

# THE EUREKA CHAMBER CELEBRATES A SUCCESSFUL FIRST VIRTUAL ANNUAL DINNER AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING EVENT

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The Eureka Chamber recently held its first-ever virtual gala event for the Chamber's 130th Annual Dinner and Membership Meeting. The event is held annually to provide an opportunity for Chamber members of the local business community to celebrate their collective investment in our community. Respecting the necessity to remain socially distanced, the event was streamed through the Eureka Chamber website to more than 250 guests and Chamber members, on Wednesday, January 27, 2021.

It was a monumental feat of transitioning this typically in-person event to a fully-produced video compilation that was streamed virtually as a live event, along with collaborating with some of the Chamber's hospitality members to provide take-out dinners. This ambitious endeavor took a lot of planning by Chamber staff, participating board members, our hospitality partners, and others. We all reached outside of our comfort zones, and are so proud to say, the event was a success.

The Eureka Chamber would like to thank its Diamond Premier Members, Advanced Security Systems, Bear River Casino Resort, and Chevron, for sponsoring this event. It wouldn't have been possible without your continued level of support. We would like to thank the local restaurants and hospitality partners that participated and provided our event attendees with a variety of exquisite dinner selections: The 6th and E Neighborhood Eatery, Brick & Fire, Cafe Nooner, Cassaro's Catering, Gabriel's, Old Growth Cellars and the Humboldt Bay Bistro, Ramone's, and The Sea Grill.



The event encompassed the 2020 Annual Report by President and CEO of the Greater Eureka Chamber, Donna Wright. Wright gave thanks for the collaborations built in 2020 and spoke to the strengths of the Eureka Chamber, supporting the local business community, navigating through a pandemic and ensuring they not only survived, but thrived. Out-going Board Chair,



Jennifer Budwig of Redwood Capital Bank presented an overview of the work of the Chamber Board & Chamber Committees in 2020, and in-coming Board Chair Scott Pesch of Coldwell Banker Commercial Pacific Partners Real Estate, gave the attendees his vision for the Eureka Chamber in 2021. The Eureka Chamber also shared the induction of its 2021 Board Members.

Local business leaders were honored by the Eureka Chamber for meaningful contributions in 2020 to the best interests of the community and in furtherance of the mission of the Eureka Chamber. The Chamber membership was polled for nominations and then voted to select the 2020 award winners. Chamber honors were presented in the categories of: Customer Service & Hospitality Award, Small Business of the Year, Large Business of the Year, Extraordinary Business of the Year, Positive Community Impact Award, Positive Community Impact Nonprofit Award and the Leadership Impact Award. You can see them here:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/332693093449039/2879666252357158>

The Customer Service Award was presented to the business that best exemplifies a demonstrated commitment to making its customers feel welcome. The award was given to Scrapper's Edge. Owned and operated by Sondra Kirtley, Scrapper's Edge offers copy and printing services, office supplies, stationery and much more. Chamber members noted that Scrapper's Edge is outstanding in its customer service, meeting the needs of their customers with their friendly and knowledgeable staff.

The Eureka Small Business Award goes to a for-profit business with nine or fewer employees. The 2020 award was given to Just My Type Letterpress & Paperie. Just My Type has been creating beautiful printed pieces since 1999, with a retail shop in Old Town Eureka since 2016. Owner Lynn M. Jones has an undeniable love and knack for linoleum block carving and letterpress printing and strongly believes in empowering women, preserving nature, supporting small businesses and encouraging art.

The Eureka Large Business of the Year Award was awarded to Recology Humboldt, a 100% employee-owned waste and resource recovery company providing residential & commercial services. Under the leadership of General Manager Linda Wise, this business teams up with local municipalities and organizations to provide outreach, awareness, and education about the waste process, waste challenges, proper recycling, best zero-waste practices, and much more.



This business was selected for the amount and variety of education they provide to the community, their reliability, and responsiveness to the changing demands of COVID-19.

The Extraordinary Business of the Year for 2020 was awarded to Six Rivers Brewery. Located in McKinleyville, Co-owners Meredith Maier and Talia Nachshon Clare not only manage the Six Rivers Brewery which produces small-batch craft beer, but they have a restaurant, support Humboldt Made gift shop, and are very involved with the brewery's giving back to the community. Six Rivers Brewery was honored for being a great example of how to fight for your business during a pandemic - showing creativity and ingenuity while also keeping staff and customers safe.

USVetsDeliver was selected for the 2020 Positive Community Impact For-profit Award for improving our community in a variety of ways. USVetsDeliver built its delivery services with local veterans, providing affordable home grocery delivery to Humboldt County households, along with supporting local restaurants and markets by providing cash and carry deliveries. USVetsDeliver was selected for finding a niche during trying times, putting veterans to work and being a great addition to our community.

The Community Impact Award for Nonprofit and Government was given to the Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods. This organization offers youth development programs for children ages 6 to 18, and their sites offer a safe place for members to learn, play and develop citizenship and leadership skills. The Boys and Girls Club of the Redwoods was noted for serving our most vulnerable population, our youth, and for doing it well even through the toughest of times.

This year sees two recipients for the 2020 Leadership Impact Award, Gregg Foster, Executive Director of the Redwood Region Economic Development Commission, and Leila Roberts, Executive Director of the North Coast Small Business Development Center. Both serve as coordinators of the COVID Economic Resilience Consortium (CERC) that has, and continues to support local businesses through the pandemic delivering critical information, resources and services. Both were honored as being leaders in the community, inspiring and encouraging others, and earning a high level of trust and credibility.

Additionally, Jerry and Becky Reece of Cruise Planners were both recipients of the 2020 Ambassador of the Year Award. Chamber Ambassadors are business members who support

Chamber programs in a variety of ways, leading, connecting, and supporting our business community.

The event was hosted and produced by the Eureka Chamber's Business HQ Coordinator, Sierra Speer Dillon. Dillon has pivoted from her original duties in order to expand the Chamber's multimedia capabilities in a time when we have had to transition to a more virtual world. The event also highlighted the Eureka Chamber's inaugural leadership program, Leadership Eureka; which included video messages from several of the participants. Plus, we received special messages from CA District 2 Senator Mike McGuire, and CA District 2, Assemblyman Jim Wood.

The Annual Dinner is known for being the Chamber's most prominent fundraising effort of the year. So, we tried our best to be creative and still make it possible. Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets. Despite not knowing what to expect from a virtual event, you remained dedicated members, and supported the Eureka Chamber and the participating local hospitality businesses.

We would like to thank the new member, the StreamGuys for providing support and a platform to remotely stream the event LIVE online through our website. The StreamGuys were very helpful and always made themselves available when we had questions. Thank you to Wendy Smtih, former event coordinator at Baywood Golf and Country Club, for coordinating the dinner portion of the event with our participating partners.

At the Eureka Chamber we know there were many challenges brought-on by the Covid pandemic in 2020; however, we believe we were able to transition to the needs of members and stay true to our mission of being conveners of business leaders, a catalyst for business growth, and a champion for our community. We strive to support you and make you proud. The Chamber membership has now reached 500 and looks forward to serving the greater Eureka business community in 2021.

If you missed the event or would like to see it again, we have it up on the Eureka Chamber YouTube page. You can see it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZ8IXdnTRg4&t=1969s>



We also have videos of the Eureka Chamber Business Award Winners, Donna Wright's 2020 Annual Report, and Messages from the Board Chairs on our YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram pages. Please make sure to check them out and share on your social media where you can.