of July, and Christmas parades here in Kailua-Kona. We successfully completed a District 5000 Grant funded “Peace through Art” project with a local school creating a beautiful 2024-2025 calendar for passing out to our Rotary friends, and local community partners. We planted several peace poles with the same message in numerous languages at Hale Halewai Park in Kailua Kona and along the Old Kona Airport walking path in the newly established “Peace Garden” to be dedicated on September 21st. We are nurturing “survivor” plant seeds from Hiroshima, Japan that will hopefully be planted with peace poles already placed around the west side of Hawaii Island.

We continued our monthly “Meet and Eat” food insecure feeding efforts at Kealakehe Intermediate School with over 60 families and 250 or more persons being supported.

We supported the Salvation Army with our yearly Christmas “Ding Dong Dinner” feeding efforts for ten needy families.

We are now a co-sponsor of the Kealakehe High School Interact Club with the Rotary Club of Kona. We assisted the Interact Club with an Ironman Water Station. We provided

several Rotary connected scholarships to outstanding students at Kealakehe High School

We continued to support Rotary International Foundation Annual Fund giving and Polio Plus giving by members. We upgraded our club internet website, our club bylaws, and our club constitution. We had several Pau Hana fellowship events. We joined the Kohala-Kona Chamber of Commerce. We met with Gordon McNally, Rotary International President, when he visited the Big Island. Club members attended the Hawaii District 5000 conference in Kauai, and the Rotary International Convention in Singapore.

We welcomed three new members into our club this past year, Toni Symons, Cheryl Borsh and Shawn Keoho.

Finally, I dedicate my year as your President to Dennis Rast, who closely mentored me with Rotary and my role as President. Mahalo Nui Loa Dennis!

So, let’s continue our momentum of “Peace through Service” into 2024-2025.

Aloha!

Vernon Lowrey,  
President, Rotary Club of Kona Sunrise

The  
**Rotary**  
Foundation



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