



THE INSPIRATION



Rotary District 7870



November 2018

District Newsletter 1819, Number 3

Venu Rao, District Governor

www.rotary7870.org

Greetings From Your District Governor



Dear Friends:

In the month of October, Governors of both New Hampshire and Vermont issued proclamations declaring that October 22nd to 28th is a "Rotary Week." In turn, Rotarians all across our District 7870 celebrated Rotary week with special events. Rotarians invited their local community leaders and friends to the special events and present them with all the good Rotarians do within their communities and beyond. We also celebrated Rotary's successful continuing campaign to eradicate polio. Many of our Rotary Clubs also displayed Rotary banners and Rotary flags on the main streets of their towns and cities for the duration of the Rotary Week. You will find a special section in this News Letter dedicated to Rotary Week Celebrations. Thank you all for efforts in bring the Rotary good deeds to the forefront of public conscience.

November is the Rotary Foundation month. That gives us an opportunity to reinforce the power we have through the Rotary Foundation to do good globally.

To provide a proper context for my discussion of the power of the Rotary Foundation, let me start by stating, we Rotarians are all volunteers. As volunteers we come from various walks of life; we excel in our own professions, and we come together as Rotarians, contributing our time, talent, and treasure to help our fellow human beings who are a little less fortunate than we are. They could be across the street locally or across the oceans globally. Basically, as Rotarians, we come together to do some good in the world.

To help locally in our own communities, business and professional men and women come together to form Rotary Clubs in our villages, towns and cities. We look around our communities and find unmet needs. We use creative ways to raise funds and go meet those local unmet needs. That is the core mission, the core function of every Rotary Club. This is true for every Rotary Club in the world, not just in our Rotary District. Having visited 53 out of 59 Rotary Clubs in our District, I can tell you with certainty, that every Rotary Club in our District performs this core function



admirably, from the smallest club, Rutland West with 6 members in Vermont to largest club, Nashua Rotary Club with more than 100 members in New Hampshire. Some clubs may raise less money and some clubs may raise more money, but all of our clubs try to meet their local needs. In our District, the 59 clubs combined raise over two million dollars a year and donate all that money to charities in our own communities. This is in addition to the over 130,000 hours of service that Rotarians give to their communities every year. Local service is a very important core function of Rotary Clubs because, charity starts at home.

Even though 100% of our Rotary clubs perform the core local-support function admirably well, 66% of them demonstrate a lesser understanding of the real power they have in extending their reach and performing life-altering projects across the globe. That power comes from an organization that Rotary has, called the Rotary Foundation, and Rotary incentivizes the Rotary clubs to use this Foundation to multiply their contribution by 3.5 times for international projects. Only one-third of over 33,000 Rotary Clubs take advantage of this incentive with Rotary Foundation's allocation of over \$280 million dollars for global projects and accomplish about one billion dollars of life-altering projects in the world every year. The clubs of District 7870 can do more. I encourage every club to participate in a global project and thereby to "make a difference."

To help you with the whole process of creating or participating in global projects, taking advantage of the Rotary Foundation match, we have a committee (District International Resource Committee) of four Rotarians who have extensive knowledge of actually accomplishing various global grant projects. They are:

1. Tristram Johnson of Brattleboro Sunrise (tristamjr@gmail.com) - Chair
2. Tony Gilmore of Capital City Sunrise (tony@thegilmores.us)
3. Doug Rupert of Milford (appletop@tellink.net) and
4. Krishna Mangipudi of Hollis Brookline (krishna90@live.com)

There are many ways in which you can participate in a global grant project. You can assume an International Club role and work with a host club in another country, or you choose a global grant project undertaken by another club and financially contribute to it. In either case, once the project is approved by the Rotary Foundation, your contribution is multiplied by 3.5 times with Foundation matching. This year you have an additional incentive. For every club that participates in a global grant project, I will personally match dollar for dollar up to \$1,000.00 of your club's contribution.

I challenge every club to use this offer and let us go and do some good around the world. I wish everyone of you a fun-filled Thanksgiving with your families.

Venu Rao
District Governor 2018-2019
District 7870

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Have Something You'd Like to Share with the Entire District?

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District News

Rotary Week Gubernatorial Proclamations from NH and VT

Proclamations provided a catalytic effect in helping Rotary Clubs both in Vermont and New Hampshire celebrate Rotary Week with special Events. Rotarians have invited their local community leaders and friends to the special events and presented them with all the good Rotarians do within their communities and beyond. They also celebrated Rotary's successful campaign to eradicate polio. Many of our Rotary Clubs have also displayed Rotary banners and Rotary flags on the main streets of their towns and cities for the duration of the Rotary Week.

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

WHEREAS, Rotary International (Rotary) is a worldwide organization with over 1.2 million professional members who have committed their time and money to strengthening their communities and assisting people around the world; and

WHEREAS, The Rotary Foundation has been recognized as one of the top charitable organizations in the world; and

WHEREAS, Paul H. Harris, the founder of Rotary International, was raised in Wallingford, Vermont; and

WHEREAS, between more than 40 Rotary clubs in Vermont comprising over 1,400 members, Vermont Rotarians raise more than one million dollars each year for local and international causes and invest many hours of personal time to service projects; and

WHEREAS, since 1985, Rotary has led a coalition of charities and nongovernmental organizations to immunize millions of children each year against polio, at the cost of billions of dollars and millions of service hours; and

WHEREAS, poliomyelitis (polio) is a highly infectious disease that primarily affects children under 5 years of age, and as of 1988, polio was infecting approximately 350,000 people each year in many countries around the world; and

WHEREAS, cases of poliomyelitis due to wild polio virus have decreased by more than 99% since 1988; and


WHEREAS, Rotary and its partners are on the cusp of eradicating polio from the earth as recent years have seen only a handful of new cases,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, do hereby proclaim October 22-26, 2018 as


ROTARY INTERNATIONAL WEEK

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 17th day of October, A.D. 2018


Philip B. Scott
Governor




Jaye Pershing Johnson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs

The State of New Hampshire
By His Excellency
Christopher T. Sununu, Governor

A Proclamation

In the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Eighteen

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL WEEK
OCTOBER 22-28, 2018

WHEREAS, Rotary International is a worldwide organization consisting of 1.2 million community members throughout the world, comprising more than 35,000 clubs; and

WHEREAS, rotaries around the world have worked to promote better health, eradicate disease, build communities, support education, provide clean water and much more throughout its one hundred and ten-year history; and

WHEREAS, Rotary International dedicated itself to eradicating polio in the world, and have continuously worked with numerous organizations to immunize children throughout the world, reducing the occurrence of polio to only three new cases in the world this year, and Rotary is working to ensure that in 2019, there will be no new cases of polio; and

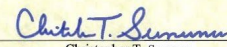
WHEREAS, there are 21,00 Rotarians throughout Southern New Hampshire and Southern Vermont who have dedicated over 120,000 hours of time to their communities and raised over \$2 million dollars for local causes; and

WHEREAS, the 37 Rotary Clubs in New Hampshire are a strong presence in their local communities, and the contributions they make to their communities are invaluable;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby proclaim OCTOBER 22-28, 2018 as ROTARY INTERNATIONAL WEEK in the State of New Hampshire, and call this to the attention of all citizens.






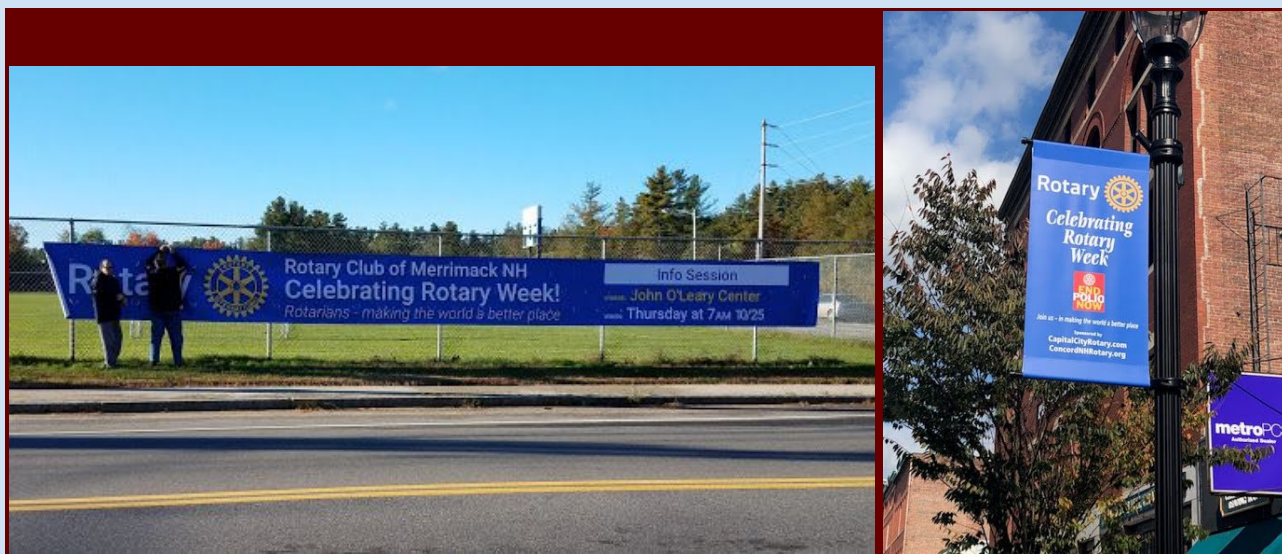
IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the State of New Hampshire to be affixed this 27th day of September, 2018.


Christopher T. Sununu
Governor

Rotary Week Banners Fly Across the District

In addition to gubernatorial proclamations and events, Rotary Banners flew all across the district during Rotary Week (October 22-28, 2018). Here are some to enjoy:

Manchester Rotary Club Two Clubs Serving the Greater Manchester Community		Celebrating ROTARY WEEK 	 Queen City Rotary Club Rotarians - Making the World a Better Place
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Rotarians ~ making the world a better place



Connect. Partner. Serve

A Rotary District 7870 Club
Making a Difference

Interact 
Poultney High School

Rotaract 
G.M.C./Community

Celebrating Rotary Week ~ October 22 ~ 28

Serving Windsor

Since 1923



"Service Above Self"

Celebrating
ROTARY WEEK

Rotary

Club of Milford NH

& The Milford Rotary Club Foundation

*Serving Amherst, Milford, Mont Vernon,
Wilton and the community at-large*

Rotarians - Making the world a better place



Rotary

HOLLIS
BROOKLINE
ROTARY'S

**ROTARY
WEEK**

Fulchino's
October 24
5:30 p.m.



NEWPORT
**ROTARY
CLUB**

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Supporting

FOOD PANTRY • SENIOR CENTER • LIBRARY • LIBRARY ARTS CENTER
FIRE & EMERGENCY DEPTS. • THE SCHOOLS

ROTARY WEEK OCTOBER 22-28, 2018



John Siemienowicz Selected as District Governor for 2021-2022

The nominating committee met recently to interview candidates for the position of District Governor for District 7870 for 2021-2022. On behalf of the committee, I am pleased to announce that John Siemienowicz has been selected for that position. His name will be submitted for election at the next District wide meeting. John has been a member of the Milford Rotary Club since 2008. He has been an active Rotarian in both his club and the District for the past several years. He is presently serving as an Assistant Governor for Area 2. His wife, Allise de Smet, is also a member of the Milford Rotary Club.

The committee was pleased that we had another well qualified candidate for the position. Although it made our selection process more difficult, having more than one well qualified candidate is an indication that our District will have great leaders for many years to come.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan L. Springer Immediate Past District Governor



District Gala 2018

On November 15, 2018, the District hosted a Gala in Nashua. A good attendance was had by Rotarians from multiple clubs to hear about informative topics. The program consisted of:

- A welcome by Chris Parkinson, PDG
- An overview of the Rotary Foundation by DG Venu Rao
- Presentations on Rotary Foundation Projects: Haiti Water Projects by PDG Carolyn Meub, Mongolia Project by PDG Tony Gilmore, Guatemala Midwife Project by Adrian Levesque, Mexico Mental Health Project by Larry Hersh.
- PDG Ron Smith was the Keynote Speaker
- Multiple raffle prizes drawn by international students.

Join us next year!



Club News

Brattleboro Clubs Celebrated Rotary Week

Rotary Clubs of Brattleboro had a successful week in promoting Rotary Awareness and Polio Plus utilizing traditional and social media.

A commentary on Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio, written by Brattleboro Rotary Club past president Martin Cohn, was published in the daily newspaper, Brattleboro Reformer, and the statewide news website VTDigger. Messages, based on the commentary, were posted each day on the clubs' Facebook page. And, an audio public service announcement, created by Brattleboro Sunrise Rotary past president Kevin Yager from a Rotary International video public service announcement, was heard on Brattleboro's two local radio stations, WKVT and WTSA.

Rotary Cares, a monthly cable television show developed by Rotary Clubs of Brattleboro, aired a show on PolioPlus. The show features Alton Centennial Rotary member Dave Countway discussing his mission to Pakistan.

Finally, the week ended with the Rotary Clubs of Brattleboro receiving the 2018 Brattleboro Community Television Non-Profit Member of the Year Award for Rotary Cares. Over 70 people attended the BCTV Producers Awards and learned about Rotary. Several articles about the award appeared in local newspapers. In summary, thousands of people were exposed to Rotary at no cost to the Brattleboro clubs.

PHOTO: (l-r) Martin Cohn and Kevin Yager accept 2018 BCTV Non-profit Member of the Year Award for the monthly television show, Rotary Cares.



Brattleboro Clubs Receive Non-Profit Member of the Year Award by Brattleboro Community Television

Brattleboro Community Television presented the Rotary Clubs of Brattleboro its 2018 Non-Profit Member of the Year Award for the monthly show, Rotary Cares, at its annual producer celebration held on October 25, 2018.

According to Brattleboro Rotary Club past president and show producer Martin Cohn, Rotary Cares helps to tell the public about Rotary International, a 100+ year international service organization. Cohn said, “The monthly format allows us to inform viewers, as well as listeners to our podcast, about the many aspects of Rotary by featuring different members participation.”

Kevin Yager, Brattleboro Sunrise Rotary Club past president and show director added, “Producing the show in the Brattleboro Community Television studio lets us reach not only the viewers in Brattleboro but also world-wide by posting the link on our clubs websites and social media pages.”

“We are honored to be selected by BCTV for the 2018 Nonprofit Member Award,” Cohn said, “Over the past year we have received many accolades from viewers but, given the number of quality shows produced by area non-profit organizations, it is particularly nice to be recognized by BCTV.”

Rotary Cares can be viewed by visiting <https://www.brattleborotv.org/rotary-cares>.

ATTACHED PHOTO (L-R) Kevin Yager, Brattleboro Sunrise Rotary Past President and Brattleboro Rotary Club past president Martin Cohn accept the BCTV 2018 Non-Profit Member of the Year Award for the monthly show, Rotary Cares.



Ludlow Rotary Club Hears a Message of Hope

At its recent luncheon meeting the Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) hosted Sean Perry of the organization We R H.O.P.E., INC. Sean talked about the increasing anxiety that some people face to the point of it crippling their daily activities including their ability to function in society. He founded an organization whose mission is "Preparing the people of today for the anxieties of tomorrow." We R H.O.P.E. is a non profit organization that brings anxiety education, coaching, trauma informed interactive services and suicide prevention to individuals and schools struggling to find affordable support options. Sean spoke about the schools they work in to increase a student's ability to focus on their studies and control the anxiety that plagues many students today. He also counsels adults who suffer from extreme anxiety and other mental illnesses. Rotarians asked many questions and discussed bringing him to a broader local audience. He can be contacted at atsean@werhope.org. Pictured above are Brigid Sullivan, LRC President and Sean Perry. LRC meets for lunch on most Tuesdays at 12:15 pm at DJ's Restaurant. The LRC is small and is always looking to welcome new members. If you would like to attend a meeting and learn how you may 'Serve Humanity' while enjoying the fun and fellowship of others, please contact any Rotarian or drop a note to Ludlow Rotary, PO Box 216, Ludlow Vermont.



Newport Rotary Hosts Joint Meeting with New London, Charlestown and Claremont Sugar River Rotary Clubs

Rotary International was founded in 1905 based on two concepts, service and fellowship. Rotary International is divided up into many districts throughout the world. The local district is 7870 consisting of 59 clubs in the southern portions of N.H. and VT.

In a historic meeting, Newport Rotary hosted a joint meeting on November 7, 2018 with New London, Charlestown and Claremont Sugar River Rotary clubs. Also joining the clubs were 7870 District Governor, Venu Rao, Past District Governor, Jon Springer, Assistant District Governor and District Governor Elect, Nancy Russell and Assistant District Governor, David Saturley. Forty two Rotarians met for lunch, catered by Summercrest and had a grand old time.

While there are other Rotary Clubs in the area, Newport, Charlestown, New London and Claremont all have an intimate history together. Claremont Rotary was originally chartered on February 1, 1922, but ceased to exist in 2010. Six automobile loads of Claremont Rotarians braved the worst snowstorm of the year and “battered, pushed and shoveled their way to Newport” to help charter the Newport Rotary Club on January 22, 1923 at the Newport House. Newport then sponsored the Charlestown Rotary Club which was chartered on January 10, 1948. Newport then sponsored the New London Rotary Club which was chartered on February 10, 1979. After a hiatus of four years without a club in Claremont, Newport and Windsor co-sponsored the Claremont Sugar River Rotary Club which was chartered on June 21, 2014. Thus Claremont is both the parent and child of Newport Rotary. Our four clubs are family.



Monadnock Rotary Celebrated Rotary Week

The Monadnock Rotary Club (MRC/Dublin) hosted a special celebration of Rotary Week at the Dublin Community Center on Tuesday 10/23. The public was invited to learn more about Rotary - an often unsung success story. With over 35,000 clubs and 1.2 million business and professional leaders / members worldwide, the 110 year old Rotary is one of the largest service organizations in the world. Dedicated to promoting peace, fighting disease (with great success nearly eliminating Polio), providing clean water, supporting education and growing local economies.

Locally the MRC has for years sponsored the Wellness Festival in Peterborough resulting in over \$26,000 donated to local food banks and charitable service organizations in the region. MRC also maintains the Dublin's Rotary Park on Route 101, participates in High School Youth Exchange programs and provides Youth Leadership Awards (program event) and various scholarships and much more. The MRC welcomes guests to any of their one hour Tuesday morning breakfast meetings held at 7:30 at the Dublin Community Church. MRC speakers are listed on <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/2945/events/calendar>. All three eastern Monadnock region Rotary Presidents were in attendance: Bob MacDonald (Peterborough), Jim Guy (Dublin), Dale Gabel (Assistant District 7870 Governor) and Bob Schaumann (Jaffrey-Rindge). The Rotary is always looking for community minded people interesting in promoting wellness, education, a clean environment and much more.

Bob Meissner, Jr.
Member, Monadnock Rotary Club



Hudson-Litchfield Celebrated Rotary Week

Governor Chris Sununu designated the week of October 22-28 as Rotary International Week to honor and recognize the work of Rotarians in New Hampshire. Rotary District 7870 Governor Venu Rao noted "Hundreds of Rotarians in both [Vermont and New Hampshire] have had a lasting impact in their respective communities in 2017-2018, contributing over \$2 million into the towns and cities in which they serve. Rao called on the District's Rotary Clubs to hold celebratory meetings and to invite local elected officials to a meeting so that they could see the impact their local Club has on their community first hand.

The Hudson-Litchfield Rotary held its special weekly meeting in the evening at the Rodgers Memorial Library on Thursday October 25. Club members were joined by several local elected officials and one Fire Chief, Litchfield Fire Chief Frank Fraitzl. President Jack Madden gave a presentation which highlighted the Hudson-Litchfield Club's history, fundraisers, and the Club's contributions to the community both through donations and volunteer hours.

About the Hudson-Litchfield Rotary Club, President Madden said, "We are a small, but mighty club. Each year we donate almost 450 hours of service, \$5000 in scholarships for graduating seniors at Alvirne and Campbell High Schools, and money or in kind donations to several local charities including Anne Marie House, Humane Society for Greater Nashua, Make-a-Wish New Hampshire, Friends of Benson Park, St. John XXIII food pantry and Christmas Adopt a Family, and Salvation Army bell-ringing." "This year," Madden went on to say, "the Club also donated to an international project, the Kisumu Kenya Safe Water Project for individual household water purification."

On display at the gathering was a copy of Governor Sununu's Proclamation, the Club's charter, a list of Charter Members, friendship banners old and current, and other memorabilia. Also on display was this year's Hudson-Litchfield Rotary Christmas Ornament which features the wooden soldiers in Library Park.

After the presentation, the members and their guests enjoyed a delicious dinner and lots of conversation. The elected officials learned about the Hudson-Litchfield Rotary Club, and the club members learned more about our lawmakers and the issues facing State and Local government.

Photo captions below



In the first photo, State Senator Sharon Carson and State Representative Kimberly Rice pause for a photo.

In the second photo Rotarian Scott Desroches talks to Representative Russell Ober (foreground), while Representative Andrew Renzullo talks to Rotarian Rick French.

Trunk or Treat in Belmont

Belmont Rotary's rotary week. The event was trunk or treat, we served refreshments, provided candy and mustaches for Belmont children on October 28th. In the picture are Ali Ellis, Cheryl Ellis and Ken Ellis.

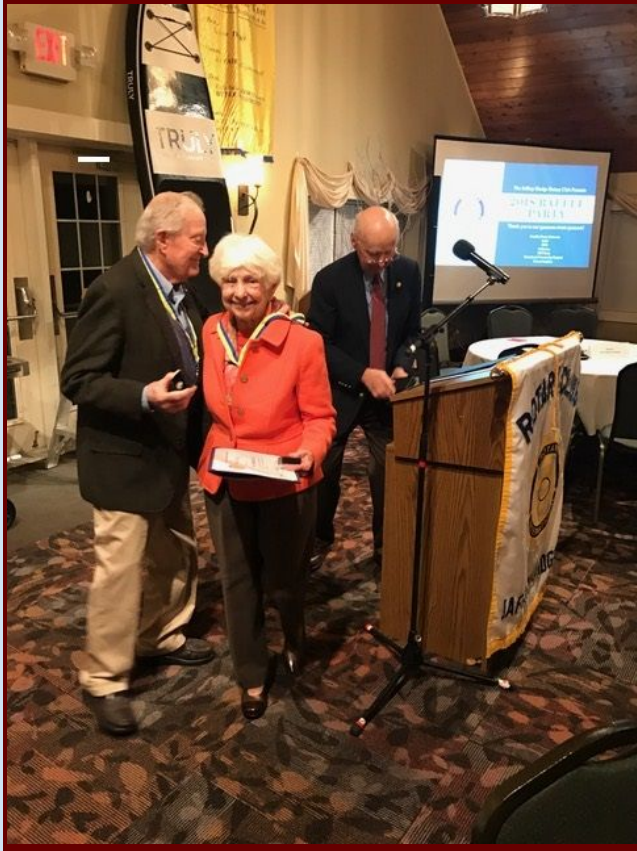


Local Couple Honored by Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary

Allen and Nancy Clapp are both recent recipients of the coveted Paul Harris Fellow Award. Presented by Jaffrey-Rindge Rotarian Clay Hollister before a packed audience at The Shattuck for the Annual Raffle Fund Raiser, the surprised couple had come to this very successful event thinking another citizen was being honored. Hollister pointed out that this charming but humble couple excelled in volunteering. He stated that "the impact of their help and commitment can be seen in our school children, our library, our hospital, our treasured Cathedral of the Pines and an assortment of volunteer activities and organizations they have supported over the years."

With glowing recommendations from classroom teachers and parents connected with the Jaffrey Grade School where Librarian Nancy volunteers with first graders, and accolades for Al for his daily devotion to fifth grade mathematics, the selection was cemented by the summer contribution the remarkable couple makes to Camp BEST. Al was the volunteer Executive Director of the Cathedral who led a major renovation project following the devastating ice storm of 2008. He also greets folks at Monadnock Community Hospital while Nancy serves on the Jaffrey Library Board. It is hard to believe that at age 84 Al was voted 2008 Rotary Softball All-Star for some spectacular plays hitting and fielding and here he is ten years later volunteering practically as a full time job.

The contribution of the Clapp partnership to community service is huge and clearly merits the title of Paul Harris Fellows.



Hollis Brookline Club Hosts Candidate Forum and Interact Club does 1st Global Project

Candidates Forum:

<http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/news/local-news/2018/10/15/at-issue-local-candidates-face-off-at-forum-in-hollis/>

Interact Club:

The HB Rotary Interact concluded their 1st global project by collecting gently worn shoes to donate to Soles4Souls. Because of the generosity of our communities, we collected 333 pairs of shoes!!! Thank you to all who donated! Special thanks to the following for allowing us to place our collection bins with them: RMMS, HBMS, HBHS, Brookline Library and Brookline and Hollis Town Halls. Special shout out to Ron DeBlois, Jeana Jordan, Katie Hugh and Sue Connelly for helping to deliver the shoes to DSW!!!!

Rutland and Rutland City Rotaries Celebrate Rotary Week

On October 25th Rutland South Rotary and Rutland City Rotary came together to celebrate Rotary Week! We put on a mixer to bring awareness to Rotary and what we do for our community. We were very pleased with the attendance for this event. We had over 100 people from our community come together to celebrate with us! The Rutland City President, Reed Wilcox, spoke about all the great things their club is doing in our community. April Kuhl, Rutland South President, talked about all the positive things happening in the club and opened the floor to our grant recipients. It was extremely heartwarming to have so many recipients get up to thank rotary and share how we were able to help them! This mixer was our most successful outreach yet and we can't wait to continue bringing awareness to our clubs and increasing membership!



Tonya Albee Receives Prestigious Realtor Good Neighbor Award

The Jaffrey-Rindge Rotarians had a surprise visit at their meeting at Franklin Pierce on Thursday, November 8 by Gerry O'Connell, 2018 President and Dave Cummings, Director of Communications of the New Hampshire Association of Realtors. They came to present a special award for the "lofty ideals" of community service to Tonya Albee, the founder of the free Rotary enrichment summer camp BEST.

This energetic Rotarian leader was selected as a "Good Neighbor" in New Hampshire for her critical role over the last eight years in the development of a program highly regarded by families and students as well as sponsors Franklin Pierce, Jaffrey-Rindge School District and fellow Rotarians. Harvard professor and local resident Robert Putnam has endorsed the unique experience as among the most promising efforts anywhere in the country to address the opportunity gap facing America's kids today.

Tanya's honor came with a "Good Neighbor Award" pin, and a beautiful Pepi Hermann crystal engraved award. And the stunned Rotarians cheered as the New Hampshire Realtors presented a \$5,000 donation given in her name to Jaffrey/Rindge Rotary Camp Best.



A Lifeline for Veterans with Bvisual Impairment

The Veterans Affairs (VA) is getting plenty of bad press today but it offers a world class service for visually impaired or blind veterans.

I am one of those veterans. I am a member of the Bedford, NH Rotary Club and I joined after I became totally blind from a rare form of cancer. After I completed my chemo therapy and was declared cancer free, I worked with the Visual Impairment Services Team (VIST) Coordinator. I was informed that there 12 Blind Rehabilitation Centers in the US. They all have great staff and resources to train the veteran to be more independent in his or her normal lives.

When a veteran is considered for a Blind Rehab Center session, they are medically evaluated to ensure they are capable of being able to participate in the training. Once selected, the veteran is transported to a Center with availability. Even though I would have normally gone to West Haven, Connecticut, I have traveled to Tucson and Chicago.

Upon arrival, the veteran is processed as an inpatient of the Center. The 24/7 nursing staff ensures that each veteran remains healthy. The goal of the nursing staff is to ensure they provide the veteran with assistance that they would have at home.

The BRC instructs veterans in Orientation and Mobility (O and M) which is demonstrating and practicing how to move around the environment on and off campus using the white cane. This is the most critical part of the training. The veteran is taught to be an independent thinker and responsible for his or her travel and safety. Personal care, ironing, washing and drying one's own clothes, and safely functioning in the kitchen are also part of the essential basics. A manual skills section demonstrates that, despite, vision loss, you can still do leatherworking, pottery, weaving, musical instrument orientation and woodworking using normal power tools to include table saws, lathes, planers, jointers and routers. My manual skills instructor was blind himself so it is a great confidence builder to be taught by someone who has been there.

There is also a great deal of matching the veteran with technology to enhance the need. For vets with some remaining eyesight, programs such as magnifiers and CCTV readers help them to continue to utilize their current computer. In my case, a totally blind vet, I was trained in a screen reading software which allows me to hear where the cursor is on the screen. I used that program to write this article.

A typical stay would be around 6 to 10 weeks depending on the need and many vets attend the BRCs for refresher or training in new technology.

There is also a large recreational component. Bike riding on tandem bicycles, golf outings (yes, I played every week when at Tucson and I did better blind than I ever did sighted). Fishing,

horseback riding, bowling, and cultural and educational tours. Community organizations also host residents of the BRCs with dinners, game night and genuine caring for the veteran community.

From a personal perspective, I feel extremely fortunate to be blessed with this resource. I have learned to use my iPhone with Siri voice assistant and Voice Over and I can keep up with my friends and family. It is my lifeline. I have audible books and newspapers and magazine readers, a device which tells me what color my clothes are, and various apps for my phone that can read text and decode bar codes on food items.

The BRC offers the veteran expertise, resources and a dedication that makes this VA organization a crown jewel of veterans who cannot see as clearly as they once did.

David Kuhns
Bedford, NH Rotary Club
USAF Retired
David.kuhns01@gmail.com

Meredith Interact Club Holds Its Annual Fall Induction Banquet

On November 1st, Inter-Lakes High School Interact Club, sponsored by Meredith Rotary, held their Annual Fall Induction Banquet. Pictured below are the dozen new members inducted, including Meredith Rotary's Youth Exchange students – Marek and Anna.

District Governor Venu presented the 'Rotary Citation for Interact Clubs' to president Jasmine [see picture]. This citation was earned by the club last year for 'providing a difference in their school and community'.

Meredith Rotarian Gary Dehnel and Interact president Jasmine gave Officer Keith True \$2,000 for Officer True's Law Enforcement Against Drugs program for 6th graders. [see picture] Interact donated \$1,000 and Rotary donated \$1,000 (\$635 from a District Designated Funds grant and \$365 from Meredith Rotary). Interact members will help Officer True run the LEAD program.

The Interact Club held its annual Moulton Farm Corn Maze fundraiser last Saturday... which was pretty much weathered out. Numerous Meredith Rotarians sponsored Corn Maze stations and Rotarian John Moulton contributed all of Saturday's corn maze entrance fees for a total of \$650. The Interact club donated all of the Corn Maze funds to Make-a-Wish. Pictured is Interact VP Joe making the Make-a-Wish donation to Make-a-Wish recipient Luke who went to Disney World last year.

For the evening's conclusion, the Interact Club distributed approximately 1,500 pairs of socks that Interact had collected during *Soxtober* to The Santa Fund of the Greater Lakes Region, Pemi Bridge House of Plymouth, and Salvation Army of Laconia [see picture]. The Santa Fund representative told the Interact members 'I wish you could see how touched the recipients are when they receive new clean socks!'

Additionally, recently ILHS Interact Club has donated \$1,000 to Rotary ShelterBox for Indonesian tsunami disaster relief and \$1,000 to a Rotary Global Grant to provide micro-loans to qualified micro-business groups or families in Rwanda so that they may start local businesses to then be able to experience self-sufficiency and finance their children's education.

In December ILHS Interact Club plans to sing Christmas carols at the local NH Veterans Home, work the phone bank at the Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction, and assist Meredith Rotary Club at the 27th annual Rotary Senior Dinner where over 300 guests were served holiday dinners.



International

Are You Looking to be an International Sponsor of a Global Grant but Don't Know Where to Find One? Try a Rotary Project Fair. By Randall Barclay

Title: Are you looking to be an international sponsor of a global grant but don't know where to find one? Try a Rotary Project Fair – Randell Barclay (Wallingford Club, Assistant Governor)



In August, I heard about something called a Project Fair on the Rotary International Website under Exchange Ideas. What is Project Fair? It is a conference where Rotarians with ideas for humanitarian projects (Host Sponsors) meet with Rotarians who are looking to “invest” through the Foundation’s Global Grant Process (International Sponsors).

Project Fairs are relatively new and Rotary International has only just started to recognize their value. There are eight project fairs now being held each year: four in South America, two in Africa and one each in the Middle East and Europe. (<https://my.rotary.org/en/document/project-fairs>). I decided to attend the 13th West African Project Fair in Cotonou, Benin, running from October 2nd through October 10th. (<http://rotarywapf.org/>). I found that Past Rotary International Director Brad Howard was hosting a trip through his company Howard Tours. (<http://www.howardtours.net/>). PRID Brad has been involved with the West African Project Fairs since their inception. He was also extremely knowledgeable on everything Rotary.

There are different agendas for the international and host Rotarians. The international Rotarians arrive usually two days before the event. We were greeted on our arrival by the local district governor, the Host Organizing Committee and the Local Hosts, in this case District 9102, which

includes Niger, Ghana, Togo and Benin. The West African Project Fair includes 15 countries and five districts, 9101, 9102, 9110, 9125 and 9140.

The next day, each international visitor visited their embassy. The US Ambassador gave us an 1-1/2 hour briefing and told us how important our work was in eradicating polio and promoting peace and understanding between nations.

What did we find out about Benin? You need to have all your vaccinations up to date and take your malaria pills. Benin is a country of 11 million people that achieved independence from France in 1960. It is about the size of New England without Maine. Industries are agriculture, fishing and service. Benin consists of 47 tribal groups with French as the official language. There are about 10 major local languages. This area was the hub of the original slave trade from Africa to the Americas. 42% of the population is under 14. Infant mortality is 53/1000 births or 5.3% compared to the US of 0.6% or 6/1000. GDP/Capita is \$2,300 and is ranked number 200 out of 229 countries. (<https://www.cia.gov/library/PUBLICATIONS/the-world-factbook/geos/bn.html>).



Each conference tries to have a number of service projects in which hosts and international visitors can participate. The second full day we went on our polio immunization day. This was as emotional as everyone told me it would be. We and our hosts gathered at a local clinic in Cotonou. There were speeches of thanks for Rotary's work in eradicating polio by the Deputy Minister of Health and by the District Governors of the various districts. We were each assigned to work with vaccinators who were local college students and allocated an area of the city to cover.

The next two days were dedicated to the Project Fair. The first day was like a Foundation Global Grant training session. We had presentations by a Rotary Area of Focus Manager from Evanston. We had presentations on Polio. We had an outline of what was expected from host and international clubs. There were speeches in both English and French with instantaneous translators using headphones. The 15 nations represented both English and French speakers. This was a real opportunity to get to know Rotarians and develop life-long friendships. The next day we

spent the morning in a tent where booths for the 40+ clubs had been set up. It took me four hours to get through all the clubs. I tried to limit myself to five minutes per club.



The following morning we divided up to participate in several service projects. Our hosts had decided that we would only have to do light work. One group helped plant trees, the other went to a local hospital for blind children and I went to look at a water project that was providing cleaning drinking water to several communities. The last day, we drove to Ouidah to follow the old Slave Route. We started at the reconstructed Portuguese fort which is now a museum. It was from this fort, and four others like it, that slaves began their journey to the coast. We ended our tour at the “Door of No Return” which serves as a memorial to the slaves last time on African soil.

The international team and local Rotarians met one last time to pledge to work together to address humanitarian needs around the world. It was then off to the airport for our late night flights back to Europe and the USA.

Next year’s conference is in Liberia and I am planning to go. It would be great to have a few of us on the trip.

I came away with 150 possible global grant projects. I am now trying to narrow them down to five or six projects that might interest clubs or groups of clubs in our district.

If any 7870 Clubs are interested to joining together to work on some of these projects please feel free to contact me. I’m also happy to come and talk to your club.

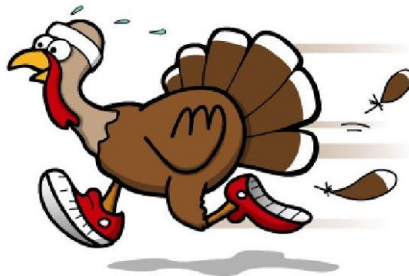
Randell Barclay (Randell.Barclay@gmail.com).

Events and Fundraisers

Club's 6th Annual Turkey Trot 5K on Thanksgiving Morning

This will be Merrimack Rotary Club's 6th annual Turkey Trot 5K. The event has come a long way from approximately 100 registered runners in the first year vs. close to 400 registered runners last year. It has been a very successful event.

The generosity of our sponsors and the participation of all the runners have allowed the Merrimack Rotary to donate tens of thousands of dollars to worthwhile local causes. Proceeds have gone to purchasing Coats for Kids, Holiday Gifts from Operation Santa's Holiday Tree for the less fortunate and last, thousands of dollars have been donated to various Merrimack Food Pantries. If you like to walk, run and support a great cause, please see the attached for more information.



The Rotary Club of Merrimack sponsors

Turkey Trot ~ 5K Road Race

Thursday, November 22, 2018 (Thanksgiving morning)
Registration starts at 7:00 am
Race starts at 8:00 am

Race starts at Merrimack Middle School, 31 Madeline Bennett Drive
Merrimack.

Pre-Registration is \$15.00 (kids) and \$20.00 (adults).

Race Day Registration is \$15 (kids) and \$25 (adults).

First 160 registrants receive a free race t-shirt.

2018 proceeds will pay for Coats for Kids, Holiday Gifts to the less fortunate
and Merrimack Food Pantries

Please bring a canned good to the race
Race sponsorships are available

To pre-register to run and/or volunteer at the race:

Please visit

www.merrimack5k.com

or contact Bob Freed, Merrimack Rotarian
603-533-0678 ~ bob.freed@techtransport.com

Rotary Club of Merrimack
www.merrimackrotary.org

Calendars

District 7870 Calendar

So much going on within the clubs in the district! Be sure to regular check this District Calendar of Events: <http://rotary7870.org/events/calendar>

Do you have an entry for the District online calendar? Please email your entry to: prrotary7870@gmail.com.

Months of the Rotary Year

Many months of the year are designated by Rotary International for special significance. Here are the ones for the new [Rotary year](#):

September 2018

Basic Education and Literacy Month

October 2018

Economic and Community Development Month

24 October — [Rotary's World Polio Day Livestream Event](#)

21-27 October — Rotary Week in NH and VT

November 2018

Rotary Foundation Month

5-11 November - World Interact Week

10 November – Rotary Day at the UN

December 2018

Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

January 2019

Vocational Service Month

February 2019

Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month

23 February — Rotary's anniversary

March 2019

Water and Sanitation Month

11-17 March — World Rotaract Week

April 2019

Maternal and Child Health Month

May 2019

Youth Service Month

3-5 May – District 7870 Conference at the [Doubletree Danvers, Massachusetts](#)

June 2019

Rotary Fellowships Month

1-5 June 2019 — Rotary International Convention, Hamburg, Germany

Miscellaneous

Have Something You'd Like to Share with the Entire District?

Updates and short (1 page) articles, along with images **(Word and JPEGS only. NO PDFs please)** may be submitted to Troy Aarthun, Dick Mills, Robert Schaumann, and Maureen Mooney at prrotary7870@gmail.com to be included in the Monthly Newsletter. The District Newsletter is a means of communicating with other clubs in our district: items of interest, upcoming events, fundraisers or opportunities for service.

Deadline for next Newsletter Submissions: December 15th, 2018.

Website and Social Media

Be sure to check (and share) the Rotary District 7870 **web site** at: www.rotary7870.org.

Be sure to join (and share) the Rotary District 7870 **Facebook page** here:

