



The Oxford Hills Rotary Reader

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

The Rotary Club of Oxford Hills

PO Box 14

Norway, ME 04268

Rotary Theme for 2026-2027:

“Create Lasting Impact”

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.”

2026-2027 Officers:

Rotary International President: Olayinka Hakeem Babalola, Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria - District 7780 Governor: Michele Bois-Gilbody, Rotary Club of Freeport. Oxford Hills Rotary President – Conner Burnam – President-Elect: Bob Schott – Vice-president: Vacant - Treasurer: Liz Knox – Secretary: John Griffith – Sgt. At Arms: Stan Brett – Past President: Jeff Noblin – 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 294th day of 2026. There are 71 days remaining in the year. This morning is a work session putting the labels in the 3rd grade dictionaries. Curtis Cole 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

October is Economic and Community Development Month.

Rotary Districts highlight several ideas for October:

- Partnering with local micro-lenders to expand access to financial services
 - Supporting mobile banking initiatives in developing countries
- Purchasing locally sourced goods for international projects to stimulate local economies
 - Providing vocational training and job placement programs
- Assisting cooperatives with equipment and/or training to increase production and sales

Calendar for October:

25 – Road toll for Polio, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

28 – Warren Spencer and Beth Abbott

Calendar for November:

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

4 – November Students of the Month and Val Weston

10 – Joint meeting with the Bethel Club in Bethel – Note: this is a Tuesday.

18 – Val Weston and Regina Wilson

25 – Regina Wilson and Lynne Schott

Visiting Rotarians and Guests:

Our visiting Rotarians were DG Michele Bois-Gilbody from Freeport, DGE Michele Cole from Bethel and AG Patti Smith from Fryeburg. Lucas Brett was the guest of Rob Gunter and David Knox, and also visiting past member Lois Strauss Wilgosz and her husband, Bob.

Rotary Moment:

Since we did not have a Reader this week, greeter John read the puns that would have been in the Reader.

Why haven't you signed up for the company's 401K yet? There's no way I can run that far!

Rotarians don't just turn up. We turn lives around.

Rotary: where every member is a spoke in the wheel of change.

Announcements:

Despite all the publicity about the road toll for polio being on the 18th, it is scheduled for the 25th. Same time, same place.

Please note changes to the schedule. We will not be able to meet at the church on the 11th and 18th due to wreath making. Therefore, the Students of the Month have been moved to November 4th. We will be having a joint meeting with the Bethel Club in Bethel on Tuesday, November 10th. No meeting on Wednesday, the 11th. The location for our November 18 meeting has not been determined as I write this. November 25, we will be back at the church.

Last Week:

President Conner led us in the pledge and 4-Way Test. After breakfast, he introduced DG Michele Bois-Gilbody from the Freeport club. She started off by saying that it was nice to be back to see us again as she helped with the Visioning we did several years ago. Her talk centered on four things: **Attraction** – why do people want to be here in our club? We need to do more to share with the community what we are doing. **Engagement** – are members, especially new ones, getting what they want out of Rotary? Is our club active? **Sustainability** – what do we do in our community that people would miss if we weren't doing it? What is missing? What impact can we have on the community? Be open to an International project as well. **Stewardship** – how are we going to continue to move forward? Did Visioning help? Do we need to do a re-set?

DG Michele also presented the club with 2 awards – we were #3 in per capita giving in the district last year and for our donations to Polio.

In turn, **President Conner** announced that we are donating \$100 to the Foundation in DG Michele's name.

Dave P. told us that he has been attending the Membership Swap on Zoom for the last couple of weeks. He said it is a great idea and many suggestions for retaining and increasing membership have been discussed. Unfortunately, participation is not that great.

Donnie Foster asked if the club would be interested in hosting a Chamber After Hours next year. He felt it was well worth doing. Club members agreed and he said he would put us on the list for hosting. Where and when to be determined.

Happy and Sad Dollars

We ran out of time, so no happy dollars last week.

50/50 – Stan asked Refina to draw the winning ticket and she drew Conner's number. I didn't catch what card Conner drew, but it wasn't the King of Clubs. There was \$25 in the pot.

Funnies for the week:

I still own a comb even though I'm bald. I just can't part with it.

I saw a dwarf climbing down a prison wall. It was a little condescending.

October Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Birthdays: Terry (Curtis) Cole – 10/26; Jeff Noblin – 10/30

Anniversaries: Curtis & Terry Cole – 41 yrs. – 10/6; Michael & Beth Abbott – 46 yrs. – 10/11

Membership Anniversaries: Conner Burnam – 4 yrs. – 10/5; Tina Fox – 10 yrs. – 10/19; Tally Decato – 33 yrs. – 10/20

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.