



# THE INSPIRATION



Rotary District 7870



February 2026	District Newsletter 2026, Number 8	Donna Deos District Governor
<a href="http://www.rotary7870.org">www.rotary7870.org</a>		
<p><b>Rotarian Editors in our 8th year!</b>  <b>Maureen Mooney (Merrimack, NH) and Martin Cohn (Springfield, VT)</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 20px;">   </div>		
<b>Rotary Theme of the Year: <i>Unite for Good</i></b>		
<b>Rotary Theme of the Month: <i>Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month</i></b>		

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## Greetings From Your District Governor Donna Deos

### DG Missive for February 2026

Gearing Up For the Next Rotary Year!

Hello Friends!

Yes, you saw that headline right. We are gearing up for the next Rotary year that begins July 1, 2026. I hope that you have all seen the many emails that have gone out to the President Elects that we know about in Clubrunner and to the current Club Presidents and other Club Officers to make sure everyone knows that Registration for that is up! Our room booking deadline for the special rate of \$165 is open through the 19<sup>th</sup> of February, so be sure to have your people sign up now! That window is almost closed.



Please note that up to 2 people per club can register at no additional cost. Anyone additional (yes we are grateful that we do have several registered) is a fee of \$200 per person to cover the cost of meals and gratuity for the two-day event.

We are expecting a great turn out and have a lot of dynamic sessions and speakers in the works. We would love to have Registrations finished up ASAP so we can open District Conference Registration.

**Please be sure to have Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> in Keene, NH on your calendar! We have lots of great stuff planned for that as well. This is our end of year celebration and we are going to have a stellar time!**

If you have an interest in helping out on a District Committee, please be sure to let Ruth and I know. That is a big part of gearing up for the coming Rotary year. Our current committees are growing and thriving and doing all sorts of good for the members and clubs. There is always room for more people to join in the fun. Our membership committees would really benefit from having additional folks join us.

This past year Rotary International required us to have three (3) subcommittees of: New Club Development (yes, starting new clubs), Membership Attraction (attracting new folks to join us), and Membership Engagement (keeping the ones we already have engaged, satisfied and thriving). If any of these areas interest you we would welcome your thoughts and ideas.

Other District Committees are:



Conference – sometimes the District Assembly has been called a conference and sometimes this event stands alone. In recent years the two have been used somewhat interchangeably. District Assembly traditionally was more of a half day learning/training event for all members beyond the incoming Presidents. The conference traditionally had motivational speakers, the four-way test speech contest finals and our end of year presentations by our inbound long-term youth exchange kids. It was the yearend celebration versus the training/learning event of the District Assembly.

Finance – managing the finances of District Funds for more information reach out to District Finance Chair, Jeff Mobus.



Foundation – with 4 areas of: Major Gifts; Stewardship that includes new donors and Sustained Giving via the Annual Fund, Paul Harris Society & Polio Plus Society, etc.; District Grants; and Global Grants.

International Service – for more information on this one check out PDG John Bob’s International Coffee with JB monthly Zoom meetings, the first Friday of each month.

Learning – All in District Training/Learning Events, such as PELS (President Elect Learning Seminar), District Assembly and the Little Red School House Summer School events.  
New Generations – includes Early Act Clubs (middle school kids) and Interact Clubs (high schoolers) – the future Rotarians!

Public Image – this is a small dynamic group working to hone in the right messages that we should be putting forth, to whom and how.

Rotaract – the young adults and professionals with hearts of service who like to do things much differently than our traditional clubs. Also, the future of Rotary! Historically ages 18 – 30, but the top limit no longer exists (unless it’s for joining the club).

Youth Exchange – Long-Term (full school year long program), Short-Term, Inbound and Outbound (for each of those).

I’m sure I’ve left something out here. Rotary International has many other defined committees than we do. With 1,657 members (as of 1/31/26) we feel that focusing on the ones listed above is ambitious and we are working to make them as robust as possible. Again, if you would like to help



us do that, please reach out. Now is the time that DGE Ruth gears up for having all of the right people in place for the coming year.

Please, join us!

DG Donna, DGE Ruth & the District Leadership Team

## **District News**

### **Save the Date: District Conference Set for May 30, 2026**

**Save the Date!** District Governor Donna invites all Rotarians to come together for an engaging one-day District Conference on **Saturday, May 30, 2026**, at the **Best Western Hotel in Keene, New Hampshire**. The Conference Committee is hard at work creating an inspiring experience filled with fellowship, learning, and hands-on service.



#### **What to Expect**

**Keynote Speaker: Dr. Randy Pierce** : Get ready to be inspired. Dr. Randy Pierce will share his extraordinary journey of choosing a life of adventure after losing his vision at age 22. His compelling story and powerful message are sure to motivate and uplift every attendee.

**4-Way Test Speech Contest Finals:** Hear from the top finalists in this year's 4-Way Test Speech Contest as they deliver their concluding presentations. These outstanding young speakers consistently impress with their insight, passion, and leadership—reminding us why the future is bright.

**District 7870 Exchange Students:** Our exchange students will reflect on their experiences of growth, courage, and connection. Their stories highlight the life-changing impact of Rotary Youth Exchange and are sure to entertain, inspire, and move you.

**Additional Speakers & Presentations:** Explore the many dimensions of Rotary through a variety of sessions led by dedicated Rotarians and valued partner organizations.

**Catered Lunch by Tempesta Restaurant:** Enjoy a delicious catered lunch while reconnecting with friends and meeting fellow Rotarians from across the district.



**Rotary Cares: Summer & School Support for Pine Ridge:** This year’s conference includes a meaningful hands-on service project supporting families on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Together, we will assemble Summer Wellness Kits, Back-to-School Packs, and Teen Empowerment Bundles to be shipped to partner organizations serving the Oglala Lakota community.

Evening fellowship activities and special hotel rates are being arranged for those who wish to extend their stay. More details will be shared in the coming months—so mark your calendar now!

### **Sponsorship Opportunities**

**Gold Sponsor — \$250** ( \$125 supports the District Conference + \$125 supports the Pine Ridge service project)

**Silver Sponsor — \$150** (\$75 supports the District Conference + \$75 supports the Pine Ridge service project)

— *Chris Parkinson, PDG, District Conference Chair*

## **Rotary Cares: Summer & School Support for Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, South Dakota**

Plans for the International Service Project at the 5/30/26 Rotary District 7870 conference are developing. As of this writing, Latricia Decory, co-founder of the BEAR Project at Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, is planning to attend. We will get to hear first-hand about the needs on the Reservation. To help with the hands-on project, we are still looking for donations of supplies (see list below). Thank you to the Brattleboro Rotary Club for pledging pencils, sharpeners, and erasers for Station 2.



### **PROJECT GOAL**

To assemble and deliver Summer Wellness Kits and Back-to-School Support Bundles for children, teens, and families on the Pine Ridge Reservation—timed so that they arrive in early summer 2026 and are useful immediately.

### **WHY SUMMER-FOCUSED SUPPORT?**



Although winter hardship is well known, Pine Ridge also faces significant summer needs: • Extreme heat in July–August • Limited access to sunscreen, hydration items, insect repellent, and first aid supplies • Schools often lack funding for fall school supplies • Many kids participate in summer youth programs that need materials. The May 30 conference date aligns perfectly with preparing items for early summer distribution.

## **SERVICE PROJECT STRUCTURE**

A flexible, fun, and meaningful service project that fits within a 75-minute block during the district conference.

**STATION 1** — Summer Wellness Kits (goal-150): Why this matters: Summer temperatures on Pine Ridge often exceed 95°F; heat exhaustion is common. Each kit contains: • Sunscreen • Aloe gel • Bug spray • Reusable water bottle • Sunglasses • Hydration/electrolyte packets • Band-aids / small first-aid kit • Reusable tote bag

**STATION 2** — Back-to-School Packs (goal-150): Why this matters: Schools on Pine Ridge regularly operate with very limited supply budgets. Each pack contains: • Notebooks • Folders • Pencils, sharpeners, erasers – to be donated by Brattleboro Rotary Club • Colored pencils or crayons • Pens • Glue sticks • Kids’ scissors • A youth-friendly bookmark featuring Rotary’s Four-Way Test • Optional: A book by an Indigenous author

**STATION 3** — Teen Empowerment Packs (goal-75): Why this matters: Teens often receive the fewest donations despite significant need. Each pack contains: • Journals or sketchbooks • Fine-tip pens • Travel-size hygiene products • Deodorant • Socks (high need across all age groups) • Inspirational card

**STATION 4** — “Rotary Respect & Culture Table”: A short educational display includes resources about Oglala Lakota culture, appropriate language guidelines, a map of Pine Ridge communities, explanation of the partner organization, and a message board where Rotarians write notes of friendship

**STATION 5** — Micro-Grant Fundraiser: During the conference, Rotary can raise funds for: emergency propane/utility support, youth enrichment programs, firewood programs, and/or summer meal programs. A goal of \$2,026 symbolically honors the year 2026.

With strong participation, this project will provide support to 300+ residents, helping children stay healthy during the summer and prepared for the school year. If you can donate supplies or a donation for bulk purchase, please contact Martin Cohn at [martin@cohnpr.com](mailto:martin@cohnpr.com)



## 4-Way Test Speech Contest Semi-Finals

The Rotary District 7870 4-Way Test Speech Contest semi-finals will be held on Sunday, April 12 at the Henniker Community Center, 57 Main Street Henniker, NH. The contest will begin at 1 PM and contestants should sign in by 12:30 PM. Names, addresses and contact information for each contestant should be sent to Albert St.Pierre at 43 Sunnyside Circle Charlestown, NH 03603 (fax: 603-826 4171) or emailed to Daryl Royce at [daryl.pat@comcast.net](mailto:daryl.pat@comcast.net) by April 7.

## RYLA - 2026 Rotary Youth Leadership Academy Conference

As in past years, Rotary District 7850 to our north is offering our students to attend their RYLA conference in June. RYLA consists of 60 sophomores who develop skills as a leader through various indoor & outdoor activities, inspirational speakers and a joint service project. Here is a three-minute video about RYLA - [RYLA 2022 Promo Video - YouTube](#). And to learn more, here is D7850's RYLA web site - [Rotary Youth Leadership Academy | Rotary District 7850](#)



**WHO:** Students completing their sophomore year

**WHEN:** June 19 through 21, 2026

**WHERE:** Northern Vermont University, Lyndonville, VT

**COST:** \$385 per student

**TO APPLY:** Applications are accepted through sponsoring Rotary clubs. Here is the RYLA Club Checklist describing the application process - [2026-RYLA-clubchecklist.doc](#)

**POINT OF CONTACT:** Grand Monadnock Rotarian Bob McDonald, [bobmacdonald@pobox.com](mailto:bobmacdonald@pobox.com), 603-831-3939

Statement from a recent RYLA participant: **“It is so much fun”**.



## Club News

### **Hooksett Area Rotary Club Officially Chartered**

The Hooksett Area Rotary Club (HARC) has officially chartered as an independent club serving the greater Hooksett area after operating as a satellite club of Bow Rotary. A celebration took place on November 13th at the Oscar Barn in Hooksett.



Founded in 2019 just before COVID-19, HARC quickly adapted to virtual meetings during the pandemic. Once vaccines were available, the club ramped up its community efforts, providing backpacks to low-income children, sending Mother's Day cards to foster mothers, setting up a holiday gift tree, and even rappelling off the Brady Sullivan building to raise funds for their projects.

HARC is always seeking new members who want to contribute to the community. For more information, visit <https://hooksettarearotary.org>.

### **Woodstock Vermont Rotary Club Holds Monthly Evening Mixer**

The Woodstock Vermont Rotary Club held its monthly evening mixer on January 13, at the Billings Farm Barn where 70 Rotarians and their guests mingled, chatted and enjoyed a wonderful selection of cheeses and wines offered as pairings or individually. We were graced with a visit from the District Governor, Donna Dios, who chatted with many of our Rotarians, and also got to meet our president elect, Todd Kortekamp and our president elect-elect, Steve Huveldt. The wines were excellent and the charcuterie boards varied and tasty. One of those boards was designed by the Billings cheese manager, Charlene Peavey, as a replica of the Rotary Wheel. Wow!

Our club membership now numbers 65 and we continue to grow. Our Club is an active one and meet each week for lunch at the Woodstock Inn for a tasty hot lunch of a starch, vegetable medley, and a protein; buffet style. The desserts are always delicious and come in petit four sizes with coffee or tea as well.

This year our club Rotarians managed to raise over \$120,000 to donate to organizations throughout the Upper Valley. We are thankful for all of the individuals and organizations who support Rotary, its fundraising, and who appreciate our service projects.



## Josie Michaud of VRmont Studios Presents to Springfield Rotary Club

Springfield, Vt. — Members of the Springfield Rotary Club welcomed Josie Michaud, Operations Manager for VRmont Studios located at 23-25 Main Street in Springfield, as the featured speaker at a recent weekly meeting, where she shared an inside look at Vermont's growing media and innovation ecosystem.

Michaud spoke about VRmont Studios, a program of the Black River Innovation Center in Springfield, which provides professional video, audio, and digital media services while also serving as a training and workforce development initiative. Through hands-on learning and real-world projects, VRmont Studios helps participants develop technical skills, confidence, and pathways to employment in the creative and digital economy.



During her presentation, Michaud outlined the wide range of projects VRmont Studios undertakes, including video production, livestreaming, podcasts, promotional content, and event coverage for nonprofits, businesses, and community organizations across the region. She emphasized that the studio's mission extends beyond production work to focus on mentorship, accessibility, and expanding opportunities for individuals who may face barriers to traditional employment.

Michaud also highlighted the broader role of the Black River Innovation Center as a community hub for entrepreneurship, innovation, and workforce development. By combining professional-grade media production with education and support, VRmont Studios contributes to both individual career growth and the economic vitality of the region. To learn more about VRmont Studios visit <https://www.vrmontstudios.com/about>

The Springfield Rotary Club meets every Tuesday, at 12 p.m., at the SAPCC Workforce Development & Training Center. For more information, visit [www.springfieldvtrotary.org](http://www.springfieldvtrotary.org).

PHOTO: *Josie Michaud, Operations Manager for VRmont Studios shows off a VR headset*



## JRRotary Gets Roundabout Briefing

On January 22nd the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary resumed breakfast meetings at Franklin Pierce University following an enjoyable holiday month at the Cathedral of The Pines. The speaker was Jo Anne Carr, Director of Planning for the Town of Jaffrey, who provided a detailed update on the status of the Rt. 202 project and revitalization plans for the Rt 202/124 interchange in the Jaffrey Downtown.



## Springfield Lions Club Dog Park Highlighted at Springfield Rotary Club Presentation

Springfield, Vt. — Members of the Springfield Rotary Club recently welcomed Mike Martin, secretary of the Springfield Lions Club, who delivered an engaging presentation on the creation and community impact of the Springfield Lions Club Dog Park located on the playgrounds behind the old North School, at 5 School Street in North Springfield.

During the presentation, Martin shared the story behind the dog park's development, from the initial idea and planning stages to fundraising, partnerships, and construction. He highlighted how the project reflects the Lions Club's commitment to service while providing a safe, welcoming space for dogs and their owners to gather, exercise, and connect.



“The dog park has become more than just a place for pets,” Martin said. “It’s a community space that brings people together, encourages outdoor activity, and strengthens neighborhood connections. The support from local organizations has been essential to making it a success.”

Rotarians learned about the collaborative efforts that made the park possible, including volunteer labor, community donations, and cooperation with local officials. Martin also discussed ongoing maintenance, future improvements, and opportunities for continued community involvement.



Springfield Rotary Club members expressed appreciation for the presentation and praised the Lions Club for identifying a need in the community and turning it into a lasting public amenity.

“The Springfield Lions Club Dog Park is a great example of service in action,” said Springfield Rotary Club President Sue Dana. “It shows how civic organizations can work together to create projects that enhance quality of life for everyone.”

The Springfield Rotary Club meets regularly to hear from community leaders and organizations working to make a positive difference in the region.

For more information about the Springfield Lions Club Dog Park, send an email to Mike Martin at [SpringfieldVermontLions@gmail.com](mailto:SpringfieldVermontLions@gmail.com).

The Springfield Rotary Club meets every Tuesday, at 12 p.m., at the SAPCC Workforce Development & Training Center. For more information, visit [www.springfieldvtrotary.org](http://www.springfieldvtrotary.org).

## Keene Elm City Rotary Honors Dick Hamilton

On Thursday, January 15th, the Keene Elm City Rotary honored Dick Hamilton for 52 years of exceptional membership by gathering, sharing words and stories of his tremendous service and by presenting him with his tenth (yes, 10th!) Paul Harris award.



Mr. Hamilton was a member of the Hartford Rotary for two decades where he served as President and was active in Rotary International's fight to eradicate polio as well as the International Exchange program. Upon moving to Wolfeboro, NH, he joined the Wolfeboro Club and continued to be a community hero as he contributed his enthusiasm to their "Christmas in July" food collection initiative, a program that he brought with him when he and his wife, Marian, moved to Keene.

Mr. Hamilton has lived his life with exceptional dedication to Rotary. Of his 52 year membership, he appreciated 50 years of perfect attendance! While he traveled a great deal for work, he would consult his Rotary Directory to find club meetings to attend as well as attending five Rotary International meetings! Son-in-law and fellow Rotarian, Alan Stroshine, explained that "What may



seem like a small act becomes extraordinary when repeated faithfully for more than 50 years. It speaks to a level of commitment, discipline, and love for service that is rare and deeply inspiring."

We have all been truly inspired and blessed to know Dick Hamilton. May he serve as an example and inspiration to us all!

## Bipartisan Advocacy for Election Integrity

At a Special Breakfast with former Congressional opponents Charlie Bass (R) and Dick Swett (D) on Thursday, January 29th, at Franklin Pierce University, a pair of outstanding speakers educated the Club about the Democracy Defense Project and highlighted the mission of the bipartisan project to restore trust in the electoral process across key battleground states in the U.S.



Former United States Congressional Representatives Charlie Bass has teamed up with Richard "Dick" Swett, who also served as the United States Ambassador to Denmark during the Clinton administration.

Representative Bass played a significant role in helping establish the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club in February 2003 with 44 charter members when he spoke at the very first meeting.

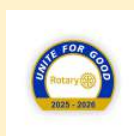
Information about the Democracy Defense can be found at [www.Democracydefenseproject.org](http://www.Democracydefenseproject.org).

## New Springfield Town Manager Scott Pickup Addresses Springfield Rotary Club

Springfield, VT — Springfield Town Manager Scott Pickup, who is a member of the Bellows Falls VT Rotary Club, recently delivered a presentation to members of the Springfield Rotary Club, offering an introduction to his background, leadership approach, and priorities for the town.



During the presentation, Pickup shared insights into his professional experience and discussed his transition into the role of town manager. He spoke about the importance of collaboration between town leadership, residents, local organizations, and businesses in advancing Springfield's long-term goals.



Pickup highlighted key focus areas for the coming months, including municipal operations, community engagement, and maintaining essential town services. He emphasized a commitment to transparency, communication, and fiscal responsibility, noting that strong partnerships play a critical role in effective local governance.

The Rotary Club presentation also provided an opportunity for members to ask questions and engage in discussion about current issues facing the community and the town's direction moving forward.

Pickup expressed appreciation for the opportunity to meet with Rotary members and acknowledged the organization's long standing role in supporting community initiatives throughout Springfield.

The Springfield Rotary Club regularly hosts speakers from across the region to foster dialogue on civic, economic, and community-related topics.

The Springfield Rotary Club meets every Tuesday, at 12 p.m., at the SAPCC Workforce Development & Training Center. For more information, visit [www.springfieldvtrotary.org](http://www.springfieldvtrotary.org).

## **New Owners of Green Mtn. Sugarhouse Speak to Ludlow Rotary**

Josh and Jamie Rose of Plymouth, VT became the new official owners of the Green Mountain Sugarhouse in early January. Since Josh was little, he's been in the sugarhouse or woods daily while his parents, Doug & Ann Rose, continued their normal work routine; Ann in the office/shop and Doug in the sugarhouse. Ann's father, Dave Harlow started the GMSH in the 1950's running it until 1985 when Doug and Ann stepped in and took over. Now It is in the capable hands of the third generation.



Josh stated they completed their 13,000 taps just before the big snowstorm arrived in January. They have three parcels they tap located in Reading. Josh demonstrated the vacuum sensors and remote monitoring equipment which are placed on the sap lines. With this equipment, he monitors the vacuum process through his smartphone, sensing any possible leaks or faulty sap lines. He can get to the faulty line much quicker than having to walk all lines looking for leaks or damage.



Jamie assured the group nothing will change with maple candy, fudge or creemees. (A big cheer from the Rotarians!) One of her initiatives is to boost their online sales. Years ago, marketing started with a catalog, then online sales came about. One idea she hopes to create is a possible “subscription” allowing customers to receive maple syrup delivered on their schedule; perhaps a quart every month if that is the customer’s wish. You should expect to see the family in the office at their desks, with their three young children doing homework on weeknights if you stop by, like Josh and his sister did years ago during sugaring season.

Gift baskets, individual syrup, homemade maple products and unique Vermont gifts can be found at the store on RTE 100 North. Josh and Jamie invite everyone to stop during sugaring season to see the operation. The fresh smell of maple syrup is like no other!

As the world faces increasing challenges, the Ludlow Rotary Club is reaffirming its commitment to the dual pillars of Community Service and World Peace and Conflict Resolution. Local Rotarians are inviting community members to join their mission of “Service Above Self” to create a ripple effect of positive change starting right here in the Okemo Valley. LRC meets most Tuesdays at DJ’s at 12:15 p.m. We invite others to pop in and have lunch with us to learn about what we do. Visit us at [www.ludlowrotary.com](http://www.ludlowrotary.com) or like us on Facebook!

## Derry Village Rotary Presents “Heart of Rotary Awards”

At a recent meeting, Derry Village Rotary was proud to present our “Heart of Rotary Awards,” honoring organizations that truly live out Rotary’s motto of Service Above Self. The recipients were END 68 Hours of Hunger - Derry/Chester and our local PTAs, both of which play a vital role in addressing food insecurity in our community. END 68 Hours of Hunger works to ensure students have access to nutritious food over weekends when school meals are unavailable, making a meaningful difference for children and families in need. In addition to the award, Derry Village Rotary presented END 68 Hours of Hunger with a \$1,700 donation to support its ongoing efforts. Our PTAs were recognized for their impactful school-based food drives, which directly support END 68 Hours of Hunger and help keep this critical program running.



Together, these organizations demonstrate the power of collaboration, compassion, and community action. Their dedication reminds us that when people come together with a shared purpose, real change happens. Derry Village Rotary is honored to recognize END 68 Hours of Hunger and our PTAs as the true Heart of Rotary.



## RIP Rotarian Craig W. Bulkley

Craig W. Bulkley, Colonel,  
U.S. Army, Ret.  
January 30, 2026

The Derry Village Rotary club has lost a good one. Craig Bulkley passed away January 30, after a distinguished 30 career in the military and continued in his civilian life. He held several senior administrative management positions and his commitment to public service extended deeply into the Derry community.

He generously gave his time and leadership to numerous organizations including board president and member of the Nutfield United Way, a member of the board of directors of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Derry, Board Member, Trustee and Treasurer of the Alexander-Eastman Foundation, Member of the Board of Directors of the NH Veterans' Cemetery Association, member of the Derry Veterans Assistance Fund, and was a member, past president, and driving force of the Derry Village Rotary for the past 36 years. He believed strongly in giving back and worked quietly but tirelessly to strengthen the community he loved.

While his professional and civic accomplishments were many, those who knew him best will remember him for his warmth, his curiosity about the world, and his dry wit.

He loved to travel, share stories from the road, and was always ready with a good joke – often perfectly timed and sometimes delightfully corny. Above all else, he was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

“The Colonel” leaves behind a legacy of service, leadership, generosity, and love – a life well lived, marked by commitment to country, community, and family. He will truly be missed.



## Michael Arace Addresses Springfield Rotary Club on the Role of Probation and Parole In Community Safety

Springfield, VT — February 10, 2026 — Michael Arace, District Manager for Springfield Probation and Parole, delivered a presentation to members of the Springfield Rotary Club on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, offering insight into the mission, challenges, and community impact of probation and parole services in the region.

During his presentation, Arace discussed the critical role probation and parole play in promoting public safety while supporting rehabilitation and successful reintegration for individuals returning to the community. He highlighted how supervision, accountability, and access to resources such as treatment programs and employment support help reduce recidivism and strengthen communities.

Arace also addressed common misconceptions about probation and parole, emphasizing that the work extends beyond enforcement to include collaboration with local partners, service providers, and community organizations. He underscored the importance of public understanding and community engagement in achieving positive outcomes.

Members of the Springfield Rotary Club engaged in a question-and-answer session following the presentation, discussing topics ranging from staffing challenges to evolving approaches in community corrections.

The Springfield Rotary Club regularly hosts speakers who provide perspectives on civic, social, and public safety issues affecting the region.

The Springfield Rotary Club meets every Tuesday, at 12 p.m., at the SAPCC Workforce Development & Training Center. For more information, visit [www.springfieldvtrotary.org](http://www.springfieldvtrotary.org).



## Ludlow Rotary Readies for 100th Anniversary

Back on January 27, 1927, the Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) was chartered by Rotary International. It had 25 chartered members. Since that time the LRC has grown and become a major contributor to the Okemo Valley area, the nation and international groups.



As it prepares for its 100th anniversary, it is gathering information on the club's history, membership, and many activities.

Sharon Bixby and Jim Rumrill, co-chairs of the anniversary committee, indicated that, while it has a large volume of information for its summary report of the club's history, it needs the help of people in its service area, Ludlow, Mt Holly, Cavendish, and Plymouth, to gather more information and photos that area residents may have of the LRC's activities, members, and contributions to the area.

“If local folks possess any photos or information about the club, we'd love to receive it”, noted Rumrill. He added that all such contributions would be recognized by the club. To send such information to the LRC, there are several ways to use:

By email – [ralphcpace@gmail.com](mailto:ralphcpace@gmail.com)

By regular mail - Ludlow Rotary Club, PO Box 216 , Ludlow, VT 05149

In Person Delivery – Sharon Bixby, Ludlow Insurance, 150 Main Street, Ludlow, VT 05149

“This a monumental time for the club”, said Bixby, “and we'd like to have our neighbors part of it.”

PHOTO: *Ludlow Rotary members at the club's 93<sup>rd</sup> anniversary.*



## Rotary Club of Bellows Falls to Host Free Community Spaghetti Dinner - March 7, 2026

[BELLOWS FALLS, VT] - The Rotary Club of Bellows Falls is pleased to invite the community to a free spaghetti dinner on Saturday, March 7, beginning at 5pm at the Moose Lodge in Bellows Falls. This dinner is the Rotary's way of giving back while spending time with friends and neighbors and making new community connections. While the dinner is free, donations will be accepted to benefit Our Place Community Food Center.

All are welcome to attend and enjoy a warm meal in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. Meals will be served on a first-come, first-served basis, and there is no cost to attend. Dinner includes spaghetti, meatballs, bread, light beverages, and a cash bar; vegetarian options will be available.

For more information, please contact the Rotary Club of Bellows Falls at [bellowsfallsrotary@gmail.com](mailto:bellowsfallsrotary@gmail.com).



## Woodstock Rotary Club Hosts Night of Giving

The Woodstock Rotary Club held its Night of Giving on February 11, at the Thompson Senior Center with over 70 attending. This event marks our annual distribution of grant monies resulting from our year's long fundraising efforts. This year we give grants totaling over \$65,000 in addition to the \$60,000 we raised at our November Gala which went to the Woodstock Food Shelf. Grantees included over 30 area charities as well as scholarships for local high school students.



Our ability to give was enhanced this year by a gift of stock to our Rotary club by local resident and generous benefactor, Max Comins, the sale of which added \$24,500 to our fundraising efforts.



Our growing and very active Rotary Club which is celebrating its centennial year this April, meets for lunch on Wednesdays each week usually at the Woodstock Inn. Our committee work focuses on not only fundraising but also many, many service projects, one of which will include painting the buildings at Vail Field in early spring.

## Owl Labs Meeting Owl 3 FOR SALE by Capital City Sunrise Rotary

The Capital City Sunrise Rotary is no longer finding the need for hybrid meetings. We have an Owl Labs Meeting Owl 3 that has been used only for 2 meetings...purchased last year to replace our original that was purchased during the early COVID period in 2021 (which was dropped and broken). Purchase price was \$1099. We are asking \$600. with original packaging and instruction. Contact Pres. Eddie Lassonde 603-848-1100 eddielassonde@gmail.com or Secr. Rich Berryman 603-513-8902 rberrymandds@gmail.com

Click link for photo

<https://www.fullcompass.com/common/products/original/466529.jpg>

## Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Speaker Encourages Media Literacy

Franklin Pierce University Political Science professor Dr. Christina Cliff spoke at the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club on February 12 about misinformation and disinformation. She explained, with examples, how deep fakes and intentionally false content can mislead the public and deepen societal division. She said false stories spread faster because they provoke strong emotions and quickly grab people's attention. She also warned that, because online platforms are easy to use, images and videos can be edited or taken out of context to mislead people.



She encouraged everyone to improve their media literacy and check information from several trusted sources before sharing it. Without careful thinking and personal responsibility, fake news can harm both our communities and our personal lives.



## International

### Taipei Conference Special Dinner - June 14, 2026



**Beyond Borders**

Join us for our special dinner gathering for all Rotary members in Zones 28 & 32

Sunday, June 14, 2026, 18:30 (6:30 PM)  
G House Taipei City  
\$75.00 USD per person

10 course traditional Taiwanese meal and special entertainment

Visit [rotaryzones28-32.org](http://rotaryzones28-32.org) and click on the Beyond Borders Taipei graphic to get your tickets, or scan the QR code



The dinner ticket sales link:

<https://portal.clubrunner.ca/50077/Events/beyond-borders-taipei-2026>



## International Coffee with JB - An Informal Zoom Get Together

The next International Coffee With JB will be held at **8:30AM** on **Friday, Mar. 6th**. You can join by using the link:

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

## Rotary Short Term Youth Exchange

Do you want to help a student have a 'Great Adventure' next summer? Rotary Short Term Youth Exchange can do that for you. Here is the link to the program description - [Rotary Short Term Exchange Program](#). Or contact our District's Short Term Youth Exchange coordinator – Gary Dehnel, [gcdehnel@verizon.net](mailto:gcdehnel@verizon.net), cell: 571-455-0602.

## Fundraisers

### Raffle Tickets Still Available to Support Ukrainian Humanitarian Projects

Raffle tickets are still available to support Ukrainian humanitarian projects.

If you like to ski and are interested in supporting Ukrainian humanitarian projects, this raffle is for you! The Claremont-Sugar River Rotary Club is raffling a \$200 gift certificate for a one-night getaway at the Common Man Inn and Restaurant in Claremont. Located on the banks of the Sugar River, the Inn is within 30 minutes of ski resorts in both New Hampshire and Vermont. Ski a day in one state, enjoy a stay in a luxurious room, and wake up fresh for another day of skiing elsewhere.

Raffle tickets are \$10 each and the drawing will be held once 100 tickets are sold. All proceeds will benefit club or district projects for Ukrainians who are facing another winter in wartime. Raffle tickets can be purchased online at [Common Man Inn Getaway](#). The gift certificate is valid for a mid-week stay, subject to availability and date restrictions.



For more information about the Common Man Inn and Restaurant in Claremont, please visit their website at [Home - The Common Man Inn Claremont](#)

Together we can make a difference!

Charlene Lovett, Claremont-Sugar River Rotary, Past President

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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, 2026 at 6 PM.**

## Website and Social Media

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

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

