

Community Comment
March 10, 2017
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Wine with a cause

One week from tomorrow, March 18, the ninth annual Humboldt wine festival will once again fill our glasses. The event will feature 16 local vintners and this year we have added cider to be tasted. This delectable gathering will be held in the Kate Buchcannon Room on the beautiful Humboldt State University campus from 5:30 to 8 pm.

This event is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Arcata. It is our major fundraiser of the year and allows us to do the good works that we do. Arcata Rotary has been a service club since 1926. It first attracted business owners in town who had the vision to give to the community that helped support them and their business. As time went on, other managers and the various professions would join. I was a college professor when I joined in 1984. I certainly met people I would not have had the opportunity to know had I not joined Rotary. There are around 45 of us today making friends and striving to make our community and our world a better and more peaceful place.

Arcata Rotary is joined this year with Northcoast ^{bay} Rotaract as our partner. Rotaract is Rotary for people aged 18 to 30. This allows college age people and young professionals to have the opportunity to serve and make friends and business connections.

So, what do we do?

We do service projects locally and around the world. All projects are our choice to get involved with. Rotary International committed to a major effort to eradicate the polio virus from the face of the Earth. I'm told 2016 had only three outbreaks, in the world! As a group of some 1.2 million people in Rotary, we are truly close to our goal. We thank the many volunteers around the world who do the work and the Gates Foundation for their partnership.

All Rotary Clubs choose their own local and international projects that fit their interests. We have provided clean water in Viet Nam for tens of thousands of people because one of our members made it happen.

We have helped schools around the world get desks to work at and supplies work with.

We are helping people in the highlands of Costa Rica help themselves with a micro loan program for starting a small business.

We support international student exchange.

Locally, our focus is our youth. We give scholarships to graduating Arcata high seniors to help them to pursue their college attendance or technical training. We sponsor the boys

and girls club to come to a Crabs game. We develop, with the city, local parks and help to maintain them. We work with and sponsor the Interact Club at Arcata high School. They learn service and see what professionals do in their community.

Come to the Wine Festival on the 18th of March. Contact any of us for tickets. The first prize in our raffle is a trip for two to New Zealand. It could be you.

Help us do good in our world.