

TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth
October 17, 2018



UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

October 24 – Luke & Jeff Holden, Luke’s Lobster
Halloween – Club Assembly
November 7 – Winterfest Club Assembly
November 14 – Scott Ayre, Southern Maine Physical Therapy
November 21 – No Meeting

ASSIGNMENTS

	<u>October 24</u>	<u>Halloween</u>	<u>November 7</u>
Opening Words	Davidson	Daviero	Desmond
Raffle Gift	O’Shea	Ray	Redman
Conductor	Schauf	L. Schmidt	U. Schmidt
Set Up #1	N/A	N/A	Albert
Set Up #2	N/A	N/A	Altenburg

Phil Dube won a gift certificate to Thai Taste or Orchid Thai donated by Tural Nadirli. Jack Roberts won a subsequent raffle of a Sea Bags tote generously donated by Dave Bagdasarian.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

October 24 – World Polio Day. Livestream event from Philadelphia.

October 27, Saturday morning – fall clean-up of Frank & Debbie Butterworths’ yard – RSVP to Bob Danielson. *Many hands make light work!*

November 3 – District Joint Foundation & Membership Seminar, Husson University. Rotary Foundation Trustee Julia Phelps will be a featured speaker.

November 3, 5-6:30 – Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for the Windham Veteran’s Center sponsored by Sebago Lake Rotary Club

November 9 (Friday) at noon – Portland Rotary Club Veterans Appreciation Lunch, Holiday Inn by the Bay. \$25 pp BUT meal is complimentary for all veterans.

June 21-22, 2019 – District Conference at Fort Williams

What's New With Our Members

Happy Birthday to Phil Dube (10/28)

Welcome to Bob's son, Andrew Knupp who visited us this week.

Continued get well wishes to Tim Butterworth - rumor has it that he is continuing to make progress in his recovery.

Congratulations to Associate Commissioner Chuck Redman on being the sole winner of the Week 6 football pool with 12 correct picks.

Once a Sail, Forever a Sea Bag! – This is the tagline for Sea Bags, the business described to us by their CEO Don Oakes. Don is from Milo, Maine and came to Sea Bags in 2013 from LL Bean. Don described the rapid growth the company continues to experience, and he credits it to:

- ★ Unusual & unique product;
- ★ Environmentally friendly;
- ★ Made in America (in fact right on the Portland waterfront);
- ★ Products reflect the coastal lifestyle.

Despite the fact that they are not inexpensive (their bestselling tote sells for \$165), Sea Bags are handsome well-built products that never go out of style. Tara Knupp, daughter-in-law of Bob Knupp, leads the design team, which has produced hot items such as bags with the number “12” on them (they are not official Patriots gear but the Patriots do not have a copyright on the number 12!). The company has re-purposed 600 tons of sail so far into 750,000 products – these sails would otherwise have ended up in landfills. The tote bag mentioned above that Jack Roberts won is a limited edition tote featuring a seascape painted by Eric Hopkins especially for the bag as a benefit for the Maine Coast Heritage Trust – 20% of the sales of the bags (*sales*, not profits!!) are donated to MCHT.



World Polio Day – I have printed before the excerpt below from Doing Good in the World, the Inspiring Story of the Rotary Foundation's First 100 Years by David C. Forward, but to mark World Polio Day next Wednesday, I'm trotting it out again. We nowadays take for granted that Rotary is a well-respected and trusted partner of UNICEF and the CDC in its efforts to eradicate polio. And that level of trust is so high that as John LoBosco pointed out 2 weeks ago, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has chosen to partner with our Rotary Foundation. But 30 years ago public health leaders were very skeptical of both the feasibility of Rotary's plans to wipe out polio in a country by country campaign, but also of its ability to bring real money to the table.

More than 16,000 Rotarians from every continent jammed into the Philadelphia Convention Center on May 24, 1988. While they enjoyed the entertainment and workshops and inspiring speakers, every single attendee had one question on his or her mind: "Did we make it?" The cavernous hall was ringed with large white unlit light bulbs. Promptly at 11:00, President Charles Keller introduced International PolioPlus Campaign Committee Chair Les Wright, who in turn brought Walter Maddocks onto the stage.

Maddocks began calling the names of each of the 44 national committees around the world. As a graphic of each geographic region flashed onto giant screens, Maddocks announced the total raised in cash and pledges. For each \$100,000 reported – enough to immunize 800,000 children – a "victory light" flashed on in the convention hall. Every report drew cheers and applause from the standing-room-only crowd.

All the lights down one side of the hall were illuminated, and then those across the rear began to light up as each national coordinator reported his numbers. A huge cheer reverberated through the convention center after the 34rd national committee's report came in: Canada, with a goal of \$4,211,000 had far surpassed that and reported \$7,323,525. Forty-three of the 44 national chairs had reported in. There was only one left. Had the United States been able to raise the remaining \$20 million to reach the \$120 million goal?

The tension was palpable, the silence absolute as Maddocks announced: "At 12:20 p.m. today, the 24th of May 1988, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, I can tell you that the USA PolioPlus Campaign Committee, with a goal of \$78 million, have exceeded that goal and raised \$119,186,869 – we're over goal!"

People could hardly believe they had heard the correct number. But every one of the lights was flashing, setting off firecrackers on stage. Fifteen thousand balloons dropped from the ceiling as a marching band paraded into the hall. Everybody was clapping and hugging and screaming and dancing in the aisles and embracing one another – and more than a few tears were shed.

By the time late-reporting clubs and unconfirmed contributions came in, the PolioPlus campaign had raised \$247 million. Rotary not only had met but had doubled the

commitment it made to world leaders in October 1985.

The result stunned everybody in the nongovernmental organization and charitable fields. No doubts remained at Rotary's partner agencies about Rotary's ability to muster its members to deliver on their promises to humankind.

This is Rotary's "finest hour," declared RI President Charles Keller. And there was not a single dissenting opinion.

**ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTH
PORTLAND/CAPE ELIZABETH, MAINE**
www.sp-ce-rotary.org

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Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth