THE M☸NTHLY MUDDLE

Gilford Rotary Newsletter

February 2026 Edition

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow Rotarians,

As we kick off the new year, I am excited to do so under Rotary International's 2025–2026 theme: Unite for Good. That message could not be a better fit for where Gilford Rotary is right now - and where we are headed.

The first part of 2026 is shaping up to be one of our most active and engaging stretches yet. We have an aggressive and energizing slate of activities planned, starting with Winterfest which will feature sled dog racing, our Chili Festival, and a Silent Auction bringing together fun, community, and fundraising all in one place.

Looking ahead to late spring, we are also developing a Music Trivia fundraiser, which promises to be another great way to bring people together while supporting our mission.

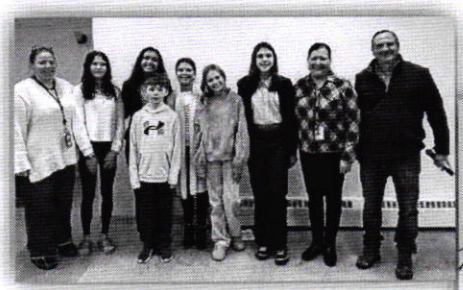
Thanks to the fantastic results from our Christmas Tree Sale and Race Track concessions, we are entering this year in a strong budget position. That puts us exactly where we want to be - able to do what Gilford Rotary does best: support local organizations and neighbors in need, and make a real, tangible difference in our community.

This momentum is something to be proud of, and it is something to build on. With engaged club members, strong fundraising, and meaningful projects ahead, there is a lot to be excited about.

Let's lean into the spirit of Unite for Good, bring our energy and ideas to the table, and get ready for a fantastic 2026.

Yours in Rotary,

CHRIS





Above left & right: members of the Gilford Middle School Student Council presented on Project Eco-Future



Right: GES Early Act Club voted on a Valentine's Day fundraising project, deciding on selling Valentines cards with pens and key chains for classmates and teachers to purchase for others



WINTERFEST

Taking place on Saturday, February 21st
from 9:00am to 6:00pm at
Beans & Greens Farm in Gilford, NH

Human Sled Dog Race Races
Starting at 10:00am, register at
https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/RtgBic1mEkWYbJ0QYXkULw

Chili Cook Off Contest
Happening 12:00-3:00pm, register at
https://www.strideevents.com/events/winterfest-chili-cook-off/2026/register

Chili Tasting Tickets
Happening 12:00-3:00pm, register at
https://www.strideevents.com/events/winterfest-chili-cook-off/2026/tickets

Silent Auction Fundraiser
Donations are needed, please help solicit items to assist in our fundraising efforts
(see email from Shelley Carita for more details)

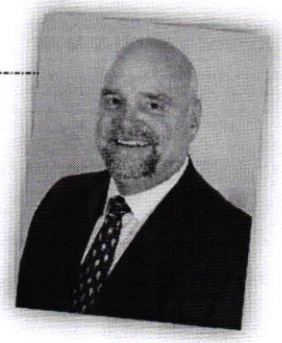
Other Winterfest Activities:
Kids Activities & Games
Live K9 Demonstration
Food & Drinks + Hot Cocoa Bar

Please spread the word to promote this event, and come join in some wintry joy and frosty fun by bringing your family and friends!

https://www.camp-resilience.org/events

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

SCOTT LALIBERTE



1. When did you join Rotary? Have you belonged to more than one club? I joined just this past October, this is my first Rotary membership though I am well acquainted with the club.
2. What offices have you held in Rotary? **None yet, though I look forward to learning more about it.**
3. What is your occupation? **I am a retired school administrator, currently working as a consultant in educational leadership development. I also have a part time job as a merchandiser for New Hampshire Distributors.**
4. Where did you grow up? **While there are those who might argue that I have yet to grow up, I was born and lived my early years in Concord, NH as the oldest of six children.**
5. What are your hobbies? **My wife and I love to travel at any opportunity! I also enjoy any opportunity to get outdoors for fishing, skiing, hiking, or just staring at a cozy fire pit.**
6. Unknown fact about you that no one in Rotary is likely to know? **I am named after the first baseman and second baseman of the 1967 Boston Red Sox 'Impossible Dream Team'.**
7. Do you have any children and/or pets? **I have a daughter, Paige, and three step daughters, Shelley, Meagan, and Jessica. We have no pets at this time.**
8. What makes you happy? **Traveling to new, preferably warm, places with Suzanne, possibly joined by family and/or friends.**
9. Best vacation ever? **In 2018, Suzanne and I went on a sailing trip to the British Virgin Islands on a 40' catamaran with a group of good friends! Highlights included snorkeling the pirate caves on Normand Island, a visit to the Soggy Dollar Bar, and hiking through The Baths on Virgin Gorda!**
10. Favorite saying? **"Now and then, we had a hope that if we lived and were good, God would permit us to be pirates." - Mark Twain**

Below: we have some Mystery Rotarians in this picture, can you name them?

A PRIZE awaits for the first correct guess, please send your guess to Sandy McGonagle to claim your prize!





Above: the Christmas Tree Sales Committee each year recognizes someone who has gone above and beyond during the annual fundraiser, with this year's recipient being Scott Kingsley (pictured in the middle with Chris Ray on his left and Rick Moses on his right), Congratulations on a well-deserved award!



Friday, February 6
Speaker(s) will be Jeff Ladieu, the Executive Director for PRLI, Camp Resilience (www.camp-resilience.org)

Friday, February 13
Speaker(s) will be Sharon Wells who will provide a Wellness Talk Presentation

Friday, February 20
Speaker(s) will be Chantelle Moynihan-Rector author of the children's book, "Max and Jules - How to be Brave" (Laconia Daily Sune 2023 Article)

Sat., February 21
Winterfest from 9am-6pm at Beans & Greens Farm (event highlights and additional information at www.camp-resilience.org/events)

Wed., February 25
Board of Director's Meeting

Friday, February 27
Business Meeting

*Did you know we are now on Instagram? Type **gilford_rotary_club** in the search bar, then click the follow button*

*Are you following us on Facebook? Click the icon or go to **www.facebook.com/GilfordRotaryClub***

Rotary