



The Oxford Hills Rotary Reader

Wednesday, October 7, 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 280th day of 2026. There are 85 days remaining in the year. This morning will be a Club Assembly. Rob Gunter is scheduled to be 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 International theme for October is *Economic and Community Development*

Month, focusing on sustainable economic growth, entrepreneurship, and community empowerment. Every October, Rotary International highlights *Economic and Community Development*, one of its Seven Areas of Focus. The month emphasizes helping communities achieve long-term economic stability through training, microfinance, entrepreneurship support, and capacity building.

Calendar for October:

14 – District Governor Michele Bois-Gilbody and John Griffith

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

21 – Lynne Schott and Curtis Cole

28 – Warren Spencer and Mike Carter

Visiting Rotarians and Guests:

We did not have any visiting Rotarians. Lucas Brett was the guest of David Knox.

Rotary Moment:

Greeter Dave Preble noted that all the other service clubs in our area have disappeared due to aging members and not being able to recruit new, younger members. Things are not what they used to be and we, as a club, need to adapt to new technology and new ways of doing things to attract new members.

Announcements:

We have the Road Toll for Polio coming on Sunday, October 18, by the tennis courts on Fair St., 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Don't forget that there is a board meeting scheduled for Monday, October 5, at 5:00 PM at the Ripley Building. Any member is welcome to attend.

Last Week:

In the absence of President Conner, PE Bob Schott let our meeting and Curtis Cole gave the blessing. Unfortunately, Bob's guest speaker, Amy Marx, Assistant Superintendent of SAD 17, did not appear, so Bob talked a bit about the school department as he is on the school board. The interim Superintendent is in his 60's and does not want the job permanently, so a search is underway for a new superintendent. The new Middle School is going to be built on the site of the existing Middle School on Pine St. in South Pairs. A site has been chosen for the new Norway elementary school, and a deposit has been made on the land. However, the location is being kept secret for now.

Curtis told us that he is undergoing some PTSD from his retirement on the SAD 17 board. I think he said he has been involved with the board for 24 years in total.

Foundation chair George Rice handed out \$100 EREY stickers to Bob and Val.

Last week, I thought the winning 50/50 ticket belonged to Lucas Brett. However, it turned out to be Rob Gunter's ticket so to collect his winnings, he sat on the throne chair with the "crown" on his head for a picture. This is the second time he has won, and he still had the winning card from his first win, so displayed both cards in the picture. Congratulations Rob!

Happy and Sad Dollars

Warren was sort of happy and sort of sad. The sad part was that he was practicing his golf swing, hit a ball in his yard, it bounced off a tree and broke a \$300 window. The happy part was that it was a really good swing.

Beth said she was wearing her sweatshirt that I think said "Dear person behind me, the world is a better place with you in it" while she was on a trip to Cadillac Mountain last week. Seems a woman behind her spoke to her about it because she had one. They ended up talking about it and crying over it because the woman told her she had lost three sons to suicide.

John was happy because his trip to the car show in Hershey, PA, is next week, but he needs someone to take notes at the board meeting on Monday night and for the Reader.

50/50 – Stan asked Val to draw the winning ticket and she drew her own!
However, she pulled the Ace of Diamonds from the deck and thus did not win
the \$7 in the pot.

Funnies for the week:

Have you heard that ABBA is going to be on tour with Elvis Costello? ABBA and Costello in concert?
Who's on first?

What happens if you get scared half to death twice?

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.