



THE INSPIRATION



Rotary District 7870



March 2025	District Newsletter 2025, Number 9	Bill Stevens 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 Month: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Month		

In this issue:

Greetings From Your District Governor Bill Stevens

District News

4-Way Test Speech Contest

D7870 Youth Conference - April 19, 2025

Rotary District 7870 Assembly Announcement

Little Red School House Bricks

Club News

Londonderry Rotary Sponsoring Bring Back The Trades Skills

Ludlow Rotary Hears Fire Dept. New Equipment Needs

Springfield Rotary Learns About the Springfield Fire Department

Ludlow Rotary Hears from Neighbors Together

Goffstown Rotary Conducts Successful Food Drive

Greater Keene Rotaract Celebrates World Rotaract Week



Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Recognizes Student of the Month
Springfield Rotary Hears About Changes in Vermont Agriculture
Ludlow Rotary Hears from BRACC
Cellist Performs at Capital City Sunrise Rotary Club
Interact Clubs' Fellowship

International

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

Fundraisers

Ludlow Rotary Prepares for Upcoming Annual Penny Sale
District Calendar
Months of the Rotary Year

Miscellaneous

Have Something You'd Like to Share with the Entire District?
Website and Social Media



Greetings From Your District Governor Bill Stevens

Dear Rotarians,

As we transition into this vibrant spring season, I am excited to highlight the importance of training and development within our Rotary community. This time of year marks a pivotal moment for us as we prepare our leaders for the upcoming Rotary year. The knowledge and skills gained during this "training season" will empower us to better serve our communities and elevate the impact of our work.



I am thrilled to announce our President Elect Learning Seminar scheduled for March 21 and 22. This seminar is a cornerstone of our training efforts, designed to equip our incoming club presidents with the tools, insights, and inspiration needed to lead effectively. It will be an invaluable opportunity for fellowship, discussion, and learning, as we come together to share best practices and strategies that will enhance our clubs' success.

During this seminar, participants will engage in workshops that cover essential topics such as club management, membership growth, community engagement, and projects that make a difference. I encourage all incoming presidents to actively participate and take advantage of this unique opportunity to connect with fellow leaders and gain fresh perspectives.

Following our seminar, we will convene for our District Assembly on April 26. This event is open to all Rotarians and will serve as a comprehensive training session for club leaders, committee chairs, and all members interested in enhancing their Rotary experience. The District Assembly will feature our Exchange Program students talking about their experience in our District, a perennial favorite that always leaves some teary eyes and also the Finals of our 4-Way Test Speech contest. I have watched these for many years now and the quality of the presentations is outstanding, not to be missed.

The assembly will also provide an opportunity for networking and collaboration among clubs, fostering the spirit of service that defines Rotary. Together, we can share successes and brainstorm innovative solutions to common challenges.

Training is not just about acquiring knowledge; it is about building a stronger, more effective Rotary. As we invest in our leaders, we are investing in the future of our organization and the communities we serve. I encourage all clubs to prioritize training and to support their members in attending these vital events.



Thank you for your dedication to our mission and for all that you do in service to others. I look forward to seeing many of you at the President Elect Learning Seminar and the District Assembly.

In service,
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.

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 D7870, 2024-2025



Little Red School House Bricks

What better way to recognize a person than creating an engraved brick or paver in the Rotary Wheel in the Paul Harris Memorial Garden at the Little Red Schoolhouse in Wallingford, Vermont.



Wallingford was the childhood home of our founder Paul P Harris. The Little Red School House was built by Paul's great-grandfather in 1818. In 1928 a group of local Rotarians bought this historic building. In 1933 it was dedicated as "The Little Red Schoolhouse." Paul Harris returned to Wallingford for the dedication ceremony. Today, the Schoolhouse acts as a historic site that stores and displays Paul Harris memorabilia and is the meeting place of the Wallingford Memorial Rotary Club.

You or your club can purchase a red brick for \$200 or a white paver for \$300. In addition, there are still 18 gear teeth available for \$1,500 each.

New bricks should be installed in June prior to the Changing of the Gavel Dinner which will be held on Saturday June 28, 2025.

We are also offering a presentation certificate in a folder for an additional \$15. Be sure to give us at least 2 weeks to produce and mail a certificate

You can order online with a credit card by going to:

<https://rotary7870.org/donate/buy-a-paver-for-the-little-red-school-house-foundation/>

Note: The ordering system is different this year. Contact me if you have questions.

The cutoff for orders this year will May 15, 2025.

If you have any questions, please email me at Rotary.Randell@gmail.com

Randell Barclay, Past District Governor
Wallingford Memorial Rotary Club



Club News

Londonderry Rotary Sponsoring Bring Back The Trades Skills

The Rotary Club of Londonderry is sponsoring Bring Back The Trades Skills Expo concurrently with the District 7870 Assembly. We are encouraging all Assembly attendees to visit this event. District Leadership will be allocating time for you to attend.

Bring Back the Trades is bringing their Skills Expo to Londonderry! Join us for a unique experience where students, parents and community members can explore various trade skills and learn from industry professionals. Whether they're interested in plumbing, HVAC, electrical work, construction, or other trades, this expo is the place to be. Get ready to roll up your sleeves and dive into the world of skilled trades! Free admission. The Bring Back the Trades Skills Expo is brought to you by the Londonderry Police Department, The Rotary Club of Londonderry and Londonderry School District.



Ludlow Rotary Hears Fire Dept. New Equipment Needs

At its recent weekly meeting, the Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) heard from Ben Whelan (pictured above), Ludlow Fire Chief, and that department's need for new equipment. Whelan discussed the normal life of the various types of equipment needed by Ludlow to deal with fires and property protection. Currently, the department needs to replace aged and, sometimes, non-operative equipment used to fight fires. He presented a slide show that highlighted the new equipment needed as well as the cost and delivery time of it.

A key point in his discussion was the length of time between ordering new equipment and its actual delivery, normally a two-to-three-year period.

The Ludlow Fire Department will be requesting Ludlow to approve the purchase of several important pieces of equipment. Whelan explained the cost of the replacement devices. He estimated that the MSRP for the new gear will be \$4,097,039. He indicated that, through discounting, sale of current equipment, and financing arrangements, this price could be reduced to \$3,079,550, a savings of 1,017,489.



Springfield Rotary Learns About the Springfield Fire Department

Springfield Fire Chief Paul Stagner talked about the Springfield Fire Department at the recent [Springfield Vermont Rotary Club](#) meeting held at the SAPCC Workforce Development & Training Center. The fire department was established in 1835. Last year it handled over 3300 calls; 82% of which involved Emergency Medical Services. In addition to fire protection, the department is involved with advanced life support, vehicle extrications, HAZMAT responses, active threat responses, ice rescue, and technical rescue. To learn more visit <https://springfieldvt.gov/fire>.



Ludlow Rotary Hears from Neighbors Together

Paula Vanguilder, Chairman of the Ludlow group Neighbors Together addressed the Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) at its recent weekly meeting. The group offers support to the local community in the form of mental health and addiction recovery support, cooking classes led by local chefs, snacks for school children, fresh flowers for seniors at the Gill home and many more goodwill outreach efforts. The group originated during the flood of 2023 when Paula and Shannon Barton saw an opportunity to help flood victims. Co-chairman Bridgette Willis joined the effort as have several others since its inception. They have continued doing good deeds around the community since.



The group's mission states it is to create a welcoming and inclusive space where individuals and families can come together to learn, grow, and thrive. Through programs, activities, and community services, we strive to foster connection, well-being, and empowerment for all. Committed to diversity and accessibility, we aim to be a hub of support and enrichment that strengthens the bonds of our neighborhood and enhances the quality of life for everyone.

Mom Prom is their upcoming event to be held on March 15. Information about it as well as the group is available on their Facebook page or by emailing them at Neighborstogether25@yahoo.com

Note: Photo credit- Kevin Barnes



Goffstown Rotary Conducts Successful Food Drive

The Goffstown Rotary Club held its annual “Love Your Neighbor Food Drive” this past February. Timed to coincide with both Valentine’s Day and the Super Bowl when many people are shopping, the event featured pre-constructed bags of items that shoppers at the local Hannaford could purchase. Each bag had items that are used in the local food pantry’s weekend program for students on reduced or free meals: oatmeal, soup, crackers, applesauce, and granola bars. One hundred bags were sold and delivered to the food pantry along with other donated items. In addition, two other food pantries each received \$200 in cash collected on the day of the drive. The club is grateful to the staff at Hannaford as well as all their shoppers for their generosity.



Greater Keene Rotaract Celebrates World Rotaract Week

In celebration of World Rotaract Week, the Greater Keene Rotaract hosted our second annual Outreach Meal Packing event on Monday, March 10th. About 100 volunteers from our club, the Rotary Club of Keene, Keene Elm City Rotary, Kiwanis Club of Keene, Keene Lions Club, Savings Bank of Walpole, Monadnock Regional High School Interact, and even our District Governor, Bill Stevens, came together to help package oatmeal, macaroni and cheese, and cheesy rice for local people in need. In total, we were able to send 66 boxes of meals to the Keene Community Kitchen and another 66 boxes of meals to Feeding Tiny Tummies, both Monadnock region food providers.



Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Recognizes Student of the Month

At the breakfast meeting at Franklin Pierce University on March 6, Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary honored Abigail Bonzagni, a Fifth Grader at the Jaffrey Grade School. Abigail was recognized as the “Student of the Month” as a positive role model for others in her school, her demonstrated strong work ethic, unwavering optimism, and her wonderful eagerness to help others. With her teacher Mrs. Springfield pictured on the left, Rotarian “Sam” Lafortune reads positive comments about Abigail. Standing immediately behind Abigail are her proud parents, Christopher and Jennifer Bonzagni and Rotary President Rudra Aryal.



Springfield Rotary Hears About Changes in Vermont Agriculture

Former VT Secretary of Agriculture Roger Allbee talked about his new book, Roger Allbee “Turning the Soil: 250 Years of Vermont Agriculture” at the recent Springfield Rotary Club meeting held at the SAPCC Workforce Development & Training Center.

Roger Allbee has a deep connection to Vermont’s agricultural heritage. Growing up in Brookline on a hilltop farm, he witnessed firsthand the resilience and dedication of his family, who have been farming the land since 1794.



Roger has a comprehensive background in agricultural, trade policy, and natural resource management. He was Executive Director of Vermont USDA Farm Service Agency, Secretary of Vermont Agency of Agriculture, and CEO of Grace Cottage Hospital. He and his wife Ann live on part of the farm he grew up on.

Turning the Soil explores pivotal moments in agricultural history, sharing the stories of farmers, their families, agricultural leaders, and key figures who have shaped Vermont’s farming traditions. The industry and land use have constantly evolved, and Turning the Soil examines the challenges that have driven this transformation—from the westward expansion to advancements in transportation and refrigeration. These ongoing changes continue to affect the economic sustainability of farmers today, making the lessons of the past relevant to the modern agricultural landscape.

The book is available through Amazon or Barnes and Noble bookstores.

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/>



Ludlow Rotary Hears from BRACC

Lauren Ingersoll and Andrew Moore, supervising staff at the Chester Teen Center, addressed the Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) at its recent weekly meeting. The Chester Teen Center is designed to support teens from the local community in a safe, fun, alcohol and drug free environment. The Teen Center is a part of the Black River Area Community Coalition (BRACC) which originated in Ludlow in 2003.



The group's mission states the Chester Teen Center serves youth by creating a safe space in the community for local teens to connect with each other, have fun and be creative, develop leadership skills, and have access to support and mentorship. Activities include basketball, pool, board games, homework, a Valentine's Dance, and a trip to a local ski hill. Teens design and plan many of the activities. Information about the Teen Center as well as BRACC is available on their website [Teen Center](#) or by emailing them at info@braccvt.org

PHOTO: Ludlow Rotary President George Thomson, left, with BRACC Teen Center Staff Andrew Moore and Lauren Ingersoll.

Credit Kevin Barnes

Cellist Performs at Capital City Sunrise Rotary Club

Ashley Bathgate, a nationally acclaimed, award winning Cellist and a former member of the GRAMMY-winning ensemble "Eighth Blackbird", performed to a standing-room-only crowd of Rotary members and invitees at the Capital City Sunrise Rotary Club in Penacook, New Hampshire on January 9th, 2025. A memorable musical experience.



Ashley is the Executive and Artistic Director of the Avaloch Farm Music Institute in Boscawen NH, a residential arts center that serves as a "...catalyst for unfettered artistic exploration and creation."

Distinguished musicians from across the nation seek its confines, nestled within a stunning landscape of open fields and century old stone walls, to be inspired and "develop meaningful artistic content and collaborations to share with the world-at-large."

A must-see world class destination, and Artist.



Interact Clubs' Fellowship

Inter-Lakes Interact club (sponsored by Meredith Rotary) and Laconia Interact Club (sponsored by Laconia Rotary) are the two Interact clubs in New Hampshire's lakes region. On a recent school holiday, nineteen members joined together in fellowship for bowling and pizza.



International

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. Apr. 4 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.

Fundraisers

Ludlow Rotary Prepares for Upcoming Annual Penny Sale

While the annual Penny Sale sponsored by the Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) may be several months away, members of the club have already begun preparations for this major event. The Penny Sale is the major fund-raising event sponsored by the LRC to support its annual scholarship awards to graduating area high school seniors. The LRC has awarded over a quarter of a million



scholarship dollars to graduating seniors. This, the 67th annual Penny Sale sponsored by the LRC, will feature hundreds of gifts donated by area businesses and individuals. As evidenced by the concentrated efforts of LRC Rotarians in the photo, club members are busy contacting area businesses to request donations of gifts or financial awards. For more information, call event co-chairs Kim Lampert 802-228-4000 or Jim Rumrill 802-228-8866.

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: April 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:

