



THE INSPIRATION



Rotary District 7870



December 2021

District Newsletter 2022, Number 6

**John Siemienowicz
District Governor**

www.rotary7870.org

**Rotarian Editors
Maureen Mooney and Martin Cohn**



Rotary Theme of the Month: Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

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Greetings From Your District Governor John Siemienowicz



Hello Folks,

This is the special Rotary Month of Disease Prevention & Treatment. I'd like to revisit two outstanding accomplishments that your District has achieved and acknowledge the efforts of two of my mentors and friends.

First, IPDG Steve Puderbaugh pulled together our District-wide Covid 19 Global Grants totaling \$341,000. This allowed us to fill the needs of our first responders and medical facilities as well as give thousands of dollars to support our food banks in both Vermont & New Hampshire to help us all deal with unknown effects of COVID. Steve also made sure that District 7870 was securely part of giving out 5.5 million masks across the Northeast with an estimated 600,000 in District 7870 alone. His response and approach achieved significant results and his team never wavered.

Secondly will be my recognition of another of my mentors and friends, PDG Carolyn Meub, who served as Executive Director, and now as Senior Advisor, for Pure Water for the World (PWW). Her quote below is a desire I see as totally possible.

“There will be a day when future generations will not know the pain, suffering and struggle of waterborne illnesses.”



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PWW's roots began in 1994, when Peter Abell a dentist from Brattleboro, Vermont traveled to El Salvador to provide medical services. Moved by the poor living conditions, he vowed to make a difference. After rallying colleagues in his Rotary Club, they returned with a mission to bring potable water to the villagers. The success of this movement outgrew the Rotary Club's capacity, and in 1999 Pure Water for the World, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization, was born.

PWW's vision is a world in which all people have safe water, proper sanitation and the knowledge to sustain it for future generations. A highly-regarded and impactful organization, PWW has reached hundreds of thousands of children and families living in remote and underserved communities across Central America and Haiti. This truly has created an effective and beneficial way of preventing disease.

Let's look at the definition of disease.

“A disease is a particular abnormal condition that negatively affects the structure or function of all or part of an organism, and that is not due to any immediate external injury. Diseases are often known to be medical conditions that are associated with specific signs and symptoms.”

Please join me in congratulating these two Mentors and friends of mine who are also members of our Rotary 7870 District. They and all of you in our District have **“Serve(d) To Change Lives”**. I promise you that I will not forget the support that all of you bring to our Awesome District 7870.

Be Well,
JB

District News

District Public Image Committee - “Tip of the Month”



Be sure your club has a designated/appointed **Public Relations Chairperson**. This person should be primarily responsible for writing press releases with photos, and knowing where to post/send them. Here are Rotary Handbooks for a Public Relations Chair:



2015 edition:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ogbl#search/marty+cohnpr802%40gmail.com/FMfcgzGlksGvrLNmrCdBzMVtHINKRfId?projector=1&messagePartId=0.1>

2012 edition:

https://clubrunner.blob.core.windows.net/00000050042/en-ca/files/homepage/rotary-pr-manual/226c_en.pdf

Rotary District Governor Gives Donation to Meredith Sculpture Walk

MEREDITH - On the weekend of November 13-14, 2021, the Rotary District 7870 hosted its annual District Conference. The weekend was filled with friendship and various speakers including Rotarians throughout the district in southern New Hampshire and Vermont describing their service projects to help others in need.



During the conference, a walking tour was offered of the 8th Annual Meredith Sculpture Walk. Thirty-three sculptures were placed around Meredith, designed by exceptional artists in the Northeast.

District 7870 District Governor John Siemienowicz was so impressed by the tour and hospitality of Meredith, he personally made a \$500 donation to the Greater Meredith Program to show the District's appreciation for the great sculpture tour and outings held in the area.

“Rotary District 7870 thoroughly enjoyed its time at the District Conference in Meredith at Church Landing,” said John Siemienowicz. “The hospitality in Meredith combined with the artistic exhibit of the Sculpture Walk made the occasion ideal.”

Rotary District 7870 includes most of southwest New Hampshire, and the southern 2/3 of Vermont. Its website is: <https://rotary7870.org/>.

Tribute to Robert Mead - Rotarian and Founding Member

A tribute to Robert Mead, 65-year Rotarian and Founding Member of the Bedford, Mass. Rotary Club (1956), by his grandson, Adam J. Mead, member and past president of the Derry, New Hampshire Rotary Club. Robert died in March at the age of 95.

My grandfather had many names.



Known to God as Robert, many called him Bob. He was called son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. Some even called him a pain in the ... among other undoubtedly deserved titles.

I had the great privilege of calling him by another name. And that was fellow Rotarian.

In Rotary we have what's called the four-way test to help us examine the things we think, say, or do. It's also a useful framework to examine a life.

The first test is: Is it the truth? What is the truth of my grandfather's life? A founding member of the Bedford Rotary Club in 1956, he served 65 of his years as a Rotarian, including as president of his club in the 1962/63 Rotary year. Incredibly, he went over a half-century with perfect attendance. He's been honored with numerous Rotary accolades and awards, including twice as Rotarian of the Year and five times as a Paul Harris Fellow. The truth of this long life was one of unending service to others, the embodiment of what it means to be a Rotarian.

The second test is: Is it fair to all concerned? Looking around at the world through the eyes of a Rotarian my grandfather saw that much was not fair. He labored with his fellow Rotarians to raise millions of dollars to better his local community, and the international community too. Just the projects in which he was directly involved since 1990 (when records began) amounted to over 150,000 dollars and countless lives touched.

He was there in 1985 when Rotary began the fight against polio – a fight we're so very close to winning. All of his actions served as an example for those around him to leave the world better than it was found.

The third test is: Will it build goodwill and better friendships? It didn't take too much time around Gramps to know he was Mr. Tab. A soda can within his eyesight was instant game – whether or not you were finished with it. Those tabs went to benefit the Shriners and help transport sick kids to their visits to the hospital. Over the years he collected millions of tabs, probably into the thousands of pounds worth. These collection activities were fun and brought a lot of people together for a good cause through the sprawling network of collection sites and individuals who knew Mr. Mead wanted their tabs.



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The fourth test is: will it be beneficial to all concerned? Of the many projects in which my grandfather participated or spearheaded, a 9/11 memorial project and Springs Brook Park in Bedford, Mass. – come top of mind. But there were many others in and through Rotary, some of which never received outsized press but nonetheless changed lives.

He was instrumental in the annual Breakfast with Santa event in Bedford. He spearheaded projects to bring new playgrounds and trails to Bedford as well as other projects in and around town. Internationally, he led a campaign to raise tens of thousands of dollars for kids in Nepal. This included the purchase of an ambulance and funding for literacy programs. Another Nepal project included a micro credit project for women in business. There was also a project to assist with HIV/AIDS in Uganda through another Rotary Club in Australia.

The impact of those projects, like the impact of the life of this incredible man, will live on long into the future.

And so, the final test has been given. This fellow Rotarian – my Grandpa – has passed.

Coffee with Ken! Rotary Rocks!

Hi District 7870 Rotary Clubs: I'm inviting you to Coffee with Ken! What is Coffee with Ken?

As you all know, many of our district events have been canceled due to COVID. As a result, we've been missing building connections to members at other clubs. In January, I reached out to John Siemienowicz of the Milford Rotary Club and we did a virtual coffee over ZOOM to catch up. John liked it so much that he suggested that we have this as a regular event and open to all of the clubs. So, as a result, we started Coffee with Ken. We meet on the first Friday of the month at 8:30 am. This event is an informal open space with no agenda, and the goal is to create and cultivate personal connections between clubs.

Time: First Friday of every month, 08:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada):

- Jan 7, 2022 08:30 AM
- Apr. 1, 2022 08:30 AM
- July 1, 2022 08:30 AM
- Feb. 4, 2022 08:30 AM
- May 6, 2022 08:30 AM
- Mar. 4, 2022 08:30 AM
- June 3, 2022 08:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78773960966?pwd=QkFlTTZkdDJyRzJIa3phTmhzam1kQT09>

Meeting ID: 787 7396 0966

Passcode: DuQ4J3

Thanks, Ken Yie, Foundation Co-Chair, Queen City Rotary

Club News

News from Rotary Club of Laconia

The Interact members for Rotary Club of Laconia participated in a Turkey Plunge fundraiser on Nov. 13th to raise funds for the Salvation Army of Laconia. All 13 members and their Interact Advisor, dove into the brisk waters of Lake Opechee, festively wearing 'ugly' Christmas sweaters. Laconia's Interact Club raised over \$2000 for the Salvation Army.



Members from left to right (standing photo): Mandi Stefanik (Interact Advisor), De'Mornay Cooper, Ayden Malloy, Bessie Lipman (Secretary), Luke Stafford, Nate Hobby, Mike Muller, James Horan, James Stafford (Co-President), Evan Rollins (Co-President), Cam Harriman, Jake Mello (Vice President), Brody Rollins, and Carson Tucker

A Special Place

There is a place we go, a place that fills a void in our hearts and provides faith in our fellow citizens. This place is simple, a place where people gather to spend time with one another and share meals to provide nourishment.

The Capital City Sunrise Rotary Club visits this place often, Rotarian Mike Manning is in fact a regular at this place. The Open-Door Community Kitchen located at the United Church in Penacook is a place we like to spend hours helping those in need. Friends wander in each week in search of a meal and a little companionship... simply looking for a friend to converse.



As Rotarians we embrace each and every person equally while “placing service above self”. That’s just what Rotarians do.



~ James W. Spain

The Capital City Sunrise Rotary Club is honored to have donated \$2000.00 to the Open-Door Community Center during the month of November. Mike Manning and his team of Rotarians have spent many hours in this place that we go to nourish the hungry and embrace the lonely. Yes, that’s just what Rotarians do.

If you have some time available and would like to join us at the Open-Door Community Kitchen, please contact Capital City Sunrise Rotarian Mike Manning at 603-496-8814



Ludlow Rotary Helps BRGN’s Toy Drive

In keeping with the spirit of Christmas, the Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) collected toys for Black River Good Neighbors Service (BRGN). Pictured above are Krey Killington, BRGN Director, and Art Randolph, LRC President, as they display some of the toys collected in support of the annual BRGN’s Christmas Food Basket program. The program prepares food baskets, normally with whole Turkeys or Chickens, for area families. When the families involved have children, toys are included to make it a truly Merry Christmas. The LRC has been helping BRGN in this annual effort for a number of years.



Gilford Rotary Donates Towards Eradication of Polio

Gilford Rotarians have donated \$3400.00 to help eradicate Polio. In 1985 Rotary, which is an international community that brings together leaders who step up to take on the world's toughest challenges, locally and globally, made a promise to the children of the world that we would work towards eradicating polio. Polio is a deadly infectious disease that most commonly affects children under the age of five. The virus is spread from person to person typically through contaminated water. It can then attack the nervous system which can then paralyze a child.

The eradication of polio is one of Rotary's longest standing and most significant effort and Rotary has helped to immunize more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries. We have reduced polio cases by 99.9% worldwide and we won't stop until we end the disease for good.

Today polio remains only in Afghanistan and Pakistan with only one polio case per country in 2021 compared to 56 last year in Afghanistan and 84 in Pakistan. If all eradication efforts were to stop today, within 10 years polio could paralyze as many as 200,000 children each year.

The average cost to totally immunize a child is \$3.00 with \$.90 itself for the actual vaccine. Although polio has been eradicated from the US, it is only an airplane ride away that could bring this disease back.

Polio eradication will be one of history's greatest public health achievements following smallpox to become only the second human disease eradicated from the world thanks to the help of Rotary, WHO, CDC, UNICEF and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. We will eradicate polio.

A Thank you to Springfield (VT) Rotary

All of us here at the Springfield Family Center are just blown away and would like to express our sincerest gratitude to the Springfield Vermont Rotary Club for hosting a food drive on Dec. 4th to benefit the Springfield Family Center!

Their hard work and dedication to the community brought in an astounding 2336lbs of food that carries a monetary value of \$5,460!

Just when you thought it couldn't get any more impressive, they also collected \$522 in monetary donations to support the food shelf!

Thank you Springfield Vermont Rotary Club for the great care you take in helping others. We could not do what we do without supportive neighbors like you!



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Goffstown Rotary News

What were you doing 40 years ago? Some of you were alive, some of you not yet born. But 40 years ago, a group of like-minded individuals from Goffstown decided to organize into a Rotary Club. Led by the late Rich Hopf, the group began the process of chartering a club according to the requirements of Rotary International, and finally, on December 15, 1981, Goffstown had a Rotary Club. And not just Goffstown, mind you, but New Boston, Dunbarton, and Weare as well were covered by the club.

Through the years, the club has accomplished many good deeds both at home and abroad: scholarships for local students, grants to local non-profits, pure water projects for Central America, a library in India, a solar project in Puerto Rico, disaster relief, food drives, polio eradication support, roadside clean-ups, and much more. Over the past year, we also took part in the Rotary Million Mask effort where we distributed thousands of masks in the local community. Our work goes on and changes based on what the local area and our greater world need.

Perhaps the most visible achievement of the club was the development of Rotary Park at the corner of Main and Mill streets in Goffstown's Village. This park was built and paid for by volunteers and was the prototype for the rebuilding of the Town Common in 1999 where Rotarians worked alongside members of the community to create the Common that has been the centerpiece of so many community celebrations. We still maintain the Park today with members mowing the lawn, weeding the flower beds and walkways, and installing the holiday lights you see right now.

The club has held many different fundraisers over the years to make all of this possible: auctions, golf tournaments, fishing tournaments, dances, a bologna festival (not one of our more successful events, go figure), and even a circus! Today, we raise funds through our Raffle for Tassels that supports our scholarships, our Car Show which provides the greatest amount of money for our grant programs, and of course, our hotdog and burger booth at local events where the featured item is grilled bologna sandwiches. What can we say? We love bologna!

Forty years ago, women would not have been allowed to join the club, but today, they represent a large percentage of our membership. Our members come from all walks of life and represent a wide range of experiences. We are a "small, but mighty club" of hard-working individuals who all share one thing in common: we love working to strengthen our communities. Happy Birthday to us!

International

Mahboba Aktarzadah

One of the more inspirational speakers at last month's District Rotary Conference was Mahboba Aktarzadah, an Afghan refugee, who despite contracting polio as a young girl in Kabul, was able to achieve a Presidential scholarship to Southern New Hampshire University, and graduate a few years ago. She now works as a technical specialist for a software company in the Washington, D.C. area.

She told us of the struggles attending school in Kabul, where she had to walk on crutches to elementary school, and then had to hoist herself up two flights of stairs to attend her classes. Though her father had lost a leg during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, he promoted education for his children, even making a platform on his bicycle so he could take Mahboba to school.

I spoke with Mahboba after her presentation to learn more about her plight, that of extracting her parents, brother, and sister from Kabul. She informed me that her application to secure asylum status has been waning for well over a year, and since the takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban in August, her family has been in hiding. In particular, her brother, having served in the Afghan Army is in peril.

Having had a connection with former U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte, I volunteered to forward Mahboba's story to her. Senator Ayotte, in turn, has made contact with Senator Lindsay Graham's office, who subsequently has submitted Mahboba's request to the State Department. Further, I have been able to make contact with Vice President Mike Pence, who has offered to help if he can. While the bureaucratic process of getting a Special Immigrant Visa is an arduous one, we are hopeful with some high-level attention, Mahboba's plight will get the attention it deserves.

Rick MacMillan
President-Elect
Grand Monadnock Rotary Club

Fundraisers

Look No Further for the Gift that Gives Back this Holiday Season

Nashua Rotary Car Raffle tickets make great gifts for your spouse, family members, grown children, employees, and/or special business customers. Enter now to be included in our third \$500 early bird drawing on January 24. Rick Manganello was the winner of the first \$500 early bird drawing and James Moran was the winner of the second \$500 early bird drawing.

Contact Patricia Conard via email patricia@conard.com or phone (603-494-4349) to make arrangements for purchasing Nashua Rotary Car Raffle tickets as gifts. When you purchase raffle tickets as gifts you will receive a Gift Certificate and holiday envelope you can send to the gift recipient. Tickets are \$100 each or 11 for \$1000.

For yourself, tickets may be purchased through our Club website

<https://portal.clubrunner.ca/2946>

or by click on the following link:

[https://rafflecreator.com/pages/39601/2022-nashua-rotary-car-raffle---bmw-x3-or-\\$35000](https://rafflecreator.com/pages/39601/2022-nashua-rotary-car-raffle---bmw-x3-or-$35000)

Nashua Rotary Car Raffle Gift Certificate

A CHANCE TO WIN 2022 BMW X3 or \$35,000

To: _____

From: _____

Ticket Number: _____

Grand Prize Drawing
March 9, 2022 @ Tulley BMW of Nashua

Find more information about raffle at
www.NashuaRotary.org

Raffle proceeds benefit local non-profits



Rotary Club of Nashua 2nd Annual Charity Car Raffle



**2022 BMW X3 xDrive30i
OR \$35,000 CASH!**

Buy tickets & more info
www.NashuaRotary.org

ONLY 1000 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD!
Ticket Price: \$100

THREE \$500 EARLYBIRD DRAWINGS!
Nov 15, Dec 13 & Jan 24
Winning tickets remain in drawing for Grand Prize

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING
March 9, 2022 @ Tulley BMW of Nashua



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Calendars

District 7870 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. Here are the ones for this Rotary year:

July New Rotary Year

August Membership and New Club Development 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 Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month

March Water and Sanitation Month

April Maternal and Child Health 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 15th, 2022 at 9:00 AM.**



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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:



District Governor - Closing



Dear District Rotarians & Others,

With December being the Rotary International month of Disease Prevention & Treatment I wanted to acknowledge all of the District 7870 Rotarians who have stepped up and continue to step up regularly to help and support others during this time of COVID. It is not a surprise that, as a group, Rotarians like yourselves always display amazing effort and unexpected outreach to quickly (and usually quietly) jump into action to help. Please note that, as your District Governor this Rotary year of “Serve to Change Lives”, I have had many opportunities to observe this firsthand. Congratulations to you and your Club Mates for the impact you are making as Rotarians in District 7870 and around the globe – your reach and achievements are incredible.

Be Well,
John Bob

PS - I am sure Santa will reward you for your efforts!

“Each One Bring One!”

RI President Shekhar Mehta

“Serve to Change Lives!”

RI President Shekhar Mehta

