

TWO LIGHTS

**Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth
October 22, 2025**

WORLD POLIO DAY EDITION



Upcoming Dates:

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

November 5 – Mattie Simas

November 12 – Club Assembly – mainly focused on preparation for tree sale

November 12 - Community Grant Committee meeting following the club meeting. This is an ad hoc committee – anyone can participate on a meeting by meeting basis – no commitment involved.

November 18, 5:30 – Board meeting

November 19 – Sam Wilkens-O'Brien “Classification Talk” (i.e. what he does in his professional life)

November 22 – Tree Lot Setup

November 26 – NO MEETING

November 28 – First tree delivery; tree sale starts

Football Pool Week 7 – According to the Commissioner, our El Presidente (*Peter Bennett*) is king of Foundation Football this week with a nearly perfect score! 13 out of 14! Beverly Hills (*Bev Altenburg*), Brown It's Down (*Bill Anderson*), and Welcome Back (*Kathy Cotter*) all had solid weeks with 12 winners.

Speaking of the Yorkie... - The guest speaker at this week's meeting of the Cardiff Bay Rotary club was the chair of RI's PolioPlus Committee, Michael McGovern. He was introduced by his friend Bill York. The presentation about polio was very informative; here are a couple key points that I jotted down:

- Last year kids were immunized against polio nearly one billion times! That's actually 467 million kids, most of them immunized more than once (the goal is to immunize each kid 3 times)
- The cost for full immunization (i.e. 3 times) is \$3/child.
- Since its campaign to eradicate polio began, Rotary has spent \$3 billion towards achieving this goal.
- There is a projected 30% decrease in overall funding for polio eradication next year.
- Spikes in polio cases in Pakistan occur following national elections – because everyone in charge of the public health program is replaced. So it's urgent that the polio cases dwindle to zero before their next election.
- A quote from Bill Gates: “Rotary continues to be the heart and soul of polio eradication.”
- Bill York has become a fan of Cardiff City Football Club.
- To Cardiffians (is that what they're called?), a Yorkie is a chocolate bar. (*Note to Commissioner Chuck, maybe in addition to a gold jacket, the football pool winner should be awarded chocolate??*)



Rotary's Moonshot: Eradicating Polio – President Peter and Bob Knupp both called our attention to the October edition of the Rotary magazine and buried in the small print was the fact that Mike McGovern was interviewed by NPR's Scott Simon for a Rotary Voices podcast in August called “Polio Eradication is ‘Our Moonshot.’”

Here is the link to that particular podcast but if that doesn't work for you, you can also go to [on.rotary.org/podcast](https://www.rotary.org/podcast) and look for the Moonshot podcast (it's not at the top of the list). It's 35 minutes long – Mike is introduced at 8 ½ minutes in (our club is mentioned at minute 9) and speaks until about minute 20.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nVLrH5TLwEc&list=PLGukUvNU_i3KO9VoBOH58Xki33fRwCo8S&index=4

Lyric Theater Windows – A couple weeks ago I included photos of the stained glass windows at Lyric Theater, but I didn't have the photo of the plaque. Fortunately Sari included it in her Community Service report for the board meeting last night so now I can share it with you. Our club donated \$2,500 towards the cost of restoring the original windows. As Sari said, "This was more than an artistic endeavor (although they are beautiful) – the windows were broken and literally allowed snow, ice, rain, and cold air into the building."



More Evidence of Our Impact – Early in the summer we received an urgent request from the Boys & Girls Club because they had lost funding to provide meals and snacks to kids during their summer program. Our club of course agreed to help them out and Sari's report included this note of thanks from them: "This summer, with your support, we were able to provide breakfast, lunch, and a daily snack to 45 kids from South Portland – that's a total of 3,600 meals and 1,800 snacks!"

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

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