

TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth

October 1, 2025

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MONTH!



Upcoming Dates:

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

October 4, 11-1 – reception to welcome “Flight to End Polio” pilots back in the US at Port City Ait (Pease Airbase)

October 8 – Internal Club Business

October 15 – Jayne Van Bramer, Sweetser and Mental Health Challenges

October 22 – NO MEETING

October 25, 9-12 – “Unite the Spark,” District Membership Connection Summit at South Portland Middle School

October 29 – Rich Wayman Hooks, Volunteers of America, Northern New England (VOANNE)

October 8 Duties

Opening Words – Callahan

Raffle Gift – Lohrman

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

Owl – please [sign up](#)

October 15 Duties

Opening Words – Cotter

Raffle Gift – LoBosco

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

Owl – please [sign up](#)

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

Opening Words – Jim Britt shared some musings on what makes Rotary unique, and he believes it's the two prongs of fellowship and service. He went on to remind us that things that may feel small add up to something much bigger.

What's New With Our Members (& Friends)

Happy Birthday to

🍰 Jeff Gabrielson - October 9

🍰 Brent Wilson - also October 9

Happy 5th Anniversary to Sam & Kiley Wilkens-O'Brien on October 10!

Jim Britt, who has had to prioritise elements of his life lately, was rewarded for coming back to Rotary by winning the raffle! A Scratch gift certificate donated by President Peter.

October Rotaversaries

🌀 Jim Britt - 12 years

🌀 Nancy Irving - 15 years

🌀 Mike Tranfaglia - 16 years

🌀 Sybil Riemensnider - 17 years

🌀 Nancy Hawes - 34 years

🌀 Mike McGovern - 39 years

🌀 Tony Wagner - 43 years

Guests – Jaymie Chamberlin got out of the house following foot surgery to join us because of her interest in the speaker. Michael Dickel joined us again with his wife Kim – on their anniversary! We were also surprised and delighted to see our old friend Anamaria Gonzalez on Zoom!

SMCC Alerts – The recent event at SMCC (no one was hurt, I should lead with that!) led Tiffanie to realize that as frequent visitors to the campus, it would probably be helpful if we received SMCC Emergency and Closure Alerts. Anyone can receive them by texting:

SMCCMEOPTIN
To **226787**

This will be especially helpful in the winter if the campus is closed due to a snowstorm.

Our Charter First Lady – We learned recently that our charter first lady, Mary Kilroy, had passed away (at the age of 102!). Mary’s husband Dick was the first president of our club. Here is what the “Brief History” of our club on the club website says about the initial formation of the club:

“The club was “conceived” by Bill Kilroy in 1954. Bill was then president of the Rumford club. His brother Dick helped. The club was actually formed in late 1961 and Dick Kilroy became its first president, with Bill Kilroy as VP and Dick Jordan as Treasurer. The second year the president was Warren Simpson.”

The brief history later mentions that in year 2 the club held its first Ladies Night. You can be sure that Mary Kilroy was involved in that, as she was in many other Rotary-related activities – her obituary even mentions that she was active with the Women of Rotary. She was a faithful attendee at the lobsterbake for many years after Dick passed away and it was always a treat to see her there.

I like this photo that I found on our club website in the “50th Pictures” album; it’s listed under Photo Journals on our home page. You might find it amusing to view the slideshow – this is photo #32 out of 115. (Captions are down on the bottom left if you watch it as a slideshow.) Here is Mary, who was obviously an honored guest at our 50th anniversary, enjoying a joke with Diane and Bill York.



The Family Restored – Tony introduced our speaker this week, Eric Girard, the Executive Director and one of the founders of The Family Restored. Eric told us about his personal struggles with addiction and the joys that sobriety have brought to his life (i.e. his kids!). Originally from Massachusetts, he moved to Maine in 2007 where he graduated from SMCC; he is now a Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor. He said that the organization got off to a slow start in 2011 but now they have awarded treatment scholarships to almost 1000 people, to the tune of \$1.2 million. Their primary purpose however, as the name suggests, is to provide support to the families. They currently assist 150 families every week and meet in person in 4 Maine locations (Portland, South Portland, Falmouth, Fryeburg) as well as in Massachusetts and New Hampshire and of course virtually. The meetings are open to everyone, no matter where they live. And for anyone wanting to attend a meeting via zoom, their website has an email address that people can use to request receiving the zoom link.

Commissioner Luddite?? – For those of you not at last week’s meeting and not participating in the Foundation football pool, our Commissioner discouraged people from using AI to make their football picks. In response this week, last week’s winner Laurenz suggested that the man who has a nickname for everyone should have one himself – “Chuck the Luddite.” And the Luddite won the pool this week!! He also announced the official tally, which of course is what it’s really all about - \$5,475 (when the Gates match is factored in) for polio eradication!!

Welcome Renee! – Thanks to Nancy Irving staying fit at the Cape Community Center, we have a new member! Renee Burch lives in Cape Elizabeth now but before that she lived in London for 19 years – and also briefly in Hong Kong. The main thing you’re probably wondering about her is what team she roots for – she’s a Bills fan, having grown up in Syracuse. She was a speech-language pathologist for many years but now she is a realtor for Sotheby’s. She has 3 kids – a freshman at UPenn and two kids at CE High School (which is why she had to scoot out a few minutes early this week). Her bio says that “my family has a history of being part of service organizations and I look forward to carrying that tradition on” – we look forward to carrying it on with you, Renee!



**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 – Kathy Cotter & Mike Tranfaglia
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

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