



## Aug. 17, 2022 – Broadway & Zoom Meeting, 12:15

President Megan K. welcomed members, guests, and speakers to the greatest Rotary in the universe!

**Thank You:** Marion and Harry for lunch pick-up.

**Program: Back to School and More!**  
**Betsey Andrews Parker and Gregg Dowty**

Betsey opened the program with a 20-year History of the Back to School Program, recalling how she encouraged Rotarians to contribute time, school supplies and/or money to provide back packs and supplies for up to 50 students (Woodman Park) enrolled in the Seymour Osman Community Center After School Program. Last year, a few members asked if we could expand this program to students in the other elementary schools. As a result, the Back to School Committee began efforts to determine the needs and possibilities of expanding our programs for kids. As she noted, “Our club has always valued education.”

Gregg took up the “Moving Forward” portion of the presentation emphasizing the need to follow a project management structure for this “big task” that will potentially extend current programs, explore new projects and encourage learning initiatives within the Dover School district. The key, he noted, will be to partner with specific people in the schools “to get a better handle on what kids need.” The committee’s efforts will focus on fellowship opportunities, recalling (as Phil mentioned) the interactions and fun of packing school supplies. Regarding budget, Gregg said this was the first time in his 42-year career in education that budget was not an issue thanks to Bingo revenue.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

#### Meetings:

**Aug. 24** – Molly Hodgson, CEO GoodWork

**Together on Tuesday – 5:30 pm - Aug. 23:** Picnic on the Patio, Gregg D.’s home, 31 Bittersweet Lane, So. Berwick

**Pledge: Ron R.**

**4-way test:** Frank C.

**Rotary Moment:** Marion C. will be DG next year and is planning the District Conference for May 2024 – all ideas are welcome!

*Today’s newsletter authored by Noreen B.*

Several items were discussed at the Board of Directors meeting on Aug. 16 relative to current programs. Although the Back-to-School program is being revamped, the board agreed to continue to support the students currently enrolled in the SOCC After School Program with gift cards of \$100 or more per student based on the number needed. The Shoe and Boot program is continuing with Mike Rennebu as the contact. Gregg noted the current \$45 per voucher may need to be increased. The Dover Children's Home requested funds to purchase new sneakers (\$65) for seven kids. Gregg also mentioned the Committee is open to any member interested in an opportunity to make a difference.

#### Club discussion

Several members asked about how we can integrate our other programs, i.e., Vocational Tools & Training Grant, Milk & Egg into this initiative and how we can help in other ways: help kids pay for sports/acitivities at the Rec Center, buy prom dresses, pay for laundry detergent, hygiene products, driver's ed training and more.

Cate thanked the committee for its efforts. She loved the idea of the vision of education excellence, the fellowship opportunities, the needs assessment process, the adapt-and-change approach and "I love it because it is BIG."

Betsey noted the most important thing is to begin the conversation. "It will be hard to decide what we can and what we can't do." Gregg added, "We need to determine what is reasonable and sustainable."

Gregg asked for a Vote of Confidence regarding the "Moving Forward" components. Ute L. moved, Ron R. second. All in favor.

Questions were raised about the method to purchase gift cards. In the past gift cards have been purchased through a fundraising program with St. Mary Academy. Several suggestions were made to explore obtaining a club credit card that offers a discount. Frank C. expressed concerns that the gift cards are used correctly. Gregg noted a small risk exists but the believes the vast majority of parents "try to do the right thing."

#### **Announcements:**

**Bingo:** Last week sold 25 boxes. Need more help this week – contact Ken Plante.

**Crutches for Africa Project:** Help needed to pack containers on **Aug. 27, 9 am**, Old Orchard Beach. **Contact Dennis at 207-468-0443.**

**Thank you** from Granite State United Way for \$5,000 match donation for our club's Ukraine Relief

**Photo OP:** Join other Rotarians for a photo at the Dover Softball Field to celebrate our support – **Friday, Aug. 19, 3:30 pm.**

**Garden Update:** Noreen B. thanked Cathy B. and Melissa L. for garden cleanup last week.

**Shred-it: DATE CHANGE** – Old date: Sept. 10, new date Sat., Oct. 8, 8:30 set-up, 9 - noon at St. John's

**Together on Tuesday** – Aug. 23, 5:30, Gregg D's home at 31 Bittersweet Lane, So. Berwick – he will provide tents, appetizers, beer and wine, soft drinks and some chairs. Additional dishes and more chairs welcome. South Berwick/Eliot Rotary invited.

**Apple Harvest Day** – Phil R. reminded members of our Rotary Tent, Interact participation and all ideas welcome.

**Thank you** – Marion C. thanked all members who read to students this summer at Garrison School. **Coming soon:** Dictionary distribution for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and Thesaurus distribution for 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

### Happy Bucks

- **Jay S.** for babysitting vacation two weeks ago with 5 grandchildren, for his 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest granddaughter taking care of everyone and his oldest granddaughter for completing her 40-hour practice driving while they traveled every day to grocery stores
- **Frank C.** for 79<sup>th</sup> birthday – Happy Day!!!
- **Ute L.** for Ron R. surviving his dog take down
- **Tom D.** for 50 years of service recognition by the NH Supreme Court
- **Peter W.** for Frank C. birthday noting Frank is currently the longest serving Rotarian in Dover

**50/50 drawing raffle winner** – Megan K. drew the wrong card – the pot grows!!!

#### August Birthdays:

Marion C.	Aug. 2
Michael C.	Aug. 5
Sheila T.	Aug. 8
Rob R.	Aug. 10
Frank C.	Aug. 17

#### August Anniversaries:

Nancy B.	29 years
Melissa L.	15 years
Stacey K.	6 years