

Rotary

Club of Southwest Eureka



Serving the North Coast Since 1969

Club Meeting

Southwest Eureka Meets at The Elks Lodge at 445 Herrick Ave Eureka CA
Members Contact Mary Crumley maryjpr@suddenlink.net

Time: Friday at 12:00 PM

Club Leaders



Scott Pesch
President



Elan Firpo
President-Elect



Mary L. Crumley
Secretary



Marie Liscom
Treasurer



Cynthia Denbo
Public Relations Chair



William Gillespie
President-Nominee



Mark McGowan
Rotary Foundation Chair



Rick Roberts
Membership Chair



Kenneth S Singleton
Sergeant-at-Arms

Haider Ajina
Lyme Tap Chair

Rotary Club of Southwest Eureka May 19, 2023

By Don Chin

Photos by Cindy Denbo

The meeting was called to order at 12:30pm by Past Presidents Mark McGowan and Haider Ajina. (Current President Scott Pesch was out of town for a High School Track Meet)



John VanderMolen lead the Pledge of Allegiance and provided the thought for the day: Gandhi said, "Live as if you were to die tomorrow, but learn as if you were to live forever."

There were no new visitors today.

Mark opened with a question: "What did the Buddhist say to the Hot Dog Vendor?" "Make me one with everything."

Sunshine Report: Matt Nilsen said that The Elks Lodge will be hosting a Celebration of Life for Bernie Kemp, a beloved SW Rotarian who recently passed. (The Celebration happened on May 21st from 2-4pm)

Announcements:

There will be an Interact Beach Clean-up and BBQ Thursday, May 25th in Manila / Samoa from 11:30am-1:30pm in conjunction with Zoe Barnum High School students. Larry Goldberg is heading the clean-up and needs a volunteer or two to help with the BBQ, so please let him know if you can assist.



Michael Davies-Hughes
Community Service
Chair



Eddie Alexander
Morgan
Club Service Chair



Melinda Ciarabellini
Vocational Service
Chair



Vinson Tyrone Champ
Youth Services Chair



Elizabeth Ennis
iPast President



Carly Robbins
Assistant Governor



Events / Speakers

No Events found

Birthdays



Vinson Tyrone Champ
May 24th



Nicholas Bertell
May 29th



Peter Fuller
June 8th



Marty Lay
June 10th



Rachael Simon
June 18th



Daniel Brown
June 21st

Michael Davies Hughes reminded the club there will be another Trash Pac-Out clean-up opportunity on June 3rd. The focus will be on cleaning up the Hikshari Trail behind Walmart by the Water Sewer Treatment Plant, at 8:45am til 10:30am .

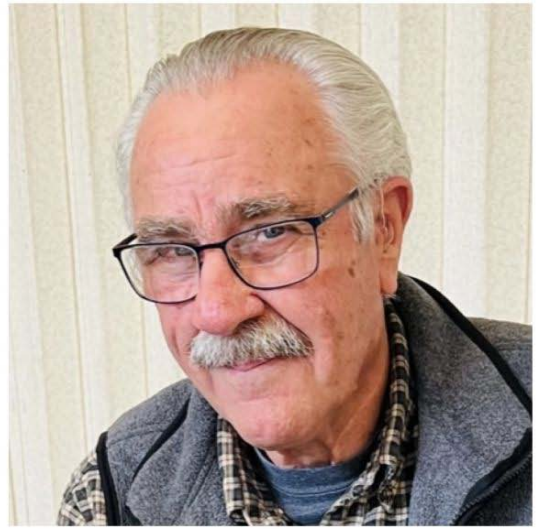
Martini's By The Bay will be on Thursday, June 22nd at the Wharfinger Building. Posters will be available next week according to Cindy Denbo, so please be sure to get some for posting around town. Vendors so far include Moonstone Grill, Restaurant 301, Speakeasy, 511, Ingomar Club, and Gabriel's. Marie Liscom said besides the event will also feature locally brewed beer and root beer from Lost Coast Brewery, courtesy of owner Barbara Groom. We will need volunteer pourers, so please let Marie or Cindy know if you can assist.



Our next meeting on May 26th will feature a photo tribute to our late member Lorna Peterson, and we also will be remembering Bernie Kemp with a tribute in June.



The Steve Brodhag Memorial Golf Tournament will be Friday, June 2nd at 1pm at Baywood Golf and Country Club. Many sponsors will be there including Major Sponsors: Wells Fargo Advisors/ Haider Ajina, & Redwood Capital Bank, plus Northwood Chevrolet, Coastal Business Systems, Coast Central Credit Union and more. Rina Brodhag will be a special guest. Be sure to sign up and invite your friends to this annual event and enter the raffle ticket drawing for great prizes. Beneficiaries include Humboldt County Sheriff's Posse Search & Rescue, North Coast Stand Down & other Rotary Community Projects.



Haider fined all members not wearing a Rotary pin or Rotary garment item \$5, so remember to put on your Rotary Swag for the next meeting or suffer another costly "fina from Ajina."

Recognitions:

Chris Duncan celebrated a birthday on Saturday, May 6th but was not present this meeting for public spanking or fines.

Raffle Drawing: Our winner was Kristin Kuxhausen.



Guest Speaker: Michael Davies-Hughes, Superintendent of Schools, Humboldt County Office of Education

Our beloved educator (and bicycling phenom) member Michael gave the club a comprehensive overview of how the California Office of Education System works and what they are about, as well as what they are excited about and planning for the future.

Most of the Office's funding comes from the State level, not Federal. Local districts have their own governing boards; there are 31 school districts and 15 charter schools in Humboldt County, and there were as many as one-hundred school districts here at the turn of the Century.

There are currently approximately 18,000 students being served in Humboldt County from preschool to High School.

HCOE is a support organization for these districts. Some of Michael's responsibilities as Superintendent is to advocate for these schools, and to inform and influence legislation that benefits schools such as keeping school transportation funded. They also have fiscal oversight / approval over the different district's budgets.

HCOE does a lot of professional development and training for teachers, classified staff, parents, as well as performance initiatives.

He spoke about how the HCOE handles expelled or incarcerated students with their resources, emphasizing that every child deserves a chance at a good education, as well as "Special Beginnings" pre-school programs and programs for students with disabilities, such as at Glen Paul School in Eureka and other remote locations around the county.

One of the highlights of his job is to award teachers, staff and students with Awards to celebrate special achievements of students and staff in education.

Davies-Hughes answered a few audience questions and then was presented with the coveted (OOOH!) Rotary Club of Southwest Eureka Mug by Mark McGowan.

Mark then gave a couple closing motivational quotes: "Light travels faster than sound. And that is why some people appear bright until they speak. I want to encourage you all to give 100 percent...that is unless you are giving blood."

The meeting adjourned at 1:30pm.