

# 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 Lorna Petersen  
lornah101@aol.com

Time: Friday at 12:00 PM

## Club Leaders



Scott Pesch  
President



Elan Firpo  
President-Elect



Lorna J. Petersen  
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 February 17, 2023

By: Cindy Denbo  
Photos by: Bill Gillespie

The February 17, 2023, meeting of the Rotary Club of Southwest Eureka was called to order at 12:22 PM by President Scott Pesch. This was the 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the 54<sup>th</sup> year of the greatest Rotary Club in the Universe!



Greg Hufford led us in the Pledge and provided our thought of day. Again, yours truly did not get the thought copied down (it was a long thought), but trust that it was a nice thought!



Mary L. Crumley  
Webmaster



Michael Davies-Hughes  
Community Service  
Chair



Eddie Alexander  
Morgan  
Club Service Chair



Wendy Starr  
International Service  
Chair



Melinda Ciarabellini  
Vocational Service  
Chair



Vinson Champ  
Youth Services Chair



Elizabeth Ennis  
iPast President



Carly Robbins  
Assistant Governor



Our guests included: Jeff Pauli and Amanda Moxon from the Rotary Club of Old Town Eureka; Maggie Kraft from Rotary Club of Arcata Sunrise and her friends from Rio Dell, Debra and Denise; Carrie LaPorte, Proprietor of Roosevelt Base Camp (and Greg Hufford's girlfriend) and her mom Tawnya; Beth Anderson and three colleagues (apologies for missing their names) from Sorrel Leaf Healing Center; and past Rotary Club of Southwest Eureka member Gary Ogle visiting from Redding.

## Events / Speakers

March 15th

### Southwest Eureka Monthly BOD Meeting

**Speaker:** BOD meeting

## Birthdays



Ronald J. Harris  
March 18th



Matthew Nilsen  
March 21st





Thoughts went out to Marie Liscom and her family as this was the day of her mother's memorial service. Disclaimer: There was a lot of activity with this meeting, and hopefully these notes capture and represent the general discussion and flow!

President Pesch shared that club fundraising had reached a level of \$38,400 so far of a goal set of \$50,000 for the year. There are two fundraisers yet to go before the end of the Rotary year. The goal of five new club members for the year is close.

John Ennis was called upon by President Pesch for his birthday on February 14<sup>th</sup>. John said he celebrated his birthday over dinner with family and with Mary and Tom and described "Cheaters Brisket" as the main course. Great cut of meat, grill it for 40 minutes, then put it into the oven to slow cook for 10 hours, and it just falls apart. He spoke of mango margaritas and brownies and ice cream; Liz reminded him that they were passion fruit margaritas! John paid \$50 for his birthday, but didn't tap out because of his upcoming anniversary (March 13) and other big things.



Though not present, It was also noted that Bill Morrill (2/15), Billy Honsal (2/17), and Laura Morris (2/19) all had birthdays during the week.

Ken Singleton was back with the club after a long trip that he had planned three years ago, but Covid had delayed. He and his wife traveled on a cruise from Buenos Aires around the tip of South America to Chile. Greg Dale reminded Ken that America had a ditch dug across Panama to make the trip shorter! It was also noted that Ken had just bought a new vehicle, but there was not too much discussion on that. The notes got scratchy, but it appeared that Ken agreed to pay a total of \$100 in fines.





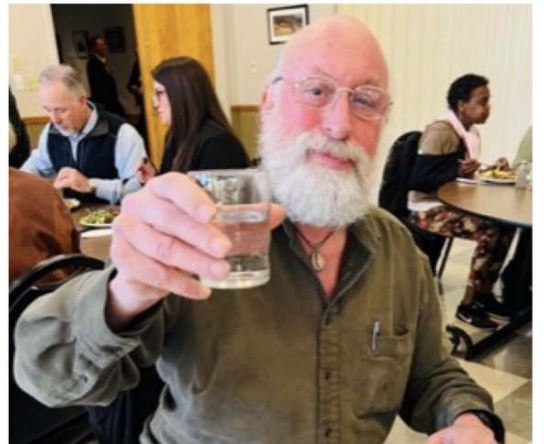


Peggy Murphy was inducted into the Rotary Club of Southwest Eureka. Peggy was introduced and inducted by Liz Ennis, who was also her sponsor. Liz shared that she met Peggy six years ago through work. Liz explained the many things that Rotary is and welcomed her to the best club in the universe! She was presented with her Rotary "Stuff," her Red Badge, and she passed President Pesch's "test" to join. Welcome, Peggy! She is the fourth new member of the club this year.



Maggie Kraft thanked those who had donated to the disaster relief effort for those affected by the recent earthquakes in our area, which hit Rio Dell especially hard. She encouraged continued support of the effort, as many people are still out of their homes, and many were tenants with nowhere else to go. She talked about going down and helping with cleanup following the event, and that there may be additional cleanup assistance needed. Many displaced residents have been living in hotels around the area, with the County assisting week by week. Many of those displaced are elderly. This is extremely tough on those displaced, as they did not know how long the County would continue to support lodging, and where they would go from there. Maggie shared that many of the tenants could be out of their homes or apartments for quite some time as repairs are made. If you have property or rentals empty and available, please let her know.







A big check was presented by President Pesch, Jeff Pauli and Amanda Moxon to Sorrell Leaf Healing Center in the amount of \$27,324. Beth Anderson and her team accepted. Beth thanked both clubs for their collaboration on this very beneficial community project. Sorrell Leaf Healing Center is located off Indianola Road and is planned to open in December 2024. It will provide services and focus on children and adolescents ages 7 through 18, offering transformative, compassionate, evidence-based and trauma-informed care for young people experiencing a mental health crisis in Humboldt and surrounding counties. Great job all!

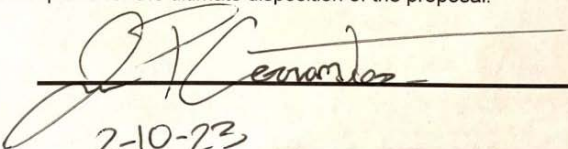


The club held a tribute to longtime member Les Merrill who passed away in November 2022 at the age of 79. Les was honored with a slide show and mourning bands on member badges, and a photo of Les with a yellow rose and candle sat in his honor at the front table. Les joined the Rotary Club of Southwest Eureka on December 1, 1983. Les was remembered by many as always being there and helping with everything. Scott Pesch spoke of Les always sitting at the far-left table in the back, and he and Larry Goldberg often sat with Les. He was always the first to tap out at the start of the year, and was always involved with club events, especially those involving cooking, like the Fish Feed and the Crab Feed. Larry Goldberg shared that he had sat at the table with Les for at least 10 years. He said that although Les didn't share a lot in those short lunches, Les loved his hunting and fishing trips. Larry echoed that Les was always there working and offered a toast to Les. Greg Dale spoke of when he and his family used to camp at the lake, and a guy camped down the road noticed Greg's Rotary sticker and asked if Greg knew Les. The guy said that he had worked for Les, and Les was a great guy who had really set him up for the future. Greg said that his daughter had been injured, and they had to take her to the hospital. When they returned to the lake, the gentleman that spoke so highly of Les had taken their boat out of the water and got their camp ready for them to go home. Greg said that it turns out that the gentleman was at that time the president of Mission Linen, and Les had been a huge influence in that man's life. As Greg said, Les was pure gold, and one of God's human beings. John Ennis shared a story that Les had told him about cutting firewood. Les had gone out to cut a load of firewood by himself, and while working had passed out. John asked Les what he did when he woke up, and Les said "he drank some water and finished loading his wood." Les was tough! Ken Singleton talked of Les and his participation in club activities, and echoed Les always being there, and that he will be missed. Scott shared a story from Cindy Denbo about the Vampire Halloween Ball where attendees were dressed up in costumes. It didn't strike her that would be the type of event that would draw Les. It surprised her, and others, when Les showed up in a full Vampire themed Tuxedo, black with red lining. He showed up in style, and again was always there! Time was getting very short in our meeting, and I was busy trying to capture the notes, but a memory I didn't share of Les involved the annual Fish Feed. Les RAN the kitchen fish prep and fry crew. HE RAN IT!!! If you have helped in that hot environment over the fryer cooking bottom fish and calamari or assisted with the grill cooking petrale sole (That was his baby, to be sure it was cooked just right), you know! Les was a true lesson in the term "Service Above Self."



The raffle was won by Jeff Pauli. No Yahtzee this day, but he might have had three of a kind. The closing thought from President Pesch was from Theodore Roosevelt and dedicated to Les Merrill: *"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."* Meeting adjourned. Rest in Peace Les.

#### New Member Proposal:

Rotary Club of SW Eureka Permission to Publish - Proposed Member	
Name	<u>Juan Pablo Cervantes</u>
Classification	<u>County Clerk</u>
I authorize the Rotary Club of Southwest Eureka to publish my name to its members as a prospective member, and to hold the club harmless for this notification of prospective membership and for the ultimate disposition of the proposal.	
Signature	<u></u>
Date	<u>2-10-23</u>