

# Rotary

Club of South Portland-  
Cape Elizabeth



## **What is Rotary?**

Rotary, the world's first service club organization was founded in Chicago in 1905 and quickly expanded around the globe. Rotary is now made up of over 1.2 million members in 34,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas. Rotary's membership is comprised of men and woman whose motto, "Service Above Self", is reflected in local community as well as global projects. Rotary also has programs for youth interested in serving their communities.

## **How is Rotary structured?**

- Rotary International (RI): This is the association of Rotary clubs throughout the world. The international headquarters is in Evanston, Illinois. RI and its charitable arm, the Rotary Foundation, set standards for membership; design, fund and implement Rotary projects worldwide; and fund and implement youth programs, including scholarship programs and group study exchange programs. Two of our club's members have served on the RI Board.
- Rotary Districts: RI has more than 530 Districts throughout the world. Our district has 40 clubs and more than 2,000 members in Southern Maine, and coastal New Hampshire. The District has its own Board of Directors and Committees. Our club has members who have served and will be serving at the District level.
- Rotary Clubs: Individual community clubs with their own elected Board of Directors and committees. Clubs focus primarily on service and projects within their communities.

All Rotary clubs share a key mission: to serve their community and those in need throughout the world. Eradicating polio remains Rotary's primary global effort. The Polio Plus program has provided funding for mass immunizations and educational and training programs in this effort. Along with matching

funding from the Gates Foundation, Rotarians have raised almost \$1 billion worldwide and provided thousands of volunteer hours toward this goal. RI also partners with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Over two billion children under five have received polio vaccine and the number of polio cases has declined by 99 percent worldwide.

To find out more about Rotary International go to: [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org).

### **Rotary Club of South Portland/Cape Elizabeth**

Our club is comprised of over 60 men and women of varying ages and backgrounds. The one thing we all have in common is a commitment to service and community. Our Club has over 50 years of service to the South Portland and Cape Elizabeth communities.

Our weekly meetings are the cornerstone of our club and allow for fellowship, sharing of ideas and information and networking. We meet Wednesday evening at the Purpoodock Club, 300 Spurwink Ave., Cape Elizabeth. Dinner is served at 6:15 pm, followed by a short business meeting during which we make announcements and update ongoing club projects. We usually have a guest speaker each week covering a wide range of topics of interest to members.

Most of the real work of the club occurs outside of our weekly meetings. To quote our former District governor Ann Lee Hussey, "Rotary is a verb and not a noun". There are many opportunities for service and volunteering with our club throughout the year.

- We have committees that offer various opportunities to utilize the individual talents and interests of our members.
- Successful projects have included Crutches for Africa, School Supplies for Iraqi School Children, monthly dinner service evenings at Preble Street, ongoing maintenance, clean up and tours at Bug Light, Family Fun Day planning, funding and construction of a new skating shelter at Mill Creek Park, funding for the design of the Children's Garden at Ft. Williams, & the Homeless Veterans' Initiative.
- The annual Christmas Tree Sale at Mill Creek Park, going strong since 1962, is our biggest fundraiser of the year. All members volunteer to make this event a financial success and fun for the whole community.

Proceeds from this event have gone toward scholarships, local food pantries, youth literacy, and many other community efforts.

- We host a Theater Night at Portland Players to raise additional money for scholarships.
- Our second annual Spring Point Classic 5K race was held in July with this year's proceeds benefited homeless veterans.
- We are partnering with the City of South Portland, in hosting WinterFest. We will again partner with the City of South Portland in hosting WinterFest 2015. This free, fun event will have many outdoor activities on Friday evening, January 30<sup>th</sup> at Mill Creek Park and all day January 31<sup>st</sup> at Wainwright Field Recreational Complex in South Portland - home of a brand new ice skating rink - thanks to the generosity of one of our sponsors.

In addition to all of these activities, we find lots of time for fun and camaraderie!

We always welcome new members who share a commitment to service and community to join our club.

### **Would you like to attend a meeting?**

Would you like to attend a dinner meeting as our guest to see who we are and what we are about? Contact our Membership director at [membership@sp-ce-rotary.org](mailto:membership@sp-ce-rotary.org) or go to our website [sp-ce-rotary.org](http://sp-ce-rotary.org), click on "Membership", then "Interested in Becoming a Member?", and press "[New Member Information Request](#)".

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