



The Oxford Hills Rotary Reader

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

Wednesday, February 1, 2021

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."

2020-2021 Officers:

Rotary International President: Holger Knaack, Rotary Club of Herzogtum Lauenburg-Molln - District 7780 Governor: Marguerite Belanger, Rotary Club of Kennebunk-Portside – Oxford Hills Rotary President: Lynne Schott – Co Pres. Elect: Peter Kaurup and Chris Summers – Vice-president: vacant - Treas.: Liz Knox – Sec.: John Griffith – Sgt. At Arms: Stan Brett – Past pres.: Pat Cook – Club Service Chair: George Rice – Vocational Service Chair: Dan Hart - Community Service Chair: Beth Abbott - International Service Chair: Val Weston – Youth Service Chair and Interact Advisor: Tina Fox

Home Club of PDG George Rice and AG Chris Summers

Good Morning and Welcome! Today is the 34th day of 2021. There are 331 days remaining in the year. This morning, we will be having a Club Assembly. Our greeter is Beth Abbott.

Calendar: *The first name listed is the Program Chair, the second is greeter.* Please let Reader editor John Griffith know what your program is so it can be published in the Reader. You can reach John at 207-461-7158 or 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's paraphernalia.

February:

10 – Abbie Earle and Val Weston

17 – Tina Fox and Paul Thornfeldt

24 – John Griffith and AG Chris Summers. Our guest speakers will be Pat Wiegel, CEO and Board Chair of Norway Savings Bank and Dan Walsh, the new President of the bank.

March:

1 – Board Meeting at South Paris Town Office and on Zoom

3 – Club Assembly and Warren Spencer

10 – Dan Hart and Joel Speakman

17 – Glenn Huntley and Frank Shorey

Visiting Rotarians and Guests:

Nicole Carter from the newspaper was our only guest. There were no visiting Rotarians.

Rotary Moment:

Greeter Dan Allen talked about the history of the Rotary Club of Oxford Hills, from its charter in 1983 through today. We currently have two charter members, George Rice and John Griffith. George went on to be president of the club and a District Governor. John was the first treasurer but left the club after a couple of years due to a job transfer. He then rejoined us in 2006 and has served as president and is currently club secretary. At one time in the late 80's and early 90's we had around 60 members, but like most organizations, our membership has declined since then, leveling off at around 30 members for the last several years. One of our first fund raisers was the Bean-hole Bean Festival which ultimately led to our annual auction.

Last Week:

We had our thirteenth Zoom meeting with 24 members in attendance. Greeter Dan Allen led us in the Pledge and 4 Way Test.

Our first order of business was to elect officers and directors for the 2021-2022 Rotary year. Dan Hart made a motion to approve the proposed officers and directors, and that the secretary cast one ballot for their election. Stan Brett seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Secretary John Griffith cast one ballot to elect the officers and directors.

In our continuing series of guest speakers for Vocational Service Month, our guest speakers were Norway Fire, Chief Dennis Yates, and Norway Police Chief, Robert Federico.

Chief Yates spoke first, giving us a brief history of the Norway Fire Department which started in 1829 as the "defense engine company." They bought their first "truck" in 1851. Chief Yates joined the department in May of 1974 – 47 years ago. He said he looks at his service to the department as a calling and it is important to him to being able to help people in their time of need. He said he joined the department at the behest of the chief at the time, Dave Millett. In comparing then with now, he said when he joined, they did not wear masks and had leather helmets. Initially, fire fighters had to pay for their own gear but now the town has to provide it. A full outfit of gear from head to toe can cost upwards of \$2,000 and has to be replaced every 10 years. During his years of service, Dennis has taken the 215 hour Firefighter 1 course twice and is now a Firefighter 2. In addition to fighting fires, the fire department does inspections, runs a smoke detector program and has an Ice rescue team. There are currently 24 members in the department with 12 of them certified.

Chief Federico joined the Norway PD in 1996. He enjoys being chief and appreciates the support the town and residents give to the department. He feels lucky that every officer has 5 years or more of experience, something that does not usually happen in a smaller town. He told us a lot has changed in the 25 years he has been with the department. Training used to be 12 weeks; it is now 18 weeks. The biggest things they deal with now are drugs, domestic violence and mental illness – and the Covid

situation has made those things worse during the last year. Covid has also created a lot of turmoil in the court system with many delays in bringing cases which has resulted in more summonses rather than arrests. As far as masks are concerned, the police are not enforcing any mandates but if called upon by a business, they inform people who refuse to wear a mask that if they don't leave the premises, they will be arrested for trespassing. That usually leads to compliance. There are currently 9 full time officers, 2 reserve officers and 1 civilian employee in the department.

On behalf of the club (I think I can do that), I would like to thank Vocational Service Director Dan Hart for the work he put in arranging our programs this past month, and also to those members who volunteered to line up speakers and introduce them to us.

Happy and Sad Dollars:

Lynne was happy that her son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter, and a niece, are coming out of Covid.

Paul had a happy dollar for his leg – and for finally finding out why he has had such a hard time with it healing as the doctor found a “foreign” item that was left in his leg during the initial surgery. Just two days after this was removed, things are finally starting to heal.

Alice had a happy \$5 for her husband who was instrumental in raising the funds for a Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Memorial Park in Lewiston. He collected all the money he needed in just three weeks.

Beth announced that she and her husband are now officially licensed as foster care parents so now their grandson, Bentley, can stay with them permanently.

Frank gave his best wishes to Mike Morin as he undergoes shoulder replacement surgery next week.

Glenn had a happy dollar for Chris and Val that they had relatively mild cases of Covid and have no lasting effects from it.

Dave told us that he had a conference call regarding Covid vaccines and hopefully pharmacies will be able to give vaccine shots soon.

Tina was happy that Charlie has returned to work after Record Lumber closed due to Covid. All of the employees have tested negative. Unfortunately, she has to start doing the dishes again.

Abbie announced that she has taken a long term sub position in Alternative education.

50/50 – On hold due to Zoom meetings.

February Birthdays – Shelley (John) Griffith – 2/4; Pat Cook – 2/13; Ron Morse – 2/24

February Wedding Anniversaries – None listed

February Membership Anniversaries – Pat Cook – 21 years – 2/2; Heidi Ortiz – 2 years – 2/20; Marianne Todd – 2 years – 2/20.

Pun of the Week:

“I’m reading a book called ‘Quick Money for Dummies’ by Robin Banks.

The 4-Way Test

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Make-Ups:

Please check in advance with the club you are thinking of making up at in case they are not meeting in person during the pandemic.

Bethel – Tuesday, 7:30 AM at the Bethel Inn, Bethel

www.bethelrotary.org

Bridgton-Lake Region – Thursday, 7:15 AM at the Community Center, 15 Depot St., 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