




THE INSPIRATION



Rotary District 7870



August 2025	District Newsletter 2026, Number 2	Donna Deos District Governor
www.rotary7870.org		
<p>Rotarian Editors in our 7th year! Maureen Mooney (Merrimack, NH) and Martin Cohn (Springfield, VT)</p> <div>   </div>		
Rotary Theme of the Year: <i>Unite for Good</i>		
Rotary Theme of the Month: <i>Membership & Extension Month</i>		

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Greetings From Your District Governor Donna Deos

Hello Fellow Rotarians. Welcome to the new Rotary year!

I apologize for missing the deadline for last month's newsletter. It has been a whirlwind to say the least.

To kick things off and set the tone for this year, I would like to share something with you that I wrote in the summer of 2024. It was an assignment for District Governor Training. You see, we have three (3) years of training before they let us take the helm. Our assignment was to write a "Personal Expression Statement". You start the process by doing reflective writing on your Rotary journey. Then, you synthesize that down to 125 words or less.



For those of you who know me, you realize: there are no short stories with me! So, you understand how amazing it is that my initial writing was only 693 words. Below is that writing. I hope you enjoy it.

All my best,
Donna

Rotary is the only place that truly lets me be me. I strive to bring that to others.

I grew up as the daughter of a Rotarian, in a small town full of affluent people with fancy titles and large salaries. My friends growing up were most often better off than us.

My Dad lived Service Above Self. He emulated that for me. He was the quiet Gentle Giant who had a large presence and yet a relatively quiet demeanor. Sort of the E. F. Hutton type – he didn't say much, but when he did people listened. I've heard him called "Mr. Rotary" by many. He was so dedicated to Rotary and the ideals of Service Above Self that in school when other kids were talking about their parents careers it was like "my Dad's a Lawyer" "My dad's a Doctor" "Donna, what does your Dad do?" and I would proudly say "He's a Rotarian!" and they would say, "what's that?" and I would say, "I don't know but he sure loves doing it."

Dad was a business consultant and public accountant. He never really talked about that. He only spoke passionately about all the things that he and his friends in Rotary did for the community and the world. He had 38 ½ years of perfect attendance when he passed away 15 years ago. He had done make ups everywhere he went if he could. He loved meeting the other Rotarians out there. He also



loved attending other clubs in our area and was welcomed there whole heartedly on every visit. As if he was a member of that club as well.

When I was just about 30, my former softball coach from childhood suggested I consider joining Bow Rotary. I said, “Thanks Val, that’s a great idea, but I better talk to my Dad first since that’s his club.” She said, “Oh, of course! He should be the one to bring you in!”

And that’s what happened. I talked to Dad and he thought it was a perfect idea. On February 2, 2002 I was brought into my club, standing next to my Dad, by our PDG John Sheridan. A man with a commanding presence and a voice that reached right into you and made you listen with reverence and pride.

That was when I joined Rotary and when I became a Rotarian. Filled with a room full of people I had known either all of my life, or mostly all of it, I was welcomed to their ranks and I felt it. My biggest goal was to make my Dad proud of me and not embarrass him.

Well, I had 7 years in the club with him and it was great. Yes, I was Joe’s daughter, but I was also me. They loved and accepted me from day one. I never felt strange, weird or pressured like in school. I never felt like I had to prove myself or follow the lead of whoever was in charge like in business/at work.

In the 15 years he’s been gone I have been held and loved by the members of our club. I have been unconditionally accepted for and encouraged to be who I am and I have spent the entire time trying to figure that out.

I have been blessed to meet and be friends with the most amazing people – all over my town, my state, my region and the world. No one has ever made me feel less than. Rotary is my home, it is my family, it is where I belong and where I hope everyone else feels that way too.

And, I have been told many times, “Your father must be (or would be) so proud of you.”

Some people have a specific moment in time that is their “Rotary Moment” where they finally felt what it means to be a Rotarian. For me, it’s been a continuous series of moments full of kind gestures and acceptance.

That is what I hope to bring to all other members of the Rotary Family that I meet along the way – accepting, loving and appreciating you all for who you are.



District News

Remembering PDG Joe Pratt

Dear Rotary Family,

It is with heavy hearts that we share the news of the passing of Past District Governor Joe Pratt. Joe was a deeply committed Rotarian whose leadership, generosity, and passion for service touched countless lives both locally and around the world.



During his 2003-2004 term as District Governor and throughout his years of Rotary service, Joe led with humility, wisdom, and a true servant's heart. His dedication to humanitarian work extended well beyond our borders—Joe and his family joined the Amigos de Honduras team to support vital projects that improved the lives of those in need. In 2011, Joe and his wife Lori traveled to Pakistan with fellow Rotarians to participate in the Pakistan National Immunization days and other World polio day activities.

In 2012, Joe took his commitment to new heights—literally—by successfully summiting Mount Everest. His climb helped raise awareness and nearly \$100,000 in support of Rotary's polio eradication campaign.

Joe's leadership, adventurous spirit, and compassionate heart have left an indelible mark on our Rotary family and the world. Please join us in keeping Lori and the Pratt family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. We will share details about memorial services as they become available.

His obituary is here: <https://obits.csnh.com/joseph-pratt>

With deep appreciation for Joe's life and service,
Your District Leadership Team,
DG Donna, IPDG Bill, DGE Ruth & DGN Lou



District 7870 Continues Its Commitment to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation

For fourteen years, Rotary District 7870 has partnered with other Rotary clubs and committed individuals of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota to improve the quality of life for its residents. Pine Ridge is home to the Oglala Sioux Tribe, covering 2 million acres with a population of nearly 40,000.



Why Pine Ridge? The Need Is Great

- Unemployment: 80–90%
- Per capita income: \$4,000
- Diabetes: 8x U.S. average
- Cervical cancer: 5x U.S. average
- Heart disease: 2x U.S. average
- Tuberculosis: 8x U.S. average
- Alcoholism: Estimated at 80%
- 1 in 4 infants born with fetal alcohol syndrome/effects
- Suicide rate: Over 2x the national average
- Teen suicide: 4x the national average
- Infant mortality: 3x the national rate
- Life expectancy: Lowest in the U.S., second only to Haiti in the Western Hemisphere

How We've Helped

Over the years, District 7870 Rotarians have helped:

- Upgrade KILI Radio <<https://www.kiliradio.live/>> with equipment and solar panels
- Repair the Millie Horn Community Building
- Transform a former beer distribution center into the Whiteclay Makerspace <<https://whiteclayredo.com/>> through a global grant sponsored by Rapid City Rotary Club
- Donate Fitbits to promote health and fitness among youth
- Create a website for the BEAR Project, <<https://bearproject.net/>> a literacy and life-skills outreach for families
- Provide 165 laptops for local schools
- Deliver over 3 tons of quilting materials

2025 Highlights

This year, clubs across the district have provided:



- Kitchen appliances (\$2600) for the Millie Horn Community Building (*Hopkinton Rotary + PDG Tony Gilmore*)
- Security fence for the BEAR Safe Haven Village (\$2000) to offer a safe and secure area for youth to unwind, relax and focus on their wellbeing. (*Henniker Rotary*)
- Security cameras (\$1000) for the BEAR Project to protect the property and equipment (*Springfield VT Rotary*)

A generous anonymous Rotarian has pledged \$5,000 in matching funds to encourage additional support from clubs.

Interested in Learning More? I am available to speak to your club about the impact of our continued work at Pine Ridge.

Marty Cohn, Secretary, Rotary Club of Springfield, VT
(802) 490-4434; martin@cohnpr.com

Save the Date - Foundation Event(s) and World Polio Day Celebration



PolioPlus Society

Local History, Global Mission: Polio Eradication Began in Our Backyard

Did you know that the first polio epidemic in the United States occurred right here in our Rotary District, in Wallingford and Rutland, Vermont?

In his recent VTDigger article, Vermont historian Mark Bushnell recounts the harrowing events of June 1894, when doctors in Rutland County began to document a mysterious and devastating illness—later identified as poliomyelitis. The outbreak left dozens of children with lasting paralysis and claimed several lives. Dr. Charles Caverly of Rutland played a pivotal role in identifying the disease, making our region the unexpected starting point of a global health battle.



You can read the full story here: [VTDigger Article](#)

Since the vaccine era began in the 1950s, polio cases have plummeted worldwide. In the U.S., more than 15,000 annual cases of paralysis were recorded before the Salk vaccine was introduced in 1955. Globally, the initiative launched in 1988 led by Rotary and others has reduced polio incidence by more than 99.9%, bringing cases down from an estimated 350,000 in over a hundred countries to just 99 wild cases in 2024, and 18 wild cases so far in 2025, confined entirely to Afghanistan and Pakistan. But outbreaks of circulating vaccine-derived virus continue in several countries in under vaccinated communities.

Join the Fight: Become a PolioPlus Society Member

Today, Rotary International leads the worldwide effort to eradicate polio through the PolioPlus program. I would like to thank those Rotarians who have already joined the PolioPlus Society. Rotarians can join the PolioPlus Society by pledging to contribute \$100 annually until Polio is finally eliminated.

Join us in honoring our local history and advancing Rotary's global mission. Become a member of the PolioPlus Society here: <https://tinyurl.com/2a8rfckd>

Randell Barclay, Past District Governor, PolioPlus Subcommittee.



Join the Excitement: Nominations Open for District Governor 2028-29

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Get ready to embark on an exciting journey as we kick off the nomination process for the prestigious position of District Governor for Rotary Year 2028-2029. In accordance with our District Bylaws, I am thrilled to announce that the election is now open. This is an incredible opportunity for our clubs in District 7870 to nominate a passionate Rotarian who embodies our values and vision.

Remember, nominations must be submitted by September 8, 2025. To streamline this process, please upload your nominations through our Google Forms link found here <https://rotary7870.org/SitePage/district-governor-application-materials> OR on the District Website under “Site Pages” and “District Governor Application Materials.” Don’t forget to get a confirmation from our Committee Chair, IPDG Bill Stevens, to ensure your submission is received. Together, let’s seek out the best candidate who can lead us with inspiration and commitment.

For additional information on qualifications and the nomination process, we’ve provided helpful resources on our website. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Bill at bface027@gmail.com. Let’s come together to uplift our district and seek out the next great leader!

Yours in Rotary service,
Bill Stevens, Immediate Past District Governor
District Nominating Committee Chair
Rotary District 7870



Club News

Springfield Rotary Club Donates Thirteenth Trex Bench to Community

The Springfield Rotary Club has once again demonstrated its commitment to environmental stewardship and community service by donating a Trex recycled bench to Springfield Parks & Recreation. The bench was installed inside the Community Center following the successful collection of 1,000 pounds of thin film plastics by residents as part of the Trex Thin Film Plastics Challenge.



This marks the thirteenth bench awarded to Springfield through the Trex Recycling Program. The latest collection effort included contributions from several local sources: 44% from the Springfield Town Library, 16% from Magee Office Products, 13% from the Springfield Food Co-op, 13% from Bibens Ace Hardware, and the remainder from Springfield Hospital, Casey CDJR, Waterbury's Factotum Design, and Springfield GMC. Since February 2023, the Springfield Rotary has collected more than 11,147 pounds (over 5.5 tons) of plastic film—the approximate weight of one killer whale.

The Trex Challenge encourages the recycling of materials like grocery and produce bags, bubble wrap, cereal bags, and similar plastics. Once a group collects 1,000 pounds, Trex awards a 48" Yacht Club Bench, made from recycled materials such as milk jugs and water bottles. The collected plastics are upcycled into Trex decking, supporting a circular economy.

Plastic pollution poses serious risks to the environment and wildlife, and thin plastics often can't be processed through standard curbside recycling due to their tendency to damage sorting equipment. The Trex Challenge offers a creative and impactful alternative.

This latest bench joins others already placed at The Common, Park Street School, North Springfield Bog Trailhead, Main Street, the Springfield Town Library, Elm Street School, the Springfield Community Players Theater, and the pollinator habitat hillside at Springfield Hospital by the Springfield Conservation Committee.



Ludlow Rotary Celebrate Membership Month for RI

The month of August is known as membership month for Rotary International (RI). In this vein the Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) is reminding its members of the value and responsibilities of Rotary membership.

What is the value of membership in the Ludlow Rotary Club. As LRC President Kevin Barnes noted, “The Ludlow Rotary is building a stronger, more connected community—and we want you in the conversation. Membership opens the door to valuable connections, skill-building opportunities, and the chance to drive meaningful change. Whether you’re looking to grow personally, give back, or expand your network, joining is a step toward making your mark.”

The Ludlow Rotary is a small club working with big projects to help local, regional and international groups and organizations. The club has been involved in numerous projects to aid those needing assistance. Some examples are:

- Raising funds for flood recovery in the Ludlow area
- Giving over \$275,000 to students for college
- Providing books to elementary school students
- Helping Australia during a disaster by purchasing an ambulance
- Giving donations to students in the Ukraine
- Supporting an orphanage in Africa
- Annually giving funds to local non-profit groups
- RI’s world-wide efforts to remove polio and provide clean water

This is just a very brief listing of LRC’s activities.

But, Past President George Thomson, commented, “We are a very busy and active group yet we still make sure that everyone enjoys the club and has fun”.



Kevin Barnes reminded all club members of the values of the club. He cited the vital roles members play in the exchange of ideas, deciding on projects to implement, working with their local community, and reacting to local and international disasters.

He also added that club members had fun at their meetings, enjoyed picnics, sponsored a duck race and chili cookoff, and had a great Christmas party. “We work hard but find plenty of time to just have fun and companionship”.

Those interested in attending a Ludlow Rotary Club meeting to check it out may do so by contacting Kevin Barnes at 802-222-2222 or any Rotarian. They are welcome to our weekly luncheon meeting held on Tuesdays at DJ’s Restaurants.

Londonderry Rotary Cohosts a Business After Hours

The Greater Derry Londonderry Chamber of Commerce and the Derry Village Rotary partnered for a vibrant and well-attended Business After Hours event on June 24, hosted at Hometown Roots in downtown Derry. The evening brought together local professionals, entrepreneurs, and civic leaders for a night of networking, community building, and shared vision.

A highlight of the event was the outstanding food prepared by Rotarian Rick Metts and his wife, Sue, who served guests from their popular food truck, One Happy Clam. Their hospitality and delicious offerings, including hot lobster rolls, created a warm, inviting atmosphere that perfectly reflected the spirit of the evening.

Beyond business connections, the event served as a platform to showcase the mission and impact of the Derry Village Rotary Club. Guests were introduced to the Rotary’s guiding principles through the 4-Way Test, a simple but powerful ethical framework:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

And in true Derry Village spirit, a fifth question was proudly added: “Is it fun?” — a reminder that community service can be joyful and deeply rewarding.

“The night ... perfectly showcased the heart of greater Derry-Londonderry—authentic, smart, and community-minded folks making things happen,” said Donna Morris, President of the chamber.

The Chamber and Derry Village Rotary look forward to future collaborations that continue to support regional growth and community service.



Small Drives with a Big Purpose

The Rotary Club of Concord has updated its “small drives” to make them even more effective. Each drive lasts just one month, with collections taking place only during meetings. The focus is on gathering needed items for local organizations. Past drives have included Lysol wipes, diapers, gently used backpacks, and hand warmers. These collections are easy for members to support and cost little or nothing to contribute.

This year, each drive is tied to the Rotary calendar. This approach not only guides the club’s giving but also helps share more about Rotary with the community. September’s theme of Education and Literacy has been divided between August and September, giving the club two chances to focus on this area.

To honor education, the current drive is collecting supplies for one local elementary school. The list includes glue sticks, markers, colored pencils, highlighters, and Expo markers. These are the items that are often left out when a family is trying to stretch their budget. By refreshing its approach to small drives, the Rotary Club of Concord hopes to meet real needs while building stronger connections in the community.

New Rotary Club Planned for Windham, NH

The Rotary club of Londonderry is leading an effort to start a new Rotary club in Windham, NH. Windham is a growing community of over 17,000 and some think that it is definitely time for them to have their own club. This group will start as a satellite club of Londonderry RC and will hopefully be able to be chartered as their own club in a short time.

We are putting this out to the district as many of our Rotarians have family as well as personal and business contacts in the Windham area. We are encouraging you to reach out to them and let them know that there is a great opportunity to be part of a great organization as well as being a charter member in the new Windham Rotary. You can also share their name and contact information with us as a second choice (the personal connection is always better!)

We are planning our first recruitment meeting on September 24th and will be hosted by the Common Man restaurant. Time is short so your help is appreciated making these contacts.

For more information, contact Michael Lucci at 603-718-5581 or mlucci210@gmail.com or PDG Steve Puderbaugh 603-303-0239 spuderbaughdg@gmail.com.



Wantastiquet Fourth of July Parade

It was a fun filled day with sunshine, and plenty of smiles. The parade kicked off at 11 am and marched down Londonderry's Route 11 ending at the Londonderry plaza, where folks were met by the Wantastiquet Rotary food tent. The Wantastiquet Rotarians were ready to please the crowd with delicious and juicy hotdogs and hamburgers along with thirst quenching bottled water. The parade and food tent were a huge success: 80 hotdogs, 18 hamburgers and 3 cases of water; for a net value of \$375 which all goes toward the scholarship fund. Congratulations to all involved.



Nashua Rotary Recognizes Ken Grabeau

On July 21, 2025, Jack Tulley, former Nashua Rotary Club president and current District Endowment and Major Gifts Chairman, presided over an enthusiastic, multi-club gathering of over 150 Rotarians and guests in attendance at the Nashua Country Club to meet District Governor Donna Deos. Governor Deos shared her deep gratification serving in the role once held by her father and the unique bond it served her growing up and will continue during her year of service. "Rotary is Family," is a theme close to her heart and one she will actively pursue among members and clubs by promoting growth, engagement, and service among clubs and members as well as peacebuilding within district communities.



The event concluded with an emotional tribute to long-time Nashua area Rotarian, Ken Grabeau, former Rotary Club of Nashua West president, 7870 District Governor 1997-1998, and Director Rotary International 2010-2012, honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award presented by former 7870 District Governor Rick Manganello. Recounting both Ken's - and his wife, Ruth's - numerous and extraordinary acts of service over his 40+ years of membership, including the couples' many humanitarian trips abroad to impoverished nations to administer polio vaccines, oversee clean water installations in Central America, and drug rehabilitation centers in the former Soviet Union, a surprised but grateful Ken took to the mic to express his deep appreciation saying he still carries a vial of the vaccine in his pocket wherever he goes to remind him of both the incredible joy and the responsibility such a simple act brings to save a child from the crippling effects of polio.

Ruth Grabeau was equally surprised and deeply moved as Rick ceremoniously presented her a Rotary pin, making her an honorary member of Nashua Rotary.



Souhegan Valley Rotary Club member, Carolyn R. Choate, recited a poem she wrote for the occasion:

Ken Grabeau

*It was a day that started
Like any other day
But this day dawned at noon
With a light he never knew
Shining on humanity
And some guy named Paul
Who wasn't even in the room
Yet filled it to brimming
With a kindred force
Truth
Ken would be tested
He learned
Everyone was
In four ways that would beat
His Northeastern days
And the more he rolled
With that wheel
The more his purpose
Was revealed
By a hurting world
Poverty, thirst, disease, ignorance, war
He didn't just sign a check
And thump his chest
No
Ken and Ruth
Personally opened doors
For millions to feel cared for
From Ghana to Russia,
Honduras to Cameroon,
They communed with
The human spirit
Gave it strength to rise
Against a mounting tide*



*Of injustice
 Those who know him
 Weren't surprised
 When Ken embraced Rotary's
 Greatest cause of all
 That he would crawl
 To the ends of the earth
 To save a child from the curse
 Of polio
 Not surprised he felt the call
 To lead 7870
 He always showed
 Service above self
 Goodwill through fellowship
 His life a script
 In integrity
 Listen closely to the word inside
 InteGRITity
 Man, he's got some
 How else could Ken
 Begin to steward the mindset
 Of the biggest community service org?
 He got legions on board
 At PETS
 For years shared his passion
 On leadership in action
 To lend a hand
 Offer hope
 Help our beleaguered brothers and sisters cope
 When their lives are in a jam
 Bam! He would be called once again
 Directing a great big chunk
 Of the Rotary map
 Mentoring, engaging, challenging, persuading,
 Creating a plan
 That will stand
 The test of time
 Paul Harris would crow*



*Your praises, Ken Grabeau
And so do we
Thank you, gracias, merci
For all you've done for humankind
Through Rotary
- July 21, 2025*

International

International Coffee with JB - An Informal Zoom Get Together



The next International Coffee With JB will be held at **8:30AM** on **Friday, Sept. 5th**. You can join by using the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78773960966?pwd=QkFlTTZkdDJyRzJIa3phTmhzam1kQT09>



2026 Amigos de Honduras Mission Update

The 2026 Amigos de Honduras mission team is beginning preparation for their mission trip, which is scheduled to leave on Saturday, January 31st and return on Saturday, February 7th. There is a great deal of initial interest, and the team has a maximum number of members which is 28 team members (A function of the bus size).



I am pleased to announce that this year's team leaders will be Dave Lawrence, formerly of Springfield Rotary and currently with Lancaster PA Sunrise Rotary, and Jill Pierson, member of the Rotex Alum Rotaract Club. Jill is also the Vice Chair of Amigos de Honduras and, if you are interested in being on the 2026 team, please contact her at jillnicole16@gmail.com We are always looking for members that are medical and dental professionals.

This year's trip will have the same three areas of focus as with previous trips: medical and dental brigade, school construction, and a water and sanitation project. Typically, the projects on these mission trips require funds of between \$12,000 and \$18,000. We very much appreciate the support we've received in the past from clubs and Rotarians, and we hope you continue this support by contributing to support our 2026 Mission. All contributions are greatly appreciated. Please know that 100% of the funds that are contributed will go to the projects, as our team members fund their own travel expenses and the administrative costs are donated.

The Rotary International District 7870 Foundation is a 501c3 charitable organization under the rules of the Internal Revenue Service. Our Tax ID is 260197796. If you would like to contribute, please make checks payable to "Amigos de Honduras" and send them to my attention at 18 Senna Way, Moultonboro, NH 03254.

If you would like a copy of our 2025 report, please email me at cep617@comcast.net. The report highlights this past mission trip but also provides an overview of our activities over the past 25 years. Also, please let me know if you would like one of us to present to your Rotary Club.

In closing, thank you for your support of the Rotary District 7870 Foundation and of Amigos De Honduras, and once again let me share with you one of my favorite quotes from Margaret Mead: *"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."*

Sincerely,

Christopher E. Parkinson, Past District Governor and Chair of Amigos De Honduras

PHOTO: Jill Pierson with a patient



Join Us in Togo for the 2025 West Africa Project Fair - Nov. 4-13, 2025

Looking to find a Global Grant to support? Interested in hands-on Rotary service in Africa? The 2025 West Africa Project Fair (WAPF) offers a one-of-a-kind opportunity to engage with impactful humanitarian work in Rotary's West African region—and you're invited!

From November 4–13, 2025, Howard Tours will lead a delegation of Rotarians to Lomé, Togo for this year's Project Fair. This immersive experience is far more than a tour—it's a deep dive into community service, cultural connection, and international Rotary collaboration.

Why Attend?

- Connect and Collaborate with Rotary clubs from 15 West African countries.
- Visit Active Project Sites: Spend two days seeing the incredible work local clubs are doing.
- Participate in Service: Get hands-on by joining a day of community service—helping with polio vaccinations, health screenings, and more.
- Explore Togo: Enjoy guided sightseeing in Lomé, meet U.S. Embassy staff, and learn about the region's culture and development context.
- Build Global Friendships: Attend receptions and dinners with West African Rotarians, creating partnerships that can lead to Global Grant collaborations.

Led by Past Rotary International Director Brad Howard, this trip is organized by Howard Tours. Brad helped establish the WAPF over 20 years ago and brings unmatched insight and experience to the journey.


Trip Details:

- Dates: November 4–13, 2025
- Location: Lomé, Togo
- Cost: \$1,899 per person (land only, double occupancy). Add \$625 for a single room.
- Includes: Hotel, some meals, registration for the Project Fair, embassy briefing, and sightseeing.
- Not included: Airfare (Howard Tours can assist with arrangements).

This trip isn't just for Rotary veterans. Whether you're new to international service or looking to deepen your club's impact, the WAPF offers a meaningful and memorable way to "Unite for the Good of Africa."

Spots are limited. To learn more or reserve your place, visit: www.howardtours.net

For personal insights or questions, feel free to contact me:

Randell Barclay (PDG 2022-23)  rotary.randell@gmail.com



Global Grant Opportunities

People often approach me and ask how they can participate in a Global Grant. Here are several fantastic opportunities – there are several grants in process – two right here in District 7870.

- Ludlow is working on a grant for emergency preparedness in the face of repeated devastating flooding in the area and is looking for additional support.

- Nashua is putting together a grant for a mobile pediatric dental van and is looking for support within the district, as well as an international partner.

- Rotary Club of Phoenix in District 9370, Eastern South Africa is looking for an international partner. This grant seeks to provide upgraded sanitary facilities for a primary school.

- Another grant in the Western Cape of South Africa seeks to provide hot water to an elder care facility. They have an international partner and are looking for additional support.

- See the article about the West African Project Fair in this Newsletter for more ideas!

Whether you want to be an international partner or just want to participate in a grant at a small level – this is your opportunity to experience the excitement of Global Grants. If you want to know more about any of these grants, email me at Dianne.fhrotary@gmail.com or come to one of the foundation events on Oct 24 and 25th. More information to follow!

Dianne Richoz Barclay
District 7870 Rotary Foundation Chair



Fundraisers

Evening on the Greens at Haystack Golf Course - August 15, 2025



The Ducks are Ready for the 26th Annual Race - Are You? - August 16, 2025

It's that time of year – when the ducks are preparing for race down the Black River in the Ralph D Hogancamp Memorial Duck Race to help a local group on August 16 at 12 Noon. This year the race proceeds will go to Mt Holly Fire Department.

Head Duck, Sharon Bixby, indicated that this year's race should be very demanding. "We believe the ducks have a special motivation to be the first to cross the line at Walker Bridge now that the Covid epidemic is past and they've survived duck hunting season. But it's still a rocky river to travel, so anything may happen!"



The Ducks will be dropped into the Black River at the Depot Street bridge, anxious to hit the water and prove their championship status. The first three ducks reaching the Walker Bridge first will be rewarding their sponsors with cash prizes of \$200, 100, and 75 for the first three winners. Keeping with tradition, the last sponsored duck to make it across the finish line will earn \$25 for its sponsor-just for trying.

Naturally, to be one of the winners, sponsors need to rent their ducks by purchasing raffle tickets. Tickets are still available in numerous “sizes” so that people may be part of this major event: Tickets for this race are available at Benson’s Chevrolet, Cota & Cota, M&T Bank and Ludlow Insurance and any Ludlow Rotarian! They are also available online at www.ludlowrotary.com

\$5 for a single ticket

\$20 for a quack pack (5 for \$20)

\$50 for a corporate duck

Contact head duck, Sharon Bixby, Rotarian, at 802-345-9909 for any questions.

PHOTO: At last year’s duck race, Ludlow Rotarians and helpers prepared to welcome the many ducks involved in the historic duck race reach the finish line at Walker Bridge after surviving the difficult journey down the Black River.

Barn Quilt Silent Auction Mixer - August 17, 2025



Woodstock Rec & Rotary Club Golf Tournament - August 21, 2025

Woodstock Rotary is partnering with Woodstock Recreation to host a golf tournament on August 21st at the Woodstock Country Club. For information on how to register a team, please contact Steve Huvelde sHuvelde@comcast.net or Gail Devine gdevine@woodstockrec.com.

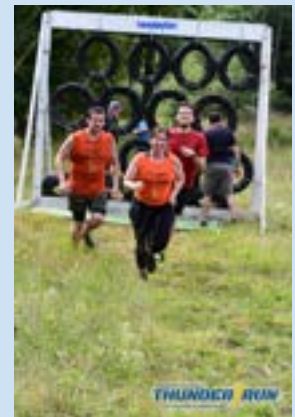


Raymond Area Rotary's Thunder Rune 2025 is September 6th

The Raymond Area Rotary Club will be hosting Thunder Run 2025, a 5K obstacle and mud race, on Saturday September 6th. This is a unique race with over 20 obstacles, including hills, creek crossings, climbing walls, and more.

It is run by our Rotary volunteers, and is geared to be exciting and challenging, yet fun for all ages and family-friendly.

Register now! Check out our website: <https://thunderrunnh.com/>



Bethel Area Rotary Golf Tournament - September 27, 2025

Dear Golfers and Sponsors,

Please accept this letter requesting your support for the 2025 Driven to Serve Bethel Area Rotary Golf Tournament. The tournament will be held at 1pm on Saturday, September 27 at Montague Golf Club in Randolph, Vermont.

The Bethel Area Rotary Club is a proud part of our communities and of Rotary International, a global network of more than 1.2 million members. Locally, we support the towns of Barnard, Bethel, Pittsfield, Rochester, Royalton, Stockbridge, and Tunbridge.

Our service projects include:

- International Youth Exchange
- Food Shelf Support
- Project Happy Holidays
- Community Halloween Event
- Providing Local Scholarships
- Global Relief Projects

There are two ways to support our Driven to Serve Rotary Golf Tournament fundraising event, including:

- Gathering a foursome to play golf on September 27
- Tournament/hole sponsorship

Contact Jenny Hewitt - hewittvt@gmail.com or 802-779-1257 or Jeanne Conde - BethelAreaRotary@gmail.com with questions, to sign up a team of 4, or to make a donation.

Thank you very much for your support of Rotary.



Merrimack Rotary Hosts 2nd Annual NuBingo - October 4, 2025

The Rotary Club of Merrimack invites the community to its 2nd Annual NuBingo Fundraiser on Saturday, October 4, 2025, from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM (doors open at 5:30 pm) at the Budweiser Brewery Grounds, 221 Daniel Webster Hwy, Merrimack, NH.

This high-energy, Halloween-themed evening is NOT your grandmother's bingo! Instead of numbers, players match the #1 hit songs of the past four decades. Enjoy a Live DJ, music, singing, dancing, costume contests, games-like "name that tune", prizes, fellowship, and more. The event is for ages 18 and older.



Event Details:

- Tickets: \$65 per person or \$500 for a reserved table of 8
- Included: 2 bingo cards, pizza, popcorn, and candy (extra cards available for purchase)
- Cash bar available
- Proceeds: 100% of charitable proceeds fund Merrimack Rotary projects that directly benefit the Merrimack Community

Buy Tickets Online: [Eventbrite Link – Click Here](#)

Media & Public Inquiries: Maureen Tracey, Rotarian

Phone: (603) 320-0733 Email: maureentracey3@hotmail.com

About the Rotary Club of Merrimack:

Founded in 1971, the Rotary Club of Merrimack is a volunteer service organization of business and community leaders dedicated to making a positive impact locally and globally. Local initiatives have included the Roger Duhamel Pavilion at Watson Park, scholarships, reconstruction of Kids' Kove Playground, Merrimack flood relief, Fourth of July festivities, the Rotary 4-Way Speech Contest, Interact Club, Wasserman Park Cabins, and lighting at Reeds Ferry Fields. Internationally, the club has contributed to polio eradication, clean water access, and hurricane relief efforts.

For membership inquiries: Contact Chris Christensen at (603) 424-2542 or Chris@ChristensenNH.com, or visit www.merrimackrotary.org.



Miscellaneous

District Calendar

So much going on within the clubs in the district! Be sure to regularly 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.

July – Maternal and Child Health Month

August – Membership & Extension Month

September – Basic Education and Literacy Month

October – Economic and Community Development Month

November – Rotary Foundation Month

December – Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

January – Vocational Service Month

February – Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month

March – Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month

April – Environment Month

May – Youth Service Month

June – Rotary Fellowships Month

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 Martin Cohn and Maureen Mooney at prrotary7870@gmail.com to be included in the Monthly Newsletter. **Please limit your photos to one per article.** 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: Sept. 14th, 2025 at 6 PM.**



Website and Social Media

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

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

