

TWO LIGHTS

**Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth
February 25, 2026
Special Olympics Edition**



Upcoming Dates:

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

March 11 – Club Business, including Yorkie Presentation!!!

March 18 – Maine League of Women Voters

March 21 - Lions Club Spaghetti Dinner, Lions Clubhouse, 1 Wheeler Road, Cape Elizabeth

March 24, 5:30 – Club Board meeting on Zoom (change of date)

March 25 – No Meeting

April 11 –Opportunity Workshop (f/k/a District Assembly)

April 7 – Opening Day at the Sea Dogs; first pitch at 4:00

May 15-16, 2026 – SPRINGFEST!

What's New With Our Members (& Friends)

Happy Birthday to

- ✿ Dick Yerxa - March 5
- ✿ Dan Mooers - March 11
- ✿ Dan McDonald - March 16
- ✿ Nancy Hawes - St. Patrick's Day
- ✿ Michael McGovern - also St. Patrick's Day

Happy Anniversary to

- ∞ Tom & Marti Meyers - March 9
- ∞ Jill & Mike Nadeau - March 14

Our profound condolences to Dick Yerxa on the passing of his wife (of nearly 64 years) Priscilla.

The entire contents of this bulletin is a report on the Special Olympics that some of our members volunteered at on Wednesday, written by Tom Meyers who coordinated our volunteer effort.

Once again the athletes at this year's Winter Special Olympics were nothing less than inspirational in their universal dedication to not only their respective sports, but more importantly to each other. The spirit of camaraderie, friendship, and good sportsmanship was ever present. And they had a lot of fun! It was a perfect day on the courses, with a gentle snow falling almost the entire day making for ideal racing conditions.

While many participants were seasoned athletes and had been training, others struggled. Regardless of ability, what they ALL did for each other - EVERYONE - was cheer wildly for whoever was on the course, offering whistles, hoots, and encouragement to finish the race regardless of time. SMILES and feelings of pride and accomplishment - including exhaustion - were consistently evident at the finish line.

The ten Club members who made the trek to Quarry Road Trails in Waterville were quickly identified as seasoned volunteers and were assigned many critical tasks. Laurenz was an important cog at the registration desk. His good humor and calm approach helped in a space that can be a bit hectic. He and Marge also became part of the cocoa making team that required a bit of resourcefulness.



The timing crew of Peter, Jeff, Mike, Phil, and Tom were multi-taskers, first timing the longer 200 meter snowshoe races, and then later the 400 meters. In between races, they happened to be standing in the right place at the right time when the truck load of lunches was delivered. With trained initiative (that is, nobody else had any idea what to do), they opened a "rear entrance" in the huge tent, helped unload the truck, procured another table, and essentially set the area up. Later, the experienced timers were asked to cover the finals of the snowshoe races which included more than one photo finish. Fast paced and intense. Thankfully, Marge was on hand to ensure they didn't screw it up.



The noontime crew of Adrienne, Sue, and John took over Laurenz' duties and continued to keep the hot cocoa and beverages ready to go as well as passing out the bag lunches and snacks. Turkey or Ham?



The award ceremonies were so much fun to watch. Again, there was a lot of cheering and smiling as local law enforcement officers placed medals and ribbons around athletes' necks. Everyone was a winner in each other's eyes.



As an aside, several of us noted how different it was to simply be volunteers. That is, no planning, very little organizing, no setup, no cleanup. All we had to do was show up and be told what to do! And of course step in and show a little initiative to make things easier for the Special Olympics staff. I would be remiss not to mention that the instigator of our involvement feels truly terrible for not being able to be there. Ray Healey was stranded in Naples Florida due to the storms.

**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

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