

# TWO LIGHTS

**Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth**

**April 1, 2026**



## Upcoming Dates:

**Pickleball** – dates may vary - contact Dave Bagdasarian Sr. if you're interested in participating.

**April 8** – Steven Thomas, American Red Cross

**April 11, 8-2** –Opportunity Workshop (f/k/a District Assembly) at Westbrook High School; club will pay your registration fee if you attend. Sign up on District 7780 Website

**April 15** – Club Business Meeting. President-Elect Laurenz will be presiding!

**April 21, 5:30** – Board Meeting; ask Peter for Zoom link if you'd like to attend

**April 22** – NO MEETING

**April 29** – Michael McGovern

**May 15-16, 2026** – SPRINGFEST!

### April 8 Duties

Opening Words – Lohrman

Raffle Gift – Sprague

### April 15 Duties

Opening Words – McAleney

Raffle Gift – Sturtevant

Meeting Setup Reminder: Locker Combination is **26-8-30**

**Opening Words** – In his opening words, Mike McGovern quoted from the July 1, 1992 club bulletin, the first day that he was president of our club. He told the club that “he originally joined for the fellowship; yet, just as important was the simple fact that it would be so much different than his regular daily activities as Cape Elizabeth’s town manager. He felt he would loosen the ties to boards and committees; forget about speaking in front of a group unless absolutely required; and actually be able to relax and enjoy.” (And hasn’t Rotary turned out exactly that way for him!!!!)

After speculating on how many (thousands of) times he has spoken in front of groups, Mike wistfully remembered Abraham Lincoln’s quote: “Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt.”


### What’s New With Our Members (& Friends)

*Happy Birthday to*

 *Ellie Speh - April 8*

 *Doug Schauf - April 13*

*Happy 56<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary to the two couples who were married on April 11, 1970:*


 *Dan & Joan McDonald*

 *Bill & Diane Anderson*

*Congratulations to Scott Irving, the winner of a gift certificate to the Tuscan Table donated by Ellie Speh*

*Welcome back, Patty Sprague, from your trip to Canada for the Youth to Youth reconciliation event (the subject of our club’s global grant)*

*April Rotaversaries:*


 *Sam Wilkens-O’Brien - one year*

 *Brent Wilson - 5 years*

 *Chris Speh - 7 years (including time as a member of a NC club)*

 *Dan McDonald - 11 years*

 *Tom Meyers - 25 years*

 *Phil Dube - 56 years (and I refuse to be drawn into the debate as to whether Phil or Dan Mooers has been in the club longer)*

Guests: *We were joined by Maggie Williams, a former Rotarian from New Mexico who moved to South Portland just two weeks ago! Dick Yerxa joined us again and brand new member Adrian Kurre experienced our meeting via Zoom for the first time.*

**RYLA Alumni** – We welcomed two more students from South Portland High School who attended RYLA last summer, Gil Ingram and Anthony Nielson. Their presentation in which they talked about how much more self-confidence they now have and willingness to put themselves out there, dovetailed really nicely with Coach Filieo’s program described below.



**More Leadership Training** – Club member Aaron Filieo, football coach at South Portland High School, has been thinking a lot about leadership and has come to the conclusion that leadership skills need to be specifically taught. He praised the work they do at RYLA, having seen the benefits firsthand in his son and other players who have attended. And to make sure all of his players get the benefit of leadership training, he’s piloting the South Portland Football Leadership Program. The mission statement of the program is:

“The mission of our leadership program is to build a competitive, connected team led by players of character. We develop leaders who communicate effectively, hold teammates accountable, and create camaraderie through effort, trust and shared sacrifice – preparing them for success in football and beyond.”

The participants meet once a month on a Monday at 6 a.m. The leadership program is not mandatory but it is a prerequisite for being team captain. He developed very specific criteria for completion of the program which includes attendance at the program’s meetings, good grades, responsive communication, community service and showing up for teammates activities outside of football. We look forward to having Coach Filieo come back to the club sometime so he can report on how successful the program has been!

**ROTARY CLUB OF  
SOUTH PORTLAND-CAPE ELIZABETH**

Officers

President – Peter Bennett  
President-Elect – Laurenz Schmidt  
Vice-President – Chuck Redman  
Secretary – Kathy Cotter  
Treasurer – Marge Dugan

Directors

Club Administration – Bev Altenburg  
Youth Services – Ray Healey  
Community Services – Nancy Hawes  
International – Patty Sprague & Chris Speh  
Membership – Scott Irving  
Director-At-Large – Nancy Irving

Committee Chairs

Tree Sale – Kathy Cotter & Mike Tranfaglia  
SpringFest – Marge Dugan  
Program Chair – Chris Speh  
Foundation Chair – Nicole Albert  
Social Media - Matt McAleney  
Publicity – Jim Britt  
Web Administrator – Scott Irving  
Bulletin Editor – Nancy Hawes  
Veterans – Jeff Gabrielson  
Bug Light – Sam Wilkens-O'Brien & Jill Nadeau  
Club Protection Officer – Nicole Albert

**DISTRICT 7780 GOVERNOR**

Emma Bodwell, Rotary Club of Bridgton-Lake Region

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT**

Francesco Arezzo, Rotary Club of Ragusa, Italy

**PMB 239, 50 MARKET ST STE 1A, SOUTH PORTLAND 04106**