

TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth

October 15, 2025

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MONTH!



Upcoming Dates:

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

October 21, 5:30 – Board meeting, via Zoom

October 21, 7:30 – Zone Orientation session for new members (but open to all!) via zoom; here is the link to join: <https://bit.ly/NewMembersZones2832>

October 22 – NO MEETING

October 23, 5ish – South Portland Food Cupboard food processing.

October 24 – **WORLD POLIO DAY**

October 24 – Smiles for Sweetser Comedy Show at Italian Heritage Center

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 30, 5:00 – Finance Committee meeting via Zoom

November 5 – Mattie Simas

November 22 – Tree Lot Setup

November 28 – First tree delivery; tree sale starts

October 29 Duties

Opening Words – Danielson

Raffle Gift – Lourie

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

Owl – please [sign up](#)

November 5 Duties

Opening Words – Danois

Raffle Gift – McAleney

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

Owl – please [sign up](#)


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

Opening Words – Kathy Cotter opened the meeting with a Rotary invocation penned by Chat Campbell of the Rotary Club of Redondo Beach, California.

I give thanks for the opportunity to be a Rotarian
Rotarians dig wells from which we will never drink
We vaccinate children we will never meet
We restore eyesight for those we will never see
We build housing we will never live in
We educate children we will never know
We plant trees we will never sit under
We feed hungry people regardless of race or politics
We know real happiness, which as Albert Schweitzer once said,
Can only be found by helping others.
For this opportunity, we give thanks...

What's New With Our Members (& Friends)

Happy Birthday to

 *JD Dobson - October 24*

 *Phil Dube - October 28*

Get well wishes to Jeff Gabrielson who has been under the weather.

In case you have Bob Knupp's email address in your contacts, it has changed - new email address is rknuppq7@yahoo.com

Guests – We were happy to have Michael Dickel join us again!

Quiz – What is the tollfree number that people can call when they are having a mental health crisis?

Football Pool Week 6 – Four people tied with 10 correct picks going into the Monday night game (Bob Danielson, John LoBosco, Peter Bennett and Adrienne Murphy) and they remained tied on Tuesday morning after they all pick losing teams for Monday. Front Porch – aka John LoBosco – won on the tie breaker.



Sweetser – Our speaker this week was Jayne Van Bramer, President & CEO of Sweetser. Sweetser is a behavioral health nonprofit that provides evidence-based treatment, support & hope through a statewide network of community-based mental health, recovery & educational services, which has been in existence for over 200 years. Jayne was quite proud that Sweetser had answered over 30,000 calls last year on their peer support line, which is free and provides an opportunity to speak with someone who has recovered from substance abuse and/or a mental health issue. Sweetser also responds by deploying staff to people call on the mental health crisis line. (And the number if you didn't know the answer to the quiz above is 988.) Among Sweetser's wide range of services is the construction of Maine's first Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility in Saco, hopefully opening in 2026 which will allow Maine's most at-risk youth to be treated right here in Maine.



Rotary Dad Joke – Laurenz commented that Nicole Albert must be an amateur ornithologist – how does he know? Because she’s always handling the Owl! (And by the way thank you to Phil, Nicole, Mike T & Scott who routinely fulfill the meeting setup and Owl duties.)

I attended the reception for the Flight to End Polio pilots at Pease on October 4 and wrote this for the District Newsletter. But since it’s World Polio Day next week, here is a preview of the article.

Believe! – Not in Santa Claus or in the Polar Express, but that we will eradicate polio! That has been the message that Iowa Rotarian Peter Teahen, along with New Jersey Rotarian Ed Galkin have been spreading as they flew around the Atlantic Ocean. We were their last stop before heading home and they spoke to District 7780 Rotarians whose schedules were able to accommodate the last-minute date change. Past Foundation trustee Brenda Cressey welcomed the pilots and reminded us that when we hear about “cases” that each case is a child who has been afflicted with polio.

You would probably never guess from the photo but Ed is 89 ½ years old and holds a record as the oldest pilot to fly around the world (he’s done it 4 times for other nonprofits!) and he added 2 new records on this trip – oldest pilot to fly east across the Atlantic and then flying west across the Atlantic. They also set a speed record on this trip as the fastest flight between the Azores and Newfoundland. (However they hold the record because they’re the only ones who have ever bothered to formally record a speed between the Azores and Newfoundland!)

This was Peter’s second flight to raise funds and awareness for polio eradication and we heard about his ordeal on the first trip. He was hospitalized three times with an illness that was undiagnosed for quite a while and his family and friends, fearing for his life, were pleading with him to come home. But he **believed** in the mission and he stuck with it. He gave a lot of credit to the Fellowship of Flying Rotarians who checked on him every day when he was in the hospital.

Peter described the two of them as “carnival hawkers” who will talk to anyone and everyone about polio. After the trip around the world they spoke at 156 events telling their story and urging people to support the campaign to eradicate polio. A pivotal story that Peter always tells is about being asked in an interview in Pakistan whether he hoped that polio would be eradicated. He said no, he doesn’t have hope that it will be eradicated. But then he went on to tell his stunned audience that he BELIEVES that polio will be eradicated.



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

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

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Club Administration – Bev Altenburg
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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

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Francesco Arezzo, Rotary Club of Ragusa, Italy

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