



BING



The Newsletter of the

Rotary Club of Dover, NH since 1924

Zoom Meetings: Wednesdays at 12:00 pm

June 9, 2021 - Zoom Meeting

Program: Dennis Robillard: Crutches 4 Africa

Bio: Dennis grew up in South Hadley, MA, graduated from UMASS, Amherst, moved to Maine in 1976, became the District Manager for a Burger King franchisee, then entered the insurance and employee benefits field. He joined the Rotary Club of Saco Bay in 1990 and was president in 2009-10. In 2015 he helped start the RC of Saco Bay Sunset which was chartered March 1, 2016 and became the first president. Dennis, since 2010 has been the district chair of the Crutches 4 Africa which has sent 10 forty-foot containers of mobility devices to developing countries. In 2018 his wife Mary Beth and Dennis started a medical loan closet in conjunction with the club. Mary Beth and Dennis are major Foundation donors. They have three children all of whom went to RYLA, Paul (deceased), Brian (member of RC of Saco Bay) and Nicole (member of RC of Saco Bay Sunset).

Crutches 4 Africa started in 2005 by Dave Talbot who was in Uganda for work. He was not a Rotarian at the time, is now. Met a woman who hobbled because her right foot touched her right folder, due to polio. Dave is a survivor of polio as well.

From a dream he was called to get devices to Africa. Started with "buddy transport" – adding devices to other scheduled cargo. Dennis met Dave at a 2009 Rotary convention. Learned about how this work changes lives – gets people literally up and off the ground. To date have sent over 150,000 "units" – walker, wheelchair, crutches, canes. These four initial target items have been expanded to include walking boots, baby joggers.

After the 2009 convention, he worked with Ann Lee Hussey as the test club and he became chairman of the District Crutches 4

Upcoming meetings/events:

June 16 - Club Assembly

June 23 - TBD

June 28 - Golf Tournament - CCC

To register:

<https://dover-rotary-charities-annual-golf-tournament.perfect-golfevent.com>

June 30 - Changeover at Cocheco County Club - Patio, 5 p.m.

July 7-Woodman Museum, 4:30 pm

Pledge & 4-Way Test: All

Reflection - Milestones

Rotary Moment: This is Fellowship Month. Last week mention LGBTQ Fellowship. There are also wine, hiking and other – 93 in all. Other are Old & Rare Books, Lawyers, Peace, Home Exchange Fellowship. Check them all out on the Rotary website – just type in Fellowship.

Today's newsletter submitted by Jim V.

Africa program. By the end of Ann's year, a 40-ft container was loaded, as much as possible in a two-hour time limit. Now what usually happens, 40-ft container on Friday, loaded from Biddeford storage unit on Saturday, 3-4 hours to fill. He showed a quick YouTube video that is part of Dennis' inspiration. People receiving devices in Uganda:

<https://www.crutches4africa.org/videos.html>

It is the one entitled Coming to Hope

Dennis is preparing for 11th container, going out later this summer. Some other clubs have joined in to support. Also from other sources – a nursing home closing, for example. Goodwill and Salvation Army are sources sometimes, as well, yard sales and collection sites at recycling centers.

QUESTIONS?

What is the time frame for filling this summer's unit? No exact date – deliver devices anytime and then the container gets loaded from their storage unit. Storage facility is at 20 Gooch, Biddeford, ME, an old wooden storage facility. To drop off, contact Dennis (207-468-0443 risc@maine.rr.com) so he can meet folks at the storage facility. He's also started a "loan closet" for local people who made need them.

Interact – can we donate again? Yes, anytime. Phil will talk to recycle center as well. 55-gallon plastic containers, cuts the bottom out.

Cost of sending a container: Average of \$3/unit. Somewhere in the \$8-10,000 range. Nine of ten have gone to Africa and the last one went to Afghanistan.

Announcements:

Golf Tournament will be a shotgun start!

Congratulations to Harvey Bernier...Great Party! – about 100 people at 75th bday party. Three named charities were recognized (and seeded) by Harvey. Dover Rotary is one of them.

Changeover: July 7 at 4:30 at Woodman. Community event. Starting July 14 – back to in-person at our traditional location on Broadway.

June 30 is Gregg's final meeting as president at Cochecho CC. Since zoom time, we have **Paul Harris achievements** that will be recognized in person at this event. Cash bar, club-provided finger foods.

Food Transport: Work has concluded for now. Big thanks to all those who volunteered, especially our "regulars" who did so every month, often multiple times

District Conference: Report and auction Items still available for bid. Scooter and Necklace are back on-line. \$5,000 already surpassed.

Club Committee Reports/ Service Project Updates:

Rotary Gardens: Noreen B.; Watering volunteers needed. Jerry-rigged way to water with sufficient hose now available. Jim V set up a SignUp Genius for people to sign up for a week.:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4daeaf2ba46-rotary>

Golf Committee Update: Kathy F. Short committee meeting to follow: Registration to begin at 8. Shotgun will be at 9. This coming Friday, all golfers will receive an email with their lunch choices. Need everyone's email. We are up to about 60 golfers.

Community Giving: Jay S. Last minute requests coming in.

Senior Centers/Visits: Melissa L. – First plants delivered, 1st to Riverside, Wentworth coming this week. Flower Room is donating delivery time and did very nice signs.

Community Gardens update: Jim M. – Everything is up and thriving. 100% germination. Rotary Victory Garden Plot – goes back to Crockett's Victory Garden on TV and to WWII gardens to supplement food rations.

Birthdays - June

Jim V.	June 1
Mike B.	June 15
Ian O.	June 20
Kathy F.	June 24
Cindy I.	June 28
Matt S.	June 30

Anniversaires - June

Sheila T.	4 years
Tom McS.	37 years
Matt S.	15 years
Laraine H.	3 years
Phil R.	37 years
Rebecca J.	5 years

Happy Bucks

Tom D. – 53rd Wedding Anniversary

Phil R. – Interact met face to face on Monday – about 30 showed up, others are interested.

Jay S. – 48th Anniversary

Gregg D. – Thanks to Harvey and all who joined for bday party

Dues note:

PHIL – dues have been distributed. Mailing address is at the top of the invoice.

ROTARY'S 4-WAY TEST of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?