

Hello my name is Ben Brown, Director and Curator of the Clarke Historical Museum. Until the end of September in the Community Case is an exhibit on the Eureka Host Lions Club, whose motto is "Serving the Eureka community for 90 years." The club was chartered on April 3, 1928 and has been active in our community ever since.

The clubs president was J. Logan Beamer and a few years later, Angelo Franceschi became club president. Mr. Franceschi worked in the banking industry starting out as a messenger and retiring in 1968 as vice president and manager of Crocker National Bank. He served two terms as a city Councilman from 1939-1945 and was an active member of the Knights of Columbus, the Elks Club, and the Baywood Golf and Country Club.

Since its inception, the Eureka Host Lions Club has been an important force in Lionism on the North Coast, playing a vital force for civic improvement in a wide variety of cultural, social, community, and educational projects.

Among some of the community projects during the early history of the Eureka Host Lions Club included the construction of the John Ryan Youth Center, named for former club president; placing of the locomotive in Sequoia Park; and donation of two lions to the Eureka Zoo.

Youth projects include the sponsorship of Boy Scouts Troops, Cub Scout Packs, sports teams, and construction of bus shelters for school children. Club projects for the sight impaired include providing financial aid for needy persons requiring eye examinations and eyeglasses. This year, eye exams and eyeglasses have been provided to 26 individuals ranging in age of 5 to 65.

Last year they celebrated the 81st annual Student Speakers Contest with the topic question "Integrity and Civility Play What Role in Today's Society?" The purpose of the contest is to provide an opportunity for competitive public speaking among students on a subject of interest to the American people as a whole. Any high school student interested in participating should contact the Lions club in their community. The contest has six levels of competition with the final winner receiving more than \$22,000 in scholarships.

Our current project is called Santa's Workshop which allows students from the Pine Hill/South Bay School District to select gifts to give to their family during the celebration of Christmas. Last year this program was launched with kindergarten classes having the opportunity to take part. This year will include Kindergarten and first grade classes, eventually the program will grow to include kindergarten through 3rd grade.

The event takes place on December 13 at the Humboldt Grange from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. We need help from individuals and businesses to make this event successful and meaningful to the children. If you can donate your time as a volunteer, provide gifts for the children or cash for the purchase of gifts, please contact Fern Miller at 268-3806.

Eureka Host Lions Club has enjoyed a wonderful 90 years meeting the needs of the community. We thank all of you for helping make this happen in our city. Make sure to stop by the Clarke Museum to see the display and learn how to become a member of this fantastic organization.

This is Ben Brown with Community Comment