



Rotary

The Oxford Hills Rotary Reader

The Rotary Club of Oxford Hills
PO Box 14
Norway, ME 04268

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

Our mission: The Rotary Club of Oxford Hills is a diverse group of service-oriented men and women providing hands on and financial support within our community and beyond. We exemplify “Service Above Self” while encouraging high ethical standards, enjoying friendship and promoting world understanding, peace and good will.”

2025-2026 Officers:

Rotary International President: Francesco Arezzo, Rotary Club of Rotary Club of Ragusa, Italy - District 7780
Governor: Emma Bodwell, Rotary Club of Bridgton-Lake Region – Oxford Hills Rotary President – Jeff Noblin
– President-Elect: Conner Burnam – Vice-president: Vacant - Treasurer: Liz Knox – Secretary: John Griffith
– Sgt. At Arms: Stan Brett – Past President: Beth Abbott – Club Administration Chair: Bob Schott – Service
Projects Chair: Beth Abbott - International Service Chair: Valerie Weston – Youth Service & Interact Advisor:
Tina Fox

Good Morning and Welcome! Today is the 21st day of 2026. There are 344 days remaining in the year. Val Weston is program chair this morning. Her guest speaker is PDG Elias Thomas from the Sanford-Springvale Club who will be talking about the water project his club is doing that we contributed to. George Rice is our greeter.

Program Chairs: Please let John know what your program is so it can be published in the Reader. You can text or call John at 207-4617158 or e-mail at buick663speed@yahoo.com. Please remember that when you are program chair, you are expected to lend a hand after the meeting putting away the club paraphernalia.

The Rotary Theme for the month of January is Vocational Service.

During January, Rotarians are encouraged to focus on this important avenue of Rotary service. Discussions on vocational service can lead to projects that not only develop the ethical consciousness and vocational skills of Rotarians but also the talents within their communities. Vocational Service Month is an opportunity to begin year-long vocational service activities, ranging from Rotary discussions to awards to community projects.

Calendar for January:

22 – District Mid-year Dinner at Keeley’s Banquet Center in Portland. See President Jeff if you are interested on attending. It is now open to all club members.

28 – Warren Spencer and Dave Preble. Warren’s guest speaker will be Rev. Russell Gaisson, new pastor of the Oxford Advent Church.

Calendar for February:

2 – Board Meeting at the Ripley Building Harper Conference Room, 5:00 PM

4 – Beth Abbott and Ron Morse

11 – February Students of the Month and Liz Knox

18 – Conner Burnam and David Knox

25 – Mike Carter and John Griffith

Visiting Rotarian and Guests:

We had one visiting Rotarian, former OH Rotarian and now Bethel Rotarian, Dan Hart. Our other visitors were the January Students of the Month and their guests.

Rotary Moment:

We did not have a Rotary Moment.

Announcements:

The District Dinner on January 22nd is now open to all Rotarians who would like to attend. See Jeff if you are interested in attending. It’s at Keeley’s Banquet Center.

We will be having a road toll on Sunday, May 12th to support the OHCHS Chorus’s trip to Carnegie Hall at the end of June. They are the only high school chorus in the country to be invited to sing at this event and we want to help them achieve their financial goal.

We still have 225 blocks of cheese to sell. We have sold enough to pay for the cheese so every one we sell at this point is pure profit. See David or Liz if you need more.

President of RI for 2026-2027 is Olayinka Hakeem Babalola from the Rotary Club of Trans Amidi, Rivers State, Nigeria. His theme for the year is “Create Lasting Impact.”

Last week:

President Jeff led the Pledge and 4-Way Rest. Curtis Cole gave the blessing. After breakfast, President Jeff turned the meeting over to Tina Fox who talked about the Student of the Month program and how the students are selected. The Student write-ups are attached.

😊 Happy and Sad Dollars 😊

Dan Hart had happy to be with us dollars and gave a shout out to Frank. He congratulated the students and their parents.

Patty was happy to see Dan and thanked him for selling some of our cheese to his fellow Bethel Rotarians. She also had congratulations dollars for the students and “How about those Patriots!?!”

Bob was happy to be able to team teach a skiing class with Curtis at Pleasant Mountain. They had 4 students. The next week, Bob had to teach 8 students by himself!

Tina had happy dollars for the students and a shout out to their parents for helping to raise such great kids.

50/50 – John’s number was drawn but he drew the 4 of Hearts, not the King of Clubs. There was \$58 in the pot.

Funnies for the Week:

Every day I like to put some time aside and forget about it, so at the end of the year, I have a few days to myself.

I quit my job to pursue a career in archeology. Now my life is in ruins.

January Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Birthdays: Stan Brett – 1/3; Rob Gunter – 1/14

Anniversaries: David & Liz Knox – 43 yrs. – 1/22

Membership Anniversaries: Dave P. – 43 yrs. – 1/1; Warren Spencer – 44 yrs. – 1/1; Stan Brett – 32 yrs. – 1/4

Make-Ups:

Bethel – Tuesday, 7:30 AM at the Bethel Inn Resort in the Terrace Area of Millbrook Tavern, 21 Broad St., Bethel

www.bethelrotary.org

Bridgton-Lake Region – Thursday, 7:15 AM at Bridgton Alliance Church, 368 Harrison Rd., Bridgton

www.lakeregionrotary.org

Fryeburg – Tuesday, 7:30 AM at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Rt. 5, Fryeburg

www.fryeburgrotary.org

River Valley – Monday, 12:00 noon, at Hope Association, 2nd floor, 85 Lincoln Ave., Rumford

www.rivervalleyrotaryclub.org

Interact – Thursday, 2:15 PM, Room A210, Oxford Hills Comprehensive Hills High School during the school year only.

January of the Month 2026

Students who demonstrate Responsibility and Resilient: Students who show a passion for a particular long-term goal along with a powerful motivation to achieve that goal

9th Grade: Kaleb Flanigan

Nominating Staff: Dianne Slicer

I have nominated Kaleb because he is a highly diligent and conscientious student who consistently works hard, even when the material does not come easily to him. He is new to the school so has had to make new friends and adjust to a much bigger school. He has done this very well. He is polite, following all rules, and is genuinely concerned with his progress. Kaleb is very aware when he owes work or need to make fixes or corrections. Just last week he came to me to correct his quiz and retake it. He was confident and did well advocating for himself. I questioned whether he was ready to retake it or not and very confidently said, " yes, I am. " He is always trying to do a little bit better on things. He is very deserving as a student of the month.

10th Grade: Aiden Marchessault

Nominating Staff: Sue LeBlond

Aiden perseveres in class and asks for help when he cannot figure it out. I love how he always participates in discussions and isn't afraid to answer even though his answer might be wrong! This teacher loves the wrong answers. Aiden is adamant about understanding math and demonstrates his comprehension by showing his work. I appreciate how he goes above and beyond to make sure he has time to finish a test and to understand a problem. Even being in a rather chaotic math class Aiden can focus and complete his work. He does a great job!

11th Grade: Amelia Bisson
Nominating Staff: Jolene Twombly-Wiser

Amelia is an extremely dedicated student. She can often be seen in advisory taking extra notes, re-reading passages for her English class, or preparing her children's book for her ECE program. Despite some aspects of learning being challenging for Amelia, she doggedly perseveres, working to understand herself as a learner and communicate her needs to her teachers. This self-knowledge combined with a rock-solid work ethic is a powerful combination, and observing Amelia grow in strength and confidence since her freshman year has been a true joy for me as her advisory teacher. Although I am not Amelia's ECE teacher, it is plain to see how committed she is to her work with kids and growing her skills and knowledge. When she speaks about her work in the program, she lights up and it's clear to see her passion. She is currently working on a children's book and has clearly thought about the message she wants to convey and how she can effectively and creatively do that. I am really looking forward to seeing it. Amelia has really challenged herself this year with two dual enrollment classes and one AP class in addition to her ECE tech program.

12th Grade: Layla Nevins
Nominating Staff: Jen Lance & Tina Fox

Layla came to OHCHS last year from Jamaica. Although she had a language barrier, she has worked hard to be a good student because she has a goal to become a nurse. I've seen Layla almost every school day since she started attending Oxford Hills. Even as a new student from another country, she always had a positive attitude. Layla not only has a great work ethic, but she is always a ray of sunshine, with a big smile on her face and a willingness to help others. Some of her classes, like Allied Health, have been difficult, but she never lets that get her down and always puts in her best effort. Layla is truly a resilient and responsible student.

Layla has also been an active member of the Interact Club, where she has volunteered and built strong connections within both her school and the broader Oxford Hills community. She is highly motivated and consistently challenges herself to achieve her goals.