



## The Oxford Hills Rotary Reader

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

**Wednesday, September 3, 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."

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### 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

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**Good Morning and Welcome!** Today is the 246th day of 2025. There are 119 days remaining in the year. PE Conner Burnam is program chair this morning. Patty Rice is our greeter. Our guest speakers will be the Philippines Outreach Team sharing the experiences of their trip.

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](mailto: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.

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

Our goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy. We support education for all children and literacy for children and adults.

## *Calendar for September:*

**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 were our visitors.

## *Rotary Moment:*

Greeter Bob Schott didn't have an exact Rotary moment but had a word of advice. He had some swelling in his hand and found that massaging it frequently helped to alleviate it.

## *Announcements:*

*President Jeff* – Thanks to everyone who helped with the tent raising for Community Concepts and then again for the Cornhole Tournament. It was a lot of work, especially the big top. However, I believe I heard that we made \$2,000.00 from the tent rental.

*Dave P.* – thanked everyone for their help with the Cornhole. This was our 5<sup>th</sup> go round, the first time being at the Rowe School gym. We then went to the Oxford Fair grounds and held it during the Fair. Next was at Ripley & Fletcher Ford on their lot by Norway Soft Serve, and then finally, the last 2 years at Paris Hill CC. We made approximately \$1,150.00 from the tournament this year.

*Dave* also told us that in speaking with Frank Shorey, Frank told him that Connie had fallen and broke her pelvis. She is doing well and is grateful that Chris is there to help out.

Reminder that we have a board meeting on September 8 at the Ripley Medical building. Go in the door, down the stairs and the meeting room is on the right.

Also thanks to *Bob Wilgosz* who called on local businesses and distributed posters for the Cornhole Tournament. I think we can all agree with Bob that we need to do a better job at getting the word out.

## *Last Week:*

President Jeff led us in the Pledge, 4-Way Test and gave the blessing. He also welcomed Ellen and Sara Burnham from Helping Hearts in South Paris.

Helping Hearts started before their official non-profit designation in March of 2024, but since then have experienced explosive growth. They rented a small portion of the old Nissen Thrift Store on East Main Street but have since expanded into an adjacent section of the building. Ellen takes manages the “store” part of the operation and Sara does the bookkeeping, paying bills, donations, preparing grants and the

office. The world can be a scary place for people in need and they wanted to help out. They also felt that a lot of good, useful items that end up in landfills could be used again. Since their opening, they have gone beyond the Oxford Hills to Bridgton, Skowhegan and Lewiston/Auburn. They recently were gifted a van so they can now pick up and deliver. They have a FB page and website if you need more information. At the conclusion of their talk, PP Beth and President Jeff gave them a check for \$250.00.

### Happy and Sad Dollars

Patty had a happy \$20 and said her retirement countdown clock is showing just 2 days to go after 42 years at Austin Associates.

Dave P. was grateful for all the help with the Cornhole Tournament. It was really appreciated.

Bob S. had sad and happy dollars. Sad because there was no water in the Dead River but happy that there was in the Kennebec. He also told us that DG Emma Bodwell and 4 others are going down (up?) the river on September 13.

Lois was happy to have Bob back with her as he has been out a lot lately working to raise sponsorships for the Cornhole Tournament

50:50 – Lois drew Liz’s number but Liz drew the 8 of Hearts. There was \$86.00 in the pot.

### Puns for the Week:

Rotary isn’t just about gears and spinning parts—it’s about motion with meaning, turns with purpose, and yes, puns with punch.

Some people spiral. Rotarians rotate with grace.

### 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

## **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](http://www.bethelrotary.org)

**Bridgton-Lake Region** – Thursday, 7:15 AM at Bridgton Alliance Church, 368 Harrison Rd., Bridgton

[www.lakeregionrotary.org](http://www.lakeregionrotary.org)

**Fryeburg** – Tuesday, 7:30 AM at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Rt. 5, Fryeburg

[www.fryeburgrotary.org](http://www.fryeburgrotary.org)

**River Valley** – Monday, 12:00 noon, at Hope Association, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 85 Lincoln Ave., Rumford

[www.rivervalleyrotaryclub.org](http://www.rivervalleyrotaryclub.org)

**Interact** – Thursday, 2:15 PM, Room A210, Oxford Hills Comprehensive Hills High School during the school year only.