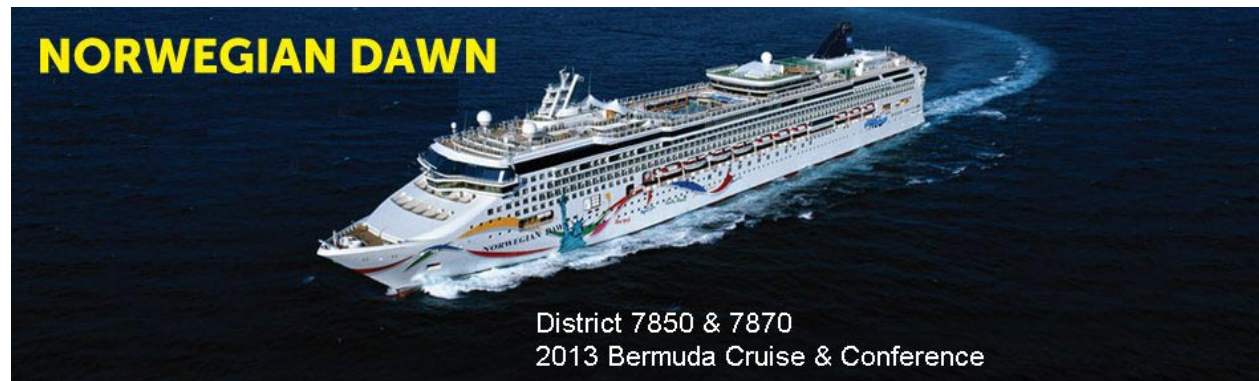


DISTRICT GOVERNOR, SONNY HOLT

“Rotary creates the perfect venue for me to give back to the community I live in while enjoying the camaraderie of positive and active individuals.” T.B.

I want to start by wishing everyone a wonderful Holiday season. Snowflakes are in the air, woodstoves are going full blast, and the birds are flocking to the bird feeders. The Northeast is a beautiful place in winter with its snow capped mountains and valleys. This is also the time of year when Deb and I start thinking of trips we would like to take for the upcoming year. Of course this next spring we have two trips that we’ll be taking, both focusing on Rotary, and meeting other Rotarians.

The 1st trip will be to Bermuda for our District Conference May 24-31. We are especially looking forward to meeting the Rotarians from Bermuda and helping with a service project there. It also will be a nice way to warm up after a cold winter “up North”.



NORWEGIAN DAWN

District 7850 & 7870
2013 Bermuda Cruise & Conference

Hundreds of members of District 7850 & 7870, which include clubs in all of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Quebec, will be on board the Norwegian Dawn for seven days. You will meet members from an area as far north as Drummondville, QC and as far south as Bennington, VT across to Nashua, NH. Great speakers, including sessions in French and English, joint service projects with four Bermuda Rotary clubs, and fun and fellowship for all. Save the date: **May 24 – 31, 2013**

The 2nd trip is to the Rotary International Convention in Lisbon Portugal, “A Harbor for Peace”. The convention is June 23-26. This is an opportunity to mingle with Rotarians from around the world, in one place. There are programs for everyone and every interest. More information about the convention can be found at www.riconvention.org



Going to the International Convention? Sign up before Dec. 15th. That’s when the rates go up.

Welcome to our newest club in the District – Drummondville Malouin



Drummondville Malouin held their Charter Celebration Night in the presence of the District Governor, Past District Governors, the mayor of Drummondville, and over 100 guests and representatives of several Clubs in the District. Drummondville Malouin says ‘Thank you’ to all those Clubs that helped sponsor this historical event.

Membership Seminars:

We shifted our membership drive into high gear on Saturday when we held the first of two seminars in Colchester, VT.

Membership Seminar

District 7850 December 1st and 8th 2012



**Architect.
Mother.
Poverty Fighter.**



Join us.

rotarysmiles.org

Another seminar will be held this Saturday in Lebanon, NH. These seminars are for club presidents and membership chairs but anyone, with an interest in increasing membership, is welcome to attend. Sign up on the District Website. There are free gifts for attendees..

Hurricane Sandy Aid Relief Efforts:

Hat's off with a sincere Thank you to our three district coordinators, Kim Wichert for Vermont, Jon Blodgett for New Hampshire, and Carl Richard, for Quebec, Canada. Thousands of dollars were collected in the form of cash, checks, and gift certificates and a fairly large shipment of food and supplies will be delivered to NY on Wednesday. Past President Steve Usle has volunteered to rent the van, drive it to NY with his son and deliver the goods. Thanks Steve.





CLUB SERVICE CHAIR
District Governor Elect, Steve Dates



MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
District Governor, Sonny Holt

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:

“One of the most often raised questions at the Presidents-elect Training Seminar. ‘How do I motivate my Club to want to have new members?’ And thus, how do I get the Club to adopt Membership growth as a "real" and "valued" shared goal for the Club. All growth strategies will come to a screaming halt if the club ‘really’ does not want to grow.” *Dan Affeldt, District Trainer*



Good point, Dan. And there are some clubs that are very comfortable with their current membership. However, whether we like it or not, clubs do not have an infinite life span and if we do not replenish our stock we eventually dry up on the vine and will be blown away with the winds of time. Son-of-a-gun, that’s pretty poetic. Anyhow, our thrust for our membership drive is to convince clubs that membership growth is not only a worthwhile undertaking, but that it is real easy if we apply the best tools and practices available. We need to start thinking outside the box; provide a good “value proposition” for our members; instill the ideal of service; reduce costs; enhance our public image; and convince our members that they, individually, are the best front line recruiters to attract new members.

All this and more will be provided at the next membership seminar this coming Saturday. If you missed the one in Colchester, join us this time in Lebanon.



FOUNDATION CHAIR
Past District Governor, Marilyn Bedell

PolioPlus – World's Biggest Commercial: Rotarians are creating awareness of global polio eradication efforts on and around World Polio Day. You can help by joining in the effort to make the World's Biggest Commercial. This interactive online initiative gives everyone a chance to join Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Bill Gates, Jackie Chan, and other world figures and celebrities who have already joined in Rotary's [This Close](#) campaign in support of polio eradication. Participants can upload photos of themselves to Rotary's polio eradication website, endpolionow.org, to be edited into the constantly expanding promotional spot.

Rotary is also releasing *End Polio Now*, an eclectic album of songs performed by its celebrity polio eradication ambassadors from the music industry. The lineup includes several polio survivors: violin virtuoso Itzhak Perlman, and folk rock musician Donovan. The *End Polio Now* album is available for [download on iTunes](#), and soon as a CD from shop.rotary.org.

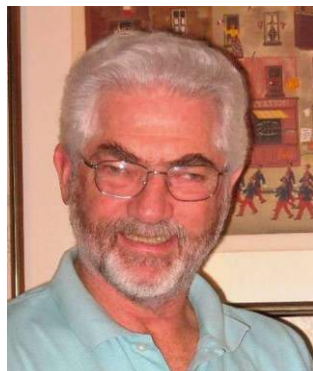
Although new polio cases are at an all-time low -- there were fewer than 180 worldwide in 2012 as of 16 October -- the funding gap has already curtailed scheduled immunization activities in polio-affected countries. If eradication fails and polio rebounds, up to 200,000 children per year could be paralyzed.

Here are other ways you can support the global effort to eradicate polio:

- [Upload your photo](#) for the World's Biggest Commercial.
- [Lend your voice to advocacy efforts](#) by signing the petition on endpolionow.org.
- Begin planning an [End Polio Now lighting](#) to celebrate Rotary's anniversary on 23 February.
- [Contribute now](#) to end polio.

Additionally, your club can add their name to the growing list of donor pictures at www.thisclose.net.

View Northfield's picture at <http://www.thisclose.net/gallery.php?show=8161>



***NEW GENERATIONS CHAIR
District Governor Nominee, Bruce Pacht***

Group Study Exchange Team Going to France (D1680) in 2013! Our district had many wonderful and exciting applicants for GSE Team members for the trip to Alsace-France – April 10, 2013 - May 10, 2013. Many thanks go to the selection committee of Francois Bouchard (Team Leader), Stan Bradeen (Team Leader Alternate), David Clark (Middlebury), Kiki Leech (Colchester-Milton), Faruk Seyrek (Sherbrooke) and Bob Simoneau (Wolfeboro), for their time and efforts during the selection process. We had 10 excellent applicants and chose the following people as team members:

- Adna Karabegovic** – Burlington, VT – Marketing Manager City of Burlington.
- Sophie Labbe** – Sherbooke, QC – Project Manager Sherbrooke Commerce Dept.
- Annalisa Parent** – Colchester, VT – French teacher CVU and Rice H.S.
- Daniel Pellerin** – Sherbrooke, QC – President Phoenix Intervention Apres Sinistre (Alternate)
- Sara Granstrom** – Bristol, VT – Manager Lincoln Peak Vineyard

TAs the team begins preparing for their trip, let us fondly remember the team who visited us this fall – the ones who taught us that we can, in fact, do the Electric Slide to an Irish tune! Please contact Louisa Tripp (louisatripp@yahoo.com or (802)371-9819 with any questions.



Participants sought for Friendship Exchange:



District 7850

South African Friendship Exchange Start Planning Now

7850 Is Looking For 4-7 Couples Interested In
Going to East London, South Africa
February, 2014

Itinerary:

- 1 Week In East London, On The Indian Ocean, South Africa
- 1 Week Touring To Capetown, South Africa
- 1 Week Add On Adventure In Capetown, South Africa

Approximate Cost Per Couple \$7-8,000

Hosts Also Needed For South Africans In October 2013,
Fall Foliage Tour

If Interested Contact:

Bill Sahlman
bsahlman@gmail.com
(603) 381-8988

Literary and Visual Arts Section

This section is reserved for members who wish to display some of their art or writings. Please keep it limited to no more than a page.

Snowshoeing in Vermont

Late January and with the sun setting, the two kids and I decide to go snowshoeing. Laura 10 years old and Taylor 8, each strap on a pair of light, modern composition snowshoes with metal cleats -- excellent for trekking uphill. Me? I strap on the old, catgut woven, maplewood snowshoes.

With bindings tight, we take the Indian trail which starts in back of our cabin. Winding uphill always it bends off to the right, onto the old Deer trail. Following Deer tracks, we spot some scat, and come upon a hollow in the snow where it appears a large buck spent the night.

Breathing heavy and steady now, we continue to wind our way uphill, Laura humming to herself and Taylor talking excitedly. Making good time we intercept the snowmobile trail and follow it across Harlow Hill. Accompanied by the sound of dogs barking, we cross the road and press on toward Hebard Hill.

With dusk setting in, we stop and drink sodas from my knapsack, then continue on. The trail is level here and the going is easy. In the distance we see lights along route 66. The stillness is only interrupted by the sound of breathing and the crunching of snow underfoot. Laura motions for us to stop and listen and we hear the faint whirring of snowmobile engines in the distance.

Legs feel strong. We could trek a few more miles, however it soon turns dark, and with no moon, we decide to head back. Taylor takes the lead. Backtracking with very little lingering light, he does well. I slip and slide a bit coming down the hills -- drawing laughter from the children. But the kid's cleats dig in and they make it down the trail just fine.

Overhead in the blackness Jupiter shines in the southwest sky. As we approach the lights of the cabin, we know this has been a good trek. One to remember.

Sonny Holt