

The Oxford Hills Rotary Reader



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

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

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.”

2022-2023 Officers:

Rotary International President: R. Gordon R. McNally, Rotary Club of South Queensbury, Scotland - District 7780 Governor: Marion Cheney, Rotary Club of Dover, NH – Oxford Hills Rotary President – Beth Abbott – President-Elect: Dan Allen – Vice-president: Vacant - Treasurer: Liz Knox – Secretary: John Griffith – Sgt. At Arms: Stan Brett – Past President: George Rice – Club Service Chair: Vacant – Vocational Service Chair: Dan Hart - Community Service Chair: Vacant - 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 200th day of 2023. There are 165 days remaining in the year. Dan Hart is program chair this morning. His guest speaker is the new Norway Chief of Police. Warren Spencer is greeter.

Calendar: *The first name listed is the Program Chair, the second is greeter.* Please let Reader editor John Griffith John 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 paraphernalia.

BASEBALL AT HADLOCK WITH THE SEA DOGS ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, STARTING AT 5:00 PM. THE BETHEL AND LAKE REGION CLUBS WILL BE JOINING US FOR A FUN NIGHT OF FOOD AND BASEBALL. SIGN-UP NOW! SEE DAN HART FOR DETAILS.

July:

26 – Glenn Huntley and Bob Schott. Glenn’s guest speaker is Ranger Michelle Warner from the Maine Forest Service.

August:

2 – Mike Carter and Lynne Schott. Mike will be giving his classification talk.

7 – Board Meeting at South Paris Town office, 5:00 PM

9 – Liz Knox and Patty Rice

12 – Rotary at the Sea Dogs! Food available at 5:00 PM. Game starts at 6:00 PM.

16 – Ron Morse and George Rice

Visiting Rotarians and Guests:

Lois Strauss Wilgosz was our visiting Rotarian from Estero, Florida. Her husband, Bob, was her guest. David Knox was the guest of Liz Knox.

Rotary Moment:

Greeter Chris Summers talked about the upcoming Rotary at the Sea Dogs with the Bethel and Lake Region Clubs and how much fun we have had the past two years we have done this.

Announcements:

President Beth told us that she heard that the Cabot Cheese Factory was under water as a result of the recent rains and flooding in Vermont. She is hopeful that this will not affect our being able to sell cheese wheels this fall.

Dave Preble updated the club on the Cornhole Tournament which will be on Sunday, September 3rd. in the used car parking lot at Ripley & Fletcher Ford, next to Norway Soft Serve. Tournament will start at noon. We will have a tent and might be cooking hamburgers and hot dogs. Rain date will be Monday, Labor Day. If not in violation of any laws, we might have a beer garden set up by Corey at Maurice’s. Past member Miranda Ward is making posters for us.

Bob Schott announced that the Dragon boat will definitely arrive on Wednesday (now today). If you would like to help, please let Bob know. You may remember that we had a program about this a couple of months ago.

A reminder from Treasurer Liz Knox – there are still 9 members that haven’t paid their dues.

Don’t forget to send. George your monthly volunteer hours or write them in the book. It is important that we continue to do this.

Last Week:

President Beth led us in the Pledge and 4-Way Test. Dan A. led us in song and Glenn Huntley gave the blessing.

Program chair John Griffith introduced his guest speaker, Dan Walsh, President of Norway Savings Bank. It has been a couple of years since Dan spoke to the club, along with the former president, Pat Weigel, at the time of Pat's retirement and Dan's taking the presidency. Dan began by saying he wanted to talk about four things: bank safety, the economy, financial services and what's happening at Norway Savings.

As to safety, he said that COVID turned the economy upside down and with the failure of Silicon Valley Bank and others, people have been really nervous about their banking relationships and the safety of banks in general. He assured us that banks are insured by the FDIC which is funded by the banks themselves, not taxpayers, and that community banks, such as Norway, have a completely different business model than does a bank like Silicon Valley, which dealt primarily in high tech business stocks. As far as the economy is concerned, we are still feeling the effects of COVID and we are in a challenging environment despite a low unemployment rate. The Fed would like that rate to be 2%, thus they will continue to raise rates in hopes of slowing inflation and not sparking a recession, although one seems likely. Whether it is a hard landing or a soft landing remains to be determined. Regarding financial services, Dan said it is a great time to be a mutual bank, not a bank answerable to stock holders. Norway has a long-term outlook and the strategic plan is to continue to grow. Dan said that they are planning to open a branch in North Conway, NH sometime in 2024. Norway continues to believe in local banking and that branches are a necessary part of that. There are now over 300 employees at the bank and they love to hire and promote from within. Dan said that the bank donated \$1.2 million to their communities last year and that he looks at every request. The need far outstrips what is available, unfortunately.

50-50: Jeff drew President Beth's number but Beth drew the 6 of Diamonds. There was \$300 in the pot.

😊 Happy and Sad Dollars 😊

Dan A. told us he had a wonderful visit with his son in Ohio this past week. He got to see two shows his son directed and performed in. He said they had a great time sitting on his son's porch and just chilling out.

Lois wanted Dan Walsh to know that she has been a loyal customer of NSB for many years.

George told Dan Walsh that he still had his 1946 Norway Savings Bank savings passbook.

Lynne had some very thankful dollars because a tree fell down and just barely missed her son's car as he and his family were driving by. It came down across the road just seconds after they passed by it.

Bob said he was having the stitches taken out of his leg and was going to go rafting for the first time this year to celebrate.

Puns for the week:

I stayed up all night wondering where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.

I started a chicken dating service. It's not my main job, I'm just doing it to make hens meet.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

July Birthdays – Frank Shorey – 7/2; Dan Hart – 7/8; Glenn Huntley – 7/8; Dave Preble – 7/9;

July Wedding Anniversaries – Michael & Jo Carter – 7/3; Warren & Susan Spencer – 7/23;
Dave & Becky Preble – 7/26

July Membership Anniversaries – Frank Shorey – 39 years – 7/1; Val Weston – 36 years – 7/22

Make-Ups:

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

www.bethelrotary.org

Bridgton-Lake Region – Thursday, 7:15 AM at the Stella's on the Square, 6 North High 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 during the school year only.