



Rotary

The Oxford Hills Rotary Reader

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

Wednesday, February 4, 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 35th day of 2026. There are 330 days remaining in the year. Beth Abbott is our program chair. Her guest speaker is our own Mike Carter who will be talking about his youth group program and what their plans are for this coming year. Ron Morse is scheduled to be 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 February is Peace and Conflict Resolution

The month of February is very special in the Rotary calendar because it includes the anniversary of the first meeting of Rotary held on February 23, 1905, in Chicago. That day is now designated as the "World Understanding and Peace Day.

Calendar for February:

11 – February Students of the Month and Liz Knox

18 – Conner Burnam and David Knox

25 – Mike Carter and John Griffith

Calendar for March:

2 – Board Meeting at Harper Conference Room, Ripley Building, 5:00 PM

4 – Curtis Cole and Tina Fox

9 – District Grants Training – Zoom at 6:00 PM.

11 – March Students of the Month

18 – John Griffith and Mike Carter

25 – David Knox and Conner Burnam

Visiting Rotarian and Guests:

Ron and Patty Smith, PDG and AG, from the Fryeburg club were our visiting Rotarians. There were no other visitors.

Announcements:

AG Patty Smith told us that it was just announced that the Rotary Foundation has been named the #1 charitable organization for the 17th consecutive year. She also told us that the District Conference will be in the Bridgton area the weekend after Memorial Day, May 29-31. They are planning a Saturday afternoon of activities and are wondering if we would produce a Cornhole activity. Saturday morning there will be an environmental project with the Lakes Environmental Association. It should be a fun weekend and members can come for all or part of the event.

President Jeff told us that he and Conner went to the mid-year dinner. It was a great evening of fellowship and learning.

Last week:

President Jeff led the Pledge and 4-Way Rest. Curtis Cole gave the blessing. However, before breakfast, Jeff asked David Knox to bring our most recent proposed member, Rob Gunter, forward for his club induction. Jeff read the induction ceremony and presented Rob with his coffee mug and New Member materials. Congratulations and welcome Rob!

After breakfast, Warren Spencer introduced his guest speaker, Rev. Russ Giasson, the new pastor of the Oxford Advent Church. Russ is well known to many of us. He told us he grew up in Waterford in a family

that emphasized a strong work ethic and passion for community service. Russ talked about his parents and in particular, how his mother went back to school to become a nurse in her late 50's and then worked until her 80's. He also told us how his teachers, particularly Hank Burns, influenced him which led him to become the person he is. His career started out in banking, and he was also involved in Rotary in those years, helping George Rice start the club in Bridgton and later the one in Fryeburg. He was a commercial loan officer at Norway Savings Bank for 10 years and then was offered a position with the Advent Church National board as Director of Finance which led to a move to North Carolina, a position he said he really enjoyed. With aging parents, he and his wife decided to move back to Maine after 5 years, at which point he rejoined Norway Savings Bank as auditor. While working there, he began to help a church that was struggling and after his job was eliminated at the bank due to a merger, he accepted their call as a full-time pastor. He later served churches in North Carolina, New Brunswick, Maine and Massachusetts. Six months ago, he accepted the pastorship at the church in Oxford and said it is wonderful to be back where it all began.

😊 Happy and Sad Dollars 😊

Patty Rice had happy dollars for Ron and Patty Smith for being with us. And also to have Russ as they were school classmates.

Dave P. simply yelled PATRIOTS!

50/50 – Patty drew David Knox's number, but he drew the 6 of Diamonds.

Pun for the Week:

What state is known for its small drinks? Minnesota!

I will never order grain for my chickens from Amazon again. After I got it, they sent me an e-mail asking for my feedback.

February Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Birthdays: Shelley Griffith (John) – 2/4; Ron Morse – 2/24

Anniversaries: None found

Membership Anniversaries: None found

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.