

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 11th 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 Swanzeey. 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 fund-raising 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 under \$15,000, not counting Quest.



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

2016-2017

Jim Banghart President

up front



Camp helps narrow opportunity gap in New Hampshire

On most July weekdays, the campus of Franklin Pierce University in Rindge, N.H., is buzzing with activity – but don't expect to see freshmen rushing to Psych 101.

Instead, middle school students from the Jaffrey-Rindge School District are writing blues songs, meeting police dogs, or learning the ropes as they scale campus trees. They're also taking academic classes, helping ensure that they'll keep up with their peers when school starts in fall.

The Rotary Club of Jaffrey-Rindge launched this summer day camp, called Quest, in 2010. The club has partnered

with the local school district and university to provide academics in the morning and fun activities in the afternoon, mentoring students in sixth grade and older who might otherwise not have the opportunity to participate in an organized summer activity.

The camp launched out of a club discussion on creating an impactful service project, says Tonya Albee, the club's Quest chairperson. Jim O'Neill, an original member of the steering committee who was superintendent of schools at the time, told the club that there were no summer enrichment programs for middle school students.

"And that's when they make the decision to drop out of school, even though it occurs years later," Albee recalls. "That was an alarming bit of information for us." And kids who don't stay engaged in summer activities and lack adult support often slide back academically – sometimes an entire grade, she says.

"I don't know that we have to go very far in our imaginations to know what happens to disenfranchised children later on," Albee says. "We want to be sort of a replacement tool for the people that no longer go to church, that no longer have social infrastructures to help them."

So the camp aims to provide both academics and fun. Teachers from the school district conduct classes in the morning; Rotarians and other volunteer mentors lead afternoon activities in their areas of expertise. Virtually every club member donates some time to the camp each summer, Albee says. Allen Clapp, a 91-year-old World War II veteran, hasn't missed a day. His wife, Nancy, has taught "party planning," a popular etiquette course. Camp volunteers are about 80 percent Rotarians and 20 percent from the greater community.

The monthlong program costs about \$500 per child,



President Banghart



District Gov, Dennis McMahon

In August, a two page article on Quest, pictured above, appeared in the main publication for Rotary International with a circulation of nearly 1 Million.

I am glad to report that our club had an excellent year, perhaps our best ever. During the year our club:

- Made local charitable donations of \$13,322
- Started our first International program with a trip to Nicaragua
- Provided nearly 1500 of service to Quest (not counting the administration time)
- Provided 291 hours to 4 other service pro-

jects

We initiated 5 new members:

- Misty Start
- Russ Robertson
- Stephanie Niemela
- Nicole Newell
- Jon Frederick



Rotary Youth Exchange Program

Left, John McCarthy, the club's Youth Exchange Officer introduces our outbound Rotary Foreign Exchange Students for the year. From left to right; Nadia Bhatti, Lexi Smith and Shannon Bennett. Nadia is going to Indonesia; Lexi to Croatia and Shannon to Brazil.

Right is Sophia Talavera from Bolivia, our inbound exchange student for the year



International Service Project

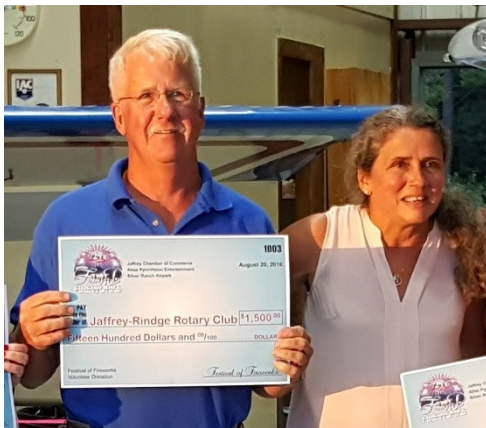
In cooperation with FNE, representatives shown above, we had our first international humanitarian trip, building a house in Nicaragua. While there we met the local Rotary Club and donated money to support a project to improve the kitchen facilities at a local jail.



Steve Gehlbach spoke at the July 21st meeting, on “An Epidemic in Vermont”, about Polio, the eradication of which is a major program for Rotary International.



Bill Raymond Receives the Saphire Paul Harris Award at our July 14th meeting



Local Service Projects

Service projects for the year included:

- Putting out over 1500 No Parking signs for the Fireworks Festival
- Roadside cleanup on Route 202
- Running the Hay Pit at the Scarecrows on the Common event
- Serving as Cupcake Cops at the annual Cupcakes Festival



During the year we lost one of our members, Matt Bergeron to an unexpected passing. In his memory, Elyse Rogers made this 1000 origami Crane display, a project inspired by a survivor of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Shown above is her mother Helene Rogers showing this to the club.

2017-2019 Bob Schaumann President



A visit by our District Governor continued each year, John Springer for the 2017-18 year and Venu Rao, pictured above, for the 2018-19 Rotary year. The Governor met with the Board of Directors of the club the night before attending the regular



President Schaumann



We try and keep a close association with the Conant Interact Club who we sponsor. Pictured above is the 2017-18 officers who attended one of our meet-



Juan Lorca, our Rotary Exchange Student for 2017-2018, returns to his native country of Chile told the club about his home country before returning



Initiation of the 2017-18 Interact Club took place at the Shattuck on October 24th. 22 new members were inducted. A similar meeting was held the following year.



Bruce Edwards hands out copies of the Club's History, in 2017



David Tower recognized at the club's 2017 Citizen of The Year. His list of ac-



Our club, following the 2017 trip to Nicaragua, has developed a program to help the schools in the town of Chacraseca, Nicaragua. Our club pledged \$10,000 for this project. Travis Kumph, has been presenting this project to area Rotary Clubs to drum up support. Meanwhile, John McCarthy updated the Club during the Club Assembly on funds raised to date that - as of your reading this - should translate to nearly \$50,000



Ben Wheeler, who chairs the Scholarship Committee, recognizes Ellie Graf, recipient of our 2018 \$2,500 annual Scholarship. She will matriculate at a university in Virginia.. Mariah Chamberlain was



Franklin Pierce University President Kim Mooney and New Hampshire Governor Sununu spent some time at Camp BEST after attending our regular morning meeting. Campers had a lot of questions and suggestions for the Governor.



Four Conant Interactors participated in our clubs first **4-Way Test Speaking Contest**. Each of whom gave great presentations as they competed for the opportunity to go to the District semi-finals in Henniker. this coming Sunday. Their presentation topic was the Rotary "Four-Way Test" and its applicability in today's world. Maria Anton, was the local winner, She came in second in the district competition. Maria, believe it or not, is only a freshmen, as were two of her classmates, Ayden Faircloth and Jennah



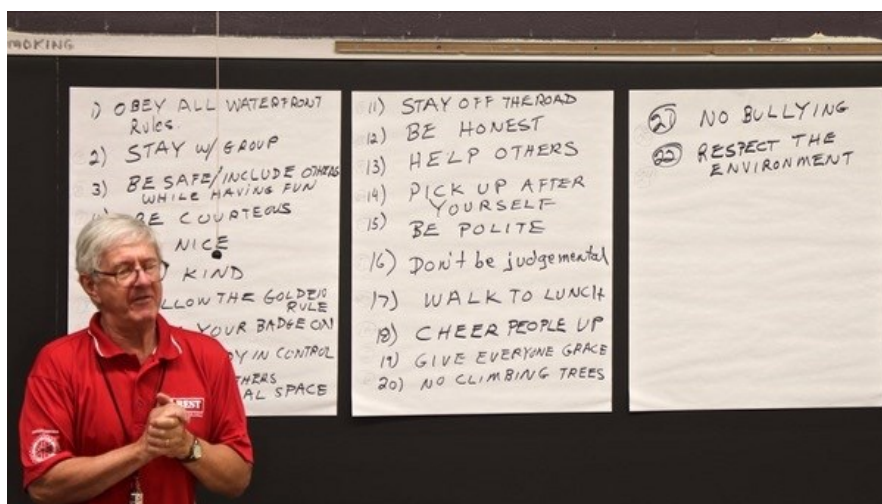
Al and Nancy Clapp were recognized with the Paul Harris Service Award at the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club's Annual Raffle Party, which was hosted at the Shattuck in Jaffrey on Friday, November 2nd. The long-time Jaffrey couple was recognized for their decades of service in several communities, and especially to

Major Changes for Camp BEST were initiated in 2019



The changes started in the winter with training sessions by Nat Peirce, pictured right and by “Hutch” and Dan Bemis, pictured left. The sessions were intended to help volunteers and mentors deal with situations to make their experience and that of the campers more enjoyable.

Another change was to have the campers develop their own code of conduct of what should be expected at camp. Nat Peirce is shown to the right leading this effort.



Two other changes were to have a number of “Therapy Dogs” at camp each day (pictured left) and full time coverage by Alan Butanek, a retired Psychologist (pictured right) to help to deal with difficult situations.



New Members who joined during this 2-year period

- Dan Anair
- Roy Baldwin



The most noticeable change was to replace the former English and Math academic sessions with morning sessions where the campers created their own cartoon books illustrating a story of their choosing. Shown above is Marek Bennett who led those sessions. Shown below are helpers from the Jaffrey Town Library who suggested this program after seeing it be effective in their programs



Another change was to have a full morning at the Cathedral of the Pines focused on citizenship and veterans. Campers had the opportunity to hear from veterans. Andy Card, George Bush's chief of staff who alerted the president of the Sept 11th attack, talked about this. He is shown on the right leading the Pledge of Allegiance.. The final day at Kimball's, pictured right, remained the same.





The club generally receives many requests for financial support. In 2018 the club went out looking for projects that we could help. We found the “Got Lunch” program launched in collaboration with the school district and the Rindge Congregational Church and the After School Program at Monadnock Christian Ministries in Jaffrey. Shown above is Rev Jalocki from the church explaining the program to the club and the ribbon cutting at the playground we funded at the Ministries. Each project was



In 2019 the club established a “Blue Ribbon Committee of 12 members to see if we could change any of our practices to make the club more meaningful and enjoyable for the members. There were many meetings discussing various aspects of the club. Pictured left, Ben Wheeler, committee chair ex-

John Frederick attended a district function at the Little Red School House in Wallingford, Vermont and took this picture, The schoolhouse was built by the grandfather of Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary and being in his how town, meant a lot to Paul. He dedicated the building in 1933. Brick





Jim Banghart, Club President, 2016-2017, was recognized as a Paul Harris in 2018. Current President Bob was recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow during the 2019 Gavel



In recognition of his having served two one-year terms as Club president (a "first" insofar as our Club), Bob Schaumann (L) received a handsome plaque with gavel from incoming President Jon Frederick.

2019-2020

Jon Frederick - President

With funds raised largely at our November Raffle Party, we were able to give back over \$12,000 to charities in the area, including extra support for the food kitchens during the pandemic. Work continued throughout the year to establish a grant of more than \$50,000 to support the schools in Nicaragua. We also offer a scholarship to a graduating senior from Conant High School, this year awarded to Jillian Patria. Rob Stevenson was recognized as our club's Citizen of the Year for this year at our Raffle Party.



Service projects for the year included, beside Camp Best:

- Putting out the no-parking signs for the last Fireworks festival.
- Roadside cleanup in the fall and spring.
- Our first annual dinner for first responders.
- We continued to recognize students of the month from the local schools and also Interactors of the month.



Pictured above is the 1st of what is expected to be the club's annual first responders dinner held at the Jaffrey VFW.

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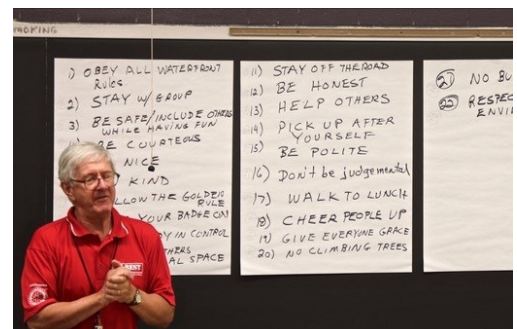
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During the year we added three new members to the club;

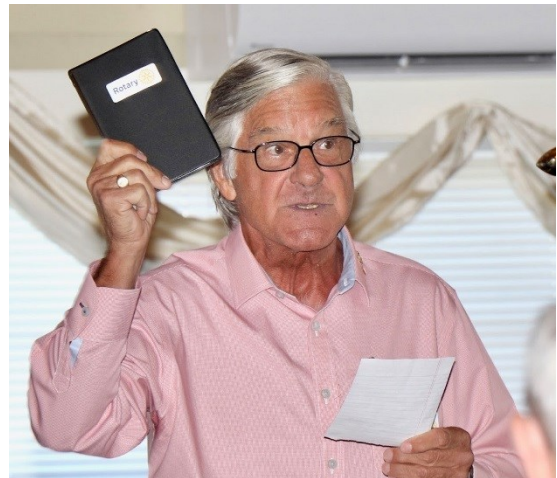
- Alan Butunek
- Greg Walsh
- David Trieb

Social events for the year, in addition to the newly implemented monthly evening meetings included:

- A tailgate party at an FPU football game.
- A Rotary night at the Peterborough Players.
- A night at Pearly House, the recently completed house for the President of FPU.
- Gavel night.



President of FPU, Dr. Kim Mooney spoke to the club in November describing activities at the school. We partner with FPU for our winter meetings and for the facilities for Camp Best. She also invited us for a club social at the recently completed President's "Pearly House" Pictured with Jon is this year's District Governor Nancy Russell during her December visit to the club.



Picture above left are the two Rotary Exchange Students for this year. On the left is Kayley Bennett, our outbound student who traveled to Italy. Picture right is Sumin Jung our inbound student from South Korea. Both exchanges were cut short because of the virus, but the students safely returned home. Randy Morse also completed an update to the club directory passed out to all members along with a book on the history of the club.



Above left is incoming President Jed Brummer handing Jon this plaque to recognize the club's appreciation for his tenure as President. Above right is a vase given to Tonya Albee in appreciation for her leadership in running Camp Quest/Best for the last 10 years. It had been announced that the camp will be discontinued after this year and that this year's camp will be run by Monadnock Christian Ministries because of the virus. Below left, John McCarthy receives a Paul Harris Fellow pin and on the right, Randy Morris receives this clock recognizing his long service to the club in many capacities on his last days before moving to Tennessee.



There was an unusual ending to the year for our club, as it was for most other clubs and organizations, after the Corona virus pandemic arrived. Meetings after that were held on-line using Zoom starting on March 26th and running through the rest of the Rotary year. Gavel night held on June 25th was our first get together after that, held with social distancing at the Cathedral of the Pines parking lot.



2020-2021

Jed Brummer - President

Jed Brummer became to be the first Past President to return to serve another term, something more likely to be a need going forward.



The year was characterized by primarily zoom meetings and some in-person meetings in outdoor settings.

New members added during the year were:

- David Jeffries
- Patricia Vargus
- Karyn Andreozzi
- Bill Coleman



Wren Wolterbeek poses with her father, Mark. Wren was recognized by the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club as "Interactor of the Year." Wren was the class Valedictorian, Conant High School. Class of 2020. She will be starting at Yale next year. The Wolterbeek's live in Rindge.

Student of the Month recognitions, the Rotary Exchange program, and our annual raffle party were all suspended.

The local Interact Club coordinator , Paddy McCarthy, retired during the year.



So that he might see his wife, Barbara on a regular basis, Rotarian Peter Davis, at his own expense, was a resident at the Maplewood Nursing Home for three months as a caregiver for Barbara. Because of the pandemic, he would not be allowed to re-enter the building if he chose to leave. The club made the trip to Westmoreland to show support for Peter and Barbara.



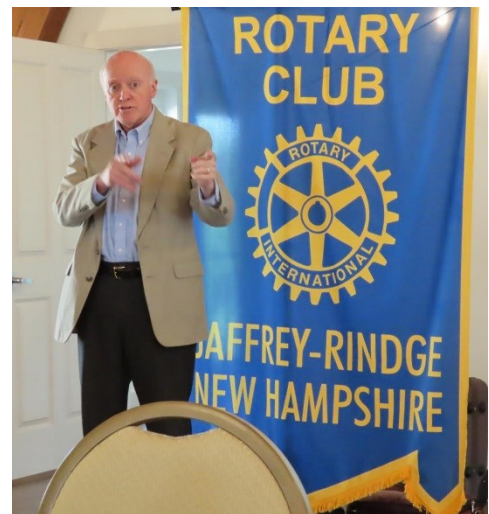
Because of the pandemic, the club met at many unusual places during the year, this meeting was at the Contoocook Lake public beach. For this meeting Jaffrey Town Manager and fellow Rotarian Jon Frederick explains the history of the partnership of Jaffrey and the neighboring town of Peterborough relative to future water supplies that will benefit both towns.



Because of our contributions to Park Theater, we were awarded by an early pre-opening tour. The Star embedded in the floor acknowledges our contributions.



Jed was recognized for his term as club President with this gavel plaque given to him by incoming President Ben Wheeler at Gavel night held at the home of Peter and Jinnie Russell on June 24th.



Bill Gardner, the longest-serving Secretary of State in New Hampshire was one of our speakers during the year

2021-2022

Ben Wheeler - President

This Rotary year started under the umbrella of the COVID pandemic and the club featured many remote meeting using Zoom and many changes to venues. The year ended with regular on-site meetings at Franklin Pearce.

Service projects for the year included:

- Roadside cleanups on Route 202 in the fall and spring
- Distribution to needy citizens from the NH Food Bank, with the help of members of the FPU Football team
- Parking cars at the First Church annual summer fair and the Shelter From The Storms Taste of Monadnock fundraiser.
- Handing out American flags for the annual Memorial Day event in Jaffrey.
- A recognition dinner for the FPU football team, thanking them for their help in our service projects



Shown above left is handing out food to needy citizens with help from the FPU football team. Shown above right is the dinner where we honored the team for that help.

Pictured right is our District Governor Bob Siemienowicz with Club President Ben Wheeler at one of our meetings.





Shown above left is one of our Student's of the month, being honored, Dominic Cnoza with his mother Jennifer. Shown above right is Rotarian Sheila Bergeron getting her pinky painted by local Interact Club members at one of our meetings.

Our meetings included:

- A resumption of the Student of the Month recognition
- Entertaining the Conant High School Interact Club for a "Purple Pinky" fundraiser where for a donation members could get their pinky finger painted purple, like is done in remote villages to confirm who has been vaccinated from Polio, Rotary International's major world project.
- The annual visit from the District Governor, Bob Siemienowicz.

Fundraisers for the year included the November Raffle Party which raised \$4,500 and a first time Golf and Raffle Party in May which netted \$5,000.



The November Raffle Party is shown above left and the May Golf Raffle Party is shown above right

Beside the nearly monthly evening social meetings, and the fundraising raffle events, the club had two special social events:: An evening at the home of Rotarian David Jeffries and an FPU tailgate event for an FPU football game, pictured right.



New members initiated this year include: Bill Coleman, Rudra Aryal, Stephanie Thompson, and Tom Frazier.

Our club supported the Conant High School “Hot Wings” robotics team, shown right giving a presentation at one of our meetings.

The club’s \$50,000 International project to upgrade some of the infrastructure at a number of schools in Nicaragua was not supported through grants from Rotary International because of political issues between the governments. Our club and a number of neighboring Rotary Clubs downscaled the project and coordinated the funds with FNEI, launching this program that has been years in the making.

Jaffrey-Rindge Rotarian Rudra Aryal, pictured right at a Rotary District Meeting in Nepal, talked about his recent trip there and brought back many gifts to our club from the Rotary visit. Rudra stated the Club was very welcoming and friendly, and his overall his trip went great.

Gavel night, held at the home of Peter Russell, was held on June 30th. At the meeting Ben Wheeler gave some closing remarks to his term as President and welcomed in Peter Russell as our President for the 2022-23 Rotary year, . Peter then honored Ben with the gavel plaque and an E. for Excellence award. The "E" for Excellence Award is often bestowed on United States Navy ships in recognition for various things done well.

By far the major international event of this Rotary year was Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. A relief effort with matching up to the first \$1M was supported by a club in our district.

