



Sept. 6, 2023 – In-person & zoom meeting, 12:15

President Kathy was attending via Zoom from Livermore, Maine, so Gregg D. led the in-person meeting of the greatest Rotary Club in the world.

Program: Classification Talks: Brendan Madden and Ross Armstrong

Brendan Madden:

Brendan moved to Dover in 1993 after having lived in Germany, Monterey, Ca., Virginia, and Watertown, NY with his family. His dad was in the Army. Brendan attended St. Mary Academy and St. Thomas Aquinas High School, graduating in 2002. In 2004, after exhibiting symptoms, he was diagnosed with a slow-growing brain tumor, one which occurs in only 2% of the population. He had surgery to remove the baseball-sized tumor 19 years ago at Children’s Hospital in Boston. Although it was benign and non-cancerous, there were major complications following his surgery. Brendan had hydrocephalus (brain swelling) and went into septic shock. He was in a coma for three months. His ordeal left him unable to walk, talk, or feed himself. He can walk short distances now with a walker but mostly uses a wheelchair. He is now a patient at MGH as he aged out of Children’s at age 20. He has made great progress with the help of his family and his aide Mike, who pushes him to ride his exercise bike and lift weights. Mike has been with Brendan since 2015. Brendan has started a non-profit organization to raise money for Service Dog Support. He applied for his own new service dog last December but a 12–18-month wait is not uncommon.

Questions:

Gregg D. asked why so long a wait for a dog? Brendan says that as many as 32 million disabled people could use a service dog, but there are only about 500,000 working dogs right now. Demand greatly exceeds supply.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Meetings:

Sept. 6: Ross Armstrong Classification

Sept. 13: Dan McMillan *Save Democracy in America*

Sept. 20: Club Assembly

Events:

Sept. 19: Together on Tuesday- Doug Locy home, 185 Spur Rd, Dover, NH

Sept. 23: Garden Cleanup – 9 am

Oct. 14: Shred It recycling 9 am St. John’s Methodist Church

Pledge: Jim M.

4-Way Test: Ram R.

Guests: Michael Roscoe

Today’s newsletter authored by Cathy B.

Ram R. asked if his health is stable now? It is. Ram also asked if Brendan could use a motorized scooter? He could, but the wheelchair works in most cases. Ram offered to supply Brendan with a free motorized scooter that he has available. He could deliver it next week. Everyone applauded this generous offer! Nick P. asked about Brendan's family. Are they close by? Yes, Brendan shares a house with his parents and his own wing for privacy. His brother also lives in Dover.

Ross Armstrong:

Ross is a commercial banker at TD Bank. He moved to Greenland, NH from New York when he was 8 or 9 and was educated in Portsmouth schools. At one time he wanted to be an architect. He left the area for college, settling for a time in Boulder, Colorado where he ran a wholesale seafood business. He was a snowboarder before he was a skier! He moved back to this area in 2005 and started a career in commercial real estate and now commercial lending.

He is getting married in early October and is leaving next week for his pre-honeymoon trip with his fiancée to Iceland, Norway, Scotland, and England.

He also enjoys gardening.

Announcements:

Bingo—Starts September 7, in Rochester at the former liquor store building at the front of the Lilac Mall. We are sharing responsibilities, duties, staffing, and revenue with three other Rotary clubs: South Berwick Eliot, Durham Great Bay, and Rochester. Sheila passed along the message that last Friday night, they had 215 players and sold 36 boxes of tickets. Gregg expects us to be that busy or more. Please, everyone, step up and do your part to help our club maintain this important revenue stream. **Ken asks that everyone wear their official Rotary name badge when working.**

Go directly to Ken to sign up. He is posting needed slots every week. For the time being, do not use Sign Up Genius. Each of the four clubs will contribute 6-7 people weekly, and net proceeds will be split four ways. Estimated revenue (conservatively) is \$35,000-\$40,000/year for each club.

Foundation—Jim M. gave a short primer for the new members about how the Rotary Foundation works. One half the money donated to RF comes back to the district in the form of local district grants: this year about \$100,000 to District 7780 to distribute for local projects. To learn more, go to rotary.org and click on the "Give Now" button.

Jim also mentioned the Rotary t-shirts and polo shirts on the table that we're trying to sell. Mostly smalls and mediums. Nice shirts for a few bucks donation. Please look them over!

Back to School backpacks and gift cards---Kevin Q. gave a synopsis of the program. 65 backpacks were filled and distributed at an ice cream social at the Seymour Osman Community Center last week. Budget was \$10,000: \$4,000 for backpacks and their contents, plus \$6,000 for gift cards to be distributed by guidance counselors throughout the school year.

Harry said Marion was absent today because she had a Zoom meeting but wanted all to know she is still visiting all 7780 clubs and looking at the possibility of joint projects between clubs. She has also ordered new blue vinyl tablecloths for our meeting room.

Rotary Gardens---Kevin Q. reported that next weeding date will be September 23. Then the plants will be pulled out on October 14 and mums planted for fall. (Note: The Oct. 14 date is the same day as the Shred Event.)

President Kathy F. has an opening this Friday at 9:30am for **"Coffee with Kathy"**. Let her know if you'd like to meet and chat.

Happy Bucks:

Phil R.: for the Traveling Vietnam War Wall in Sanford (on Rt. 9 near Wal-Mart) this Thursday through Sunday. He urges all to visit.

Ram R.: for medical progress and for being the bionic man after back, knee and heart surgeries over the years. Also, for Brendan getting a new motorized scooter!

Malcolm M.: for almost being struck by Ram's golf ball on his opening drive.

Gregg D.: for Montana who printed the golf balls for a memorial tournament for him and for Jimmy Buffett.

Tom D.: for getting a lead on his lost Apple watch in Brazzaville, Congo. A mutual acquaintance will be visiting there in December and promises to find it!

Kevin Q.: for Jimmy Buffett who was his 3rd cousin on his mother's side.

50/50 Drawing: \$780 in the pot. The winning ticket was Gregg D.'s but the 10 of diamonds was not the winner. Pot grows and only 17 cards left in the deck!

August Birthdays:

Marion C. Aug. 2
Sheila T. Aug. 8
Frank C. Aug. 17

August Anniversaries:

Nancy B. 30 years
Melissa L. 16 years
Jonathan N. 1 year
Nathania S. 1 year
Michael D. 1 year