



December 2025

Club News

Rotary

District 7780



Bethel

Bethel Puts Its Fundraising to Good Use!

The Bethel Rotary Club continues to provide financial support for worthy causes in its service area. This past month we awarded grants to sponsor visiting arts and music performances and provided scholarships for student ski programs and for other after-school programs.

The Club is also continuing to gear up for holiday activities, including providing food baskets for needy families, putting on a dinner for senior citizens, and fundraising for and providing gifts to children. We love supporting our community.

Biddeford-Saco

Honoring Our Veterans!

At our recent luncheon at Run of The Mill, the Rotary Club held a Kindness Day activity honoring Veterans. Members wrote heartfelt “Thank You” notes to be shared with Honor Flight Maine, a nonprofit that transports veterans to visit their war memorials in Washington, D.C.—all at no cost to the veterans. These encouraging messages will be delivered to veterans during their return trips, offering gratitude and support for their service. This meaningful activity was perfectly timed ahead of Veterans Day on November 11th, allowing us to express our appreciation in a personal and impactful way.



Boothbay Harbor

Celebrating Our Veterans!

The Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club and Interact Club held their 20th Annual Veterans Dinner on November 13th, honoring about 70 veterans, active duty members, and guests. Nearly 120 invitations were sent to veterans, active duty personnel, and military widows on the Boothbay Peninsula. The evening began with the Pledge of Allegiance and grace from President Laurie Zimmerli, followed by each service member sharing their name, branch, and role. Dinner featured lasagna or chicken, cake, and plenty of coffee. Around 20 Interact Club members served and cleaned up, adding fun and energy to the event. The night concluded with a spirited sing-along of service anthems, celebrating the dedication and sacrifice of those who served our country.



Bridgton-Lake Region

CLUB DONATES OVER \$8,000 TO BRIDGTON FOOD PANTRY

At a recent meeting, the Bridgton-Lake Region Rotary Club proudly presented a donation of more than \$8,000 to the Bridgton Food Pantry. Club President Dr. Lisa Ryan handed the check to Carmen Lone, President of the Pantry's Board, designating the funds for the organization's Building Fund.

The initiative began when Rotarian Dave Barker proposed a \$2,500 club donation, challenging fellow members to match it. Within weeks, members not only met the challenge—they exceeded it.

“I am really proud and in awe of our members for stepping up in such a meaningful way in this effort,” said Dr. Ryan. “While we regularly support local food pantries, this was a major effort—and a truly worthy one.”



Damariscotta -Newcastle

Our Club Adds #5 IS IT FUN to the 4-Way Test!!!

Damariscotta-Newcastle knows it's possible to have fun while serving our communities. This month we again picked up trash as part of Adopt-A-Highway in Newcastle, lit up the bridge between the Twin Villages with garlands and wreaths as part of Villages of Light, and just enjoyed ourselves at an evening social with tapas and beverages!



Dover

Dover Fed the Hungry & Gave Warm Clothes to the Unhoused, among other things!

Top Photo shows \$3,000 in clothing and supplies to keep our unhoused neighbors warm this winter bought during our annual shopping trip to Ocean State Job Lot where a 30% discount is awarded. 160 bags of food for kids and families in need were packed and delivered to the Friends of End 68 Hours of Hunger for distribution.

Rotary gardeners gather behind the new Rotary Marker following their fall garden cleanup day. Middle Photo l-r, President Cathy Beaudoin, Cate Rafferty, Harry Cheney, Doug Locy, Noreen Biehl, Kim Hansen, Phil Rinaldi, Gregg Dowty, Malcolm McNeill and Becky Crowley. During the same timeframe, we hosted a Meet Our Club for new prospects and welcome several new members. It was a busy month!



Portsmouth

Portsmouth RC November Happenings!

The Club is preparing for its annual Thanksgiving Dinner at the Jarvis Center, focusing this year on NH Air Guard and Shipyard families affected by the government shutdown.

Christmas tree sales, the club's biggest fundraiser, start just two days later, with members volunteering multiple shifts.

We welcomed new member Susan Dewhirst, a longtime Portsmouth resident and mother of two.

We remember the late Russ Grazier, a valued Rotarian whose legacy continues through his son, PMAC CEO Russ Grazier.

Stay tuned for updates in upcoming Club News.



River Valley

Featured Speakers in November.

Featured speakers during the Club's Fellowship luncheon included

- Rotarian Shannon Glover, Director of the Old School Pantry, who spoke of the urgent need with the upcoming holidays. She & Wendy were both introduced by Rotary Member of the Day Catherine Ross. (Photos top)

- Wendy Russell, Director for SEARCH (Seek Elderly Alone, Renew Courage & Hope) Program. They support homebound isolated seniors by providing companionship and transportation for errands, grocery shopping, and to medical appointments.

- Dr Carrie Luce, Principal, Mountain Valley Middle School, talked about the new school in Mexico they hope to move into in January 2026! Seen in the photo (Top right) are Joan Bisson, Rotarian of the Day, Dr. Carrie Luce, and Rotarian Ed Paterson!

- Tour of the new Rumford Fire Station and lunch.



Saco Bay

Saco Bay Club “scares” hundreds at Truck or Treat

The Rotary Club of Saco Bay had a great night of service on Halloween night passing out candy at Old Orchard Beach’s Trunk or Treat at the Ball Park. Hundreds of local kids were treated to decorated theme “trunks” and lots of candy. Our club brought a hearse and a “live” corpse, A Ghost Buster themed van, and the Wizard of Oz via Mustang. A fun night for all! Group Photo of Rotarians (L-R): John Bouchard, David Arenstam, Dave LePauloue, Dan Letellier, Jeff Slayton, Dan Colby, Kurt Scamman, Kate Scamman, Chris Gordon.



Sanford-Springvale

Frightfully Fun Festivities!

On Thursday, October 30th, members of the Sanford-Springvale Rotary Club gathered at Guerrero Maya Restaurant for a frightfully good night of Halloween festivities, food, and friendship!



Sebago Lake

Lobster Dinner & Cleanup for Vets.

The Sebago Club recently held its Annual Fall Lobster Roll Dinner fundraiser. This is the Club's 3rd year for this drive thru event. Nearly 100 visitors drove through to pick up their packed dinner. The group has streamlined this event for smooth sailing and happy customers. Seen here is Ingo Hartig and Mark Morrison setting up, the packing crew after all the boxes were delivered for pick up, and the packed dinner itself.

Also Club members spent a morning cleaning up at the Windham Veterans Center in preparation for their Veteran's Day activities.



South Berwick-Eliot

A SPLENDID TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!

About 300 Rotarians and community members came together to raise funds for two local food pantries. The event was a lively dance and auction. Major sponsors were Undercover (the band that donated their talents); the South Berwick-Eliot, Kittery, and Kittery After Hours Clubs; J.S. Pelkey and Son Funeral Home; and Kennebunk Savings Bank. Many thanks to all the generous donors of auction items, the volunteers from Marshwood's Interact club, and the generous attendees who bid on items and made free will donations of cash and food, all while enjoying fellowship with other like-minded folks. In addition to the food that was dropped off by attendees which was divided between Footprints and South Berwick Food Pantry, we netted at least \$13,000 to be donated to those two food pantries. Talk about UNITE FOR GOOD, this was definitely what was happening!



Westbrook-Gorham

Winter Fundraiser is Now Underway

After a five-year hiatus, we're back selling Christmas trees as part of our winter fundraiser! A new sales lot location on Church St at William Clark Dr brought many, many logistical challenges, not the least of which was the semi truck that arrived early with our delivery! But our Team worked through them all (even well after dark that first day!). We thank the City of Westbrook for working with us to make it happen.

Sales started the weekend before Thanksgiving. Although we had very few sales, it gave us a kind of "soft launch" period to work out any remaining kinks.

In addition, our annual wreath "production" went faster and more smoothly than ever before, with nearly 300 bows added to wreaths in under 2 days.

Thanks to our wreath supplier Fox Brands for a beautiful product. Thanks to the crew that took delivery, transported, unloaded, bowed and sorted. Thanks also to our immediate past president for the use of his barn again which makes processing so much easier!

