



Rotary

The Oxford Hills Rotary Reader

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

Wednesday, January 28, 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 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 28th day of 2026. There are 337 days remaining in the year. Warren Spencer is program chair this morning. His guest speaker is Rev. Russell Giasson from the Advent Church in Oxford. Dave Preble 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.

January is dedicated to Vocational Service, which emphasizes the importance of adhering to high ethical standards in all occupations. It encourages Rotarians to recognize the value of all useful occupations and to contribute their vocational talents to address societal challenges and community needs.

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:

PDG Elias Thomas from the Sanford-Springvale Club, our guest speaker, was our visiting Rotarian. We did not have any other guests.

Rotary Moment:

Greeter George Rice tied in his Rotary moment with PDG Thomas's talk about the international project the Sanford-Springvale Rotary is doing in India. George stressed the importance of contributing to the Foundation and what our donations can do at home and around the world.

Announcements:

Dept. of Corrections: The road toll to support the OHCHS Chorus's trip to Carnegie Hall at the end of June will be on Sunday, May 17th, from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. In last week's Reader, I gave the date as May 12th.

We still have cheese to sell. See David or Liz if you need more.

President Jeff announced that the District Conference event at the end of May will be in Bridgton.

Last week:

President Jeff led the Pledge and 4-Way Rest. Curtis Cole gave the blessing. However, before breakfast, President Jeff had the distinct pleasure of inducting Tiffany Leahy as our newest member. Tiffany came forward with her sponsor, Liz Knox. Jeff read the induction ceremony and presented Tiffany with her coffee mug and New Member Kit. Liz "pinned" Tiffany. Congratulations and welcome Tiffany!

After breakfast, Val Weston introduced PDG Elias Thomas who talked about his club's project of building dams in India. The one they will be doing this year is the 16th to be done in the last 25 years since this

project started. The purpose of these dams is to provide water during the dry season and allow farmers to continue to farm. The area receives a lot of rain during monsoon season but that water dries up quickly. These dams allow farmers to plant three crops, one for their animals, one for their family and one to sell at market. Elias said the Rotarians that make the trip are known as the “Dam Rotarians.” The total cost to build a dam depends on the size, of course, but this most recent one is anticipated to cost around \$110,000. Elias gave a very interesting and informative talk. There is a FB page for Dam Rotarians if you wish to follow along.

😊 Happy and Sad Dollars 😊

David Knox wished his wife and partner, Liz, a happy 43rd anniversary.

Bob Schott – speaking of dams and rivers, Bob recounted the time he had a make-up at a club in Tucson, Arizona just after completing a run down the Colorado River. When it was made known to the club, Bob asked if any of the members had been to the Grand Canyon and none of them had. As a result, Bob ended up as their guest speaker talking about his trip.

Warren was happy to see Elias as they have known each other for many years. They both attended the same club in the Eliot – Berwick area back in the day.

50/50 – Val drew Patty’s number but Patty drew the 9 of Hearts. There was \$65 in the pot.

Pun for the Week:

Fun Fact: Koi fish always travel in groups of four. If attacked, Koi A, B, and C will scatter, leaving behind the D Koi.

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.