



Letter from the President – Ferolyn Curtis – 2021-2022

Dear Fellow Rotarians of Rockland Rotary,

As a four-year member of the Rockland Rotary Club and International Committee chair, it continues to be my honor and privilege to serve as the 98th President of Rockland Rotary during the 2021-2022 year. We continue to face challenging circumstances due to the Covid-19 global pandemic. However, our club is one of the few that makes use of the hybrid model of in-person and virtual meetings to continue our mission.

Despite the pandemic, our club has been very engaged in our local community with many incredible service events. Locally, so far this year, our club has been involved in several projects. For example, we raised money for local high school scholarships, sponsored high-turnout blood drives, provided food for the Knox County Homeless Coalition, packed nutritious meals for Meals of Hope, built window inserts for Window-Dressers, provided personal care items for One-Less-Worry, collected donations for the Salvation Army Red Kettle bell ringing, and provided gifts for the Salvation Army Angel Tree. We partnered with the City of Rockland in hosting a Community Picnic, hosted our annual Marcell LaCasse Memorial Golf Tournament, and had a Rotary holiday float in the community Festival of Lights parade. Currently, we are partnering with the Bass Fishing Federation for our next fundraiser. We are accepting applications for our Benefactions grants and for local high school scholarship recipients for the school year 2022-2023.

Internationally, Rockland Rotary will continue its support of students at Qholaqhoe High School in remote Lesotho, by supporting two students in South Africa this year. We have been a supporter of Qholaqhoe Mountain Connections (QMC) over the past 13 years. During the past five years our club has provided scholarship aid to Neo Lekoro since 8th grade through his graduation from high school this past August. Our club showed strong support of the District Governor's International project by contributing \$5,000. This year, DG Doug Curtis, Jr.'s project will be on the Environment. Additionally, our club generously supported the Rotary Foundation's global quest to eradicate polio throughout the world by exceeding our goal of \$1,500. Our club is supporting a Missionary project by collecting over-the-counter medications, bandages, and vitamins for impoverished people in Cuba.

Each week we engage a community speaker who keeps our members and guests informed. Our weekly 50/50 Card Raffle has become quite a success as members buy tickets in the hopes of a chance to draw the lucky “Joker” from the deck. If you don’t draw the Joker, no worries. Our members give you a hardy clap and cheer as the money rolls over to the next week’s drawing.

As we look to the future, our club’s By-laws and Strategic Plan have been revised and updated. Our club is creating a Rockland Rotary Club (RRC) Endowment Fund to invest and earn money for the future. Preparations are underway for our Rockland Rotary’s 100th year celebration in 2023-2024. A campaign is underway to seek funds to create a community Inclusive Playground for children and adults at the MacDougal Park. This park will be only the third playground in the State of Maine to incorporate inclusive playground equipment. Our project’s goal is to create a safe place for active, imaginative, and free play to enrich the social, emotional, and physical development for all children and adults. As we prepare for our Centennial Celebration, please pledge your support so the Rockland Rotary can positively impact our local community.

Together, we are making a difference locally and globally. I want to thank the members of the Rockland Rotary Club for your dedication and for contributing your time, talents, and treasures to support our mission of “Service Above Self”. I truly look forward to continuing to work with you this Rotary year.

Ferolyn J. Curtis

President 2021-2022