





THE INSPIRATION



Rotary District 7870



December 2024	District Newsletter 2025, Number 6	Bill Stevens District Governor
www.rotary7870.org		
<p>Rotarian Editors Maureen Mooney and Martin Cohn</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>		
Rotary Theme of the Month: Disease Prevention and Treatment Month		

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ANNOUNCEMENT - New Deadline for District Newsletter

Thank you for all the submissions to make our District Newsletter a success!

Please know that starting in January 2025, and going forward, the **new deadline for submissions is the 14th of every month at 6:00 PM.**

Thank you!

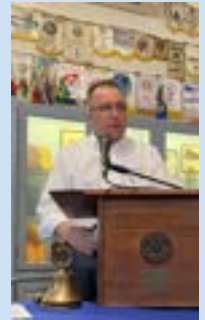
Marty & Maureen



Greetings From Your District Governor Bill Stevens

Dear Rotary Family,

As we embrace the warmth and joy of the holiday season, I want to take a moment to reflect on the importance of family, friends, and good health—values that resonate deeply within our Rotary community. December is a time for gathering, sharing, and expressing gratitude for the connections we hold dear. It is a reminder of the strength we find in our relationships, both personal and through our Rotary clubs.



The New Year is just around the corner, bringing with it a sense of renewal and the opportunity for fresh beginnings. As we look forward to 2025, let us take this time to not only celebrate our accomplishments but also to set new goals for our clubs and communities. Together, we can continue to make a meaningful impact, serving those in need and fostering a spirit of collaboration and kindness.

However, we must also acknowledge that this time of year can be particularly challenging for many individuals. The holiday season can bring feelings of loneliness, stress, or sadness for those who are struggling. As Rotarians, it's essential that we keep an eye out for our fellow members and our broader communities. Let us be proactive in reaching out to those who may need support, whether it's through a friendly phone call, an invitation to gather, or simply lending an ear to listen.

Please remember that our Rotary family is here to support one another. If you or someone you know is facing difficulties, don't hesitate to reach out for help. Together, we can foster an environment where everyone feels supported, reinforcing the very essence of what it means to be a Rotarian.

As we celebrate the holidays and look ahead to the New Year, I encourage each of you to take time for self-care and to connect with loved ones. Prioritize your health—both physical and mental—as we navigate this busy season. Let's carry the spirit of compassion and service into the New Year, ensuring that we uplift those around us.

Wishing you and your families a joyous holiday season filled with love, laughter, and good health. May the New Year bring renewed hope, inspiration, and the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others.

In service and fellowship,
Bill Stevens, District Governor, Rotary District 7870



District News

Calling All 2025-2026 & 2026-2027 Presidents!

Yes! You read that right. We are looking forward! We are being bold, innovative and trying new things – just like DG Bill is asking us to.

I would like to start learning who will be Club Presidents in my year as DG as I would like to start getting to know you and letting you get to know each other. Likewise, I'm sure Ruth would enjoy that as well for her year as DG in 2026-2027. To inspire you ~ we have decided that the annual President Elect Training Seminar (PETS) to be held March 21-22, 2025 will include the option for presidents of both of our years to attend.

What?! I know, crazy, huh?

Yes, we are encouraging you to plan ahead...pick your people now!

Little known fact: Rotary International actually expects all clubs to select their people ("Slates of officers") every November/December so that they can notify RI by 12/31 of the year. I know, I just blew some minds there. Well, I've been in Rotary for 22 years and it has always been that way! It has not always been done that way by lots of clubs, but I'm not here to tattle on anyone or make anyone feel bad. What's the saying? "You don't know what you don't know." Well, now you know! That excuse is blown. :D

Please work on setting up your nominating committees now, figuring out who you think would be great to lead your clubs moving forward, and start talking to them about it. Maybe even throw out a blanket invitation. The sooner we know who is in line, the sooner we can start working together to spread the fun, fellowship and family of Rotary around more.

Yes, there is more outside of your club! SO much more. There are other clubs! Full of other people... VAST amounts of FANTASTIC PEOPLE who are out there just waiting to meet you and get to know you. Spread your wings a bit. It'll be fun.

Oh, and to those of you who aren't sure if you want to be President of your club or maybe are shy and are waiting to be asked or encouraged – consider this your encouragement and your invite! Rotary is a team sport. We are called Clubs for a reason. People join Clubs to participate and all should be welcomed and encouraged to do so. You are now encouraged to consider joining the leadership team of your club. Shake things up! Do it your way. Be bold, try new things!



Any questions, email me at deosome@yahoo.com. Let's get this party started!
DGE Donna

Rotary Leadership Institute - Does your Rotary Club Need Engagement or Re-Energizing?

Rotary Leadership Institute has introduced yet another new Graduate course this year: **Capturing the Value of Our Impact.**



Whether your Rotary service project is domestic or international, measurable outcomes are key to its ultimate success and sustainability. What type of data do we need to track your project's progress?

This RLI Graduate course is focused on how all service projects can result in having a positive impact on our communities and how we effectively measure that impact all while communicating our message to the public.

It also examines how to deal with the process of change and recognizing and managing conflict throughout the course of our projects. Defining conflict -- Intrapersonal, Inter-personal and Coming to Agreement are the three stages of conflict management. Each year, RLI NEA offers a different Graduate Course, open to anyone who has completed RLI Levels I, II and III.

Questions, please email carol.powis@comcast.net. To sign up for sessions: <https://rlinea.org/>

Where will RLI-NEA courses be held?

D7910 Marlboro, MA — Saturday, January 18, 2025

D7930 – Wakefield, MA – Virtual — TBD

D7870 – VT/NH – Virtual — Tuesday and Thursday evening, February 25 and 27, 2025

D7950 – Bourne, MA - In Person — TBD

4-Way Test Speech Contest

The 2025 District 7870 4-way test speech contest semi-finals will be held on Sunday April 6 at 1pm in Henniker at the Henniker Community Center. Contestants should register by 12:30. Please send your club's contestants to daryl.pat@comcast.net by April 1st. The district finals will be held at the District Assembly on April 26 at a site to be determined. All club presidents and secretaries should be getting the revised guidelines shortly.



Matching Challenge a Success

A huge thank you to all who contributed to The Rotary Foundation Annual Fund and Polio Plus during the Matching Challenge from October 15 through November 30. Individual donations to the Annual Fund were \$9,576 and Club donations were \$4,532, so the full match of \$10,000 to the Annual Fund was achieved. Individual contributions to Polio Plus during the Challenge were \$12,714, achieving the full match as well. Club donations to Polio Plus were \$505. Seven individuals were first time donors.

The Rotary Foundation exists to help Rotarians advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace by improving health, providing quality education, improving the environment, and alleviating poverty.

Thank you, District 7870 Rotarians, for all you do to do good in the World!

Dianne Richoz Barclay

District Rotary Foundation Chair

Coffee with Ken - Informal Zoom Get Together

Ken Yei (Queen City RC) will be hosting his next Coffee with Ken on **Fri. Jan. 3 at 8:30 AM** on Zoom. Coffee with Ken started during the pandemic as a way for District Rotarians to meet online and share their interests in Rotary. It also was a form for asking questions. The Zoom meeting typically lasts 40 minutes. These meetings are free flowing discussions on topics of interest to the participants. The group decides what to talk about. It is also a great way to find out what is happening around the District. Everyone is welcome. Here is the link:

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

If you are ready, pick up a cup of Joe and click on the link above or on the District Website <http://rotary7870.org> and join the meeting.



Club News

Woodstock, VT Rotary at Work Again

The granite monuments memorializing the names of the people who gave their lives in service to our country are scattered about Woodstock; the most visible being the large one in front of the historic Windsor County Courthouse. On Saturday, October 26, the Woodstock Rotary Club, as part of its ongoing efforts to serve its community, and in the tradition of honoring our servicemen and women on Veterans Day, undertook the job of cleaning those monuments which had not been cleaned in many years, using a light acid wash.



Other local service projects include: In late spring, the Club volunteers painted the iconic and historic iron railing that encircles the Town Green. These and some other not so visible community projects are undertaken throughout the year and include traffic control for the Wassail parade, and the Zack's Place Turkey Trot; the lighting of the Memory Tree and placement of luminarias around the Green; and setting up and taking Red Cross equipment for their frequent local blood donor drives.

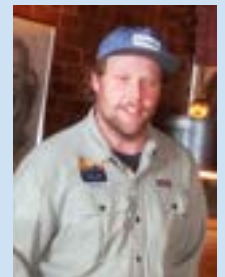
The Woodstock Rotary Club also effected a \$160,000 fundraise and re-build of the 80 year old Mt. Tom Star that overlooks the Woodstock area and which was originally built to welcome home the service men and women from WWII.

PHOTO: Leo LaCroix, Greg Camp, Ray Bourgeois, and Todd Kortekamp

Ludlow Rotary Hears bike Trail Update and TRSU Long Term Forecast

The Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) heard from two interesting speakers.

Recently, Charlie Rimer, Ludlow Area Sport Trails (LAST) updated the club about the considerable progress made on the construction of the first 3.5 mile multi-use trail on the "Back 40" behind the Ludlow Elementary School. The trail opened on June 15 to the public for biking, walking, snow shoeing, and cross



country skiing. Bikes may be mountain or road bikes, and regular or ebikes. The trail was constructed professionally with funds provided by the Town of Ludlow using AARPA money. The fact that the trail did not get damaged during the summer flood demonstrates the importance of having the trail built professionally. The long term vision of the group is a well marked path from Jackson Gore to Cavendish that is off road, accessible to all and well used.

Those who wish to explore the trail loops should park at the Okemo Valley TV station, go around the baseball fields and follow the signs past the community gardens. For more information and a map go to ludlowtrails.org.

Most recently, Layne Millington, Superintendent of Two Rivers Supervisory Union (TRSU), spoke to the group about falling and disparate school enrollments among the elementary schools, short term capital improvements needed in the schools, and longer term funding options. His long term predictions of the need for additional school consolidations generated a lively discussion with the Rotary Club. Millington stated the lack of local control over local school taxes would force the issue within the next 5 to 10 years. Vermont ratios of students to teachers is much lower than nationwide averages, which is part of the reason education is so costly in Vermont, he stated. Rotarians suggested alternatives to be considered. Millington stated there will be opportunities for many more discussions and much more planning before any actions are taken.

PHOTO: Charlie Rimer, Ludlow Area Sport Trails (LAST) speaks to the Ludlow Rotary Club.

Springfield Rotary's Food Drive a Success

The Springfield Rotary Club's "Fill the Cart from the Heart Food Drive" was held on Sat., November 16th in the Springfield Shopping Plaza to benefit the Springfield Family Center Food Shelf. 1098 pounds of food and \$593 in monetary donations were collected. Thank you to Shaw's for the location and a big thank you to the greater Springfield community for all your generous donations to help your neighbors in need.



PHOTO: (l-r): Past president Karen Longo and Rotarians Ed Grossman and Ed McQuaide were on hand to help make the Springfield Rotary Club's "Fill the Cart from the Heart Food Drive" a success.



Nashua West Reunion

Nashua West Rotary held its first ever Alumni Reunion on November 20th in Nashua, bringing together close to 60 past and present members and guests to celebrate what Rotary has meant to them over the years. President Betsy Houde was inspired to reconnect with people whose love of being a Nashua West Rotarian was cut short due to retirement, health issues, relocation, and so forth.



“There were so many hugs and laughter,” said Houde, “and so many memories shared.” Houde hosted the event after preparing a slideshow of years of club photos and reprising their 2015 Ribfest Jeopardy game. Long-time member Roxanne Taylor facilitated a stand-up/sit-down game and guests shared many stories of humor and appreciation for their years in Rotary.

Guests were also challenged to wear as much Rotary swag as they could, with some sporting 2003 Ribfest t-shirts, BBQ aprons, Spaghetti City hats, and Rotary neckties, logo shirts and pins.

“This was amazing!” declared Mike Apfelberg, UW President and 3-year member of Nashua West. “I learned so much about our rich history. We have to do this again.”

The Club also formally introduced the idea of a Service Membership for those that want to participate in hands-on activities but spend months in warmer climates or on the road. Although former member Donna Upson Correia relocated to Montana and then southeastern Massachusetts, she is inspired to become a Service Member to reconnect with old and new friends and embrace her Rotary roots.

“We didn’t charge anyone to attend,” explained Houde, “but donations collected that evening will help advance our community projects in the future.”

For more information, contact Betsy Houde at BetsyHoude@gmail.com.



Stuff a Cruiser Event Supports Windsor Vermont's Weekend Lunch Box Program

The Windsor Police Department (WPD) partnered with Windsor Rotary for a successful "Stuff a Cruiser" event, supporting the Weekend Lunch Box program, which provides shelf-stable meals to food-insecure children in Windsor over weekends when school is not in session.

Held at the Price Chopper Plaza, the event saw enthusiastic participation from Rotary members, Interact youth, Windsor Police Officer and local volunteers. Rotary members and WPD officers worked together to collect food donations, filling the cruiser with much-needed supplies for local children and the Trinity Church food shelf. With the Rotary's guiding principle of "Service Above Self," this heartwarming community effort helped ensure that local children will have access to essential meals during the weekends.



Springfield Rotary Learns About History of Hartness State Airport

Bruce Johnson, chair of the Springfield Airport Commission, talked about the history of the Hartness State Airport at a recent meeting of the [Springfield Vermont Rotary Club](#) held at the [Springfield Area Parent Child Center](#) Training Center.

Hartness State Airport is a transportation hub that offers services such as flight training, aircraft maintenance, and fueling. It features a single paved runway (5,498 feet long) suitable for small aircraft and private jets, the second largest in Vermont.



The airport has a rich history. In 1919, James Hartness, an inventor, entrepreneur, and Vermont governor, donated land to create the first airfield in Vermont. The airport was originally called the Springfield Airport. In 1927, Charles Lindbergh landed his plane, the Spirit of St. Louis, at the airport after his first non-stop flight across the Atlantic Ocean. He spoke to a crowd of around 30,000 people. During World War 2, the Civil Air Patrol used the airport for training exercises and coastal patrols. In 1959, the airport was renamed Hartness State Airport. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Hartness was one of the busiest airports in New England.

The airport is owned and operated by the State of Vermont. It is managed by the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans), which oversees its maintenance and development. Hartness State



Airport remains an important resource for the Springfield region, contributing to the local economy and preserving its historical ties to aviation.

The Airport Commission is looking into an event to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Charles Lindbergh's visit.

To learn more about the Airport Commission, visit <https://springfieldvt.gov/?SEC=A4B3399E-835C-4FBD-BE47-E4516164A0C6> To see a video about the airport, visit <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/aviation/airports/hartness>.

Rotary's Kurn Hattin Christmas Project

Springfield Rotary Club brought Christmas to the kids at Kurn Hattin Home for Children in Westminster, Vt on Dec. 12, 2024.

Kurn Hattin, founded in 1894, is a year-round, charitable, residential and day program home and school serving children ages 5-15, from throughout the Northeast.

For over two decades, Rotary takes up a collection and buys individual gifts for the 39 children at Kurn Hattin. Often, these gifts are the only Christmas presents that the children receive.

After the distribution of the gifts, the children and staff enjoyed pizza in each of their cottages provided by Rotary members.

The Rotary Club of Springfield, founded in 1927, is an active community service club of more than 40 members who engage in community and human service projects both locally and internationally. For more information, visit <https://springfieldvtrotary.org/>.



Hopkinton Rotary Spreads Holiday Cheer

Hopkinton Rotary spreads holiday cheer

Many of our Hopkinton Rotarians purchased holiday gifts for over 20 area seniors in need of something special! Wishing all a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa!



Fundraisers

5th Annual Nashua Rotary Car Raffle - WIN a 2025 BMW X3 xDrive30 or \$35,000

Buy your ticket early to get entered into all 3 - \$500 Early Bird Raffles – January 6. Winning early bird tickets remain in the drawing for the Grand Prize! The Grand Prize Winner shall have the choice between a credit, in an amount not more than the value of a moderately-equipped 2025 BMW X3, OR a \$35,000 cash prize. The Winner may apply the credit toward the purchase of a moderately-equipped BMW X3 OR The winner may, if agreed between the winner and Tulley BMW, use the credit towards another vehicle of the same or greater price sold by Tulley Automotive including GMC, Buick or Mazda.



Additional information including raffle terms and conditions may be found on our website.

Tickets may be purchased through our Club website <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/2946> or by click on the following link:

[https://rafflecreator.com/pages/39601/2025-nashua-rotary-car-raffle---bmw-x3-or-\\$35000](https://rafflecreator.com/pages/39601/2025-nashua-rotary-car-raffle---bmw-x3-or-$35000)



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

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 Martin Cohn 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: January 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:

