



Nov. 29, 2023 – In-person & zoom meeting, 12:15

President Kathy F. welcomed all to the Rotary Club of Dover, NH.

New member induction: Pres. Kathy welcomed new Paul Jenkins as the newest member, sponsored by Nick P. As a recent speaker, Paul said he was thrilled to become a part of Dover Rotary. He was this year’s co-chair of the Seacoast Cancer 5K event.

Vote: A motion made by Jay S. and second by Norm H. to donate \$8,000 (approximately half the cost – the City of Dover will cover the remaining costs) toward the Rotary Arts Pavilion Refacing Project passed by a majority vote. Suggestions to fund the total cost of project and have more club involvement will be reviewed by the BOD.

Program: Darin Roark CEO WDH Mass General

Darin Roark comes to WDH Mass General with 20 years of healthcare experience most recently in Clay County Florida where he built a hospital from the ground up in an underserved community. Roark holds a master of business administration degree from Northern Illinois University, a bachelor of science in nursing from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and a bachelor of arts in business marketing from North Central College. He also serves as a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives .

Roark’s mission is to “take great care of the community.” One of the greatest challenges facing hospitals today, he noted, is the growing and aging population straining access to quality and timely healthcare. He often hears how difficult it is to get a doctor’s appointment – he even had to wait a long time for a primary care visit. Cuts in Medicare and Medicaid and the struggle to recruit physicians and staff are exacerbating the situation – and he’s working on it. The ER is under a lot of stress and he is working with a Boston team to come up with solutions such as Free Standing ERs. More to come.

Fortunately, he said, becoming part of Mass General has expanded and enhanced services for the Dover/Portsmouth community bringing a “world class teaching organization to provide world class care.” He noted several award winning programs and services including oncology, neurology, electrophysiology, maternal and child care, and cardiology with specialty services in Dover and at Pease.

Upcoming Meetings & Events
Meetings:
Dec. 6: New Hampshire Pet Aid
Dec. 13: Ryan Crosby DHA
Dec. 20: Holiday program – potluck lunch
Dec. 27: no meeting

Events:
Dec. 19: Sandy Hill Farm Light Show in Eliot – 5:30

Today’s newsletter authored by Noreen B.

Tom D. asked why it takes so long for medical specialists to get together for a diagnosis (using his own case as an example). Darin agreed it can be daunting and more needs to be done. He described the Cancer Committee as a great example of specialist collaborating on patient care.

Malcolm asked why there is a shortage of doctors. Darin said it often comes down to a quality of life issue (don't want to be on call, want regular hours unlike doctors years ago) and salaries not meeting expectations. However, it is a calling ... a way to make a difference and very fulfilling – a job where you can save someone's life and that's why he does it.

Announcements:

District Mid-Year Luncheon:

DG Marion C. announced the luncheon will be held Jan. 21, 10-2 p.m. She is hoping 12-14 members will attend. More info to come.

100 Year Celebration: DG Marion C. noted the celebration will be held on May 24, 2024 at Cochecho Country Club, the actual anniversary date of our founding. Committee members include: Noreen B., Cathy B. Melissa L. Harry C., Malcolm M., Brendan M., Steve P., Montana F. and Tom D. More are welcome.

Student of the Month: The first student of the Month award for this year will be awarded at Dover Middle School on November 30th at 11:30. We will present the student with a certificate, a Green Wave Shirt, and a \$100 gift card. We will also ask the student to identify a charity or cause they would like us to support with an additional \$100 donation.

Festival of Trees: Beth F. noted books will be given out at the event. Decorating begins at noon and the event opens at 4 pm.

Social Committee: Cathy B. reported that the committee is setting up a social evening at the **Sandy Hill Farm Light Show in Eliot on December 19th at 5:30 PM.** Anyone attending must purchase their tickets online at sandyhillmaine.com. Tickets are \$15.00 each plus a \$2.00 handling charge. Tickets go quickly and the number at any time slot is limited. If the 5:30 pm slot is full, choose the 6:00 pm slot as the 1-mile walk is on your own and we should all be on the path together. Afterwards we plan to visit the Shipyard Brewery in Eliot.

Lunch Update: Pres. Kathy noted the BOD agreed to hold one potluck lunch per month and ask **member to bring their own lunch to the other meetings.**

Happy Bucks:

Kathy F. for 15th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner at Blue Latitudes – served over 1,000 meals

Steve P. for his wife's birthday

50/50 Raffle: The Winner of \$1,073 was – Melissa L.!!! (and Gregg D.) Congrats!!!!