



Club Meeting

Southwest Eureka
Meets at The Elks Lodge
at 445 Herrick Ave Eureka
CA
455 Herrick Ave
Eureka, CA 95503
Time: Friday at 12:00 PM

Club Leaders



Elan Firpo
President



William Gillespie
President-Elect



Mary L. Crumley
Secretary



Cynthia Denbo
Public Relations
Chair



Matthew Nilsen
Rotary
Foundation
Chair



Rick Roberts
Sergeant-at-
Arms



Haider Ajina
Lyme Tap Chair



Michael Davies-
Hughes
Community
Service Chair



Peter Fuller
Club Service
Chair



Melinda
Ciarabellini
Vocational
Service Chair



Larry Goldberg
Youth Services
Chair



Scott Pesch
iPast President

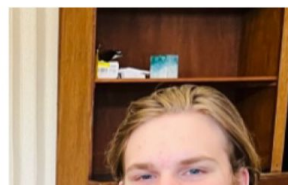
Events / Speakers

Rotary Club of Southwest Eureka January 12, 2024

Photos by Cindy Denbo:



President Elan rang in the meeting a few minutes early. The agenda is a full one today. Mark McGowan led us in the pledge and recited an Irish blessing to help us kick things off.



January 19th
**Southwest Eureka
Weekly Club Meeting**

Speaker: Jennifer
Johnston
Subject: Timber Ridge
Society

January 26th
**Southwest Eureka
Weekly Club Meeting**

Speaker: RWE off
Shorewind
Subject: Ciara Emery

February 2nd
**Southwest Eureka
Weekly Club Meeting**

Speaker: Krista Miller,
project lead
Subject: Zero Waste
Management

February 9th
**Southwest Eureka
Weekly Club Meeting**

Speaker: Juan Pablo
Cervantes
Subject: HumCo
Transparency Project

February 10th
**Yahtzee Tournament
with Old Town Eureka
Rotary**

Birthdays



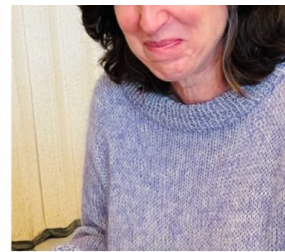
**Gregory
Hufford**
January 17th



**Davin
Bowerman**
January 18th



Mike L. Newman
January 25th



Our guests were many, including inbound exchange student from Ecuador, Juan, and next year's outbound student Adkin Fitzgerald and his father, Paul. AJ from Arcata Sunrise was visiting the best club in the universe. Our guest speaker, Mary Keehn, along with Heidi Christensen both representing We Are Up. Former member, Pam Dressler of Cyprus Grove was visiting as well.



Announcements:

- **February 10th Yahtzee!** Bill Gillespie is co-chair, along with Old Town Rotarian Amanda Moxon. He updated us on the progress so far. The event will be held at the Sequoia Conference Center on Myrtle Ave. Tickets are being sold by the table. They have already sold half of the tables via sponsorships! Nice job! (details on tables & sponsorship can be found at www.swrotary.org). So find 7 of your favorite people and reserved a table! Willy oversees volunteer recruitment for our club. Help is needed, and a sign-up sheet was being circulated. The Beneficiary will be We Are Up, and we are shooting for a \$50,000 event!

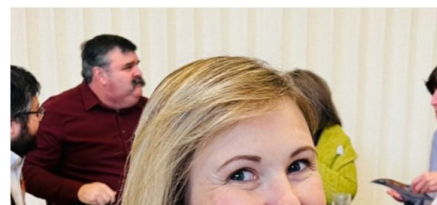
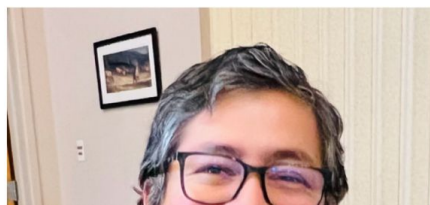




New Member, Tai Massion! Tai was formally inducted as Mary Crumley delivered the Past President's Charge. Elan gave Tai her packet of "Rotary Stuff", and then came the initiation! Tai is a trooper and will fit in beautifully! Scott Pesch, in true form, directed her as she was tossed a raw egg.

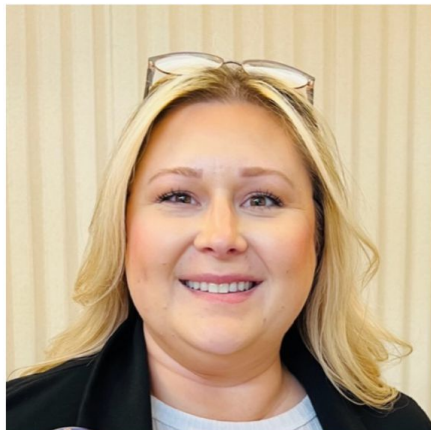


Mark McGowan presented our inbound exchange student from Ecuador, **Juan Viteri**, with his official Rotary badge.





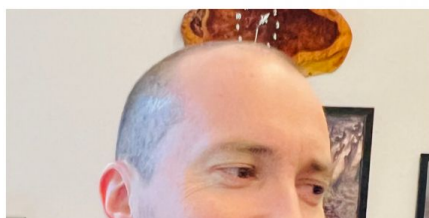
Blood Drive in November â€ okay, we didnâ€™t win, but we were at least on the platform. There will be a party for all three Eureka area clubs on **January 30th**. Stay tuned for details.

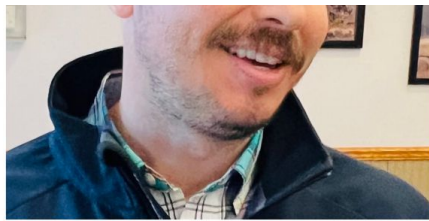


Board Elections were held today for Rotary Year 2024-25. The board members during Bill Gillespieâ€™s year will be:

- o **President** Bill Gillespie
 - o **President Elect** â€ Larry Goldberg
 - o **Treasurer and Past President** â€ Elan Firpo
 - o **Secretary** â€ Mary Crumley
 - o **Directors:**
 - Jamie Anderson
 - Willy Bowles
 - Michael Davies-Hughes
 - Kristin Kuxhausen
 - Scott Pesch
 - Peter Fuller
- Sergeant at Arms - Rick Roberts

Rookie of the year 2022-23: **Peter Fuller** earned this prestigious title for being one of the most active new members ever! Peter jumped in immediately and rarely, if ever, said â€noâ€™.





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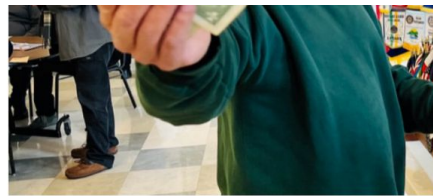
ROTARIAN of the YEAR for 2022-2023. Melinda Ciarabellini!

Scott surprised Melinda with this much deserved recognition. He remarked that her organizational skills and follow-through allowed the club to successfully achieve its ambitious goals in fundraising and community events. Congrats Melinda! Melinda was club president in 2015-16.

Acknowledgments:

Mark McGowan turned 68 on January 11th. He stayed in and had dinner at home. Proud to be 68 years old but reading at 30-year-old level!!





John Goff celebrated number 77 on January 8th. He ended up helping a neighbor in distress due to a medical emergency, in true Rotarian fashion, so he will be celebrating later.

Drawing

Don Chin had the lucky number and quickly identified the mystery fish as the Frog Fish!



Speaker: Mary Keehn. We Are Up

We Are Up is building a vibrant and inclusive community in McKinleyville that welcomes people across differences and honor the natural world. On this 15-acre site, neighbors with diverse abilities, ages and socioeconomic backgrounds will live, learn, work, and thrive together.

80 percent of the property is an open, outdoor space with an apple orchard and will soon include a greenhouse for growing vegetables and flowers. There will be 65 – 70 housing units on the property along with a beautiful commercial kitchen. The Yahtzee proceeds will help fund this kitchen.

They have three specific goals: 1) Fundraise to build a greenhouse, a community center with commercial and housing. 2) Build a community of adults with autism, seniors, medical staff, and students to create an integrated environment where all members work together and thrive. 3) Develop employment and fundraising opportunities for the We Are Up community.

Inspiration for this project came from Mary's granddaughter Jayden, who is autistic. As Jayden's caregiver, Mary soon came to realize that people with disabilities have few options in which to thrive and live in a supportive community.

More information is available at their website www.weareup.org

