



Oct. 18, 2023 – In-person & zoom meeting, 12:15

President Kathy F. welcomed all to the only Rotary Club with a District Governor and two Assistant Governors as members. Thank you to Marion & Harry C. for lunch.

Presentation:

DG Marion Cheney attended the Learning to Lead training for DGs and AGs and was pleased and honored to represent our District at the Rotary International Foundation Awards from the District and Zone. Our District 7780 is made up of 39 clubs. In the Zone, there are 22 districts. This includes over 32,000 Rotarians. The awards ceremony recognized our District with the most Rotarians who participate in Polio Plus and Every Rotarian Every Year. Our Rotary Club was also #1 in Annual Funds and Annual Giving. Our club continues to be a strong supporter of the Foundation.

Program: The Spirit Series: Christina O’Neal & Kent Pierce

*Bios: **Christina O’Neal**, Ph.D. is the director of Program Partnerships. She has worked in education for over 20 years in a variety of roles, including classroom teacher, elementary principal, mentoring program director, and teacher leader. She holds a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Educational Leadership from the University of Southern Maine. Her areas of specialization include helping students build vital social, emotional and academic skills. She joined Spirit Series in 2022. Christina is also a member of Saco Bay Sunset Rotary Club and is President Elect for 2024-25. She is involved in our District’s Uganda Global Grant. **Kent Pierce** is the New England Executive Director, Spirit Series. Kent has worked with Spirit Series for the past 12 years, first in Boston and then for the past eight years in Maine. During that time he has worn many hats -- marketing, fundraising, program development and program delivery -- usually at the same time. Before joining Spirit Series, he was screenwriter in Los Angeles and later, in New York City, before fleeing to Yarmouth, Maine to raise their family. He holds a B.A. degree from Dartmouth College. Kent is a new member of the Yarmouth Rotary Club, having joined this past spring.*

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Meetings:

- Oct. 25:** Gary Bannon
- Nov. 1:** Leif Hagan PRIDE
- Nov. 8:** Steve Fine -Melanoma
- Nov. 15:** Club Assembly
- Nov. 22:** no meeting
- Nov. 29:** Darin Roark CEO WDH Mass General
- Dec. 6:** New Hampshire Pet Aid
- Dec. 13:** Ryan Crosby DHA
- Dec. 20:** Holiday program
- Dec. 27:** no meeting

Events:

- Oct. 22:** Willand Pond Cleanup, 9:30 – 11 am
- Oct. 24: Together on Tuesday,** Clark’s Bistro, Durham, 6 pm

4-Way Test: Jay S.

Guests: Mike guest of Brendan, Jonathan Newcome with Shelby (service dog) and speakers - Christina O’Neil & Kent Pierce

Today’s newsletter authored by Melissa L.

The Spirit Series organization is focused on and tends to the spirit of our children. Christine said children are feeling different after the pandemic, social media, climate change, gun violence and more. Statistics show that over the past few years, there has been a true decrease of collectivism in the community and so many feel isolated. The Spirit Series organization offers 3 programs to help adolescents manage adversity through the power of story.

1. Spirit Stories (grades 4-7) 2. Spirit Corps (grades 7-10) 3. Spirit Works (for educators)

Through the Spirit Corps program, mentors put students through a writing process and pitch their stories (of about 500 words) in a 3-4 minute presentation. These mentors include a circle of support with partner teachers, peer story partners, process videos and materials, and story coaches. Story coaches are volunteers who give written feedback to the students along the way. They view their videos, comment and give feedback. They are the "secret sauce" Kent said. By doing the videos, the students know that their classmates will watch and give feedback. The video story gives the mentors the opportunity, as well, to see and understand what the students are feeling and to be there for support.

The focus is on courage, compassion, and conscience with a lot of empathy and grace. These programs allow for finding self-confidence. Sometimes, the students have to go a bit out of their comfort zone and dig deeper and deeper. Showing confidence will come with time. Many students find this time of in their life hard and loneliness can set in. Mentors tend to the spirit of the children so they are not alone. It is proven that with mentorship, the student can start to feel joyful and mentors know they are helping others.

Students realize they get more feedback not just from the teachers; it is the personalized attention that truly matters! It is also an opportunity for teachers to grow themselves and feel good by participating. It is about being part of the community and engaging with students on a personal level. The core of their mission is to encourage self-reflection and asks students to think about their actions and behavior. It allows the students to tell a personal story and receive positive feedback.

Story coaches learn how to mentor and work with 4 students throughout the program. The coaches give students feedback through Google Documents and spend about an hour with each student. Their motto: Together we Grow! For more information, visit: www.spiritseries.org

Questions:

Can you share the numbers of schools working in, number of students working with, how do you approach the schools with this program?

There are about 13,500 students in about 80 classrooms. The program partners with the Dept. of Education and outreaches with email and discovery sessions with admin, students, and counselors. They present at conferences and spread the word to the legislators. The goal is to get in the room face to face instead of on Zoom as the close rate is really great. The program meets academic and personal standards and, as always, money is a factor. Thanks to a grant, the first year is free and going forward is \$20 per student. The organization continues to raise money as schools struggle for the cost per student.

Announcements:

Bingo Report: It was a slow week last week and sold 19 boxes. They are all staffed for this week and you can sign up to volunteer for future weeks through Sign-Up Genius
October 26th profits for our club that evening will go toward a donation to Polio Plus

International Committee: The committee met on Tuesday night and discussed the Uganda project as well as the Mexico kitchen renovations.

Skate Park Update: Gary Bannon sent a notice for Ribbon Cutting on Sunday, October 22nd at 12:00pm. Also working with the city on the Henry Law Arts Pavilion.

Willand Pond Clean Up: Will take place on Sunday, October 22nd. Will meet at Strafford Farms at 9:00am and photo at 11:00am

Polio Plus Day: October is Polio month and October 24th is Polio Day. The Polio Plus program was put in place to assist in the eradication of polio. Since then, they have vaccinated over 3 million people with only a few cases still. See the attached flyer for the upcoming Tuesday, October 24th for the Polio Plus webinar. There is a QR Code to donate and the District is matching your donation for those that contribute for points toward Paul Harris. [Dover Rotary Polio Day.png \(1042x1354\)](#)

Shred-it event - Jay, Cindy, Mindy, Malcolm, Meg, Tom and Frank dropped many boxes. \$2,600 profit.

Rotary Club of Dover BOD meeting: Changed to Tuesday, October 24th at 120 Broadway at 12:30pm

Together on Tuesday (October): Will take place at Clark's Bistro in Durham on Tuesday, October 24th at 6:00pm - joining the Durham/Great Bay Club

Together on Tuesday (November) - We will be getting together with the Rochester Club

Happy Bucks

Gregg D. - \$1 for leadership of Jim Munro for work with the Foundation, for the awards. Congratulations!

Jay S - \$1 for the Shred-it event, as it took him over an 1 hour to discover the Interact Advisor was not one of the students.

50/50 Raffle Drawing - Gregg winner, card not picked. \$921.00 rolls over

October Birthdays:

Gregg D. Oct 05
Doug L. Oct 07
Gary D. Oct 10
Phil R. Oct 11
Noreen B. Oct 14
Melissa L. Oct 18
Kevin Q. Oct 19
Tom D. Oct 26
Montana F. Oct 31
Julie H. Oct 31

October Anniversaries:

Hemant D. 6 years
Cindy I. 17 years
Cate R. 13 years
Teresa R. 1 year
Dave D. 14 years
Ed H. 32 years
Tom D. 39 years