





THE INSPIRATION



Rotary District 7870



February 2025	District Newsletter 2025, Number 8	Bill Stevens District Governor
www.rotary7870.org		
<p>Rotarian Editors Maureen Mooney and Martin Cohn</p> <div>   </div>		
Rotary Theme of the Month: Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month		

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Greetings From Your District Governor Bill Stevens

Dear Rotarians and Friends,

As we step into February, a month dedicated to the vital themes of Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution, I am reminded of the profound impact we can have as Rotarians in fostering harmony within our communities and beyond. Each of us holds the power to be agents of peace, and it is essential that we embrace this responsibility wholeheartedly.

Peacebuilding is more than just the absence of conflict; it is the active process of creating a just and harmonious society. In our Rotary District 7870, we have a unique opportunity to lead by example. Whether through community service projects, youth engagement, or collaborative initiatives, we can promote understanding and build bridges across divides.

This month, I encourage each of you to reflect on how your club is contributing to peacebuilding efforts. Consider organizing discussions or workshops focused on conflict resolution strategies or partnering with local organizations that advocate for peace. Remember, small actions can lead to significant change. Let's harness the spirit of Rotary and take concrete steps towards creating a more peaceful world.

As we look forward to the upcoming Rotary year, it's crucial to build upon the momentum we have generated. Our dedicated District Governor Elect (DGE) Donna Deos has been working tirelessly to ensure a smooth transition and to set a vision for our District that emphasizes growth, engagement, and service. Her passion for Rotary and commitment to our values are inspiring, and I am excited to see her leadership in action.

DGE Donna is preparing various training sessions and workshops for club leaders, focusing on effective strategies for enhancing membership engagement and community impact. I encourage each of you to support her initiatives and participate actively. Together, we can foster an environment where our clubs thrive and our members feel valued and involved.

As we navigate through this month, let us commit to being champions of peace in our communities. I invite you to share your thoughts and experiences related to peacebuilding within your clubs and beyond. You can reach out to me or DGE Donna with your ideas, and let us amplify the good work being done across District 7870.



In closing, I want to express my gratitude for your continued dedication to Rotary's mission. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of many. Let us embrace the themes of this month and carry them forward as we prepare for a successful year ahead.

In Service Above Self,
Bill Stevens, District Governor
Rotary D7870
2024-2025

District News

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.

2025-2026 & 2027 Presidents

Thank you all who have stepped forward to lead your clubs for the next two years! Some things you need to know:

1. We will start having monthly Zoom Meetings soon so we can get to know each other.
2. President Elect Training Seminar (PETS as it has been historically called)/ President Elect Learning Seminar (PELS as Rotary International envisions it being called moving forward, as soon as we/they officially vote in the change) is March 21 & 22, 2025 in Lebanon, NH – registration is up now – go to the District Website or see your email from me for the link!
3. Remember, both years of Presidents are welcome so you can learn together, learn more and work on things in unison.
4. If you cannot attend, you can send some other aspiring member of your club in your place!



SAVE THE DATE! PETS/PELS 2025



President Elect Training
Attention all Presidents for 2025-2026 & 2026-2027!
You are cordially invited to our annual training/learning event designed especially for you. Come meet your class of Rotary Presidents!
Bond, learn, grow, connect.
Most important - have fun!

LOCATION:
Hilton Garden Inn,
35 Lakeside Road,
Lebanon, NH 03756

DATE: March 21-22, 2025
TIME: TBD

More info to come - stay tuned!



5. The Rotary Learning Center has classes that we would like you to be working on: First Time Presidents: Please start doing the “Club President Basics” courses; Encore Presidents (aka this isn’t your first rodeo as your club President): Please work on “Club President Intermediate” courses. For those of you who have already done these courses – Congratulations! Maybe you want to look at the District Leadership courses. :D Don’t know how to get to what I am talking about? Go to <https://my.rotary.org/en/> Log In, go to “Learning Center.” There is a whole bunch of nifty stuff you can learn in there! If you don’t have a login you can create one. If all of this baffles you, let me know and we’ll find someone to help you. The Presidential Courses are under the heading of “Club Leadership.”
6. Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is a great resource for learning/training too. Check out their articles that frequent this newsletter and your email inbox. Happy fact: the District will cover the \$25 registration for your online RLI course, at whatever level you wish to take. Please note that you are a future club president when you register and we will make sure your fee is paid.
7. Please make sure that you put our information in your contacts in your system so our emails will reach you! Here are the deets:
Donna Deos deosome@yahoo.com
Ruth Clough rclough_bethel@yahoo.com (that’s an underscore between rclough & bethel, not a space)
8. We will be emailing all of the Presidents for my year 2025-2026 and Ruth’s 2026-2027 soon to let you know of our first online gathering.

See you soon!

All our best,

Donna & Ruth

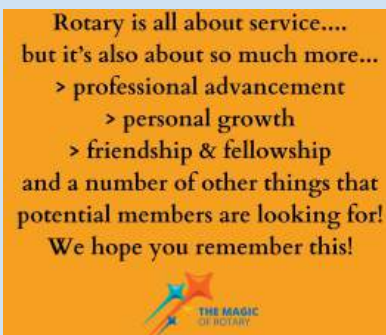
[25/26 = DG Donna & 26/27 = DG Ruth]

Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) Virtual Event on 2/25 and 2/27

Rotary Leadership Institute: Want to Learn More About Rotary?

Rotary clubs with good leadership involve their members in exciting service activities, and they delegate tasks, create strong committees, and develop new ideas that reflect and support the community in which they serve.

If you are looking for help in any of these areas, please take a closer look at the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI)! RLI was created for all Rotarians and Rotaractors looking to amplify their impact and increase their Rotary knowledge in a fun and engaging



environment along with other Rotarians from other clubs and districts. Applied knowledge is power and sharing our Rotary knowledge and strengthening our leadership skills will build even stronger clubs.

Developed as an interactive three-part program along with unique graduate sessions, RLI is a globally recognized program of Rotary International. In fact, RLI program content integrates and enhances learning from “My Rotary.” Topics are geared toward busy professionals and community leaders who want to be more effective in their vocation and within their club.

You can register now at <https://rlinea.org/> for Parts I, II & III and Graduate in-person or virtual sessions. District 7870 NH/VT will be virtual on Tuesday & Thursday, 2/25 & 2/27 from 6pm to 9pm.

The 2024-25 Graduate Session will be Capturing the Value of Impact! with your service projects. Come learn and be inspired as you participate in the Magic of Rotary!

2024-25 Rotary Leadership Institute

Rotary Leadership Institute was originally established in the northeastern United States in 1992 with a goal of providing courses that would create engaged enthusiasm for Rotary by showing members worldwide the benefits of being a Rotarian and in turn strengthen our individual clubs. Each year this multi-district program has proven to increase Rotary knowledge in many Rotary Zones and District throughout the world.



Its fast-paced structured curriculum has participants involved in discussion, research, presentations, and a range of learning activities with shared feedback from within the groups. The program is divided over three consecutive and progressive sessions, followed by the opportunity to participate in graduate seminars on completion of these first three sessions.

All RLI facilitators are experienced Rotarians who will lead participants in fun and extremely informative sessions. They are also required to have completed all of the RLI programs and be certified in RLI Facilitator's Training.

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?

D7930 – Wakefield, MA – Virtual TBD

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

D7950 – Bourne, MA - In Person TBD

D7870 Youth Conference - April 19, 2025

The Rotary Youth Conference will be on Saturday April 19th at Souhegan High School. Once again this conference is being originated and implemented by the Youth. Like last year, each Interact Club will have an opportunity to have a booth to showcase their projects. This conference is open to all D7870 Rotary Youth, including exchange students - inbound and outbound (short/long term) and affiliates.

If you have one or two Interactors in your club that would like to be part of the Planning Committee, contact Claudine Hessmer-Husainy Chair New Generations 603-714-8690 or hessmer65@gmail.com by 1/20/25.

Rotary District 7870 Assembly Announcement

Dear Rotary Members,

I am thrilled to announce that the Rotary District 7870 Assembly will take place on April 26, 2025, at Londonderry High School in Londonderry, NH. Please mark your calendars for a day filled with inspiration, collaboration, and celebration of our shared commitment to service!

Event Details:

- Date: April 26, 2025
- Time: 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM
- Location: Londonderry High School, Londonderry, NH

While the full agenda will be shared in March, I want to highlight a couple of exciting features you won't want to miss! This year's assembly will showcase the incredible journeys of our Exchange



Students, who will deliver heartfelt speeches reflecting their experiences and the impact of cultural exchange.

Additionally, we will host the finals of the esteemed 4-Way Test Speech Contest. This competition provides a platform for young speakers to articulate their thoughts on ethical decision-making, and I encourage everyone to come out and support these talented individuals as they share their insights.

This assembly is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow Rotarians, exchange ideas, and strengthen our commitment to the values we hold dear. I look forward to seeing you all in Londonderry for a day of learning, inspiration, and fellowship!

Warm regards,

Bill Stevens
District Governor
Rotary District 7870

International Coffee with JB (formerly Coffee with Ken) - Informal Zoom Get Together

John Bob (RC Milford / District 7870 International Service Chair) will be hosting his the third International Coffee with JB on **Fri. Mar. 7 at 8:30 AM** on Zoom. International Coffee with JB these first Friday coffee sessions started during the pandemic as a way for District Rotarians to meet online and share their interests in Rotary. It also was a forum for asking questions. The Zoom meeting typically lasts 40 minutes. These meetings are free flowing discussions and now tend to be focused on International Rotary Projects topics of the interested participants. It also (hopefully) will be a great way to find out what is happening around the District 7870 with International Service. Please note: everyone is welcome. Here's 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 and join the meeting.



Club News

Remembering Londonderry Rotarian Mark Huntley

It is with great sorrow that the Ludlow Rotary Club shares the passing of our much-loved member, Mark Huntley. Many know him as a musician, politician, an active community member or volunteer. Perhaps your paths crossed via business, on the golf course or you passed him along the road jogging or biking. Mark loved people, laughing and bringing smiles to all.

Mark was very often surrounded by friends and family enjoying each other's company perhaps around the fire pit. Most important to Mark was his family. He was always proud to share stories and memories of his kids.



In Memoriam - Phil Ehret

In Memoriam

Phil Ehret, formerly of the Manchester, VT Rotary club, passed away on Monday, February 10 with his family by his side. Phil was a dentist by trade, and gave generously of his time and talents, including many volunteer trips to Haiti to provide care for those most in need. His endless desire to make things better for others made him a mentor to countless numbers of people, all over the world.



Phil had a real passion for the Rotary Youth Exchange program. He and his wife Anne hosted many students over the years and attended weddings around the world when invited. He served our district as Outbound Coordinator for many years and was known for answering calls and chats at all hours of the night, to counsel our students who had gone abroad on exchange. For inbound students and volunteers alike, Phil was a model of humanity and compassion. He had the unique gift of being able to teach through stories. Scores of adults around the world owe some of their success to their time with him on exchange.

For those who had the blessing of working with him in the exchange world, we can see his fingerprints in countless ways throughout the program. He will be missed.



A Rotary Tradition. . . helping others, to help others (part one)

A group of Penacook NH citizen Christmas carolers highlight 2024's seasonal festivities during the 19th annual "Penacook Tree Lighting" ceremony at Boudreau Square in downtown Penacook, NH. Capital City Sunrise Rotary Club members traditionally partner with the Penacook Village Association (PVA), serving cookies and hot cider in the seasonably cold December night time air.



A Rotary Tradition. . . helping others, to help others (part two)

A local 6 year old Penacook, NH resident gingerly inserts a dollar bill into a Salvation Army Kettle . Capital City Sunrise Rotary Club members observed nearby with the young boy's parents, joining scores of Rotary members statewide with the Salvation Army to encourage citizens to contribute what they can to benefit those in need during this traditional Rotary annual holiday service.



A Rotary Tradition. . . helping others, to help others (part three)

Four volunteers assisted Capital City Sunrise Rotary Club members prepare scores of meals for local residents experiencing food insecurity at the "Open Door Community Kitchen" (ODCK) in the "United Church of Penacook" kitchen on a December, 2024 afternoon. The ODCK, a time honored flagship service provided by the Capital City Sunrise Rotary is open Wednesday afternoons' with CCSRC Treasurer Mike Manning coordinating the meal preparation and serving . The volunteers were all NH Concord Hospital Emergency Room Registered Nurses and represent one more group of individuals within our surrounding communities willing to submit one's most precious commodity.... their time... to helping others .



Monadnock Interact Club Held Successful Fundraisers

The Monadnock Interact Club was very successful with fundraising this year and was able to allocate money for charitable donations to two local non-profit organizations during the holidays.

A representative from Helping Hand Center Center in Troy and from Feeding Tiny Tummies, based in Keene, attended last night's General Assembly Meeting. Each representative was presented with a check for \$1,000 and gave the Interactors a brief overview of the work done by their organization.



Additionally, the Interact club chose to fund gifts for children by selecting tags with gift wishes from "Angel Trees".

The Interactors split into 3 teams and selected a team captain. Each captain received \$300 for gift purchases. The larger groups further split into smaller units for gift shopping.

In reporting on this experience it was clear that it was meaningful to all who were involved. There were instances in which a child had requested basic necessities, such as snow pants, boots and shampoo, that cost more than the budgeted amount, the Interactors paid the difference from their own money. When asked if they wanted to be reimbursed they declined saying that they were happy to be able to make their own contribution.

Way to go, Monadnock Interact Club!!

Springfield VT Rotary Donates Trek Bench to Elm Hill School

As a reward for Springfield residents collecting 1000 pounds of thin film plastics for the Trex Thin Film Plastics Challenge, the Trex Company (Trex) provided the Springfield Rotary Club with its tenth outdoor bench that was placed at the Elm Hill School in Springfield.

For this bench, 36% per cent of the plastic film was collected at the Springfield Town Library, 30% from Magee Office Products, and the rest from Bibens Ace Hardware, Springfield GMC, McGee CDJR of Springfield, Springfield Hospital, and the Elm Hill School. **Since**

February of 2023, the Springfield Rotary Club has collected over four tons of thin plastic film.



The Challenge is part of the Trex Recycling Program, aimed at encouraging the public to recycle their grocery bags, bread bags, produce bags, cereal bags, ice bags, case overwrap, bubble wrap, dry cleaning bags, Ziploc and other resealable bags, and similar bags and wrap for other objects. If the sponsoring group's participants collect 1000 pounds of thin film plastics, Trex will send the group a Trex Outdoor Furniture 48" Yacht Club Bench. Trex does not manufacture the benches, they are a purchased gift for meeting the minimum requirement in the program. The plastic that is turned in is being upcycled into Trex decking (www.trex.com). The benches are part of the Trex branded furniture line through Polywood (www.trexurniture.com). Polywood uses milk jugs and water bottles to manufacture their furniture.

Plastics do not fully decompose but break down into smaller and smaller pieces, so these microplastics pose a huge risk to wildlife and are extremely difficult to clean up. Recycling plastic bags and film reduces harmful plastic pollution from littering our community, wildlife habitats and green spaces. The Trex Challenge is a creative way to eliminate grocery bags and other plastic film from our waste stream, which need to be separated from the curbside recycling program as they can damage the mechanical equipment used during the recycling process.

This is the tenth bench that has been donated. The first two can be found at The Common, the third at the Park Street School overlooking the Kingsbury House, the fourth at the North Springfield Bog Trailhead, the fifth and sixth at the bus stop on Main Street, and the seventh and eighth at the Springfield Town Library, and the ninth at "Green on Main" at 77 Main Street in Springfield.

Volunteers from the Springfield Rotary Club and from the Springfield Town Library collect and weigh the bags, report the bags' weight to Trex, and deliver the bags to Trex's closest participating drop-off retailer location, Shaw's Supermarket in Springfield. The Trex Bin will remain in place at the Springfield Town Library.

The Springfield Rotary Club has already begun to collect plastic film towards another bench for the Springfield community. The benches are dedicated to the 95th anniversary of the Springfield Rotary. 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/>

PHOTO: (L-R): Elm Hill students Mason Bowen and Charlette Lynds enjoy the new bench donated by the Springfield Rotary Club.



Springfield Rotary Club Inducts Two New Members

Weathersfield residents August and Andrea Murray were inducted as the newest members of the Springfield Rotary Club.

August is a retired US Army Colonel with 33 years of military experience in the US Army and US Coast Guard. He is a former professor who taught military science, leadership, communications, and ethics. Andrea is a farm owner, businesswoman, and self-employed GIA trained jeweler. Andrea has spent her life supporting local communities in many capacities such as tax preparer, youth program leader, CrossFit coach, and military family support. She is currently a foster mom for adolescent boys.



They were sponsored by Rotary Club member Ed McQuaide.

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/>

Capital City Sunrise Rotary Meets Trex Plastic Challenge

On 2/11/25, Capital City Sunrise Rotary Members (L-R) Geoff Souther, Rich Berryman, Eddie Lassonde, (Beth Bassett, aka "super Beth" of Grappone Automotive) and Phil Nadeau gather aside 136 lbs of recycled plastic donated by Grappone Automotive in Bow/Concord NH.

This amount tipped the "Sunrise" Club accumulated plastic weight total for the end of our 3rd yearly campaign to over .. one ton...and begins year four of our Trex sponsored and community partnered recycled plastic campaign.



A huge success that has prompted fellow Rotary District 7870 Clubs to emulate this valuable eco- and community friendly endeavor since 2022.

Grappone Automotive, a nationally acclaimed Dealership led by 4th generation owner Amanda Grappone Osmer, has graciously donated the majority of plastic amongst our community partners ...and awarded with ...two ...recycled plastic constructed Trex benches.



What White River Junction Rotarians Will Do For A Cause

The Hartford Rec Department held its Annual Ice Fishing Derby on Dewey's Pond in Quechee on February 3, 2025. In spite of a brisk wind and below zero temps, White River Junction Rotarians Brett Mayfield and PJ Skehan volunteered to cook the hot dogs (at least they had some heat) for the brave folks who came to fish. Look closely and you will see the frost on their faces!!!

Photo (l-r): Rotarian Brett Mayfield; Right, PJ Skehan. Photographer, Rotarian Scott Hausler



Visioning for White River Junction

On a brisk winter evening, the Rotary Club of White River Rotary Club met for socializing and dinner in the Gallery at The Quechee Inn at Marshland Farm in Quechee, Vermont. As we have not gathered for some time to enjoy an evening of fellowship, it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening. The purpose behind the gathering was to focus on visioning the Club's future. PDG David Saturley led the discussion with the main focus on the stability of the organization and how to build on over 100 years of 'service above self' to solidify its future. This group is seldom at a loss for words which led to in-depth discussion including communication, membership, community projects, programs and much more. No. 1 task is to find a permanent home for our Club - within a month, it is hoped we will have a site.



PHOTO - Rotarians enjoyed an evening together in the Quechee Inn Gallery. You will note Rotarian David Ford taking a picture of Rotarian Scott Farnsworth who was taking the picture of the group.



International

Local Rotary Club Hosts International Exchange Students

Killington, VT: The Killington Pico Rotary Club annually welcomes visiting international Rotary exchange students each February. Local Club members host these visiting students who gather for the weekend in Killington to enjoy all our region has to offer.



These exchange students are studying in Vermont and New Hampshire for the entire high school year and tour various parts of the region most weekends.

During the recent weekend hosted by the Killington Pico Rotary Club, exchange students and their weekend host families attended a special Killington Pico Rotary Club dinner. Killington Mountain Resort also sponsored them for a weekend of snow sports, including lift tickets, equipment & instruction, at Pico Mountain resort. The students and host families also enjoyed a pizza party and ice cream sundaes at the Killington Grand Hotel. Each student was also presented with a Killington World Club hat as a memento of the weekend!

This year the exchange students were from Norway, Finland, Austria, Ukraine, Italy, Indonesia, Japan, Argentina, Czech Republic, Turkey, Belgium, Thailand, and Chile. Rotary exchange students also bring club banners from their home Rotary Clubs to exchange with our Killington Pico Rotary Club banners for them to bring back home with them to their local clubs.

The Killington Pico Rotary Club is affiliated with Rotary International and meets on alternative Wednesdays at 6pm for a Dinner Meeting at the KPAA Killington Welcome Center for community fellowship and most often with a guest speaker. Learn more on our Facebook page or here: <https://rotary7870.org/clubinfo/killington-pico-rotary>

For more info, contact Killington Pico Rotary Club President Janina Curtis at 802-342-8661 or janina@curtisinsuranceagency.net.



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. **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: March 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:

