

The Windjammer

News from the Rotary Club of Portland, Maine

Wed May 28, 2014

[Home](#)

Hello Loretta! This email has been generated just for you as a member of our club. We hope you enjoy receiving this newsletter!

Editor David Smith

If you have any comments or questions, please contact the editor.

Speakers

May 30, 2014

IMPORTANT CLUB ASSEMBLY
A "CAUSE" - THE FUTURE OF
PORTLAND ROTARY

Jun 06, 2014

Maine Senate Speaker Justin Alford
The 126th Legislature

Jun 13, 2014

Charles Frizzle
Nuclear Power in America

Jun 20, 2014

International Service Committee
3-H Project in the Dominican Republic

Jun 27, 2014

President John Marr
A Wonderful Rotary Year 2013-14!

[View entire list...](#)

Club Executives

President
[John Marr](#)

First Vice President
[Kris Rosado](#)

Second Vice President
[Bowen Depke](#)

Treasurer
[Scott Blakeslee](#)

Executive Secretary
[Loretta Rowe](#)

Imm. Past President/Director 2013-14
[Cyrus Hagge](#)

Administrative Coordinator
[Elise Hodgkin](#)

Club Protection Officer
[Kath Grammer](#)

Communications-Ext PR Chair
[Bowen Depke](#)

Communications-Bulletin/Editor
[David Smith](#)

Web Administrator
[Erik Jorgensen](#)

Director - Term Ending 2014
[Eric Lusk](#)

Director - Term Ending 2014
[Charlie Frair](#)

Director - Term Ending 2015
[Toby Cook](#)

Sergeant-at-Arms
[Mike Fortunato](#)

Director - Term Ending 2015
[Steve Stromsky](#)

Download

» [Maine Outdoor Challenge 2014](#)

» [Portland Rotary Constitution](#)

» [Portland Rotary Bylaws](#)

Stories

05/30/14 MEETING LOCATION

Posted by David Smith on May 24, 2014



FRIDAY, 5/30/14

We are meeting at the
Holiday Inn By-the-Bay



*05/30/14 A CENTURY LATER - OUR CLUB AT A CROSSROAD

Posted by Ben Lowry on May 25, 2014

On Friday, May 30, the program for Portland Rotary Club led by **2nd Vice-President, Bowen Depke**, will hold a Club Assembly to discuss our "focus" over the next many years. With service organizations world wide continuing to struggle, a "cause" may be the key in allowing Portland Rotary to remain viable and more widely known within the city, region and state.

The idea of a single cause results from several years of thought and discussion by the Board. The driving forces, as stated in **Bowen's** recent document (which you should have received via e-mail), include not only increasing membership, but keeping new members engaged once they join the Club. To succeed in this effort, the Board has decided to adopt a meaningful "cause" that can be clearly linked to Portland Rotary in the eyes of the community. This effort started three years ago with **Bowen** collating a list of all the non-profits in Cumberland County that we might try to partner with. That list was 800 names long! He whittled it down to about 60 well-known names.

It's important to note that a cause (if passed) would be a focus....not the be all and end all. **Bowen** estimates that 80% of our Club's efforts, including fund raising and spending, would be towards the "cause." The Club would continue, however, to remain involved with its other long-held traditions. Moreover, this would NOT impact our 3-H Dominican projects or other international projects! The adopted cause would be purely local.

The public relations (and hopefully membership and engagement) aspect is very important. People in our community have certainly heard of Rotary, but an actual understanding of who we are and what we do, locally, nationally and internationally, can be confusing. This "cause" would, in time, be a form of branding for our Club, such that people, in three to five years, would think about our adopted initiative and immediately link that cause to Portland Rotary. This would aid in membership development, fundraising, and various aspects that could help our Club as we try to sustain our growth into the next century.

Over the past one hundred years, we've nourished our Club with a passion and caring that has allowed us to maintain our existence, while other service clubs have faltered and even disappeared. But, after a slow decline in membership, we feel we need to move beyond the status quo and take the initiative in hopes of not just sustaining our club, but building and growing upon the solid foundation that has been formed over ten decades. Our growth begins with a very important discussion this Friday. Please join us for lunch and be a part of an historic decision that may well lead our Club into its second century of "Service Above Self."

05/23/14 A TRIBUTE TO WWII VETERANS

Posted by Ben Lowry on May 25, 2014

Last Friday, our club was fortunate to hear from a gifted speaker and lifelong educator, Joe Foster, an honorary Kennebunk Rotarian and a Paul Harris Fellow. In his four decades of teaching at Kennebunk High School, Mr. Foster initiated a program to replace the "dreaded 11th grade research paper" with a project that would prove rewarding beyond his imagination. In asking his junior English class students to interview and report (in 3000 words?) on a member of "The Greatest Generation," Mr. Foster opened the eyes



and hearts, both within the student body and well beyond.

The surviving three million World War II veterans are passing away at a clip of over one thousand per day. An interview, or even a discussion with one of them who served during the war, is an experience that each of us should seek out and cherish. While

the term, "Greatest Generation" has become part of our lexicon, many of these proud veterans would rather pass the baton to their fathers. Those who served in "the war to end all wars" or others who have bravely defended, or are defending, our freedoms. The attributes of duty, sacrifice, honor, service and, perhaps most notably, humility have come to define these real-life heroes. The high school kids, and the students at York County Community College, where Mr. Foster now teaches, have learned, first hand, about this most important chapter in American history through the viewpoints of veterans like our own Rotarians **Earle Leavitt** and **Bob Traill**, both of whom have spoken to Joe's classes.

It was a fitting tribute on the eve of an important weekend, and we were thankful to have, such a gifted story-teller and educator like Joe Foster. He shared some of the stories from the 450 papers that he has received from students, acknowledging the sacrifice made by so many great Americans. Portland Rotary was awe struck, and thanked our speaker and, more importantly, those who have given of themselves through their dedicated service to our country, with a standing ovation.

05/23/14 BITS & PIECES

Posted by Bill Blount on May 26, 2014

President John Marr convened the meeting asking **Kathy Grammer** to offer us the invocation. In reverence to our country's armed forces, Kathy recited a poem, "*America*," written by Ann Caswell of Rye NH some 60 years ago during WWII. **Bob Traill** led us in the pledge and **Kathy** accompanied us on the piano to a rendition of our national anthem.

President John called **Dick Hall** to recognize him with a new RI sponsor pin for bringing in a new member. There was an introduction of visiting Rotarians and guests.



The raffle at \$815 this week was conducted by **Loretta Rowe**. Herb Carmichael's name was drawn to find the elusive Queen of Hearts, but drew the lowly 2 of Diamonds, to the mock dismay of the attendees.

Mike Fortunato announced the plans for the June 4th "Lobsta" bake after the Maine Outdoor Challenge (MOC). Participants in the MOC events are competed with a meal ticket, but **Mike** reminds them that their entourage, fan base, girlfriends, boyfriends, significant others or spouses, have been slow in committing to the event. We would like to see more diners, so let's get everyone there and ensure the success of our largest fund-raising event.

2nd Vice-president Bowen Depke encouraged all Portland Rotarians to come to next week's Club Assembly. **Bowen** asks that you review the material submitted to all members a few weeks ago and give some thought to a worthy "cause" that our club could focus on. We will deliberate this and other pertinent club issues at next week's assembly



We sang in reverence to our country's armed forces, as we do each year preceding Memorial Day. **Russ Burleigh** and **Kathy Grammer** provided music and lyrics for the armed forces medley....songs for the Navy, Army, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard. Veterans in attendance stood up as the song for their branch of military service was sung. It is a moving tradition and we thank all our armed forces for their service.

Adventurers Rappel Down Portland's Tallest Building

Posted by Loretta Rowe on May 24, 2014

Every 15 minutes or so on Saturday, May 17, a crowd at Monument Square in Portland let out a cheer. Each outburst welcomed the arrival back on solid ground of someone who had just rappelled 13 stories down the side



of One City Center. Eighty people signed up to descend one of Portland's tallest buildings by rope to raise money for Rippleffect, a Portland nonprofit youth and community development program that operates outdoor adventures.

Each participant had to raise a minimum \$1,000 for programming and scholarships for Rippleffect, although some raised much more...a total of about \$80,000 was raised.

Three of those adventurous people were from our own Rotary Club: Harold Crabill, Bowen Depke and Justin LaMontagne.



Justin LaMontagne, his daughter and his rappelling partner, Brandan Bagley. Happy to have completed the adventure.

Harold Crabill...is that fear on his face? Is he mumbling, "Who talked me into this?"



Bowen Depke...is he asking, "Am I crazy? What am I doing here?"

Justin LaMontagne....."Wha's up? ME...going down?"



The roof provided a panorama, with Cow Island, home to Rippleffect's outdoor campus, visible on one side and Greater Portland neighborhoods on the other.

Congratulations to all participants who had the courage to do the 173-foot descent for a very worthy cause!

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Posted by Loretta Rowe on Apr 07, 2014

The meeting minutes of the Portland Rotary Club's Board of Directors is posted on our website the month following their approval. Please go to the "Home Page" and click on the "Board Meeting Minutes" in the listing at the left. Please be patient, as the site is still under construction with the uploads.

Proposed Member Applications

Posted by Loretta Rowe on Apr 22, 2014

We are posting PROPOSED MEMBER APPLICATIONS on our club website. From the home page, there is a list on the left that says "Site Pages." Click on the appropriate title near the bottom of the list. You are encouraged to review the applications and provide any feedback you might want to share about the applicants with one or more of the contacts indicated on the site.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Loretta at: lrowe@maine.rr.com

05/30/14 THIS WEEK'S ASSIGNMENTS

Posted by Loretta Rowe on May 24, 2014



Invocator: Peggy "Queenie" Wescott
Program/Presentation Reporter: Jake Bourdeau
Bits & Pieces Reporter: Julie L'Heureux
Registration: Russell Voss
Meal Ticket Sales: Ron Bennett
Greeter: Don Tuski
Raffle: Dick Giles
Music - Song Leader: Russ Burleigh
Music - Piano Player: Al Sargent
Sgt at Arms - Early: Peter Noyes
Sgt at Arms - Late: Mike Taylor

2014 ON-THE-ROAD LOCATIONS FOR PORTLAND ROTARY MEETINGS

Posted by Loretta Rowe on May 20, 2014

If you would like to mark your calendars for our 'On-The-Road' locations that are coming up for the rest of this Rotary year, here is where our meetings will be held:



May 23 - Holiday Inn By-the-Bay
May 30 - Holiday Inn By-the-Bay

Jun 6 - **The Clarion Hotel**
Jun 13 - Holiday Inn By-the-Bay
Jun 20 - Holiday Inn By-the-Bay
Jun 27 - **The Clarion Hotel**

Dates in **BOLD** are scheduled Board of Director meetings.

Any questions, please contact Loretta at: lrowe@maine.rr.com

MISSED A PROGRAM?

Posted by David Smith on May 12, 2014



You can watch our recent Portland Rotary Club speakers on the Community Television Network website:

<http://ctn5.org/shows/rotary-club-speakers-series>

You can always find the link on the Portland Rotary Home Page!

Loretta's Commitments

Duty Roster

Responsibility

Raffle