

District Connections

Got Something to Say? Publish it Here!

- Do you have an event to announce?
- Do you want to promote a project?
- Celebrate an achievement?

For events and announcements, please forward the information to rotarydistrict7850@gmail.com by the 20th of the month.

For articles, please forward the article in Word format to rotarydistrict7850@gmail.com at anytime for review.

**Thank You Richard,
And welcome to your new title - IPDG!**

DG (District Governor) Richard Fox, now referred to as IPDG Richard (Immediate Past District Governor), thank you for everything you did in your year as District Governor. Your passion for Rotary was in full bloom every time you spoke, your energy motivated us to make a bit more time for Rotary and do good.



Larry Vars outgoing District Governor welcoming incoming Governor Richard Fox.

Thank you Richard! Thank you Erika, Liz and Josephine, you certainly have become part of all our lives!



And who is DG Jamie?

The highlights:

- **Work –**
 - Milne Financial Planning.
- **Family -**
 - Caroline Porter, husband David, grandsons; Sidney (4) and Henry (2)
 - Home in Somerville, MA, summer home here at Joe's Pond, VT
 - Caroline is a Computational Biologist, the Broad Center
 - Christine Milne O'Grady, husband Chris
 - Home in Littleton, NH
 - Christine has an MSW and counsels children and young adults.
 - Alexandra (Alex) Milne
 - Home in West Burke, VT with partner James
 - Nurse, LPN with hopes of starting the RN program in the Fall.
- **Passions –**
 - Rotary, well it better be!
 - Cars
 - Skiing. Summer water skiing. Winter snow skiing
 - Running and indoor biking, BKOOL – it's cool, check it out.
 - Family

I am a member of the St. Johnsbury Rotary Club. I was introduced to Rotary as a child. My Dad, George Milne, was DG (District Governor) in 1975-76 (yikes!). Dad remains a member of the Barre Rotary Club. I joined the Barre Club in 1995.

My Rotary Story -- pretty simple --- it's the people. It feels good when we make a difference in people's lives. A bit of what I like to call ~~Rotary~~ **Happy**.

DG Jamie - Certain events can be memorable. A car ride with then DG Louisa Trip (the Magic of Rotary) I asked a few questions about being a District Governor. Louisa encouraged me to submit an application for District Governor. I did (three times if anyone is curious). Eric Denu, PDG (Past District Governor) called the night of September 16, 2017 with congratulations on being selected, I was officially a DGND (District Governor Nominee Designate) and part of what we refer to as the "DG Track".

It's the People - District Rotarians work endlessly behind the scenes keeping our District relevant and carrying out our mission: supporting clubs. The dedication these District Rotarians give to Rotary is both inspirational and heartwarming. I hope to highlight this "behind the scenes dedication" during my year.

Ron and Marilyn Bedell --- Ron was DG 2004-05 (Rotary's Centennial Year) and Marilyn was DG 2011-12. Their commitment to Rotary is amazing. Ron continues to be involved in NEPETS (North East President Elect Training Seminar) as does Marilyn. Marilyn is currently the Education Chair of NEPETS and Ron is the Ambassador Chair. Marilyn is also the Assistant Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator (ARRFC)



Ron and Marilyn delivered the District Rotary bell with my name engraved. Thank you both.



My official picture with RI President Holger Knaack and his wife Susanne at the International Assembly in San Diego, CA January 2020.

Rotary = Change = Rotary

Covid-19 – included in all we think, say and do these days...

Rotary opens opportunity (this year's Rotary theme). Rather than look at all the challenges, let's look at what's been accomplished.

- Rotary Clubs around the world turned on dime and started meeting with Zoom (or other on-line applications). As many of you have heard me say; imagine if my DG goal was to have every club in our District (that's 41 clubs) conduct two Zoom meetings before June 30, 2021. Betting odds are pretty low in reaching such a goal, yet we had about 90% of our clubs meeting using Zoom in 6 weeks --- now that's what I call change!
- New members have joined a number of our Rotary clubs that were first introduced to Rotary via a Zoom meeting. Let me repeat that – we have new members inducted into Rotary who had never attended an in-person meeting. Now that this opportunity has opened for us --- take advantage of what we've been dealt, seize the day!
- Fundraising is beginning to move on-line. For some, like those clubs with car raffles, many clubs have had the ability to accept funds on-line. Others are trying virtually 5K fundraising where participants log their miles.
- Clubs have seen members at their Zoom meetings that they haven't seen in a long time.
- Club have had international speakers they would never had the opportunity to hear if it were not for Zoom.

DG Jamie and Covid-19

- Rotary International has cancelled all in-person gatherings through 2020 and they are encouraging us to consider doing the same.
- My professional life continues to be virtual and I do not have plans for in-person Rotary Club visits. I will be visiting virtually.
- Clubs are free to decide when they resume in-person meetings, but please follow your state, county and country guidelines.
- Wear a mask when you are away from home. Any of us could be an asymptomatic carrier, wearing a mask protects others.

ROTARY HAPPY 😊

Rotary is the glue that binds us together in what we call District 7850. We are about 1,300 members strong and the Rotary mission remains laser focused, but we are in, and have been in the process of change. Most of you have seen declining membership in your clubs, I know we all have seen great new members come and go far too quickly.

- Those that come and go do not like the product: our clubs. Make no mistake, not everyone will like our clubs, but fewer and fewer seem to enjoy what we have to offer.
- Rotary International knows Rotary club model has become stale. Holger Knaack states, “Rotary is an invitation to endless opportunities”. He encourages new clubs, hosting strategic meetings and to evaluate what will encourage members/new members to take advantage of the opportunities that Rotary can provide.

- Holger states “put everything, time, fundraising, food” on test. What can be done to make your club better?

DG Jamie’s Change Challenge – I want to gather club stories of change. Clubs have experienced so many changes before the Rotary year even starts there are so many Rotary Change Stories to share. And remember, be sure to share those changes that didn’t work – Rotary works best when we learn from each other!

On-line Learning – We plan to publish an on-line training schedule, including traditional Rotary topics as well as topics more global in scope and potentially non-Rotary topics.

DG Jamie’s Open Door -- My door is always open (wear a mask if you are stopping by), you can reach me at 802.249.7107 (mobile) or jmilne@milnefeeonly.com. In addition, I will be making time available via Zoom for anyone who wants to “chat”. Join in to share ideas, express frustrations and challenges or to just say “hi”.

Restless Nights – In a true confession, I’m happy to be able to live, work and attend Rotary from home. My kids tell me I’m in one of the high-risk groups (over 60 and with some level of asthma). That aside, I worry how clubs will face the challenge of going back to “normal”. If a club had 20 regular members at an in-person meeting, I’ll go out on a limb and assume a few of those members are north of 60. Will these members feel comfortable attending in-person? Will their partner or family feel comfortable with them attending? How about their kids? One answer clubs are considering is to live stream the meeting. Will this hybrid meeting lose some the “closeness” we now get from Zoom? I’m hoping someone out there has a solution.

Looking forward to all the opportunities Rotary brings our way!

DG Jamie