



Good News from the Clubs

ROTARY DISTRICT 7780 CLUBS

SERVICE, FUNDRAISING, CELEBRATIONS
& COLLABORATIONS

FEBRUARY 1, 2024



The Bethel club had the pleasure of visiting with and listening to a presentation by our wonderful District Governor, Marion Cheney. Rotarian and Foundation Chair Steve Wight presents a donation check to the Rotary Foundation in Marion's honor. (Photo top left)

Club Co-President Jean Benedict and Rotarian Robin Zinchuk present a check to Telstar Middle School parent Stephanie Herbeck to assist with a Middle School Science Trip to Florida during April School Vacation week. (Photo top right)

June 2023 scholarship recipient Natasha Mason receives her educational assistance award from scholarship chair Dr. Kevin Finley. (Photo bottom left)

President Elect Richard Tummon congratulates one of the Telstar HS Students of the Month, Junior Ella Akers. (Photo bottom right)





Bridgton-Lake Region

In January the Club's Membership Committee hosted its *first annual* Mix, Mingle & Make A Difference. A combination fellowship and Rotary Introduction event, the results far exceeded our expectations. 16 Rotarians, 3 spouses and over 30 guests attended. A few attendees were longtime friends of Rotary, having come to other events and volunteered with us in the past. But the vast majority were pretty new to Rotary. Initially, we were very focused in who we would invite, but in the end we sent it to our list of Friends of Rotary and posted on our FB page and shared to pages for the communities we cover. We even sent out a press release. Followup will be very important. But we hope that several new Rotarians will be the result.

If others in the District have done something different to successfully recruit new members, please consider sharing with us. The photos show mostly folks who are not Rotarians, YET!!!

For more information about our club's activities, check out our website <https://lakereionrotary.com> or our FB page.





Brunswick

Members of Brunswick Rotary were invited to the Maine Senate at the request of State Senator Matthea 'Mattie' Doughtry, District 24 and Assistant Senate Majority Leader, to view the award of a special legislative sentiment in honor of Brunswick's 93 year old Claude Bonang. This honor follows a previously awarded Paul Harris Fellow to Claude.

Pictured are from left to right: Rotarian Carolyn Bulliner, Senator Mattie Doughtry, Claude Bonang, Kyle Harrison, Brunswick RC President, iPDG Claudia Frost, PP Brunswick RC, Rotarian Patty Biggs and President elect Zander Abbott, Brunswick RC.



Damariscotta-Newcastle

Serving our communities, members of the Rotary Club of Damariscotta-Newcastle braved the cold (as in bitter cold) and helped Villages of Light remove lights from the bridge over the Damariscotta River. In addition, others volunteered weekly at the Ecumenical Food Bank. Thank you for your service above self!!

Pictured: Rick Hagen, Lorraine Faherty, Justin Ward, Reven Oliver and Carol Ransom (at top l-r). Reven Oliver, Stephen Searles, Paul Tenan and Eddie Cheung (at bottom l-r). (Justin Ward and Bill Claflin not in photos.)



Each month, the Dover RC celebrates a Dover Middle School student who has shown care, kindness, and has gone above and beyond to help others in school and community. This month we were able to celebrate the DMS Student of the Month, Joseph, shown with his mother in the center of the top photo. Also in the photo are Rotarians from the Dover Club, Melissa Lesniak, Nick Pellman, Phil Rinaldi, and Gregg Dowty.

The Rotary Club of Dover hosted an afternoon of Trivia with the Old Timers versus the Dover High School Interact Students. This trivia is one of our Senior Community visits that our club takes part in to keep our Seniors involved and for them to meet our Rotarians and Interactors. Congratulations to the Old Timers for the win!!!

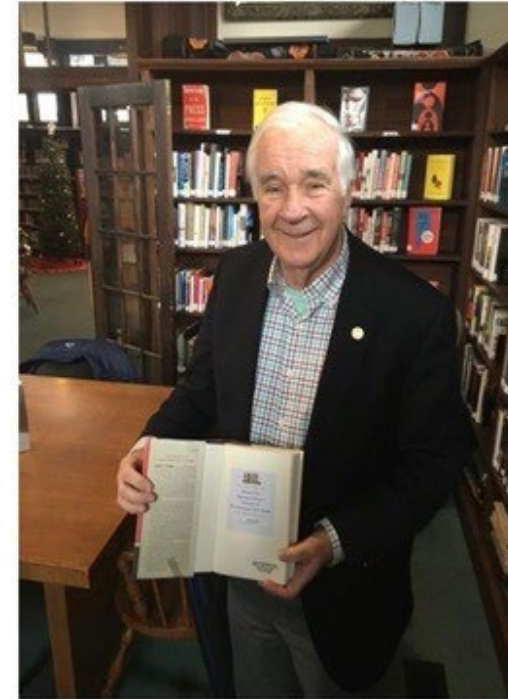
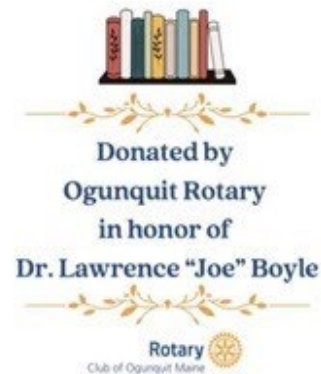


Ogunquit

Ogunquit Rotary and Ogunquit Memorial Library Honor Dr. Joe Boyle

Several years ago, Dr. Joe Boyle started our club's "speaker-book" program. Each person who visits Ogunquit Rotary as a speaker is recognized with a book donated in their name to Ogunquit Memorial Library and Joe generously donates the money for the purchase of these books. Last May, Club members Gail Bergeron, Carol Brennan, Larry Carlson, Connie Griffin, Erin Haye, Richard Littlefield, Heath Ouellette, and Ed Seppa honored Dr. Joe with a donation to the library. Using this donation, the library purchased twelve books as part of its "replace the classics" program. Six of the books bear a bookplate honoring Joe; the bookplates in the other six honor Joe's late sister, Mildred Boyle Perkins. For more details, visit <https://www.ogunquitmerotary.org/>

Joe with one of
the titles bearing
the bookplate
below.



Portsmouth

The holidays may be over, but Portsmouth Rotary continues to espouse the spirit of giving. The club approved \$32,000 for Yvonne's Presidential Project to upgrade and renovate Connections Peer Support facilities, a local non-clinical mental health center.

We gave \$5,000 to Friends Forever International, founded in 1986 by Portsmouth Rotarian Bob Raiche. Another \$820 dollars went to our Interact Club at Portsmouth HS, funding a project to create Stockings for local seniors.

Club Treasurer Steve Wood had been collecting loose change for 40 years. He donated the 63 lbs (\$830) to our Rotoplast trip to India later this year. And, over New Year's weekend, five of us joined President Yvonne in moving an overwhelmed senior from his old apartment to Senior Housing.

Finally, we added Kerry Folkins as a new member. She is a licensed recreational therapist and a fundraiser for Granite State United Way. Photo L to R - Kathy Nickerson, Kerry Folkins and President Yvonne Legge



River Valley

The featured speaker at a River Valley RC fellowship luncheon in January was Valerie Cole from SeniorsPlus, the designated Area Agency on Aging serving Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford Counties. Photo top left l-r: PP Dave Duguay, Valeria Cole, and Ed Paterson, Rotarian of the Day!

Meet the newest member of the River Valley RC, Samantha Noyes, SVP Member Services, Oxford Federal Credit Union. Dave Duguay did the presentation and Joann Bisson, CEO of OFCU and Fellow Rotarian, did the swearing in. Photo top right l-r: Dave Duguay, Samantha Noyes, and Joann Bisson.

In bottom right photo, PP Roger Whitehouse presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Michael Skehan, Manager of Ware-Butler Building Supply store in Mexico, ME, for their contribution of much needed supplies to the River Valley RC's winterization projects! Dave Duguay in photo on left.

The River Valley RC proudly donated \$3000 to Envision Rumford Group to help the more than 25 displaced families not likely able to return to their homes until late February. This was the 3rd largest flood disaster in the State of Maine. Photo bottom left, Dave Duguay presenting the check to Courtney Harris, Vice President of Envision Rumford. Included in the photo are Stacey Carter, Rumford Town Manager; Raquel Welch, Mexico Town Manager; Cheryl Dixon, River Valley Chamber of Commerce Administrator and several others!





Saco Bay

Saco Bay Rotary Club wants to update other Rotary Clubs on what it is doing to make a difference in our community. Each New Year's Day the majority of our members are at the beach in Old Orchard showing their support for Special Olympics Maine. This year, with the support of friends and family, we raised almost \$5k, which landed us at #7 out of 77 teams. In total 710 dippers faced the cold Atlantic Ocean for the cause. We would love to see you next year at the Brunswick Hotel. We are always recruiting new dippers for our team, the Saco Bay Rotary Warriors. Or you have a chance to form your own team.

We in Saco Bay love the outdoors. On March 24th 2024 we will be participating in Mary's Walk at Thornton Academy. "We would love to see you all. Have a fabulous February and be well. Thank you for all you do every day to make this a better world." Jeff Slaton, President Saco Bay Rotary Club. FMI, email Jeff at slatonjeffrey@yahoo.com.





Sebago Lake - Windham Area

The Sebago Lakes Rotary Club celebrated the holidays by once again putting together gift bags for 90 senior citizens in the towns of Raymond and Windham. The project was led by Rotarians Deb McPhail, Kathy Vraux and Suzy Burkholder. The bags were filled with personal items such as blankets, paper towels, shampoo, and deodorant as well as fun items like puzzles, cookies, and gift cards to Dunkin Donuts. The seniors were very appreciative of the gift bags. Roy McPhail and Rotarian Suzy Burkholder put together gift bags in top 2 photos. At Bottom Rotarian Deb McPhail on left and Windham Food Pantry Director Colette Gagnon on the right with some of the finished products.



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

If you didn't see your Club's News in this issue of the District Newsletter, it is likely we did not hear from your President or PR person. We would love to hear from every club. Forward about 75 words in a Word document and a couple of separate photos with the identities of people in them, especially Rotarians. Keep photos flattering, please. Send your material to: RotaryNews7780@gmail.com.

Thank you for all you do for your Club, the District and the World.

Carol Madsen, District Newsletter Editor, Bridgton-Lake Region RC

Dennis Moulton, District Newsletter Publisher, Portsmouth RC