



Rotary

The Oxford Hills Rotary Reader

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

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

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.”

2024-2025 Officers:

Rotary International President: Stephanie A. Urchick, Rotary Club of McMurray, Pennsylvania - District 7780
Governor: Robert McKenzie, Rotary Club of Kennebunk, ME – Oxford Hills Rotary President – Dan Allen –
President-Elect: Jeff Noblin – Vice-president: Connor Burnam - Treasurer: Liz Knox – Secretary: John Griffith – Sgt.
At Arms: Stan Brett – Past President: Beth Abbott – Club Service Chair: Bob Schott – Vocational Service Chair: Jeff
Noblin - Community Service Chair: Beth Abbott - International Service Chair: Val Weston – Youth Service Chair
and Interact Advisor: Tina Fox

Home Club of PDG George Rice

Welcome! Today is the 269th day of 2024. There are 97 days remaining in the year. Liz Knox is program chair this week and Ron Morse is 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 207-461-7158 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.

September:

30 – Board meeting at the South Paris Town Office, 5:00

October:

2 – Club Assembly – Liz Knox

9 – Ron Morse and David Knox

16 – Jeff Noblin and John Griffith

23 – Dave Preble and Tina Fox

27 – Road Toll by the tennis courts, Fair St.

30 – GeorgeRice and Tally Decato

Visiting Rotarians and Guests

Lois Strauss Wilgosz from Estero, Florida and her husband, Bob, were our guests for the last time this year as they are heading back to Florida.

Last Week:

President Dan came down with a case of Covid, so is home recuperating. *PE Jeff* led the meeting in his place, starting with the pledge and 4-Way Test. Curtis gave the invocation.

PE Jeff was also our greeter and as his Rotary moment, he talked about the Rotary magazine, telling us how much it means to him and how many articles there are about how we can be more effective in our daily and Rotary lives.

As far as announcements were concerned, *Stan* told us that we have a tent to set for this (now last) weekend's Recovery Rally at Moore Park.

Bob has the tickets for the Lottery Scratch Ticket raffle if anyone needs more tickets.

We received a thank-you from Rowe School for our donation to their food pantry. We gave each of the 7 schools \$200.00 for their pantries.

David Knox was program chair but somehow I got the impression that Liz had something to do with getting our guest speaker as she introduced Dale Piirenen (not sure of the spelling of his name) who talked about the history of the Finish people who came to this area, primarily settling in Paris, West Paris, Greenwood and Woodstock. It started when one fellow, as a stowaway, got thrown off the Montreal to Portland train when it stopped in Paris. He liked the area and decided to stay, becoming known as Jacob McKeen. Jacob had an eye for opportunity and realized there was a lot of farm and farm lands available. At some point, he was able to purchase a farm and contacting his family by mail, he invited them to come here to settle. While none of his siblings took up his offer, many of his nieces and nephews did. Today's descendants, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren in this area are all related. Finnish immigration reached its peak in 1902 when 23,000 came to the US, many going to Boston, Portland and New York.

50-50 – Tally drew Bob Wilgosz's number but Bob didn't find the yellow ball. There was \$249.00 in the pot.

😊Happy and Sad Dollars😊

Curtis and Terry had a nice time on their trip to Alaska. Curtis also commented that several long time employees of Wheeler's Insurance were Finnish.

Bob Wilgosz told us that he and Lois were heading to Florida next week, but were taking an extended time to visit family and friends along the way.

Warren was thankful that the Finns brought saunas with them when they immigrated!

Pun for the week:

The meteorologist who developed the wind chill factor has sadly passed away at the age of 86, but he felt like he was 75.

September is Basic Education and Literacy Month:

“We share our knowledge and experience with educators and other professionals who work with vulnerable populations.”

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

September Birthdays: Jo (Mike) Carter – 9/3

September Anniversaries: Stan & Ann Marie Brett – 38 yrs. – 9/20; Chris and Val Weston – 24 yrs. – 9/23.

September Membership Anniversaries: Beth Abbott – 22 yrs. – 9/11

Make-Ups:

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