**The Oxford Hills Rotary Reader**

** The Rotary Club of Oxford Hills**

**PO Box 14**

**Norway, ME 04268**

**Wednesday, December 4, 2024**

**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.”

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**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**

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***Welcome!*** Today is the 339th day of 2024. There are 27 days remaining in the year. This morning is our Christmas Yankee Swap, so don’t forget to bring a gift to share. Val Weston 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](mailto: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 December:***

**11 – December Students of the Month** and **Warren Spencer**

**18 – OHCHS Chorale Christmas Concert and Lynne Schott**

**18 – Charitable Foundation quarterly meeting after our regular morning meeting.**

**25 – Christmas Day – no meeting**

**30 – Board Meeting at the South Paris Town Office – 5:00 PM.**

***Calendar for January:***

**1 – New Year’s Day – no meeting**

**8 – Club Assembly** and **Bob Schott**

**15 – January Students of the Month** and **Patty Rice**

**22 – Lynne Schott** and **George Rice**

**29 – Bob Schott** and **Dave Preble**

***Visiting Rotarians and Guests***:

We did not have any visiting Rotarians or guests.

***Announcements:***

As yours truly was not in attendance last week, I do not have any information on announcements so am assuming the only one likely was an update on cheese sales which I assume is going well.

Also, don’t forget that we are having our Yankee Swap this week so be sure to bring a gift to share.

***Last Week:***

***President Dan*** – led us in the pledge and 4-Way Test. Curtis Cole gave the blessing. Being Foundation Month, Patty Rice asked her guest speaker, Foundation Chair George Rice to give us an update on the Foundation. Here are the notes George sent me:

**Rotary Foundation Notes**

Founded in 1917 following the Atlanta Convention then President Arch Klumph proposed setting up an endowment for the purpose of ***“doing good in the world”*** using the excess funds ($26.50) left over from the convention.

The mission of TRF is to help Rotary members to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace by improving health, providing quality education, improving the environment, and alleviating poverty. TRF transforms gifts by clubs and Rotary members into service projects that change lives both close to home and around the world. Since it was founded in 1917 the Foundation has spent more than 4 Billion dollars on life changing, sustainable projects.

In October 2024, The Rotary Foundation received highest rating from Charity Navigator for 16th consecutive year

Last Rotary year 2023-2024, The Rotary Foundation expended $108 million supporting 965 grants around the world. 620 of those grants benefitted Disease prevention and treatment.

Rotary has been working to eradicate polio for more than 35 years. Our goal of ridding the world of this disease is closer than ever.

As a founding partner of the [**Global Polio Eradication Initiative**](http://polioeradication.org/who-we-are/), we've reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent since our first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979. There were 350,000 cases annually then and in the past 3 years only a handful of cases reported.

Rotary members have contributed more than $2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect nearly 3 billion children in 122 countries from this paralyzing disease. Rotary’s advocacy efforts have played a role in decisions by governments to contribute more than $10 billion to the effort.

Today, polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan. But it’s crucial to continue working to keep other countries polio-free. If all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyze as many as 200,000 children each year.

The recent detection of variant poliovirus type-2 isolates in environmental samples and the confirmation of a 10-month-old child who has contracted polio in Gaza is a stark reminder that as long as polio exists anywhere, it is a threat everywhere.

The ongoing crisis in Gaza has contributed to reduced routine immunization rates and an increased risk of vaccine-preventable diseases, including polio. The crisis also poses a significant challenge to fully implementing disease surveillance and vaccination campaigns.

Rotary committed US$500,000 to bolster the initiative, channeling these funds through a dedicated Polio Outbreak Response Fund. This contribution represents Rotary's sustained support to the WHO in combating polio globally.

TRF contributed 132 million$ toward Polio Plus in 23-24 (2520 by RC OH)

Road Toll in October 2024 raised $1845.00.

Speaking to an audience at a Livestream event on October 24, RI President Stephanie Urchick believes “it is a question of when polio will be eradicated, **Not If**.”

Contributions to TRF are essential to **Doing Good in the World.**

Contributions may be made online

Contributions through Happy Dollars amount to nearly $4,000 annually

Thanks to donors like you, Rotary members around the world are:

* Uniting a divided nation around a water project [in Lebanon](https://msgfocus.rotary.org/c/12kQRP0Ib5wMSascNkym4SGDiVcdHB)
* Recognizing a woman’s worth and needs [in Nigeria](https://msgfocus.rotary.org/c/12kQRPumL9pugxbPePm2a2FEJJv1uu)
* Giving the gift of reading to students [in Guatemala](https://msgfocus.rotary.org/c/12kQRPY1ldibETVrGk9IfcEGaxNPhn)
* Raising awareness about the environment [in the United States](https://msgfocus.rotary.org/c/12kQRQVkvl3ArDoGzjL4pwCJ2apqR9)
* Fighting for a community cure for malaria [in Zambia](https://msgfocus.rotary.org/c/12kQRRoZ5oWhQ08j0OyKuGBKsYIeE2)
* Supporting female vaccinators who are doing more than helping end polio [in Pakistan](https://msgfocus.rotary.org/c/12kQRRSDFsOZemRVsjmqzQALTN12qV)

***Pun for the week:***

**What did one tectonic plate say when it bumped into the other?**

**“Sorry, my fault.”**

***December is Disease Prevention and Treatment Month***

Disease results in misery, pain, and poverty for millions of people worldwide. That’s why treating and preventing disease is so important to us. We lead efforts both large and small. We set up temporary clinics, blood donation centers, and training facilities in underserved communities struggling with outbreaks and health care access. We design and build infrastructure that allows doctors, patients, and governments to work together.

Our members combat diseases like malaria, HIV/AIDS, Alzheimer’s, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, and polio. Prevention is important, which is why we also focus on health education and bringing people routine hearing, vision, and dental care.

***Birthdays and Anniversaries:***

***(kinda sparse this month)***

***December Birthdays:*** Curtis Cole – 12/6

***December Anniversaries:*** Ron & Laura Morse – 12/20 – 66 yrs.!

***December Membership Anniversaries:*** None Listed

**Make-Ups:**

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

[www.bethelrotary.org](http://www.bethelrotary.org)

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

[www.lakeregionrotary.org](http://www.lakeregionrotary.org)

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

[www.fryeburgrotary.org](http://www.fryeburgrotary.org)

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

[www.rivervalleyrotaryclub.org](http://www.rivervalleyrotaryclub.org)

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

In case anyone needs a reminder:

If you still need a reminder on how many days to Thanksgiving, well, I have bad news for you – You missed it!

21 Days to Christmas!