

TWO LIGHTS

**Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth
September 16, 2026**



Upcoming Dates:

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

September 23 – NO MEETING

September 24, 5:00 (or when you can get there) – South Portland Food Cupboard (behind Staples)

September 26, 9-10:30 – Coastal Cleanup at Bug Light Park (see flyer)

September 30 – Archie, the Portland Police Department “Comfort” Dog

October 7 – Adam & Kim Perron, Unified Sports in South Portland Schools

October 14 – Renee Brouse, ShelterBox

October 17, 1:00 (program starts at 2) – District Foundation Celebration at Port City Air, Portsmouth (see Tom Talbott email)

October 20, 5:30 – *Club Board Meeting originally scheduled for this day will be re-scheduled due to Laurenz's travel schedule*

October 21 – Henry Frank, LifeFlight of Maine

October 28 – NO MEETING

October 29-30, 5:30, Hannaford Hall at USM – Sports Diplomacy and the Power of Game; World Affairs Council of Maine 2026 Fall Foreign Policy Forum – mentioned by our speaker on September 9. See WACMaine website for more information and to register (free).

September 30 Duties

Opening Words – Wacksman
Raffle Gift – Butterworth

October 7 Duties

Opening Words – Wagner
Raffle Gift – Callahan

Meeting Setup Reminder: Locker Combination is **26-8-30**

Opening Words – Nicole read the opening words sent in by Mike Tranfaglia, who wasn't able to be at the meeting (I'm not sure how much of this is Joe Primo and how much is Mike T):

Some Thoughts on Aging, Gratitude and the Rotarian Viewpoint
Some thoughts on aging (from Joe Primo @ grateful.org)

Aging when we stop treating it as a problem to be solved or an experience that can be overcome with hacks, can become one of the most spiritually rich seasons available to us, but that requires our embrace of it rather than our resistance.

Our approach to aging and the values we bring to it are strengthened by living gratefully in every season. Grateful aging helps us to “treat aging as an opportunity rather than something to resist”. We see that aging is not something to overcome, but a part of our ongoing becoming and understanding. We learn that we always have an opportunity to put our values into practice and to choose love, kindness, and appreciation in all that we do and in each relationship.

When we are young, we often focus on what we want to acquire or achieve. But as the years pass and we gain a mature perspective, a quiet shift happens. We stop looking at what is missing, and we begin to look with deep appreciation at what is already there. A mature attitude toward aging isn't about looking backward; it is about looking around us with immense gratitude. It is realizing that every year lived is a gift, and every bit of hard-won wisdom is an opportunity to leave this world a little better than we found it.

Rotary lives in this space. Our shared maturity allows us to look past ourselves and focus on Service Above Self. We are grateful for the lives we've lived and the fellowship in this club, and we choose to channel that gratitude into lifting up others. Thank you for being here.

What's New With Our Members (& Friends)

Happy Birthday to

- 🍰 Renee Burch - September 26
- 🍰 Rin Cox - also on September 26!
- 🍰 Frank Butterworth - October 1

NEW MEETING START TIME – LAURENZ ANNOUNCED THAT ABSENT ANY OBJECTIONS, OUR MEETINGS WILL BE STARTING AT 6:15 RATHER THAN 6:00 (*And there don't seem to be any objections so far – this will allow us time to set up the meeting room since we do not have access to the classroom until 5:45*)

Guests this week – we were joined by three guests this week:

- 🌀 Our Assistant Governor Julie Forbes
- 🌀 Peter Dunphy of Cape Elizabeth, who is a friend of Jim Britt and is a finish carpenter and musician (I googled how to spell his name and learned that he is one of the best carpenters in Maine)
- 🌀 Robert Stockwell, who grew up in Cape Elizabeth but has spent the last 28 years in Spain in the tortilla business. He founded a Rotary club there and presented our club with their banner.



The Rest of the Story(boards) – After sending out last week's bulletin, I discovered that the storyboards about Bug Light are the result of last year's Bug Light 150th anniversary celebration. Sue Sturtevant collaborated with the SP Recreation and Parks Dept. to create these fun posters!

Founding Father Wins! – After enlightening us with some lighthouse trivia, Commissioner Chuck announced that the Foundation Football Founding Father Bill York was the first week winner, followed by Marge in 2nd place and Laurenz (and AI) in 3rd place.

Why Science? In appreciation of President Laurenz’s meticulously prepared presentation about renewable energy a couple weeks ago, the football commissioner presented him with a t-shirt suitable for his profession (it says “SCIENCE because figuring things out is better than making stuff up”).



Tree Sale Considerations – Our meeting this week consisted of several thoughts about the tree sale shared by President Laurenz, tree sale co-chairs Nicole and Maggie, and several members in attendance. The tree sale committee will be following up on some of these suggestions to see if they should be incorporated into our procedures. Stay tuned for more updates as we get closer to November 27.

South Portland Food Cupboard – The next work party is coming right up (Thursday, 9/24) and here are a few photos from last month’s work session (which was only 45 minutes!). I wasn’t able to get photos of everyone but there was a good turnout. The new location is quite spacious and gives ample credit to its founder Sybil and to her motto.



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

Officers

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

Directors

Club Administration – *vacant*
Youth Services – Ray Healey & John LoBosco
Community Services – Nancy Hawes & Tom Meyers
International – Patty Sprague & Chris Speh
Membership – Bob Danielson
Director-At-Large – Peter Bennett

Committee Chairs

Tree Sale – Nicole Albert & Maggie Williams
SpringFest – Marge Dugan
Program Chairs – Marge Dugan (1st half) & Bob Flynn (2nd half)
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

Michele Bois-Gilbody, Rotary Club of Freeport

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Olayinka Hakeem Babalola, Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria

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