



Rotary

The Oxford Hills Rotary Reader

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

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

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.”

2024-2025 Officers:

Rotary International President: Stephanie A. Urchick, Rotary Club of McMurray, Pennsylvania - District 7780
Governor: Robert McKenzie, Rotary Club of Kennebunk, ME – Oxford Hills Rotary President – Dan Allen –
President-Elect: Jeff Noblin – Vice-president: Connor Burnam - Treasurer: Liz Knox – Secretary: John Griffith – Sgt.
At Arms: Stan Brett – Past President: Beth Abbott – Club Service Chair: Bob Schott – Vocational Service Chair: Jeff
Noblin - Community Service Chair: Beth Abbott - International Service Chair: Val Weston – Youth Service Chair
and Interact Advisor: Tina Fox

Home Club of PDG George Rice

Good Morning and Welcome! Today is the 15th day of 2025. There are 340 days remaining in the year. Unless someone has a surprise speaker this week, we will be having a Club Assembly. Patty 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 207-461-7158 or e-mail at griffs2@roadrunner.com. Please remember that when you are program chair, you are expected to lend a hand after the meeting putting away the club paraphernalia.

Calendar for January:

22 – Lynne Schott and George Rice

29 - For Vocational Service Month, PE Jeff has arranged for Chelsea Lathrop, Education and Outreach Coordinator with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (Information & Education Division) to come and speak to us. Dave Preble is our greeter.

Calendar for February:

3 – Board Meeting at the South Paris Town Office, 5:00 PM.

5 – Club Assembly and Jeff Noblin

12 – Students of the Month and Ron Morse

19 – Warren Spencer and Liz Knox

26 – Val Weston and Dave Knox

Visiting Rotarians and Guests:

We did not have any visiting Rotarians last week. Glenn Huntley and Ron Vallee were the guests of Connor Burnam.

Rotary Moment:

Greeter Bob Schott brought up an interesting point. Rotary, with the help of the Gates Foundation and others has spent billions of dollars over 40 years to eradicate polio all over the world. With a new administration coming in and a potential Health and Human Services secretary that is against vaccines, what does that mean for Rotary's effort in the fight to eradicate polio?

Announcements:

Liz Knox – We still have 161 blocks of Cabot Cheese left to sell. But even with what we have sold so far, minus the cost of all of the cheese, we are still \$3,600.00 to the good. Some members did take additional cheese and we have reposted our cheese sale on Facebook so hopefully, we will sell the remaining blocks.

President Dan told us that May 17 is the Rotary Day of Service where clubs find an activity to do in the community to emphasize what Rotarians do and how we do it. Come to find out, Beth told us that May 17 is May Day Play Day day (say that 3x fast), so we are well covered for a community activity.

Last Week:

President Dan – led us in the pledge and the 4-Way Test. Curtis Cole gave the Invocation. After breakfast and announcements, Dan turned the program over to Tina Fox and the December and January Students of the Month. In the interest of space, I have only included the December Student's write-ups this week and will post the January Students next week.

Puns for the Week:

“I just invented a thought-controlled air freshener. It makes scents when you think about it.”

And

“I’m trying to remember the French word for white but my mind keeps going blanc.”

50/50 – Val drew Ron Vallee’s number but Ron didn’t draw the yellow ball. There was \$352.00 in the pot.

January is Vocational Service Month

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.

Happy and Sad Dollars

Stan told us he was just plain happy but he was also happy for the students and their parents.

Patty congratulated the students and I think my notes mean that the mother of the student she introduced was once a Student of the Month. She was also happy to see Glenn and Ron.

Glenn was happy to have Ron join him for breakfast before he (Glenn) (and Sharon, too) flies to Florida on Saturday, the 11th.

Frank offered greetings from Florida and said he was happy to see the kids in attendance.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

January Birthdays: Stan Brett – 1/3; Dan Allen – 1/22

January Anniversaries: David & Liz Knox – 1/22

January Membership Anniversaries: Dave Preble – 43 yrs. – 1/1; Warren Spencer 42 yrs. – 1/1; Stan Brett – 31 yrs. – 1/4

Make-Ups:

Bethel – Tuesday, 7:30 AM at the Grace Note Inn, 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.

December Students of the Month 2024

Students who demonstrate leadership abilities that help guide others in a positive direction.

CARE: A - Articulator, Communicator, Collaborator

9th Grade: Willian Foresta

Nominating Staff: Megan Wing

Will is always kind and pleasant in class. He encourages students to stay on task and get their work done. He is always kind and is a good role model for other students in the room. Students were really distracted, talking over me, and off task. Will encouraged his classmates to pay attention and get back to work -This isn't just one occasion he does it often. He demonstrates leadership in so many ways and this is just one way he has. It is a real pleasure to have him in class.

10th Grade: Zoey Bouchard
Nominating Staff: Rachael Heikkinen

Zoey cares for her peers and will seek out staff when she feels that a student needs help or is not being respected by their peers. Zoey saw one student get stuck in the hallway in his wheelchair and came to my room asking for me to come help him. She is always looking out for others and helping where it is needed. She feels it is important to lead by example and I appreciate her efforts to lead in this way.

11th Grade: Caitrin Meagher
Nominating Staff: Maranda Blaquiere

Caitrin is a well-spoken and outspoken student on a mission for equity, positive change and understanding. Caitrin is always ready to discuss hard topics with anyone and likes to start a dialogue rather than an argument by asking questions, along with supplying information. Caitrin is often in my room, as it is one of her comfortable spaces in the school. No matter the class, she is always willing to sit with other students and chat. One day Caitrin discussed Cultural Appropriation with everyone at her table, that subject can be controversial for some, but she was able to keep the conversation civil by hearing out her classmates and giving her opinion in a mature way. She is a joy to have in class and an outstanding leader for our school.

12th Grade: Devin Grover
Nominating Staff: Emily Berry

Devin goes above and beyond to create caring relationships with the children and families in our ECE (Early Childhood Education) program. She has bonded with children, and she engages in conversations with families, either about their child or just everyday type of conversation. She comes to ECE during her free time on the days that she isn't scheduled to be here just to check in on the kids. She provides regularly positive reinforcement to the first-year students and gives them thoughtful feedback about new strategies to try or things that they can do differently. She always gives them the feedback in a very respectful way. Devin gets excited to see family members when they come to observe in the observation room. She goes in, talks with them, and then gets on the floor to play with the babies who are younger siblings of the preschool students. Devin has also bonded with some of our trickier preschoolers. She doesn't shy away from challenging behaviors, instead she jumps right in to provide support. I can't go into details about the specifics, but this happens consistently.