



The Oxford Hills Rotary Reader

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

Wednesday, March 3, 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 62nd day of 2021. There are 303 days remaining in the year. This morning is our March Club Assembly. Warren Spencer is our greeter.

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.

March:

10 – Dan Hart and Joel Speakman. Dan will be presenting our Annual Club Protection meeting.

17 – Glenn Huntley and Frank Shorey. Glenn's guest speaker is John Willard, who is the Chaplin at the Long Creek Youth Development Center in South Portland.

24 – Becky Kaurup and Dave Preble. Becky's guest speaker is Bonnie Roth, Senior Director of Practice Operations at Stephens Memorial Hospital.

31 – Abbie Earle and Bob Schott. Abbie will be updating and reviewing the Membership Program the Membership committee presented last year.

April:

5 – Board Meeting by Zoom or in person at the South Paris Town Office, 5:30 PM

7 – Club Assembly and Patty Rice

14 – Liz Knox and George Rice

Visiting Rotarians and Guests:

We did not have any guests or visiting Rotarians last week.

Rotary Moment:

Greeter AG Chris brought to our attention an article on the back page of the February issue of the Rotary magazine about the Bridgton-Lake Region Club's socially distanced farm to table dinners that the club put on last year. Member Nicholas Orgo, who is a chef and owner of MANE Catering and Event Services uses local products in his cooking, not only helping the local community with the meals but helping local farms who were having difficulty getting rid of produce due to Covid-19.

Last Week:

We had our seventeenth Zoom meeting with 25 members in attendance. Greeter Chris led us in the Pledge and 4 Way Test.

The only announcement we had was from Tina Fox who told us that Jen Sherbinski's daughter, Katerina, is in Maine Medical Center because of a growth found on her brain. Katerina is 9 years old and in the 4th grade. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jen, Katerina and the whole family as they find their way through this. Tina said that they are taking donations through the school so if anyone wishes to donate to the family, they can do so through Tina.

Program chair, Secretary John Griffith, introduced Pat Weigel and Dan Walsh. Pat is the current CEO and Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of Norway Savings Bank and Dan is the new President of the bank, preparing to take over when Pat retires at the end of this year. Pat has spoken to us a couple of times before and always has something interesting to tell us. With Pat retiring but remaining as Chair of the Board and Dan moving into her other roles, I thought it would be interesting to invite them both to talk to us and a chance for Pat to introduce Dan.

Pat began by thanking us for having her and Dan as our guests. She said it has been a difficult and trying year. Just about a year ago, the bank had to establish a Covid task force and develop protocols for employees and customers in a very short window of time. The end result was that 40% of the employees, roughly 140 workers, are working off site. Branch lobbies were closed to customers except by appointment and all transactions had to be done through the drive-up windows and ATMs. Economically, however, the bank's balance sheet increased by 23% (when normal growth is 4% - 6%) and loan demand remained high due to low rates. The overall strength of the bank also helped weather the changes. Interestingly, donation requests from non-profits and others just stopped so the bank diverted that

money to all the food pantries in their market areas. Pat said that there were a few silver linings – digital adoption by customers went through the roof as customers turned to electronic means to do their banking. The bank also learned that a lot of customers enjoy coming in the bank which affirmed the value of having brick and mortar facilities. Lastly, they did a survey of employees and learned that most enjoy working from home so that will continue. Interestingly, productivity increased among employees working from home.

Dan Walsh introduced himself by saying that he has been in banking for 35 years and that things are a lot different now than back then. He started in the mail room of a bank in Massachusetts and working his way up, became a credit analyst and loan officer. His wife is from Westbrook so they made the move to Maine in 1992. In 1997, he joined Coastal Bank as he was tired of the “big bank” atmosphere where he was working. And of course, he stayed with the Norway Savings after the merger with Coastal in 2001. He said he will have a hard time filling Pat’s shoes but they have a great team of 300 employees. Dan reiterated the fact that the bank will remain independent and a mutual savings bank, which means that the bank is owned by the depositors. Dan touched on the PCP – Pay Check Protection program – and said that it has been extremely successful with the bank putting out 1400 loans for \$115 million dollars when in a normal year, they do 300 loans for \$120 million. He told us that Maine is one of the most successful states in getting the money out. He also said that the real estate market is going gang busters and that property values increased 24% in Oxford county last year.

Happy and Sad Dollars

Lynne had a happy birthday dollars for son Ben and that Ben and Maud’s baby is due any day.

John has a sad dollar for his cold but a happy dollar for getting his first vaccine shot with the second to follow on March 19.

George had a reminder dollar for us to send him our happy dollars, either to him directly or to the Rotary PO box.

March Birthdays – Val Weston – 3/11; Tina Fox – 3/13; Laura (Ron) Morse – 3/18; John Griffith – 3/21; David (Liz) Knox – 3/24; Chris (Val) Weston – 3/25; Susan (Mike) Morin – 3/30; Ann Marie (Stan) Brett – 3/31

March Wedding Anniversaries – None listed

March Membership Anniversaries – Ron Morse – 35 yrs. – 3/1; Dan Allen – 37 yrs. – 3/7; Bob Schott – 25 yrs. – 3/27

Pun of the Week:

Water is heavier than butane because butane is a lighter fluid.

The Rotary Theme for March is Water and Sanitation

“Water and Sanitation is one of the primary drivers of public health. I often refer to it as “Health 101” which means that once we can secure access to clean water and to adequate sanitation facilities for all people, irrespective of the difference in their living conditions, a huge battle against all kinds of diseases will be won.”

~ Dr. Lee Jong-wook ~

Past Director-General of the World Health Organization

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

