



The Oxford Hills Rotary Reader

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

The Rotary Club of Oxford Hills

PO Box 14

Norway, ME 04268

Rotary Theme for 2026-2027:

"Create Lasting Impact"

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."

2026-2027 Officers:

Rotary International President: Olayinka Hakeem Babalola, Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria - District 7780 Governor: Michele Bois-Gilbody, Rotary Club of Freeport. Oxford Hills Rotary President – Conner Burnam – President-Elect: Bob Schott – Vice-president: Vacant - Treasurer: Liz Knox – Secretary: John Griffith – Sgt. At Arms: Stan Brett – Past President: Jeff Noblin – 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 266th day of 2026. There are 99 days remaining in the year. Patty Rice is our program chair. Her guest speaker is Ally Genovese, Volunteer Coordinator for Seniors Plus. Dave Preble 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 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 September is Basic Education and Literacy.

Rotary encourages clubs to **unite for good** by supporting literacy initiatives locally and globally. Activities can include building libraries, distributing textbooks, mentoring students, or funding adult literacy programs. The emphasis is on **sustainable, inclusive, and equitable education**, particularly for girls and marginalized youth, as a long-term investment in peace and community development.

By participating in September's theme, Rotarians contribute to **lasting change**, empowering communities through education and literacy.

Calendar for September:

23 – Charitable Foundation quarterly meeting, 8:45 AM

30 – Bob Schott and David Knox. Bob's guest speaker is SAD 17 Assistant Superintendent, Amy Marx.

Calendar for October:

5 – Board meeting at Ripley Building, 5:00 PM

7 – Club Assembly and Rob Gunter

14 – District Governor Michele Bois-Gilbody and John Griffith

18 – Road toll for Polio, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

21 – Lynne Schott and Curtis Cole

28 – Warren Spencer and Mike Carter

Visiting Rotarians and Guests:

We did not have any visiting Rotarians. Fred Wilk, our speaker, was the guest of Dave Preble. Lucas Brett was the guest of Rob Gunter and Lois and Bob Wilgosz were the guests of all of us!

Rotary Moment:

Greeter Liz Knox read an article written by PRIP Jennifer Jones about Polio and World Polio Day on October 24th. In her article, Jennifer challenged all clubs to pre-plan for World Polio Day. We need to “better our best” to meet Rotary’s annual goal of \$50,000,000.

Announcements:

There were no announcements last week.

I will add, however, that we have a quarterly meeting for Charitable Foundation this week after our regular morning meeting.

Last Week:

President Conner lead us in the Pledge and 4-Way Test. Curtis Cole gave the invocation. After breakfast, Dave Preble introduced Fred Wilk, who spoke about his mountain climbing adventures and shared a slide show about his climbing Denali in Alaska. Compared to Kilimanjaro, Denali was much harder and the most physically demanding climb he has been on. At age 54, he was the oldest person in his group to make the climb. He went through a lot of mental and physical training, working out 5 days per week and running 5

miles every day. In contrast, Kilimanjaro was a “piece of cake” because their guides did all the work from carrying back packs to cooking, to setting up and taking down tents. Fred said he wasn’t used to that! He also told us how they make a toilet out of a bucket and snow, and that they must bring everything back down the mountain with them! Can’t leave anything “behind.” (pardon the pun). It was a very interesting talk and slide show.

Happy and Sad Dollars

Warren was happy to announce that he has a new granddaughter.

Lois told us that she went to the ER with a severe pain in her upper chest/shoulder area. She had an MRI which found something that is going to require additional tests.

Donnie had reminder dollars that the Pink Feather Foundation is hosting the Chamber After Hours on Thursday (now last week) from 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM.

Bob Wilgosz had an announcement dollar that his and Lois’s church was hosting Jeff Steinberg (not sure if I got that name right), a motivational speaker born with no arms or legs. Bob said he is a great speaker.

50/50 – Patty drew John’s number (second week in a row for John) but he drew the King of Diamonds. There was \$332.00 in the pot.

Funnies for the week:

The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the ability to reach it.

I have a few jokes about unemployed people, but none of them work.

I let my mind wander the other day but it hasn’t come back.

September Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Birthdays: Jo (Mike) Carter – 9/3

Anniversaries: Stan & Ann Marie Brett – 40 yrs. – 9/20; Chris and Val Weston – 26 yrs. – 9/23

Membership Anniversaries: Beth Abbott – 24 yrs. – 9/11; Jeff Noblin – 25 yrs. – 9/11; Patty Rice – 34 yrs. – 9/23

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.