

Rotary



Club of Eugene

DEI at the U of O with Dr. Yvette Alex Assensoh, VP of Equity and Inclusion



Dr. Yvette Alex Assensoh is the Vice President for Equity and Inclusion. Dr. Alex-Assensoh leads the university's equity and anti-racism strategic planning as well as implementation work, coupled with the development of institutional policies, coordination of research and evaluation infrastructure for equity and inclusion work, coordination of pipeline programs, provision of organizational leadership to units within the Division of Equity and Inclusion (DEI), while also leading innovative initiatives focused on equity and inclusion.

In partnership with her DEI team and the broader campus, VP Alex-Assensoh played a leading role in the designing and the implementation of the campus-wide IDEAL framework, which created award-winning inclusion programs, which have led to the garnering of national awards. Her work has been referenced in varied sources, including *The New York Times*, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Inside Higher Ed.*, and *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*. Apart from serving as a full Professor in the Political Science Department, Dr. Alex-Assensoh also teaches in the Knight School of Law as an adjunct. In her capacity as a certified coach, she designed high-impact coaching programs for diverse UO populations.

About Yvette:

Prior to joining the University of Oregon, Dr. Alex-Assensoh served as a tenured full Professor of Political Science and a Dean at Indiana University's flagship Bloomington campus. She has won outstanding research awards as well as secured funding from the National Science Foundation, American Council on Education, Council for the International Exchange of Scholars, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (Ford Dissertation Fellowship), served as a Fulbright Scholar at University of Zagreb in Croatia and also led national professional committees focusing on issues of equity, diversity, teaching excellence and ethics. In addition to being an internationally-recognized public speaker, she is also the author/co-author of five books, dozens of scholarly essays, book chapters and numerous published journalistic/trade essays.

Dr. Alex-Assensoh and her husband of 26 years (Indiana University Emeritus Professor A.B. Assensoh) are parents of two young adult sons (Kwadwo Stephen Alex-Assensoh and Livingston Alex Kwabena Assensoh). A native of Breaux Bridge, Louisiana, USA, she enjoys volunteering, reading young adult and Christian fiction, playing board games and entertaining friends with African and Louisiana-flavored cuisine.

July 29th - At The Graduate

The Tuesday July 29th meeting will be at The Graduate, 66 E. 6th Ave, Eugene, OR.

Special Note: Just a heads up to our members - Next week's meeting on August 5th, we will be back at The Shedd for our annual OFAM meeting. The September 9th meeting is also an away game, location TBD.

New Member Proposed - Athena Aguiar

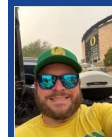
Club Meeting

Eugene
Meets at Graduate Eugene (541)
342-2000
66 East 6th Street
Eugene, OR 97401
Time: Tuesday at 12:00 PM

Events

July 29th
[Rotary Club of Eugene Weekly Lunch Meeting](#)
August 5th
[Rotary Club of Eugene Weekly Lunch Meeting](#)
August 12th
[Rotary Club of Eugene Weekly Lunch Meeting](#)
August 19th
[Rotary Club of Eugene Weekly Lunch Meeting](#)
August 19th
[Eugene Weekly Club Meeting](#)
Speaker: Dr. Miriam Mickelson
Subject: Eugene School District 4J

Club Leaders



[Philip Holt Barnhart](#)
President



[Robert Scott Impeccoven](#)
President-Elect



[Ronald Terry Gietter](#)
Secretary



[Erik Peter Gribskov](#)
Club Admin Chair
Club Executive
Secretary



[Todd Anderson](#)
Treasurer



[Jesse Quinn](#)
Club Director
Community Service Co-Chair

Your Membership Committee recommends, and your Club Board of Directors voted its approval of, the membership application of Athena Aguiar. Our new member process requires publication of a proposed and approved new member's name in this newsletter for three consecutive weeks. Any member in good standing may comment on, or object to, the proposed new member in writing to the Board. Barring receipt of comments, the proposed member is considered to be elected as a member. Please welcome Athena to our meetings!

Eugene Rotary Charitable Fund Board Elections

Election of ERCF Board Members

The ERCF elections for board members that are term-limiting out of their positions will be held at the Club meeting on **July 29th (this week)**. Candidates for the open position(s) are: Chris Binstadt, Bonnie Bailey, Dick Barnhart and Lauren Regnani. These are all outstanding candidates and Rotarians. Please plan on attending so you can vote your choices.

ERCF Summer Grant Cycle Continues

The ERCF is still accepting grant applications for its summer grant cycle. Applications will be accepted through August 29th. Grant awards will be announced the week of September 1st.



[Richard A. Barnhart](#)
Club Director



[Susan Heisey](#)
Club Director



[Robert E. Nickel](#)
Club Director



[Richard K. Olson](#)
CCO-Club
Communications Officer



[Craig Opperman](#)
Club Director



[Chris Stephenson](#)
Club Director



[Nathan Phillips](#)
iPast President

Birthdays

Doug James
July 30th

Harry B. Storr
August 1st

Maxine Proskurowski
August 2nd

Ward Beck Jr.
August 5th

Erik Peter Gribskov
August 8th

Nissa Newton
August 14th

Phil Barnhart
August 18th

Jane Eyre McDonald
August 20th

Gerald Whitman Harris
August 20th

Ronald Terry Gietter
August 22nd

James W. Savage
August 22nd

Years of Service

Richard Scott Forrest
08-21-1973
52 Years

Mary Jeanne Jacobsen
08-03-1987
38 Years

Gregg Fuller
07-29-1997
28 Years

Gerald Whitman Harris

Eugene Rotary Scholarship Foundation Annual Report

Every year the Eugene Rotary Scholarship Foundation (ERSF) holds its annual meeting with the full Rotary Club of Eugene on the second Tuesday in July. This year our meeting was held on Tuesday, July 8, 2025 where we recognized five incredible scholars. Samara Cooper, Olivia Klopp, Makani Stevenson, Staci Sprain, and Elijah Wilkins were chosen by our board of directors to receive laptops generously donated by NextStep and, due to the generosity of our members both through the birthday fund, happy dollars and this year's fundraiser, we awarded \$34,000 in scholarship funds. We had the pleasure of hearing from all of them and wish them well as they pursue degrees on their road to what we are sure will be great success.



Each year elections are held during the annual meeting to determine incoming board members to replace those whose term has expired or who have resigned. Our board members for this past year were myself, Mark McGinley as Treasurer, Nissa Newton as Secretary, and members Ron Gietter, Bob Hart, Chris Stephenson, Chris Binstadt, Scott Impeccoven, Scott Forrest, Jerry Harris, and Phil H. Barnhart. Chris Stephenson and Mark McGinley's terms expired, Scott Impeccoven will be on the board as President-Elect, and Scott Forrest has resigned and we are grateful for their service to this important organization. Scott Impeccoven has served two years of his three-year term, and Scott Forrest has served one year of his term. Therefore we had four positions to fill and nominees included Noreen Dunnells, Jerry Harris, Bart Poston, and Chris Stephenson. All were elected with Chris Stephenson and Bart Poston being elected to one three-year term each, Noreen Dunnells elected to fill the single open two-year term, and Jerry Harris elected to fill the remaining open one-year term. With Mark McGinley's exit Chris Binstadt will take the position of Treasurer. Also joining us this coming year will be Immediate Past President Nathan Phillips.

Thanks to all who have donated to this amazing foundation in the past, and we encourage you to continue to do so in the future so we may insure our assistance to worthy young local scholars can continue.

Liz Ness, President
Eugene Rotary Scholarship Foundation

Andy Vobora and Jerry Whitman Harris are still looking for a few more Rotarians to fill out a Rotary table of ten for the **Boys and Girls Club of Emerald Valley (BGCEV)** Field of Dreams event at PK Park on August 14th in the evening. If you are interested in joining us we have **just three seats available**. As you may know, our Club members were instrumental in founding the **BGCEV** in 1999. Please contact Andy at andyduck51@gmail.com or Jerry at gwharris@comcast.net for details.



Rotary
Club of Eugene



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF EMERALD VALLEY

Food for Lane County - Call for Volunteers

Our FFLC volunteer night is **always** on the third Wednesday of the month - so put it on your calendar as a recurring event and let's see you join us this month! We will do our part to spread the bounty to our fellow citizens who don't have enough to eat and have a great experience too. Help us by **joining in at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, August 20th, 2025 at Food for Lane County**. Friends, family, children 10+ years old and older (supervised by an adult), are all welcome!

Let's vow to do what we can to prevent hunger. Please contact **Victoria Whitman** at vwhitman@hearthstonere.com or 541-954-7171 if you would like to participate so we can let FFLC know how many volunteers they can count on. We have committed to at least six volunteers a month. The more people who come, the more fun it is! We have had some great are FFLC socials at local establishments serving food and libations so come join us!

PLEASE DON'T FORGET - FFLC was looking at a 15% drop in critical meal basics (especially proteins) due to the current administration's cuts in Federal Grants programs before the recently passed federal legislation. With the recent passage of President Trump's Big Beautiful Bill in the House and Senate, reductions in the SNAP program are expected by Oregon government officials to result in thousands of current SNAP recipients being removed from the food assistance program in Lane County and Oregon. ***If you can't volunteer, please consider donating food directly to FFLC.*** You can drop off your donations at their facility located at 770 Bailey Hill Rd., Eugene.

Food for Lane County, 770 Bailey Hill Road, Eugene, OR 97402
Wednesday, August 20th from 6-8:30 pm (due to recent shortfalls in rescued foods we often complete our work well before 8:30).

Upcoming Meeting Programs

The Eugene Rotary Club is known locally for our outstanding speakers and programs. Here's what members can look forward to during the next month:

August 5 - Oregon Festival of American Music with Jim Ralph. Introduction - Jerry Harris

August 12 - The Schnitzer Museum with our own Peggy Whalen. Introduction - Liz Ness.

August 19 - Eugene School District 4J Superintendent Dr. Miriam Mickelson. Introduction - Noreen Dunnells.

August 26 - Rotary Club of Eugene's Uganda Project with our own Dick Barnhart. Introduction - Phil Barnhart.

Next Committee Meetings

Community Service: The Committee will go on hiatus for July and August. Next meeting will be in September. Date TBD. Meetings are held at 4:00 pm at Susan Heisey's office, 747 E. 32nd Ave, Suite A1, Eugene (normally on first Wednesday).

Environmental Committee: Monday, August 4th at Noon, via ZOOM (first Monday). [Click here for Zoom link to Env. Committee Meetings](#)

Program Committee: Wednesday, August 6th at 8:00 am at Stifel office, 497 Oakway Rd #280, Eugene, OR 97401. **(first Wednesday).** Zoom will be available - request link from Chris

08-15-2006

19 Years

Victoria Whitman Harris

08-10-2007

18 Years

Brent Allyn Johnson

08-06-2013

12 Years

Stacey Ray

08-25-2020

5 Years

Karen Gaffney

08-25-2020

5 Years

Susan Heisey

07-27-2021

4 Years

Sonya Carlson

08-15-2023

2 Years

Kristina Gribskov

08-15-2023

2 Years

George Rogers

08-16-2023

2 Years

Stephanie Bulger

07-29-2024

1 Year

Stephenson if you are not a committee member.

International Service Committee: Tuesday, August 19 at 8:30 am, via ZOOM (third Tuesday) [Click here for Zoom link to Int. Service Committee Meetings](#)

Club Board Meeting: Tuesday, August 19 at 4:00 pm (third Tuesday). If you wish to attend, contact President-Elect Phil Barnhart to reserve a seat.

News you can use (and other snippets of useless information)

August 4 is National Coast Guard Day. As member Tom Gilmour will surely tell you, this day celebrates and honors the courageous work of the service members of the United States Coast Guard. Today, we salute all Coast Guard members, active and inactive, for their service to our country.

The United States Coast Guard is one of the six United States Armed Forces. While this maritime service is a branch of the military, they are also a multi-missioned service. During peacetime, it operates under the Department of Homeland Security. However, their responsibilities can be transferred to the US Navy by the President of the United States any time deemed necessary, or by Congress during war times. The United States Coast Guard's official motto is **Always Ready** - or in Latin **Semper Paratus**.

August 8 is National Pickleball Day. As Karen Gaffney will readily tell you, Pickleball is a paddle sport that combines tennis, badminton, and table tennis in one. If you have never played or witnessed a game of Pickleball, think Wiffle ball meets Ping Pong meets Tennis. But don't let that description confuse you. The ball used is similar to a Wiffle ball, while the racket used is similar to a short tennis racket only solid like a ping pong paddle rather than webbed. Play happens on a court similar to that of a tennis court. This is a game that can be enjoyed by people of all ages.

Here are five fun Pickleball facts:

Pickleball players and fans are called "Picklers."

When a team scores zero points in Pickleball the loss is known as being "Pickled."

Some people eat mustard before playing Pickleball to avoid getting leg cramps.

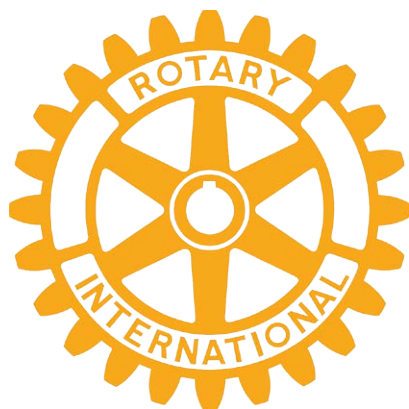
The non-volley zone in front of the Pickleball net is called the "Kitchen."

A "dink shot" is the result of the ball landing in the Kitchen.

August 14 is National Code Talkers Day. This honors the contributions of the Native Americans who brought their unique abilities to the World War II effort. The day also highlights their impact on U.S. code and the Native American language that made it possible. While code talkers were instrumental during World War II, the United States military used the Native American language in their coded messages before. During World War I, the Choctaw tribe's language was called upon to relate coded messages. Read more at [Code Talkers](#).

August 17 is National Nonprofit Day (NND). This day recognizes the goals and positive impacts nonprofits have on communities and the world. Somewhere a volunteer reads to school children. At the same time, a patient receives steady medication. A lawyer provides legal services for low-income individuals. A lost soul's life is remembered with dignity, thanks to a nonprofit funeral home. Elsewhere, a first-time homebuyer moves into his own home. **Rotary International's The Rotary Foundation (TRF)** provides funds to Rotarians to do projects like these and more all over the world.

Rotary Club of Eugene



Rotary is an organization of 1.4 million business and professional leaders united worldwide in 30,000 Clubs to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

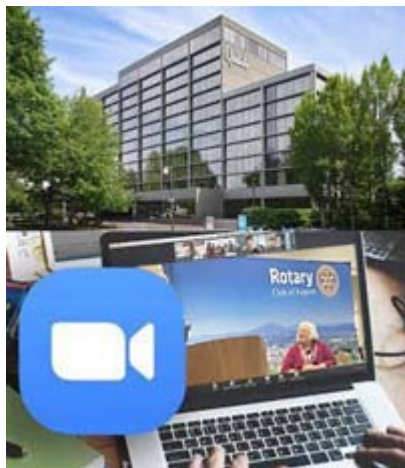
The Rotary Club of Eugene has served the Eugene and Springfield Area for 100 years. We look forward to our second 100 years of Service.

We meet at The Graduate Eugene, 66 E. 6th Street, Eugene Oregon. Meetings are held weekly on Tuesdays at Noon. We can be contacted at PO Box 1184, Eugene, Oregon 97440. Our phone number is 541 654-0921. Our email address is EugeneRotary@gmail.com.

Join us to make an impact in our community and around the world! To find out more

about membership and fill out an application please visit:
[Rotary Club of Eugene Membership](#)

Club meetings can be attended on Zoom - link below



Meetings will be on Zoom assuming internet availability
Automatic link: Click to link. If using the link, no password is required.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83908618864?pwd=Ly85Skc3NXhoVTZGOTZjeGpCWGl2dz09>

Meeting ID: 839 0861 8864

Passcode: 695590

One tap mobile

[+16699009128](tel:+16699009128)..83908618864#....*695590# US (San Jose)

[+12532158782](tel:+12532158782)..83908618864#....*695590# US (Tacoma)