

# The Coffee Blossom

Rotary  
Club of Kona



## At the Podium – West Side Hawaii Little League

January 23, 2025



As we head into the 2025 Player Pitch Season, the T-Mobile Little League Call Up Grant Program is back to help cover registration fees for Little League families in need. T-Mobile and West Side Hawaii Little League share the belief that every child should have the chance to experience Little League, regardless of their financial or personal situation.



Financially challenged families in communities across the country who can present current eligibility in a Free/Reduced Lunch program, SNAP, WIC, Foster Child Paperwork, or enrollment in Medicaid or State Health Plans are eligible to receive a T-Mobile Little League Call Up Grant, so long as funding is available.

The program offers a simple-to-use application to get and keep children on the field. Families can find more information about registration dates and fees here. If families have already paid and registered for the 2021 season, they should work with their league to have their initial payment reimbursed.

## A Few Weeks Back – Kristy Lungo – Mental Health Kokua



In 2023 MHK celebrated 50 years in Hawaii - Established in 1973 as The House, housing patients discharged from the Hawaii State Hospital during deinstitutionalization. By 1994, the organization changed its name to Mental Help Hawaii and in 2000 expanded to become Mental Health Kokua

Recently, Kristy Lungo (MHK's Hawaii Island Director) conducted CIT training for the Kona police department about encountering people with psychotic behavior. MHK provides housing, case management, and outpatient services for adults with serious mental illnesses many who have previously been homeless in Hilo and Kona.

Mental Health Kokua's Peer Coach program assists adults with mental illness opportunities to begin again by empowering themselves through teaching and learning from those with lived experience. Peer Coach program's primary service philosophy is the 'recovery model'. That means Peer Coaching focuses on what contributions can be made by the participant to lead proud, productive lives. To learn more, contact Jessie Farias at [Jfarias@mhkhawaii.org](mailto:Jfarias@mhkhawaii.org), or 808-387-0951.

**This Week**  
 12 Noon - Lava Java,  
 75-5719 Ali'i Dr, #1A,  
 Kailua Kona, HI 96740

**Program:**  
 West Side Hawaii  
 Little League

**Greeter:**  
 Mahlon Whittle

**Coming Up**

Programs:	
Humane Society	01/30
TBD	02/06
Peace	02/13
Rotary Members	

**In This Issue**  
 At the Podium  
 A Few Weeks Back  
 Just Visiting  
 Around the Island  
 RCOK in Action  
 At the Helm

### Rotary Prayer

Almighty God, bind us together in the true spirit of Rotary, keeping our hearts pure, our lives clean, our spirits humble and our thinking straight. Amen.

## President's Position Stephanie Urchick Rotary International

January 2025



TI always walk into meetings at my home club of McMurray, Pennsylvania, with a smile on my face.

A few years ago, someone arrived late. Instead of scolding the person, we cheered. Since then, we've made it a tradition to applaud all members when they arrive for meetings. It's tough not to smile with a greeting like that.

There's nothing more powerful for engaging and retaining members than a club that's vibrant, welcoming, and – yes – fun.

Think back to what drew you to Rotary. Chances are, it wasn't just the service projects or professional networking. It was the people – the friendships, the shared laughter, and the joy of working toward a common purpose. That's what keeps us coming back.

If you're looking for that sense of joy in your meetings, don't be afraid to ask yourself and your fellow members some tough questions. If you were a prospective member, would you join your current club? It's a powerful question but don't stop there.

Do members of your club feel that they belong? Are your meetings fun? If not, what can you do about it together?

At your next meeting or event, try something new to bring out a few extra smiles. It's the simple things that create lasting bonds and make clubs simply irresistible.

Here's one example of a club moving in the right direction. The Rotary Club of Fukushima, Japan, has been combining environmental responsibility with community fun since 2021. In Japan, people have made picking up trash into a sport known as SpoGomi, and every year the club hosts a game. This year, more than 400 participants cheered each other on while they came together to improve their community.

This event is an excellent example of how Rotary clubs can have fun, make a difference, and raise awareness for broader global challenges all at the same time. And the inclusive, family-friendly format allows people of all ages to participate.

When we enjoy what we do, that energy becomes contagious. It's what attracts new members and keeps our clubs strong and engaged. It helps people feel that they belong.

Retention and culture go hand in hand. The healthier our club culture, the more likely members are to stay. Rotary magazine is an outstanding resource for inspiration on how to enhance our club culture and deepen member engagement. I encourage you to explore the stories and strategies in these pages, drawing from other clubs' successes to find ideas that work for you.

Together, we can create a more engaged, enjoyable, and inclusive Rotary that every member can feel proud to be part of. Let's continue with renewed commitment and enthusiasm, living The Magic of Rotary.

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## Just Visiting – George Prokop – Medford Rogue Rotary Club



While on vacation with family, I was able to drop in and visit with the Rotary Club of Kona for their first club meeting of 2025. The club meets upstairs in the open-air seating area of the Lava Java restaurant with amazing views of the ocean. The Rotary Club of Kona currently has 48 active members and I, along with two other visiting Rotarians from other clubs, greatly appreciated the warm welcome and opportunity to participate in their Club Assembly meeting. Did I mention the awesome views from their meeting location yet? Other Guests: Wilma & Tim Marchant - Claremont, CA.

## Around the Island – Keiki Christmas Party

On December 21 the Ocean View Community Center Committee hosted a Keiki Christmas party for the children of Ocean View. The party was a huge success and over 300 children showed up for a trip to the "Toy" house where they could pick their own Christmas gift! Rotary club of Kona donated \$500 of gifts for this event. There was live music and Santa Claus. Kids could also play games and decorate Christmas ornaments. The committee provided goodie bags and hot chocolate. Kudos to the Ocean View Community Center Committee for providing a fun afternoon for the Keiki of Kau.

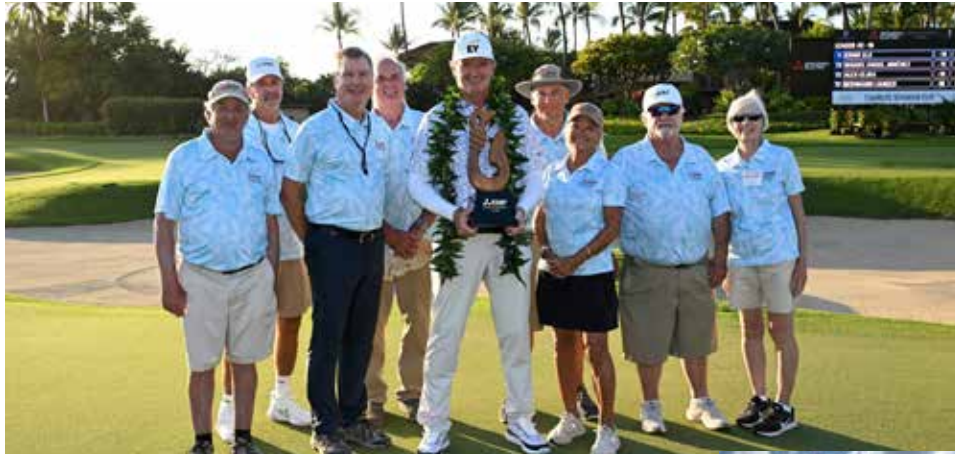


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## RCOK in Action - Mitsubishi Electric Championship



MEC 2025 Winner Ernie Els w Volunteer Mgt Team



## Rotary Calendar

Meet N' Eat (Grab N' Go) is held Tuesday evenings 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM at the Kealakehe Intermediate Parking Lot. Call: Larry Web at 808-989-6336 if you would like to help out.

## Community Calendar

Every Friday, 5:00P to 6:00P  
FREE HAWAIIAN MUSIC AND HULA SHOW - Courtyard

Every First Friday, 5:30 P to 8:30 P  
BLOCK PARTY - Holualoa

January 19, 1 P to 6 P  
KAILUA KONA VILLAGE STROLL - Alii Drive

## Member Birthdays

- Anita Barker - January 06
- Janice Gustin - January 26
- Victoria Morse - January 10
- Greg Ogin - January 10

## Wedding Anniversaries

## Date Joined Anniversaries

- Harry Hart  
January 1, 1989 - 36 Yrs
- Greg Ogin  
January 10, 1982 - 43 Yrs
- Katherine Rauch  
January 20, 2015 - 10 Yrs

## Island Clubs

### Kona Sunrise:

Wednesday, 7:00AM  
PaPa Kona Restaurant  
75-5770 Ali'i Drive  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

### Kona Mauka:

Tuesday, 12 Noon  
Teshima's Restaurant  
Honalo, HI 96740

### North Hawaii:

Wednesday, 12 Noon  
Red Water Cafe  
Highway 19  
Kamuela, HI 96743

### Volcano:

Tuesday, 7:30AM  
Kilauea Military Camp  
Hawaii Volcanoes Natl Park  
Highway 11  
Volcano, HI 96740

### Hilo:

Friday, 12 Noon  
Moku'ola Room  
Hilo Hawaiian Hotel  
71 Banyan Drive  
Hilo, HI 96720

### South Hilo:

Tuesday, 11:45AM  
Queen Court Restaurant  
Hilo Hawaiian Hotel  
71 Banyan Drive  
Hilo, HI 96720

### Hilo Bay:

Wednesday, 6:45AM  
Hilo Yacht Club  
77 Laehala Street  
Hilo, HI 96720

## Submissions

Submit articles, meeting notices, pictures, suggestions and other information to Richard Farnham by Monday, 12:00 Noon.

All material must be in digital format, NO EXCEPTIONS.

Richard@Surfhawaii.net  
Mobile: 808-896-0314

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## At the Helm



Paul Harris  
Rotary Founder



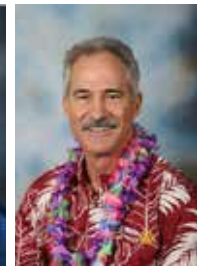
Jenaya Rockman  
Kona President



Stephanie Urchick  
RI President



Ted Faigel  
D5000 Governor



Scott Unger  
WH Asst Gov.

### Officers:

President: Jenaya Rockman  
President Elect: TBD  
Secretary: Andrea Myslicki  
Treasurer: Janice Gustin  
Past President: Brian Asbjornson  
Sergeant-at-Arms: Alan Clark

### Phone:

808-937-2541  
703-447-0690  
808-345-8956  
808-854-6148  
808-936-6074

### Email:

[Jenaya.Rockman@Gmail.com](mailto:Jenaya.Rockman@Gmail.com)  
[Andrea.Myslicki@Gmail.com](mailto:Andrea.Myslicki@Gmail.com)  
[INJGustin@Outlook.com](mailto:INJGustin@Outlook.com)  
[Brian@KonaImpact.com](mailto:Brian@KonaImpact.com)  
[MaukaCapitalLLC@Gmail.com](mailto:MaukaCapitalLLC@Gmail.com)

### Directors:

Membership: Maverick Malech  
Club Administrator: Darlene Daboling

808-282-9022 [TamMaverickHawaii@Gmail.com](mailto:TamMaverickHawaii@Gmail.com)  
808-443-4214 [D.Daboling@Gmail.com](mailto:D.Daboling@Gmail.com)

Public Relations: TBD  
Rotary Foundation: Mahlon Whittle  
Community Service: Becca Hamar

808-494-7535 [MahlonWhit@Gmail.com](mailto:MahlonWhit@Gmail.com)  
808-936-1095 [RebeccaHamar@Gmail.com](mailto:RebeccaHamar@Gmail.com)

### Committee Chairs:

International Service: Tom Daniel  
New Generations: Floyd Nordstrom  
Programs: Ben Noyes  
Golf Tournament: Larry Webb/Kris Hazard  
HYRF: Peter Schonberg  
Meet N' Eat: Scott Unger  
Club Bulletin/Archives: Richard Farnham  
Website: Richard Farnham

808-989-0171 [TomDaniel@Hawaii.RR.com](mailto:TomDaniel@Hawaii.RR.com)  
303-929-7447 [FNordstrom1@icloud.com](mailto:FNordstrom1@icloud.com)  
808-936-9136 [Ben\\_Noyes@Yahoo.com](mailto:Ben_Noyes@Yahoo.com)  
808-989-6336 [Kona.CL.Webb@Gmail.com](mailto:Kona.CL.Webb@Gmail.com)  
808-937-6641 [PSchonberg@Aol.com](mailto:PSchonberg@Aol.com)  
808-747-7311 [ScottURotary@Gmail.com](mailto:ScottURotary@Gmail.com)  
808-896-0314 [Richard@SurfHawaii.net](mailto:Richard@SurfHawaii.net)  
808-896-0314 [Richard@SurfHawaii.net](mailto:Richard@SurfHawaii.net)

### Community Foundation:

President: Peter Schonberg  
Treasurer: Jenny Rasmussen  
Scholarship Coord: Chrystal Yamasaki

808-937-6641 [PSchonberg@Aol.com](mailto:PSchonberg@Aol.com)  
530-519-1861 [Jenny@IslandAsphaltMaintenance.com](mailto:Jenny@IslandAsphaltMaintenance.com)  
808-937-9700 [Chrys@WTAHawaii.com](mailto:Chrys@WTAHawaii.com)

### Rotary International:

President: Stephanie Urchick  
Past President: R. Gordon R. McNally

### District 5000:

Governor: Ted Faigel  
WH Asst Governor: Scott Unger

**Please Note:** Archival copies of all preserved Coffee Blossom issues dating back to Rotary Year 2000/2001 are available in pdf format at no charge to Rotary members. Go to:

<http://surfhawaii.net/Rotary/CoffeeBlossom>

## Four-Way Test

Of The Things We Think, Say, Or Do:

Is it the TRUTH? Is it FAIR to all concerned? Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIP? Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?