

The Windjammer

News from the Rotary Club of Portland, Maine

Wed Dec 11, 2013

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*Editor David Smith
If you have any comments or questions,
please contact the editor.*

Speakers

Dec 13, 2013
Amanda Crockett
Life With Cirque Du Soleil

Dec 20, 2013
Russ Burleigh / Kathy Grammer
Special Holiday Program

Dec 27, 2013
No Meeting
Happy New Year!

Jan 24, 2014
Petur Peterson, Eimskip USA

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Director - Term Ending 2014

Stories

12/13/13 THIS WEEK'S MEETING LOCATION

Posted by David Smith on Dec 07, 2013

**WE ARE AT THE
HOLIDAY INN BY-THE-BAY**

A New Look for the Windjammer

Posted by Erik Jorgensen on Dec 10, 2013

Our club has made the transition to a new style for "The Windjammer" - one that will more closely resemble and be better integrated with our website. We have tried to make the look and feel of the new version similar to those of the old Windjammer - please be in touch with Loretta, Dave Smith, or Erik Jorgensen if you have questions or any issues with the new system.

*12/13/13 AMANDA CROCKETT: Hat Juggler, Trapeze Artist & Physical Comic

Posted by David Smith on Dec 07, 2013



Amanda Crockett started clowning alongside her father (member George Crockett) at age 9. At the same age, she could be spotted climbing up the kitchen walls and running laps around the house before dinner. Since then, she hasn't slowed down. Her pursuit of the perfect blend of circus and physical theatre has taken her around the world. Growing up in Maine, she was surrounded by New Vaudeville, Mime and Juggling, and founded the "Three Meatballs" vaudeville trio with Sam Kilbourn before joining "Circus Smirkus" and getting her first, irresistible taste of touring. In 1999, Crockett graduated from the Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theater and continued her training at Celebration Barn

Charlie Frair

Director - Term Ending 2015
Toby Cook

Sergeant-at-Arms
Mike Fortunato

Director - Term Ending 2015
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Theater, San Francisco's Circus Center and at Circus Trix in Australia. In addition to performing, she has been teaching Circus Arts and Physical Theater to kids and adults for over 10 years. She has been honored to teach in many places, including: *The San Francisco Circus Center, the Clown Conservatory, The Second City Training Center, Aloft Loft, Sitka Fine Arts Camp, Anjos do Picadiero, Festival Mimame, Circus Smirkus,* and the *Flying Actor's Studio*.

Incredibly inspired by the clown's brilliance and creating work that combines physical comedy with high-level acrobatic and object manipulation skills, Crockett is passionate about making motion into laughter. Her work has been featured in over a dozen countries spanning 5 continents. Highlight performances include: *Cirque du Soleil; La Bauta in Venice, Italy; Shanghai's Oriental Arts Center; El Circo Cheapo Cabaret; Festival Mimame in Colombia; Anjos do Picadeiro in Rio de Janeiro; the Edinburgh Festival; the Tasmanian National Circus Festival and the Krystallpalast Varieté in Leipzig, Germany*, where she won the Audience Choice award in the 2009 Newcomers Show. Currently, Amanda is living in Las Vegas, Nevada, where she is a lead character and hat juggler in *Cirque du Soleil's Michael Jackson ONE*.

She is sure to amaze and amuse, be it in the air, on the ground, or hovering someplace in between. She will tell us how a show comes together, how rehearsals are conducted and more inside information on how *Cirque du Soleil* manages to continually amaze us.

[More...](#)

12/06/13 Changes to Insurance in Maine - ACA - Eric Cioppa

Posted by Juliana L'Heureux on Dec 09, 2013



At this week's meeting, President John introduced Maine's Superintendent of Insurance Eric A. Cioppa, who spoke about the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Maine's Health Insurance Market. He

showed an amazing grasp of what he described as...and which is...an incredibly complex piece of legislation. Some provisions are already in effect. Since 2010, the ACA has abolished lifetime limits on coverage, children up to 19 years old are covered without exclusions for pre-existing conditions and can receive coverage under their parents' private insurance plans up to 26 years of age.

Enrollment in the health insurance exchanges for individuals required to receive coverage in 2014, began October 1, 2013. The enrollment period extends until March 31, 2014. Coverage starts as soon as January 1, 2014. Medicare beneficiaries are

not impacted by the Affordable Care Act.

Eric explained where the nation and Maine are at regarding the costs of providing health care. Cost of providing health care in the USA is nearly 20 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), but this isn't an indicator of quality. For example, Japan has the world's longest life expectancy but their expenditures on health care are lower than the USA. In 2009, Maine was number 5 in the nation reporting per capita health care costs. Less than half of Maine's population receives health coverage through private insurance. Other coverage is provided by Medicare, Medicaid and the military. Additionally, 133,000 Maine people are uninsured.

The breadth of the ACA affects all aspects of private health insurance. Everyone must be covered in 2014 or be subject to a penalty fee. Employers who provide coverage under the ACA law fall into two categories. Those with 50 or more employees are considered large groups while those with less are small groups.

Beginning in 2015, employers with 50 or more full time equivalents (FTE's) must make coverage available to their full-time employees and their dependents. Coverage must be affordable, meaning the employees' share of premiums cannot exceed 9.5 percent of their income (based on the cost of the employee's coverage only and not the cost of family coverage). A full-time employee is defined as one who works 30 hours or more a week averaged over one month. Failing to offer the minimum coverage involves a penalty at \$2000 per year times the number of full-time employees, minus 30. Employers offering unaffordable coverage also incur a penalty. Penalties, however, can actually be less than the cost of providing coverage.

A minimum Medical Loss Ratio (MLR) requires health insurance issuers to submit data on the proportion of premium revenues spent on clinical services and quality improvement. It also requires them to issue rebates to enrollees if this percentage doesn't meet minimum standards. MLR requires insurance companies to spend at least 80% of premium dollars on medical care for those who purchase individual plans; 80% for those enrolled in small group plans and 85% for those in large group plans. Preventive care is 100 percent covered.

Carriers for Maine's Health Insurance Individual Marketplace are Anthem and Maine Community Health Option; small group market carriers are Anthem and Maine Community Health

Options (MCHO), and large Group Market carriers are Anthem, Connecticut General, Harvard Group, Nationwide, Aetna Group and United Healthcare.

Individuals are mandated to obtain minimum coverage beginning January 1, 2014. Access to coverage is offered via a "no wrong door" or "single entry concept." Individuals are eligible for Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) subsidies based on a calculation of their income developed by the Federal government. The calculation also determines an individual's eligibility to participate in the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance (CHIP) programs. This determination qualifies an individual for Medicaid, CHIP, premium tax credits or cost-sharing reductions. Dependents are not eligible for subsidies if they're covered by an employer plan. Tax status determines subsidies for those who fall between zero and 400 percent of the Federal poverty level. Subsidies are zero for those who fall over 400 percent of Federal Poverty level. If a beneficiary underestimates their income, a rebate is issued; but if income exceeds 400 percent of poverty level, the entire subsidy must be repaid. The only places where subsidies are available are through the insurance exchanges. Reasonable insurance rates are contingent on recruiting young and healthy people into the plans.

Another provision to keep premiums affordable is the implementation of a Cadillac Tax, imposed when health insurance benefits exceed a certain threshold. This provision was put in place as an incentive for employers to reduce over utilization of health care.

Insurers will offer "metal tier plans" at these actuarial values (AV):

- a. Bronze 60%
- b. Silver 70%
- c. Gold 80%
- d. Platinum 90%
- e. Catastrophic plans are available if premiums exceed 8 percent of a family's income.

Out of pocket maximum expenses for co-pays and deductibles cannot exceed \$6,300 per year for individuals or double that amount for a family.

Individual and small group health plans will cover essential health benefits including at least these ten categories: (a) ambulatory care, (b) emergency services, (c) hospitalization, (d) maternity and newborn care, (e) mental health and substance

use disorder services including behavioral health treatment, (f) prescription drugs, (g) rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices, (h) laboratory services, (i) preventative and wellness services and chronic disease management, and (j) pediatric services including oral and visual care.

A link to the Maine Bureau of Insurance where Mr. Cioppa's power point presentation slides are updated is available at <http://www.maine.gov/pfr/insurance/>

12/6/13 BITS AND PIECES

Posted by Ben Lowry on Dec 08, 2013

The meeting started with Paul Tully providing a moving invocation, discussing the importance and similarities of both Hanukkah and Christmas. Both holidays add much needed light and warmth during a period of time when the days are growing shorter and colder. Well done, Paul.

Prez John then introduced our visitors and had this week's raffle drawing, which was conducted by Frank Robbins. The elusive Queen of Hearts continues to remain hidden in the deck, as Charlie Frair tried to find her. The pot thickens! (leave it Loretta!)



Mike Fortunato reminded us not forget the Holiday Rotary Social Event this Thursday, our 2nd annual wine tasting, at Creative Office Pavilion on 141 Middle Street, beginning at 6:00 pm. For just \$15 a person, you and your guests can taste over 40 wines, sample chocolate and cheese, and, best of all, share fellowship and holiday cheer with some of your best friends! No advance ticket sales needed. You may pay at the door with a check or cash. Proceeds to help our 4H project. Just call Mike Fortunato at 415-9762 or

e-mail him at MikeFortunato@gmail.com....let him know that you'll be there for what promises to be a wonderful event. And, it also happens to be "*Merry Madness*" in the Old Port that night, so start with a sip (or ten) of great wine.....then go out and enjoy some "Buy Local" shopping.

Jan Chapman reported that the International Service committee will be hosting a meeting on January 10th, 2014, which will feature Rich Cromwell of the Bath Rotary Club, who will be reporting on his exploits in Cambodia. Contact Jan or Bruce Moore for details at: chapmoore@myfairpoint.net

Be prepared to applaud this Friday when Cyrus Hagge takes the podium. Cy and his nominating committee have been working hard to come up with some amazing names to lead the club over the next few years, and they have succeeded. Per the club's by-laws, we will listen to his thoughts this Friday and vote on the slate of officers on December 20th.

Amy Chipman is again working tirelessly



on Rotary Foundation matters, cranking up momentum for our annual goal of \$15,000. Circles of Five, Sustaining Members, and “Friends of Rotary” are pushing the total up by the week. If you have not done so, please contact Amy and give what you can, be it just a few dollars or more. Every little bit helps and is matched and then re-matched to create a powerful international force! The Lighthouse Amy uses to measure how close we are to our goal was created

through the genius of Paul Gore.

Amy asks that we please don't forget to write a check to the Rotary Foundation before year end if you'd like to take the tax deduction this year. We are also looking for two more Rotary members to step up and form our fourth “Circle of Five.” Don't forget to email Amy at achipman@maine.rr.com if you would like to know how close you are to your next Paul Harris Fellow. The club will match your contributions to get you there!

Lastly and most importantly, Amy neglected to mention (and thank) last Friday that Paul Gore, in all his creative genius and printing prowess, is the creator of our magnificent Foundation goal “lighthouse.”

Laura Young and **Jim Willey** are working diligently to coordinate the history of Portland Rotary and its records into amazing presentations for our 100th anniversary. Please contact Laura at lyoung@mainecf.org.....or Jim at jimandbarbarawilley@gmail.com.....and ask what you can do to help share the archives with our club.

Mike Fortunato pulled double duty from the podium last week, talking to us about a new project undertaken by the Rotary-supported “Friends of Long Creek” (FOLC). The group has gained access to a storage building just off-site and is hoping to fill it with “gently used” furniture for the young folks who are released. They are in great need of beds, couches, and general housing supplies. Please, please think of the FOLC when you down-size or buy that new piece of furniture.

Prez. John announced the long-overdue increase in our lunch cost. **Effective on Friday, January 4th, 2014, the cost of our lunch meal will be \$15.** As President John pointed out, “Where else can you eat like a king and dine with a queen for just fifteen bucks?”



Loretta continued with an announcement about an important change in our parking at the Holiday Inn By-the-Bay. If you park either in the downstairs parking garage (only for mobility-challenged members with prior authorization established through her and the hotel) or if you park in the garage next door (owned by the Holiday Inn), EACH week, you will need to get a special parking pass/coupon from

Loretta that will allow you to park free. You can get the parking pass on

check-in at each meeting. When you arrive, on entry to the parking garage(s), you will get a white ticket. On leaving the garage, you will need to insert the white parking ticket in the machine until it registers the cost, then insert the blue ticket, which will cancel the cost. EACH week, you will need to get a different ticket, as the magnetic bar code is dated and will only accept the current date ticket. This will only work for the next-to-the-hotel garage. Please let **Loretta** know if you have any questions or issues.

12/13/13 THIS WEEK'S ASSIGNMENTS

Posted by Loretta Rowe on Dec 08, 2013

Program/Presentation Reporter: Laura Young
Bits & Pieces Reporter: Garvey Maclean
Registration: Tara Hill
Meal Ticket Sales: Bob Martin
Greeter: Emily McEntee
Raffle: Ron Bennett
Invoker: TBD
Music - Song Leader: Steve Ditmer
Music - Piano Player: Russ Burleigh
Sgt at Arms - Early: Mac Collins
Sgt at Arms - Late: Chase Bowker

2013 ON-THE-ROAD LOCATIONS FOR PORTLAND ROTARY MEETINGS

Posted by Loretta Rowe on Dec 07, 2013

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

Dec. 13 - Holiday Inn BTB
Dec. 20 - Holiday Inn BTB
 Dec. 27 - NO MEETING

The dates in **BOLD** are scheduled board of director meetings. Any questions, please contact Loretta.

FROM THE WORLD OF TENNIS (update 12/9/13)

Posted by William Blount on Dec 09, 2013

THE ROTARY DOUBLES TENNIS LEAGUE - 22nd SEASON 2013 - 2014

After week 12 of 15 here are the standings. Give your self some extra time to get to the Rackett on Monday as holiday shopping traffic could upset your equilibrium and take you off your game. The Draft and holiday party will be held on December 16, 2013, 7:00 PM at the Rackett.

TEAM 1	TEAM 2	TEAM 3	TEAM 4	TEAM 5	TEAM 6
D. Seddon	L. Gross	B. Lowry	J. Barns	J. Bordeau	S. Blakeslee
D. Hall	P. Noyes	F. Thompson	B. Blount	J. Young	K. Ray
R. Asch	B. Moore	C. Bowker	D. Putnam	A. Chipman	H. Herodes
K. Grammer	E. Jorgensen	H. Sawyer	L. Young	R. Burleigh	J. Carr
14	11	16	23	18	17

MISSED A PROGRAM?

Posted by David Smith on Dec 07, 2013



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!