

TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth

August 27, 2025

MEMBERSHIP MONTH!



Upcoming Dates:

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

September 3, 4-7 p.m. – Car show at Bug Light; lighthouse will be open for tours

September 3 – NO MEETING (Work at Bug Light instead!)

September 7, noon – Deadline for submitting picks for Week 1 of Foundation Football (see Commissioner Chuck's email for pool details)

September 10 – Classification Talk by President Peter

September 13, 8:30 – 3:30 – Open Lighthouse Day!

September 16, 5:30 – Board meeting

September 17 – Mike Hulsey, South Portland Housing Authority. Note: Since SPHA was a significant donor towards the South Portland Food Cupboard refrigeration unit that we fundraised for, there will be a check presentation at this meeting.

Early October – reception to welcome “Flight to End Polio” pilots back in the US (date tbd due to weather-dependency of the flight itinerary – stay tuned!)

September 10 Duties

Opening Words – D Bagdasarian, Sr.

Raffle Gift – N. Irving

Meeting Room Setup – please [sign up](#)*

Owl – please [sign up](#)

September 17 Duties

Opening Words – D Bagdasarian, Jr.

Raffle Gift – S. Irving

Meeting Room Setup – please [sign up](#)*

Owl – please [sign up](#)

Meeting Setup Reminder: Locker Combination is **11-21-11**

Opening Words – Bill Anderson began his opening words with thoughts for the victims of the shooting in Minneapolis, a tragedy which Bill’s family felt especially since they once lived in that neighborhood. His opening words were in a lighter vein, from the Dalai Lama. When asked what surprised him most about humanity, he answered:


“Man. Because he sacrifices his health in order to make money. Then he sacrifices money to recuperate his health. And then he is so anxious about the future, that he does not enjoy the present; the result being that he does not live in the present or the future; he lives as if he is never going to die, and then dies having never really lived.”

What’s New With Our Members (& Friends)


Happy Birthday to:

 *DeeDee Wacksman - September 2*


 *Scott Irving - September 9*

 *Sari Greene - September 11*

Happy Anniversary to:

 *John & Sue LoBosco - August 31*

 *Rick & Diane Dobson - September 6*

 *Dan & Edie Davison - September 15*

Congratulations to Marge on winning a gift certificate to Willows!

Greetings to our club and especially District Governor Emma from RI President Francisco Arezzo! Mike McGovern made a video of President Francisco sending his greetings which was shown at our meeting this week.

Flight to End Polio – Two years ago I was fascinated by the journey of two pilots from Iowa who flew around the world in order to raise money for polio eradication. I gave updates in the bulletin about their progress and be forewarned – I’ll be doing that again. Tomorrow one of the pilots (Peter) will be taking off with a different co-pilot to make a circuit of the Atlantic Ocean, again to raise money for polio. They are scheduled to return to the US on October 5, when they would land in Portsmouth if the weather cooperate for the next month. Stay tuned for details on a welcome reception in early October. The pilots are known for surprising listeners when they answered “no” when asked if they hoped that polio would be eradicated. But they went on to explain that they don’t hope that it will be eradicated – they BELIEVE it will be eradicated!

Help Wanted – Here’s an easy lift and an opportunity to help your club. We will be doing a hands on service project with Habitat for Humanity in October or November, and Community Service Co-Director Sari is looking for a volunteer to be the coordinator for this event. Please contact Sari for more details.

P.s. Speaking of Sari, as many of you are aware, Sari has joined a Rotary club in her new community in Florida. And naturally they recognized her talents and she is already the Community Service Director in that club. But Sari did not want to leave us in the lurch and she has offered to stay on as co-director of Community Service in our club. THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY, SARI!

Dan’s Bicycle Story – If you are a member of our club, you already received an email from Dan McDonald about the bicycle that was provided to an SMCC student due to the collective efforts of many of our club members, Dan’s church and the girl’s interpreter. The email made my day so it bears repeating. Dan and his New Mainer client went to Gear Hub last Thursday afternoon to shop for a bike for her. She found a used LLBean 21-speed bike, the right size, priced one-third off because of a back-to-school promotion. She had never ridden a bike before.

In response to Dan’s email about a New Mainer needing a bicycle to commute to SMCC, and another New Mainer needing \$550 to file for a work permit, nineteen of our members responded, some offering even more than the Peter Cotter \$50 community benefit dollars. The bike and necessities cost \$611.50 and the work permit fee is \$550, for a total of \$1,161.50. The total pledged from all parties was \$383.50 more than was needed (so Dan proposed a plan for reducing the funds from the various parties involved).

According to Dan, there are two New Mainers who are very grateful.



Ten “Sparks” – This week our District Governor Emma Bodwell made her official visit to our club. Emma is already quite familiar with our home at SMCC, having visited it several times when her daughter attended school there. Emma shared with us ten “sparks” to help motivate us as Rotarians and as a club.

1. Unite for Good. This is not just a slogan – it’s a call to action. Emma encourages us to check out President Francisco’s speech on this topic at the Calgary Convention.
2. The Power of Rotary (Emma gave more personal examples but just look at the story above about the bicycle as an example of the power of Rotary.)
3. Rotary is my Family. Anyone who has been in Rotary for a while can attest to the truth of this statement (and maybe even if you’re new to Rotary!)
4. The Stories We Tell – tell your stories boldly and proudly; let people know why Rotary matters.
5. Engagement Tracker – Emma has come up with a scheme for awarding points for various club accomplishments – Sari has agreed to be the scorekeeper for our club.
6. District Governor Initiatives Fund – Emma has included in the district budget three kinds of funds that clubs can apply for, all of which are aimed at newer Rotarians: Project Fair Scholarship, Local Project Seed Funding and International Project Seed Funding.
7. Membership Matters – consider inviting people into something that’s definitely worth their time.
8. The Power of Belonging – the feeling of belonging is what motivates people to remain in Rotary.
9. The Fun Factor – Emma was preaching to the choir on this one – our club already knows how to have fun, and that the more fun we have as a club, the more connected everyone will feel.
10. Beyond Your Club – Emma encouraged both “sharing out” (letting the district know about our successes) and “stepping up” (volunteering at the district level). She pointed out that companies pay thousands of dollars for leadership training but Rotary provides free leadership training!



**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 – Sari Greene & Nancy Hawes
International – Patty Sprague & Chris Speh
Membership – Scott Irving
Director-At-Large – Nancy Irving

Committee Chairs

Tree Sale – Matt McAleney
Program Chair – Chris Speh
Foundation Chair – Nicole Albert
Social Media - Matt McAleney
Publicity – Jim Britt
Web Administrator – Scott Irving
Bulletin Editor – Nancy Hawes
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

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