

## Our First Decade and Beyond

Members of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club can look back on the first decade of their club with pride. Accomplishments include a stable membership, a fund raising event that has become a fun social event, and community service programs that improve the quality of life in Jaffrey and Rindge. Quest has become a signature program, acknowledged for its value to our middle school children and serving as a model for programs in other communities.

Like other service clubs, the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club has challenges. These challenges include attracting both younger members and more women, broadening our revenue sources beyond the Reverse Raffle, and less reliance on a few individuals who have given so generously of their time and energy.

Members enjoy the informality of our club, but point to the need for more structure going forward. They suggest that the club take a more strategic approach to budgeting and charitable giving.

Finally, there is Quest. Many members identify Quest as the greatest accomplishment of the first decade. Because it is such a major undertaking in terms of club energy and finances, there is a desire to develop a strategic plan that will ensure its sustainability.

Our club has evolved over the past decade, and we expect this evolution to continue. With each challenge, club members have responded with energy and enthusiasm, and leaders have emerged from within the membership to guide change.

It is this momentum that moved the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club forward in its first decade. We are optimistic about the future of our club, and expect a new generation of Rotarians to emerge that will power the next decade of service.

## Club's Theme Song

Written by Bill Raymond  
First performed by Bill and Owen Houghton  
But not until 2016



Almost heaven, It's New Hampshire  
Mount Monadnock, Contookook River  
Life is old here, older than the trees  
Younger than the mountains  
Growing like the breeze

Country Roads, take us home  
To the place we belong  
Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary  
Mount Monadnock. Take us home, country roads

All our memories, gather round us  
Quest, Shattuck, songs of Rotary  
Our good harmony fills the cafeteria  
Misty taste of moonshine, tear drops in our eyes

Country roads, take us home  
To the place we belong  
Good friends and service  
Even Bios—take s home! Country Roads

Shelia's voice she calls us in the morning  
And something reminds us of our good friends  
Driving down the road we get a funny feeling  
Maybe we are coming home  
What a day, what a day...

Country roads, take us back  
To the place we belong  
Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary  
With all its good times  
Feels like home—Take me home, Country road

# 2013-2014

## Bruce Edwards President

To provide the ongoing history so beautifully reconstructed and authored by Jim Noel let me document my attempts and successes for the 11<sup>th</sup> year (2013-2014).

The scoreboard we donated to the American Legion Bambino Field never had the correct symbol for Rotary displayed. With help from Tom Doane and Ross Gauthier we got the correct signage permanently mounted, a photo op for the paper and proper community recognition.

We needed to upgrade our logo for our website and under the orchestration and design of Jim Banghart we got it done.

Another area that needed updating was the By-laws, so I initiated the Past President's committee to begin a review which they did. The year is short therefore that project got extended into next year

One major goal for me was to get our history documented. We are a relatively new club but the first 10 years needs to be written down. Jim Noel, our historian "extraordinaire" stepped up and took on the project. His diligent efforts and cooperation of our first 10 Presidents plus others got our history in order and we now have a hard copy for the ages. His results form the front section of this document. My sincere thanks to Jim for the great work, he did.

QUEST is our signature program, developed by us and unique to our club. The concept borne out of a task force charged with designing a club project has been inspirational for all involved. The partnership between our Rotary, the Middle School and Franklin

Pierce University in providing a camp experience for under privileged students has been truly rewarding for all involved.

We received recognition from the NE Board of Higher Education for the col-



**President Edwards**



**Donated Scoreboard**

laboration of Franklin Pierce University and the QUEST program. We were instrumental in helping Peterborough start their QUEST program. Tonya Albee, Jim O'Neill and Jaimie Birge did several presentations to





**2013 Quest**



clubs in NH, Vt. and Maine. Ludlow Vt. also adopted our program.

I have a goal to see a longer strategic plan for QUEST developed. We made several attempts but it is a longer range project.

Our membership had a successful year as we ended with 46 members. New members included Jeff Clark-Kevan (10/24/13), Bob Schaumann (9/12/13), Donna Senechal (12/12/13), and Matt Bergeron (6/5/14). Rachel O'Leary joined (3/28/13) but had to leave (4/17/14) and Frank Sterling resigned (1/1/14) therefore a net gain of four Rotarians to our

membership.

Our signature fundraiser the Reverse Raffle was another smashing success and almost raised as much money as the year before but not quite! The event is always run by the President Elect. The highlight of the evening is the awarding of an "honorary" Paul Harris Fellowship Award to a citizen who contributes to the community above and beyond. This year's recipient was Jack Belletete.

A fellowship event held at the Civic Center was certainly a hit. The idea by Bill Raymond developed into a truly fun event, with unexpected talent. The name Bill was certainly the stars of the show. Bill Raymond and Bill Janoch stole the show. Who knew Bob Dylan had a duplicate in Bill Janoch!!

Special thanks to Gail Therriault and her charitable giving committee who distribute the funds we raise where most needed, this year about \$15,000.

The education committee headed by Ben Wheeler made another great selection. Maria Maki received the Conant High Senior Award



**Gail Therriault, chair of the Charitable Giving Committee for a num-**



**Ben Wheeler, chair of the Scholarship Committee for a number of years.**



**John McCarthy, Student exchange officer for a number of years**

of \$2,500.

I am very grateful to John McCarthy and the way he has spearheaded the Student Exchange Program, one of the signature programs of Rotary International.

My last project is a permanent location for our historical "stuff" at FPU. It is a work in progress which I will stay with to its completion, whenever that is. Stay tuned.

I have been privileged to host our gavel night at our lake home for several year's and it's been special. This year the weather didn't cooperate and Woodbound Inn bailed us out. We put together a great night on very short notice. The highlight for me was to present a special President's Award to Al



**Paul Harris Citizen of the Year recipients John Peard (2nd from left, and Jack Belletete, 3rd from left with then club President, Bruce Edwards and Past President Dave Tower**

Clapp for his Service beyond Self in the volunteer work he does with middle school kids in math and all he does for QUEST. He is a true Rotarian in every sense.

I enjoyed my year. I think it was successful, there are a lot of moving parts. My President Elect was handpicked and the Bob Newhart show now becomes the Jimmy Fallon show. He will do a terrific job for us.



**Al Clapp, Received Presidents Award**

*Bruce R. Edwards*



# 2014-2015

## Andy Lawn President

July 1'2014 to June 30'2015 certainly proved to be an interesting year for the Jafrey-Rindge Rotary Club. There were a "few bumps in the road" but by year end the Club was the strongest it had been in its short existence.



**District Governor Berryman Visit**

July is an extremely busy month for our Club. The signature project "Quest" takes place and we had over 80 local children attend this summer session. It was all hands on deck for the membership to provide the campers with the high level enriching experience that the Quest Program promised to offer. Tonya Albee, Tom Bennett and Peter Russell were instrumental in leading the Quest Team through



**President Lawn**

another successful season. The Club also supported the Civic Centers Cupcake Festival event in July with more than half the membership present to guide things along smoothly.

Rotary Business was high on my priority list for this year. #1 was getting the Board of Directors and the Membership to approve the revisions to the Clubs "By-Laws". The major stumbling block regarded Membership responsibilities and attendance. This was no easy task but after 3 months of negotiations



**2014 Quest**

the revisions were amended and approved.

The Student Exchange program brought student Emelyne DeVanne to Jaffrey from her homeland in France. Emelyne was hosted by the Alan Soney Family and served as a fantastic representative of her country. This is truly one of Rotary's finest cultural programs and I would like to Thank John McCarthy for his work on this.

The Club's main fundraising event "The Reverse Raffle" was a huge success. Clay Hollister made the presentation in awarding the "Honorary" Paul Harris Fellowship Award to the community's outstanding citizen David Kemp. Tom Doane and Randy Morse teamed-up to gather door prizes, auction items and drive ticket sales. The net result was just under \$17,000 in funds that would be used to support the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary's commitment to the community. There was an opportunity offered by Atlas Fireworks to install signage for one of their events in Swanze. We took advantage of this event and raised an additional \$1,000. It is at this event where we award the Paul Harris Citizen of the year award every year and for this year it went to David Kemp.



**Mike Shea and Ben Wheeler teamed up for the live auction portion of the Reverse Raffle as they did for a number of years**

Many organizations benefited from our fundraising efforts. We were able to make donations of \$1,000 or more the "Quest Program, Franklin Pierce University Athletic Complex Repairs, InterAct Program's trip to Nicaragua and The "Make A

Wish Foundation" in honor of the Conant Girls Varsity Basketball State Championship! We also made almost 2 dozen donations of less than \$1,000.

Thank You Gail Therriault for leading the Charitable Giving Committee.

The Rotary Scholarship Committee had requested that we award 2 Conant Senior High School Scholarships. The Club agreed to this and scholarships were awarded to Drew Horne and Shelby Barden with each receiving \$2,500 toward higher education. My hats off to Ben Wheeler for leading this Committee.

Don Upton lead the Fellowship Committee. He arranged for the Club to attend "A closer walk with Patsy Cline" at the Peterborough Players. This Rotary event was well attended as the Peterborough Players is a favorite venue to many. Don also arranged a trip to the "Big E" in Springfield, MA. Many thanks to Don for a job well done.

Rotary International Projects had been supported in the past by funds raised through the Paul Harris Rotary Foundation campaign. The Board of Directors and the membership decided to offer the members an option of donating funds to Local Projects and/or International Projects. It is safe to say the majority of Members wanted to keep the money spent locally as committee members did not initially pass a request to support the "Pure Water" project we had previously committed to. I addressed the Board of Directors and the Committee Members in explaining that as Rotarians we have an International commitment. The membership voted unanimously to give \$1,000 to the "Pure Water" project.

Club recognition worth noting would include the "GEM Award" [Going the Extra Mile] for support of the Jaffrey-Rindge Students.



**Don Upton, chaired the Fellowship Committee for a number of years.**

Franklin Pierce University President Jamie Birge had been a strong supporter of our Rotary Club. The Club decided to thank Dr. Birge by presenting him the Paul Harris Award with Sapphire Pin.

It was unfortunate for our Club that Dr.



**Dr. Birge**

gram.

The winter of 2015 was one of the snowiest we had had in the Monadnock Region in decades! Many weekly meetings were canceled and cabin fever had surely set in. This became evident as spring approached. The Club outwardly appeared vibrant but there was concern regarding our Membership policies and the process followed in choosing Directors & Officers of our Club. Ultimately this led to a meeting of the "Past Presidents Committee". Tough decisions were made

District 7870 recognized the Club when the New England Rotary Survey rated the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary as #1! The State of New Hampshire thanked the Club for their community service project of maintaining the "Gateway" to the Monadnock Region in our roadside clean-up efforts.

Birge moved on and could not remain a member of our Club. He was a great ambassador for the University and was instrumental in supporting the Quest Pro-

gram. which led to resignations and some realignment within the Club. The Membership was culled and a few members that were delinquent in paying dues and had poor attendance were moved to "Friends of Rotary" status. Then the sun came out. The snow melted and the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club realized that we had increased our Membership from the previous year!

Special Thanks to Membership Committee Chairman, Bob Schumann, we added the following new members: Peter Davis, Bernie Hampsey, Andy Harris, Matt McCarthy, Todd Muilenberg, Jason Nero, and Helene Rogers

Sheila Bergeron bravely accepted the Incoming President's position which was well received by all.

I will always reflect on my year as President of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary with fond memories. This Club represents some of the finest men and women in the Monadnock Region. It was my honor to host "Gavel Night" at my home on 137 Ingalls Road in Jaffrey. Wood Bound Inn [Rudy] provided the finest food and the fellowship was just what one would expect at a Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary event.

Thank You for the opportunity to serve my community through Rotary.

*Andy Lawn*



**Bob Schumann chaired the Membership Committee for a number of years**



## 2015-2016

### Shelia Bergeron President

Shelia took over as President on July 1st, graciously filling in for a Vacancy which had just occurred, after missing the normal Rotary Presidential Training Program. It was a great year for the club.

For membership we added 6 new Rotarians: Kathleene Card, Harold Davis, Travis Kumph, Nat Peirce, Rudy Rosalez, and Brad White.



**President Bergeron**



### 2015 Quest

Quest had another successful year, as evidenced by the award from the Campus Compact pictured on the next page. Quest continues to improve every year. Other service projects included: the road side cleanup on Route 202, sponsoring a community supper on Feb 18th (a first time project), putting up the no-parking signs for the Fireworks Festival (held at the State Fair Grounds this year), parking cars at the Church Fair in Jaffrey Center, and supporting Team Jaffrey's Scarecrows on the Common. We also sponsored a community

program on Combatting Terrorism, with a talk give by Lt. Terry Choate of the Jaffrey Police Department, held at the firehouse.

Our major Fundraiser was again the Reverse Raffle, which this year earned \$17,000.

Our club continued to be active in the Rotary Youth Exchange Program, this year hosting in-bound student, Franka Clauss from Germany, and sponsoring outbound student Anya Shemet in Croatia.





We were honored during the year to receive this award for our Quest Program



Marc Tieger received the club's Community Service Award for the year, at the Reverse Raffle, pictured above with our Rotary Foundation Chair, Clay Hollister



Youth Exchange Chair, John McCarthy with inbound student Franka Clauss and returning outbound student Anya Shemet.



The club continued to be a good contributor to the Rotary Foundation, here Brad White getting his Paul Harris Award, for members who reach \$1000.

We had some memorable speakers including: the new JR Superintendent of Schools, Rubin Duncan, and the new President of Antioch College, Stephen Jones. But the most prestigious was having a speaker from the Forbes Magazine's list of the 50 Greatest Leaders in the World, Courtney Banghart.

Charitable Giving remained a big part of the club's focus, this year's total was just un-



Courtney Banghart, one of the top 50 Leaders in the World, spoke to the club at a Rotary Fellowship Meeting at the Cathedral of the Pines



District Governor, Sandy McGonagle, visited the club on August 27th and again on June 2nd.

der \$15,000, not counting Quest.

We also continued the Student of the Month program, recognizing a student from the Jaffrey-Rindge School District, nominated by their teachers, for their good performance in school.

Fellowship continued under the leadership of Chair Don Upton. Events for the year included a day at the Big E, a night at the Peterborough Players, and a night at the Cathedral of the pines.

## *Sheila Bergeron*



Gavel Night was held on June 30th, at the home of Peter Russell, marking the end of a great year for our club