



Service Above Self

## Rotary Club of Portland Maine

### The Windjammer

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

 Club Web Site

**Editor:** John Marr  
If you have any comments or questions, email the editor.

#### Future Speakers

##### Jan 7 2011

Tim Hussey  
*"Hussey Seating - Hussey's Legacy in Palestine"*

##### Jan 14 2011

Rich Pattenaude  
*"Chancellor, University of Maine System"*

##### Jan 21 2011

Doug Baston - North Atlantic Energy  
*"Maine's Forests"*

##### Jan 28 2011

Keith Burkley- Time Warner Cable President  
*"TWC - Present and Future"*

##### Feb 4 2011

Michael Franz, Professor at Bowdoin College  
*"Maine Political Advertising"*

##### Feb 11 2011

Survivor Bob Crowley  
*"[our Valentines Day program]"*

##### Feb 18 2011

Bob McKenzie, Kennebunk Police  
*"Teen Drinking"*

##### Feb 25 2011

Katey Foley Carey Cartwright  
*"Jobs for Maine Graduates"*

##### Mar 4 2011

Cyrus Hagge  
*"Rotary Foundation Meeting"*

##### Mar 11 2011

Victoria Rogers  
*"5-2-1-0 Program"*

#### THIS WEEK, CINDY BUTTS, "REALTY CHECK"

by Benjamin Lowry

This coming Friday, we will be hearing from a veteran realtor and leader of a powerful association who will give us the inside scoop on the always fluctuating housing market here in Maine.

The good news in Maine is that the median selling price is up almost 1% statewide and 4% locally from a year ago (to \$166,500 in Maine...\$225,000 in Cumberland County). The bad news is that the number of houses sold is down over 20% in the past year (even higher, 24%, here in greater Portland). But, Maine's home sales statistics are better than those of the New England Region, which shows a 24.4% unit home sales decrease in the past year. Of course, the mortgage rates continue to be low so it is a great time to buy. And, the economy is getting better...right?

Well, on Friday, we will attack some of these numbers and attempt to figure out where the real estate market is trending. The Portland Rotary Club will welcome Cindy Butts, the CEO of the Maine Association of REALTORS, a position she has held for the past 23 years. She is also the CEO of the Maine Real Estate Information System, a statewide multiple listing service based in South Portland. Prior to moving to Maine, she worked in both the Chicago and Washington, DC offices of the National Association of REALTORS. She graduated from George Washington University and has received numerous industry designations and awards. Cindy will be discussing the real estate market in Maine, and the challenges presently facing the real estate industry. So join us this Friday for what should prove to be an informative and eye-opening discussion.

#### LAST WEEK: MAKING SENSE OF THE RECENT ELECTION

by Benjamin Lowry

The Portland Rotary Club was fortunate to host Tony Payne on his last day on the job as Executive Director of the Alliance for Maine's Future. In speaking with the club for the second time in twelve months, Tony broke down the results of the recent Republican sweep in Maine and gave his informed opinions as to what the electorate

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expects and what the new legislature can do to swing things in Maine's favor over the next couple of years.

With 81% of voters rejecting the status quo, the house and senate (as well as the executive office) must first look at the economy, then health reform, and then the public perception that those in power (both nationally and in Augusta) live by a differing set of rules than John Q. Public. Knowing that if Maine spent along the line of the national state average, we could save over one billion dollars per year, there may be hope that we can perhaps fully fund the state pension system, which is now owed \$4.4 billion, and pay back stock market losses that have fallen well above \$2 billion, as we find ways to cut the fat and consolidate where needed. Tony's group has suggested we cut back on the size of our legislature, with each member now representing 8700 constituents, (compared with the national average of 56,000), reduce the length of the sessions by 50%, and set up a lifetime term limit of 12 years. These recommendations, as well as the ongoing discussions of consolidation of county and town governments, consolidation of the U Maine system and an openness to accepting a diverse business culture to replace our aging business ideals, could allow for some significant and perhaps immediate changes and savings in our ongoing effort to eliminate state debt and encourage economic growth.

With Maine consistently at the bottom of the New England fiscal ladder, and in the depths on all national polls, it is time to bring about change. The voters have demanded it. So talk to your legislator, get involved, and let's move forward!

**Bits and Pieces**

by Hilda Taylor

HAPPY, HAPPY, HAPPY!

We had such a full house of Portland Rotarians (and 4 guests) that December Birthday honoree **Jake Bourdeau**, and a few others, took to the standing room only spots upstairs. In addition to "Happy Birthday", we attempted to sing "Happy Days Are Here Again" in honor of our speaker, Tony Payne, but it got off to a rough start with a rousing finish.

MOVE OVER KATE MIDDLETON!

Congratulations go out to **Catherine Wygant** on her recent engagement. Who needs the Royal couple?

#### PORTLAND ROTARY DOES IT AGAIN

**Bruce Moore** gave thanks to the many volunteers who helped out during the St. Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving dinner and BIG thanks to **Dick Giles** and Sysco for donating the food. Over 125 were served and the leftovers were gratefully received at the Milestone Shelter.

#### CLOSE, BUT NO CIGAR!

**Emily McEntee** came close, but no cigar, in the weekly raffle. Probably no cigars at the Hanley Center Honors reception, attended by our own **Charlie Miller**, and recognizing (among many) Elizabeth McLellan of Partners for World Health. There's a nice photo of Charlie and Elizabeth in this past Sunday's Maine Sunday Telegram.

#### MAYOR HAGGE?!!!

The "unofficial mayor" of Commercial Street, **Cyrus Hagge** "will he run for mayor for real" Hagge gave a Rotary Foundation Minute. Cyrus noted that Portland Rotary members have contributed \$10,293 to the Rotary Foundation and collected \$3,066 in the cans for Polio Plus. Club projects funded by the Foundation include Hearts for Hearing, the Honduran Water Project and the recent trip to Nigeria by George Crockett and others to administer polio vaccines.

#### SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Sustaining members (those giving \$100 per year) are recognized with the red "S" on their name badges. Once donations reach \$1,000 to the Annual Programs Fund, PolioPlus, or the Humanitarian Grants Program, the member becomes a Paul Harris Fellow. For gifts of \$2,000 or more, a Paul Harris Fellow is eligible for recognition as a Multiple Paul Harris Fellow with additional stones Recognition. Past President **Bill Blount** was thusly honored with his first sapphire pin. Congratulations, Bill!

#### WHO WILL IT BE?

Next week, **Bill Blount** and the Nominating Committee will present the candidates for 2013-14 officers and board. Please attend and cast your vote! You can vote with one hand or two hands but not one finger!

#### STAY HOME WITH YOUR FAMILY

There will be no meetings on Christmas Eve, December 24th or New Year's Eve, December 31st. Our first meeting of the New Year will be held on January 7th at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland.

#### TIME FOR A VISION

Club Visioning will be held on January 27th at the Italian Heritage Club. This will be a 4-hour, early evening meeting with a light dinner served. All Board members plus 15 other members, old and new, will be charting the course for our Club over the next 3 years. Contact President **Rick Snow** if you are interested in attending.

#### A WELL READ YOUNG LADY

**Laura Young** and her daughter, Katie Connelly got prominent mention in the November 20 edition of the Cape Courier. Katie read a passage for the author, Greg Mortensen, in his tour de force novel, *Three Cups of Tea* during the author's presentation at USM. Katie is obviously a well read young lady!

#### WELCOME HOME, GEORGE

Our indefatigable humanitarian, **George Crockett**, just returned from two weeks of assisting in the efforts of Rotary International in Nigeria. Hopefully, George will find the time to tell us of his experience. Thanks, George, for all that you do for Rotary and the world.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

( if you have an or know of an upcoming event that is likely to be of interest to Portland Rotary Club members, please send the information along to **John Marr** at [jmarr@memic.com](mailto:jmarr@memic.com) )

January 30th, Sunday \*\*\* PIZZA BOWL III \*\*\* Italian Heritage Center, 11:30 - 1:30. Our Pizza Pie Princess **Loretta Rowe** has been pressing the pizzerias around Portland to make sure this years Pizza Extravaganza is better than ever. We will have pizza from 12 of the best places in the Greater Portland area. Take your family and invite your friends. The tickets are a mere \$10 for adults and only

\$5 for kids 5-12 and seniors citizens who've crested the 60th plateau. If you have any questions contact Loretta at <mailto:lrowe@maine.rr.com>

**WHO'S DOING WHAT THIS WEEK**

*by Elise Hodgkin*

Editor	George Crockett
Bits & Pieces	Scott Wilson
Registration	Herbert Carmichael
Meal Ticket Sales	Jacob Bourdeau
Buffet Table Tickets	David Ciullo
Greeter	Malcolm Collins
Raffle	Richard Campbell
Invocateur	Garvey MacLean
Music	Russell Burleigh
Sgt at Arms - Early	Malcolm Collins
Sgt at Arms - Late	Toby Cook