



Rotary Club of Merrimack, N.H. Newsletter

2nd Edition – July 1, 2013
www.merrimackrotary.org

April 2013 – June 2013

Officers:

Steve Russell
President

Andrew Steeves
President Elect

Phil DeGregorio
Vice President

Jane Hoover
Secretary

Pat McGrath
Treasurer

Peter Giacapuzzi
Past President

Lynn Christensen
Foundation Chair

Rick Crawford
Sergeant-at-Arms

FROM THE DESK OF STEVE RUSSELL, PRESIDENT 2012-2013:

I would like to reflect on some of the past year's accomplishments and express support for incoming President Andy Steeves' goals for this year. First, let's review the major accomplishments for this year. They include the following:

- A successful Merrimack July 4th Family Day last summer. Responding to the Town's request that we oversee and run the midway festivities on the heels of not having one the previous year, which had many Merrimack residents expressing disappointment, we agreed to do it with less than 6 months to put it together. We agreed to do it with the following mutual agreements: that it be on the school fields if the school agreed, that the feel of the event be more of an 'old home days' event than a midway, and that we request no funding from the town and taxpayers. Our Club was able to pull this off successfully. While it was a net breakeven for our Club, we were able to make the July 4th festivities one of the best for the town. We also gave back to non-profits and clubs in town almost \$2,000 for the volunteer support their members provided in making the event successful.
- We had another very successful July 4th Pancake Breakfast last year and again this year. Andy Steeves has successfully taken this event over and improved its performance. Several town non-profits and school clubs have been stepping up to support the event as our Club members have dwindled and many were tied up with the Family Day event we stepped up to.
- This Year we also gave \$195 to the Food Pantries of St. James and St. John Neumann in December.
- We had our most successful Christmas Tree Sales in a very long time, netting over \$9,500. Bill Wilkes deserves credit for successfully developing a new source for trees that resulted in reduced cost per tree as well as adding Blue Spruce trees to our old standby Douglas Fir trees.
- Success is Up to Youand others. Pete Giacapuzzi and Pat McGrath presented this program to the 5th graders at James Masticola Elementary School on 10/18, 10/25 and 11/1. The purpose of the program is to help reinforce the reasons for personal success, positive relationships and avoiding bullying behavior as either a perpetrator or as a victim. As it was last year, this was very successful.

- The Rotary 4-Way Test Speech Contest was held in January 2013 and as suggested by the MHS Language Arts department to come at the end of the course instead at the beginning. As a result we had even better speeches than in past years. Thanks so much to Pat McGrath.
- Support of the design and implementation of the Roger Duhamel Pavilion in Watson Park. Our Club worked closely with the Town Pavilion subcommittee to assure the funding and support for erecting the pavilion was in place. Our Club gifted \$2000 to the pavilion project this year and several Rotarians gave personally together much more than that. We closed the budget to assure the pavilion was completed and all costs were covered by donations. I expect the Pavilion to be a beautiful and meaningful addition to the town for many decades to come. Special appreciation goes to Peter Flood and Bill Wilkes. Joe Mitchel and Rick Crawford also spent many hours supporting the erection.
- Working with the town, we successfully developed and installed the Twin Bridge Park Trail Markers. This project was begun 2 years ago and was completed just now. I want to thank the following Rotarians who made this joint project with the town happen: Paul Belfiore, Pat McGrath, Peter Giacapuzzi, Phil DeGregorio, and others.
- Coats for kids in need in Merrimack. This year we took on this project directly and successfully provided 38 coats to those who needed them through the Town.
- Held a very successful Outstanding Employee's Breakfast. Thanks so much to Chris Christensen for spearheading this effort.
- Rabies Clinic was again successful this year. We gave 138 rabies shots this year.
- RI President Tanaka slogan for this past year was "Peace through Service." He challenged each Club to come up with a Peace Project for our community or Club. Our Club responded with a joint project with our Middle School. They developed a skit to provide to the in-coming middle school students from JMUES on Bullying and how to handle that situation from multiple viewpoints. Thanks so much to Marge Chiafery and Debbie Woelflein.
- Successfully ran second July 4th Family Day this year. Slightly bigger than last year, the biggest difference is we are looking to do much better than break even while still donating around \$2000 to non-profit and club volunteers in town. We are currently evaluating what town projects to donate the profit to and will inform you shortly. I want to thank the Town, School, Police, and Fire departments for their support in addition to all our volunteers and Rotarians.
- Successfully held a Chambers after hours meeting in May. Thanks to multiple Rotarians who helped set this up, including Pat McGrath, Peter Giacapuzzi, and Phil DeGregorio.

It is because of all the support from Rotarians that we were able to accomplish so much and I thank each and every Rotarian for their support. I hope you will continue to support Andy in the coming year for his goals and projects. I know I have missed several events and support items in the above, but I thank all who contributed so much and forgive me for missing you.

Steve Russell
President, Rotary Club of Merrimack 2012-2013

Events:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Events</u>
Apr. 1	April is Rotary's Magazine Month.
Apr. 14	Currier Gallery Brunch & Samurai Sword Exhibit.
Apr. 17	Rabies Clinic – 8:30 am @ Ambulance Garage
Apr. 18	Excellence in the Workplace meeting @ 7:15 am @ John O'Leary Adult Center.
Ongoing	July 4 th Family Fun Day Planning Meetings @ 7am DW Diner (every other Friday morning)
Apr. 18	Board Meeting at 6pm @ Swan's Chocolate (upper room).
Apr. 27	Raising of the Roger Duhamel Pavilion @ Watson Park.
May 1	May is Rotary's Promote International Convention Month.
May 15	Board Meeting at 6pm @ home of Ron Douville.
May 23	Rotary & Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours at 6pm @ O'Leary Center. (No morning Rotary meeting).
June 1	June is Rotary's Fellowships Month.
June 19	Board Meeting at 6pm @ home of Lynn & Chris Christensen.
June 27	Trailer Markers at Twin Bridge installed.
June 27	Changing of the Gavel dinner @ 6pm John O'Leary Adult Community Center.
July 4	Pancake Breakfast & Merrimack Family Fun Day (www.merrimack4th.com).
July 17	Board Meeting at 6pm @ home of Andy Steeves.

Membership:

The Rotary Club of Merrimack is a volunteer organization of business people and professionals supporting the community. Merrimack Rotary projects have included scholarships, reconstruction of Kids' Kove Playground, support for Merrimack flood relief, the Merrimack July Fourth festivities, the Rotary 4-Way Speech Contest, Interact Club, lighting at Reeds Ferry fields and more. The club works with other clubs on international projects like eradication of polio, Pure Water for the World, and hurricane relief in Honduras. To RSVP for a breakfast meeting or for information about membership, contact Chris Christensen at [603.424.2542](tel:603.424.2542) or Chris@ChristensenNH.com or visit www.merrimackrotary.org.

Meetings:

The weekly meetings are held every Thursday morning at 7:15 am at the John O'Leary Adult Community Center (4 Church Street, Merrimack) with the Pledge of Allegiance, singing of "You're A Grand Old Flag," and recitation of the "Four Way Test" and invocation. Breakfast was catered by the Stocked Fridge (www.thestockedfridge.com).

Guest Speakers:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Host Rotarian</u>	<u>Speaker/Topic</u>
4/4/13	Dick Hinch	U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte
4/11/13	Jane Hoover	MHS Student Exchange group that recently visited Morocco.
4/18/13	Chris Christensen	Excellence in the Workplace Program.
4/25/13	Brian Snow	Chris Norwood – President of commercial real estate Norwood’s Real Estate, Bedford, NH
5/2/13	Joyce Jobin	Melissa Koerner a nutritionist
5/9/13	Rick Crawford	Dick Groves, DDS will be doing the program May 9. Dick will be talking about his service on a US Navy Hospital ship as part of a volunteer medical team.
5/16/13	Marge Chiafery	Peace through Service Project
5/23/13		NO MORNING MEETING – CHAMBER AFTER HOURS EVENT AT 6PM.
5/30/13	Barbara Michael	Club Assembly
6/6/13	Phil DeGregorio	DPW Operations Mgr. Adam Jacobs will be our guest speaker. He plans to have a brief power point presentation. He will be prepared to speak and answer questions on a variety of topics about the goings on in town, from the perspective of DPW. How the town survived winter. Condition of fields, lakes, and other public places. DPW and July 4th., etc....
6/13/13	Peter Flood	Terry Benhardt of the MYA to review the activities of the MYA this past year.
6/20/13	Maureen Mooney	Eric Brand and Carol Powis. Subject it the Building of LGN All-accessible Playground at Greeley Park.
6/27/13	Steve Russell	“Changing of the Gavel” Dinner – Evening Meeting

WELCOME NEW OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2013-2014!

Andrew Steeves
President

Phil DeGregorio
President Elect

Maureen Mooney
Vice President

Jane Hoover
Secretary

Paul Belfiore
Treasurer

Steve Russell
Past President

Rick Crawford
Sergeant-at-Arms

Board of Directors:

Lynn Christensen
Mike Hoover
Ron Douville
Joyce Jobin
Dick Hinch

FROM THE DESK OF ANDREW STEEVES, PRESIDENT 2013-2014:

My fellow Rotarians,

July is an exciting time in the Rotary year! Much like New Year's Day is a time to reflect on the past year and develop goals for the future, now is a time when we can think about what our Club was able to accomplish in the past 12 months and the possibilities of the upcoming year and beyond. Our Club is a very engaged with meaningful projects that touch many lives. It is really incredible to think of the over 25 activities and projects that we as a Club participated in and the impact they have and will continue to have on people's lives. Our involvement in the schools, the local community, and internationally inspire me. The Merrimack Rotary Club is made up of passionate caring members who really do and continue to translate their passions into relevant needs in the greater community.

As we start the strategic planning process for our club let's all keep in mind what we decide our vision to be in 2013 will change in the future. I see us creating a living dynamic plan. The vision supporting goals and priorities that we come up with today will need to be revisited and adjusted as circumstances present themselves. The planning process should look at where we are now. What do we do best? What challenges are we faced with? More importantly where do we want to be and how do we get there? Having goals and direction for the next 3 to 5 years that are achievable will strengthen us and make a stronger club.

Ron Burton's theme for his year is "Engage Rotary - Change Lives ". I hope that all our members will be engaged in this planning exercise. I am excited to be involved as your President and am eager to hear your voices. As a Rotarian I am excited to work with everyone and change lives!

In your service,

Andrew Steeves