

Rotary



Club of Eugene

Presidents' Message



This past week has been nostalgic. This was prompted by two Club events: The rededication of the remodeled and refurbished Boys and Girls Club building at 1545 W. 22nd last Wednesday; and, our 28th annual Skinner Butte Work Party just today (Saturday). In preparation for Boys and Girls Club, I did some asking around to get information regarding the origin story of the Boys and Girls Club of Emerald Valley and our Club's part in that story. Long story short (stop laughing please), Diana Bray (PP 1997) and Pete Gribskov (PP1998) had the most information to fill in the blanks. It appears that

members Vic Mann, Doug Harclerod, Harold Pierce, Jeff Robinson, Sherm Smith and Bob Newland (Harold and Bob have passed) were critical to the founding of the Boys and Girls Club in 1999. Of course most of us know Diana, Pete, Doug and Jeff. I knew Bob Newland well enough to know he was a kind and successful man. I found out that he was also a former star athlete at UO, and played pro football for the New Orleans Saints for four years. He often spoke with me about my progress in stroke recovery and referred me to several good books on the brain's ability to rewire itself after a traumatic brain injury. I'll write up the "story" of our involvement with B&G Club at a later date and publish it here.

Regarding Skinner Butte, there are always Ray Wiley stories to share while doing the tasks of the annual work party. With Ray's passing a few months ago, this year was particularly poignant as the first without checking in with him to let him know we were on it. I wouldn't put it past Ray to have finagled a deal so he could come back today to 'supervise' us.

Being president, collating stories of past member's efforts on a number of other projects for presentation at our fundraising event, and just participating in Club projects has afforded me insights to so many good works by good people in our Club. It's a privilege to be in their company and try to fill their shoes.

See you Tuesday.

Jerry

April 23rd Meeting: Eugene Mayoral Candidates

The mayoral race panel is now up to three folks, Kaarin Knutson, Shanae Joyce-Steiner, and Stefan Streik. Meet the candidates and listen to a lively debate with questions from the Rotary Club moderator.

Click **read more** below for complete bios.



Kaarin Knutson

Shanae Joyce-Steiner

Stefan Streik

[Read More](#)

Club Meeting

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

Events

No Events found

Club Leaders



[Gerald William Whitman Harris](#)
President



[Nathan Phillips](#)
President-Elect



[Ronald Terry Gietter](#)
Secretary



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



[Todd Anderson](#)
Treasurer



[Ken Brown](#)
Club Director
Membership Chair



[Lauren Regnani](#)
Rotary Foundation Committee Member



[Jay Silverman](#)
Rotary Foundation Chair



[Ravitej Singh Khalsa](#)
Public Image/Relations Chair



[Robert E Nickel](#)
International Service Chair



[Karen Gaffney](#)
Community Service Chair



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

April 22-30 - Rotary Friendship Exchange Team from Central Philippines



You are cordially invited to join the Rotary Club of Cottage Grove for a potluck dinner to celebrate the Rotary Friendship Exchange Team from District 3850, Central Philippines.

Tuesday
April 30, 2024
5:30 – 7:00
Saginaw Vineyard
 80247 Delight Valley School Rd
 Saginaw, OR 97424



Dinner will be held inside or outside, depending on the weather. Come, bring your favorite home-made dish or pick something up along the way. Beverages for sale at the Vineyard. Meet the RFE Team Members and share in fellowship with other Rotarians.

Please RSVP to Club Secretary, Karol Kuhn Simons at rotary424cg@gmail.com

The Rotary Friendship Exchange team from District 3850, Central Philippines, will be in our District from April 22nd through the District 5110 Conference.

On MONDAY, APRIL 22nd, the team will be arriving at the Eugene Airport at noon. Please consider going out to the airport to welcome them to Eugene.

On TUESDAY, APRIL 30th, the Rotary Club of Cottage Grove will be hosting a potluck dinner at Saginaw Vineyard that anyone is invited to attend. Attached is the invitation. Please RSVP as requested.



Bonnie J. Bailey
 Club Director
 Youth Services Chair



Maxine Proskurovski
 Interact Rotary Adviser



Raquel E. Hecht
 Youth Exchange Past President



Tom Gilmour
 Rotaract Rotary Advisor



Noreen Dunnells
 Club Director
 Club Programs Chair



Victoria Whitman Harris
 Club Service FFLC Lead



Doug James
 Club Director
 Vocational Service Chair



Gregg A. Fuller
 Club Director



Robert Scott Impehoven
 Club Director
 Community Service



Richard K. Olson
 CCO-Club Communications.
 Past District Governor



Elizabeth A. Ness
 Past President

28th Annual Skinner Butte Work Party Success!

Dedicated to Ray Wiley: For the 28th consecutive year and first years without recently passed member Ray Wiley, Club volunteers stepped up and stepped outside into a beautiful day at the Skinner Butte summit on Saturday - appropriately on Earth Day weekend (Earth Day is April 22nd).

Under the sharp eye and manpower management of Susan Heisey we did lots of paint touchups with Noreen Dunnells and partner Jeff Stimler tackling the graffiti on the trail way markers, Jesse Quinn and his partner in crime Jason painting the east picnic area railings and the flagpole railings, and Stacey and her partner Antonio doing double duty by removing graffiti from the ceramic tilework along the top of the EWEB reservoir pump house and also repainting the front of the pumphouse below the tile work. I think Noreen and Jeff may have also painted the information kiosk.

Gen Schaak and her friend Alice did yeoman's shovel work cleaning up the borders of the summit loop path among other tasks that currently escape me (apologies Gen and Alice). Mike Gerot and Bob Nickel busted butt to remove grass, trim the hedge and spread bark on the low planter at the east picnic area. Karen Scheeland and Jeff Parker did the same at the high planter. Bob Nickel also did weeding around the planters. Ken Brown was a master of the weed whacker and doubled up as photographer, Karen Gaffney was a jack of all trades, thanks Karen. Liz Ness made sure we were appropriately attired in Rotary hi-vis vests, Victoria made sure we all left the site full and sassy by providing pizza, sodas and water.

This year, we invited UO student volunteers organized by the Holden Center for Leadership and Community Development. They showed up in force with ten volunteers to paint the Big O. They whipped that out so quickly they volunteered to clean and paint the Big E. Way to go Holden Center and crew! Their service is part of the larger UO Student Day of Service effort.



Birthdays

Gregory L. Stewart
 April 23rd
 Brian Fox
 April 25th
 Robert Scott Impehoven
 May 5th
 Diana Rae Bray
 May 6th
 Brent Allyn Johnson
 May 8th
 Jay Silverman
 May 18th

Years of Service

Susan Sygall
 05-11-2000
 24 Years
 Dennis J. Biggerstaff
 05-10-2011
 13 Years
 Philip Holt Barnhart
 05-17-2016
 8 Years



Robert E Nickel
04-25-2017
7 Years

Brian Fox
05-03-2021
3 Years

Jacob Hamalian
05-19-2022
2 Years



May 3rd - Service Opportunity at Bags of Love



The Eugene Rotary Charitable Fund (ERCF) has recently approved a generous grant of \$3,000 towards purchasing 12 or more shelving units. Your participation in assembling these units will directly contribute to optimizing storage space and improving operational efficiency at the Bags of Love warehouse.

Bags of Love was founded to help and comfort children in crisis: They provide necessities and comfort items to children who are in crisis due to neglect, abuse, poverty, homelessness, or disaster.

The impact of this project extends far beyond the warehouse shelves. By helping Bags of Love store more inventory, we're facilitating their continued ability to meet the growing demand for their services. Through our collective efforts, we can make a tangible difference in the lives of children and their families across Lane County.

We are looking for **8 dedicated Rotarians to join us on May 3rd** to lend a helping hand. Your commitment to service is what makes our Rotary Club truly exceptional, and I encourage you to seize this opportunity to make a positive impact alongside your fellow members.

When: May 3rd Time: 2:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Where: 1052 Green Acres Rd, Eugene, OR 97408

Please RSVP by using the Sign-Up link below.

<https://signup.com/go/RxaHZZz>

Best,

Jesse Quinn

Boys and Girl's Club of Emerald Valley Rededication

The week of April 15 was a busy one for our Club members and the Boys and Girls Club of Emerald Valley. Our volunteers were working feverishly alongside B&G Club staff, board members, and other volunteers to get their newly remodeled and refurbished building ready for reopening. By Wednesday noon, the building was looking great for their grand rededication. Speeches were made, congratulations given, backs were patted but most importantly, the B&G Club organization, staff, leadership and supporters were excited, ready and willing to welcome their 'clients' back to do what they do best - nurture our community's children. Our Club has been involved with the Boys and Girls Club since its founding in 1999. Our involvement has waxed and waned over the years but we are waxing now under the direction of our Community Service committee. Our Club and our Eugene Rotary Charitable Fund provided grants totaling \$14,000 to update their building and procure engagement equipment and materials for their clients. Well done!



April Community Service Committee Meeting Relocation

LOCATION CHANGE due to the construction closure at Lane Workforce Partnership. April's CSC will be held at Connected Lane County in Springfield at the Booth Kelly Industrial Park.

The Community Service Committee is the Club's vetting and management arm for all official, club-sponsored local service projects. Service projects are defined as projects within the community that 1) provide member opportunities for Service Above Self, 2) meet the 4-Way Test, 3) meet any additional criteria assigned by the committee, and 4) involve projects that predominantly require sweat equity from club members (i.e., committee funds may be granted to a project as long as the funds do not constitute the bulk of the club's support for the project. We do not select projects that require only funding). The committee receives annual funding from the club that has ranged from \$2,500 to \$10,000 per annum and is responsible for selecting our District Grant proposals. **The committee now meets the 4th Wednesday of each month from 4:00-5:00 pm at Lane Workforce Partnership, second floor of the Eugene Chamber of Commerce, 1401 Willamette Street, Eugene, OR 97401.** The committee roster is open to all club members in good standing. Contact the committee chair(s).

Karen Gaffney (Karengaffney@comcast.net) and Jesse Quinn (jesse@laneworkforce.org)

Sharing a quick update on our District Grant!



Rotary's Commitment to Constructing a Brighter Future

As the Rotary Club of Eugene, we are proud to share an inspiring update on our collective efforts to make a meaningful difference in Lane County through our district grant recipient, "Constructing a Brighter Future" through Lane Education Service District. This endeavor embodies our core values of service, community, and collaboration, and we are thrilled to see the impact it is having on the lives of our neighbors. Thanks to the unwavering support of our club, 4J students have been hard at work constructing a transitional shelter for Everyone Village at Lane Community College's Future Build site.

"Constructing a Brighter Future" is not just about building shelters; it's about building hope and opportunity. By introducing high-paying construction trades to high school students, we are providing them with invaluable skills and pathways to success. Through hands-on learning experiences led by dedicated CTE instructors, students are not only learning the technical aspects of construction but also developing essential life skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, and resilience.

With the support of our district grant and matching funds, our club has sponsored 4J student in building a single transitional shelter to support an unhoused community member here in Lane County.

Together, let us continue to build hope, opportunity, and a brighter future for all in Lane County.

Jesse Quinn

May 15th: Food for Lane County Service



Food for Lane County, 770 Bailey Hill Road, Eugene, OR 97402

Wednesday May 15th from 6-8:30 pm

Eugene Rotarians have been helping out at Food for Lane County for over 20 years! Please, join us in continuing this meaningful tradition. Our Rotary Club comes in for approximately two hours per month to help sort, package and get food ready for distribution. It's a simple way to give back to our community and humbling to realize how easy it is to help others. Get to know your fellow Rotarians, help others and have fun - all at the same time. Friends, family, children 10+years old and older (supervised by an adult), all welcome!!

We had a great turn out in March. It was a lot of fun and time went by quickly as we portioned and sorted food. Several of us went out for snacks and libations afterwards. Join us this month on April 18th at 6pm. It's a wonderful way to give back and appreciate how fortunate we are to be able to spend time together.

Contact Victoria at vwhitman@hearthstonere.com or 541-954-7171 if you would like to participate so she can let FFLC know how many volunteers they can count on. We have committed to at least 5 volunteers a month. The more who come, the more fun we have!

Upcoming Meeting Programs

The Eugene Rotary Club has been known locally for over twenty years as the club with the best programs. Our return to in person meetings aspires to maintain that high bar. Here's what members can look forward to during the month of April:

April 30 - DEQ: Environmental Cleanups

Next Committee Meetings

Community Service: Wednesday April 24th at 4pm, at Connected Lane County

Environmental Committee: Thursday May 1st at Noon, via ZOOM:

Program Committee: Wednesday May 8th at 8am, via ZOOM

Club ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89573176120?pwd=c1Rxd3RvNGhOM2UzUnlCUlZnbnUydz09>

Rotary Club of Eugene



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

Eugene Rotary Celebrating 100 Years

Regular in-person meeting at The Graduate Hotel this week or on Zoom - link below



Automatic link: Click to link. If using the link, no password is required.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83908618864?pwd=Ly85Skc3NXhoVTZGQTZieGpCWGI2dz09>

Meeting ID: 839 0861 8864

Passcode: 695590

One tap mobile

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