



Rotary

The Oxford Hills Rotary Reader

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

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

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

Home Club of PDG George Rice

Good Morning and Welcome! Today is the 239th day of 2025. There are 126 days remaining in the year. Beth Abbott is program chair this morning. Her guest speakers are the founders of Helping Hearts of Western Maine. Bob Schott 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 207-4617158 or e-mail 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.

Calendar for September:

9/3 – Conner Burnam and Patty Rice. Our guest speakers will be the Philippines Outreach Team sharing their experiences of their trip.

9/8 – Board Meeting at the Ripley Medical Building in Norway, 5:00 PM.

9/10 – District Governor Emma Bodwell and George Rice

9/17 – Mike Carter and Dave Preble

9/24 – Curtis Cole and Ron Morse

Visiting Rotarians and Guests:

Bob and Lois Wilgosz from Estero, Florida, visited again. Welcome!

Rotary Moment:

Greeter Lynne reminded us that Rotary is about serving those who need our gifts and experience. It is not about us.

Announcements:

President Jeff – we received a note from the Ladies Circle at the church thanking us for donating hot dogs for their yard sale. Much appreciated.

We set the tents for Community Concepts yesterday (last Tuesday). Thanks to everyone who came and helped out.

Thanks to Conner for running the meeting on the 13th. Jeff expected to be out last week as well, but ended up being able to make the meeting. We all agreed that Conner did a great job.

The next Board meeting will be held at the Ripley Building on September 8th, due to the 1st being Labor Day. Go in the door, down the stairs and the meeting room is on the right. Treasurer Liz informed us that the South Paris Town manager gave permission for us to continue to meet at the South Paris Town Office if we so desire.

Last Week:

President Jeff led us in the Pledge and 4-Way Test. Mike Carter gave the blessing.

Val introduced her guest speaker, John Williams, Executive Director of the Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce. John has been associated with the Chamber for 27 years, probably longer all things considered. John lamented that the Chamber has lost some connections to the community due to the loss of the Lions Club and Kiwanis, leaving Rotary as the only community service club in the area, which is why our success is so important. The Chamber is in its 53rd year and has 300-325 members. They continue to see growth in local businesses and have added 30 members so far this year. The purpose of the Chamber is to represent and advocate for businesses under their umbrella. An interesting fact is that 97% of businesses in the US have 10 employees or less. Upcoming Chamber events are the Christmas parade – the theme of which will be announced shortly – the Festival of Trees which will be moved to the Norway Armory this year, giving more room than McLaughlin Gardens, and the annual dinner and award ceremony which will be at Poland Spring resort.

As to what the Chamber can do for Rotary, it's important to get the message out, especially to younger people. OH Rotary is a member of the Chamber and as such needs to take advantage of that. We should have representation at the Chamber After Hours each month and now that President Jeff is on the Chamber Board, we will be more attuned to what is going on with both our events and fundraisers and the Chamber's. Don't forget that we have access to all of the on-line messaging available to Chamber members.

Happy and Sad Dollars

We ran out of time so saved our Happy Dollars for this week.

50:50 – Patty drew David K's number but he drew the Queen of Clubs. There was \$78 in the pot.

Puns for the Week:

I finally know why they call me a grown up. I groan every time I get up.

Leather is based on its texture. Cows with abundant water sources have softer hides, rated an A. But hides from cows living in hot, dry climates are rated D-hide rated.

September Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Birthdays: Jo Carter – 9/3

Anniversaries: Stan & Ann Marie Brett – 39 yrs. – 9/20; Chris & Val Weston – 25 yrs. – 9/23

Membership Anniversaries: Beth Abbott – 23 yrs. – 9/11; Jeff Noblin – 24 yrs. – 9/11; Patty Rice – 33 yrs. – 9/23

The Rotary Theme for the Month of September is Basic Education and Literacy

“Basic Education and Literacy,” is one of Rotary’s Seven Areas of Focus. More than 775 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate. That’s 17% of the world’s adult population.

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.