



Good News from the Clubs

ROTARY DISTRICT 7780 CLUBS

SERVICE, FUNDRAISING, CELEBRATIONS
& COLLABORATIONS

FEBRUARY 3, 2025



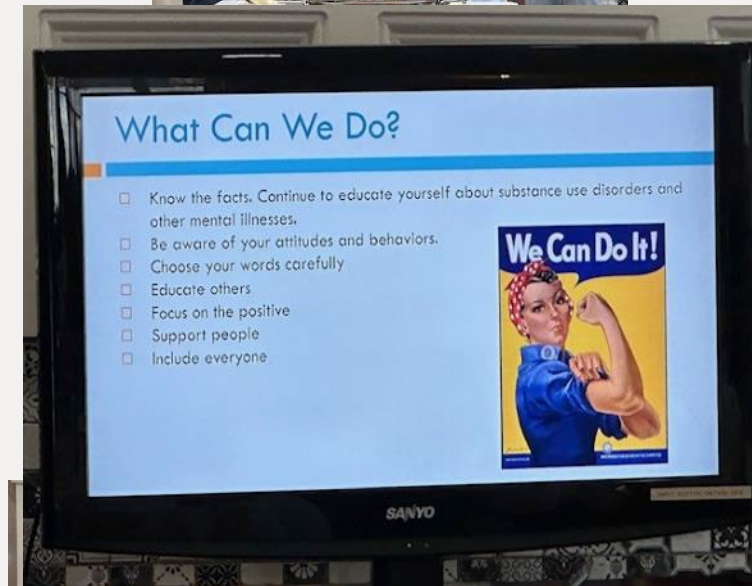
The January meetings of the Rotary Club of Bethel have been informative and joy-filled.

Scholarship chair, Dr. Kevin Finley presented Educational Assistance Awards to two June 2024 high school graduates, Madison Gingras and Mackenzie Eliot who are pursuing their college studies.

Club President Richard Tummon presented a large donation for the Bethel Area Food Pantry to its Executive Director Dave Bean to secure an emergency generator.

At another meeting, President Richard presented a check to Dee Johanson who coordinates a wonderful summer program of the Museums of the Bethel Historical Society for children, known as “Mornings at the Museum”.

Our club is exploring ways we can assist with DG Bob Mackenzie’s statewide efforts to have Rotary become more involved in Substance Abuse Prevention and Recovery. We had guest speakers from Western Maine Addiction & Recovery Initiative (WMARI.org) based out of Norway, ME and River Valley Healthy Communities Coalition, based out of Rumford, ME, to learn how we can add value to their amazing programming.





Boothbay Harbor

The Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club has a fun, fairly chaotic Christmas tradition. The meeting before Thanksgiving we make around 160 Christmas Goody Bags for the kids at our local Food Pantry and the weekend food Project (Food for Thought). The amazing Judi White shops the after Christmas sales in January buying for the 160 Goody Bags: crayons, little coloring books, puzzles, Holiday pencils and stretchy gloves and socks and most importantly Holiday stickers. We buy candy right before "Goody Bag Meeting". Then let the chaos, laughter, impromptu Carol singing and Goody Bag making happen that week before Thanksgiving.

During that meeting we also make about 10 "Welcome Home" tote bags for Homeless Veterans moving into a trailer provided by the local, amazing Boothbay V.E.T.S. project. We fill a reusable shopping tote with items the Veteran might use in his/her new home: a roll of paper towels, a sponge, a container of cleaning wipes, a jar of instant coffee, several microwave meals, hats and gloves in the winter, socks, snacks and a letter Thanking Them for Their Service.

Is this "Service Above Self"? It's definitely a fun way to reach out while building community together.





Bridgton-Lake Region

Our 2nd Annual Mix, Mingle, and Make a Difference Rotary membership event was a huge success. We started with fellowship, a bingo get acquainted exercise, appetizers and beverages. At 6:00 PM, Club VP Rick Whelchel gave an introduction to our club and its projects mainly in the community but mentioned that club member and DGE Emma Bodwell was in Colombia right now visiting a project we spearheaded. Membership Chair Dave Barker showed two short membership-oriented videos, Patty Burns gave a new member's perspective and Joanne Cohn talked about the Literacy Project she is heading up at a local elementary school funded by a district grant. We were pleased to have people approach us saying they want to join our club. Others expressed an interest in helping out on certain projects where their expertise or equipment would be very helpful.

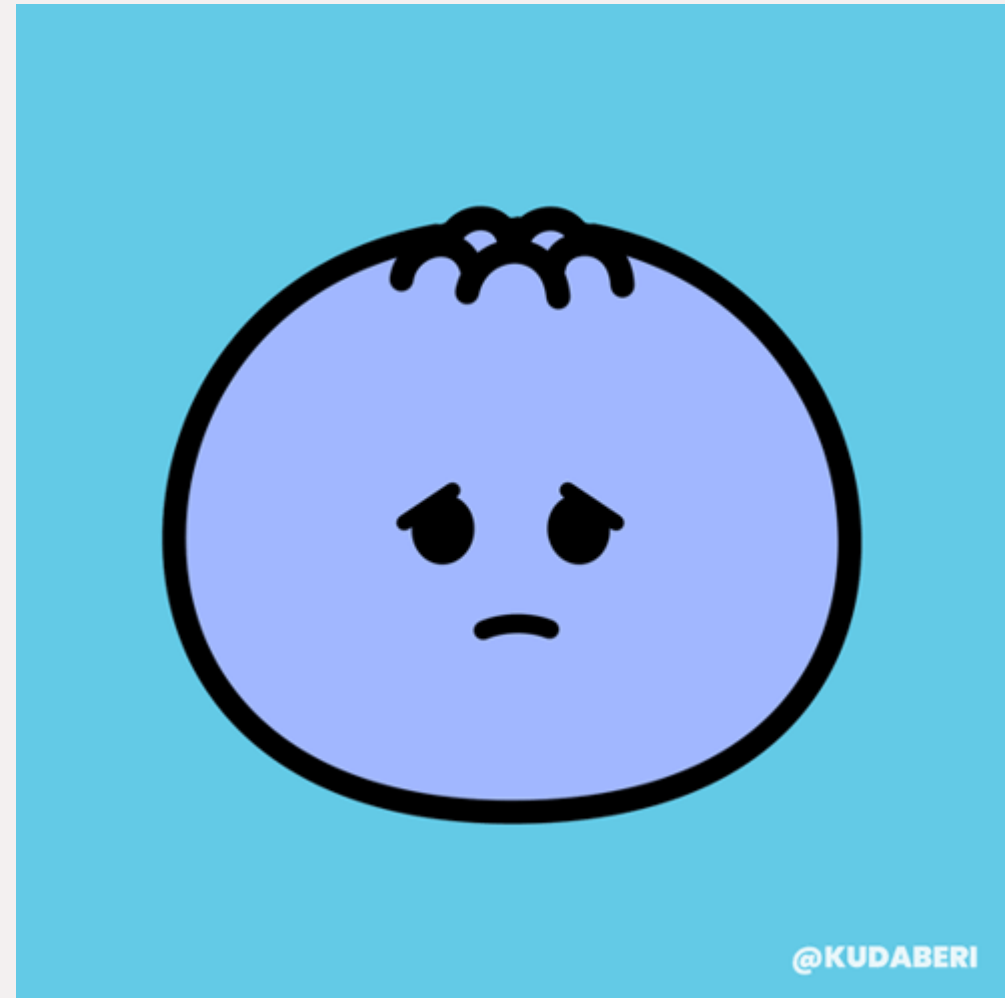
Of the 22 guests attending, we are confident that at least 3 new members will be an outcome. A huge thank you to club members who invited guests and to those who helped organize the fun event.





Damariscotta - Newcastle

It's been a quiet month in the Twin Villages so nothing from Damariscotta-Newcastle this month.



Dover Club members got together to keep the Holiday spirit going. We were able to enjoy the millions of lights along the Winter Wonders trails throughout Sandy Hill Farms. Winter Wonders is a World-Class Light Show experience located nearby in Eliot, Maine! With over 2 Million Lights, our engaging, creative, and unique 14-acre light display is the Largest and Most Immersive Walk-Through Light Show display in New England.

The Club presented a Student of the Month award to Rydia Yunker.

We recently made a donation of \$2,000 to Executive Director, Jennie Halstead of My Breast Cancer Support to help local patients with gas cards to travel to and from doctor appointments and cancer treatments.





Kennebunkport

Our club had a busy December. We purchased gifts for a Caring Unlimited family, which Cornelia Stockman and Peggy Belanger delivered. The club provided even more gifts than requested! We also participated in Parking and Craft Fair community service events during Christmas Prelude, including selling concessions with our MSK Interact Students. We raised significant funds, and our Interactors did an amazing job!

Looking forward to 2025!



Five Organizations That Make a Difference - Annually, Kittery RC honors organizations that are routinely changing lives for the better in our community and presents them with checks ranging from \$500 to \$1000. This year's honorees are Fair Tide Thrift Store, Footprints Food Pantry, Table of Plenty, Kittery Holiday Baskets and Life and Hope Haiti Eben Ezar School. Fair Tide, Footprints, Table of Plenty and Holiday Baskets will be folded into the new Mainspring Cooperative in Kittery which will meet community needs in one location. Top Photo: Organization representatives receive Rotary donations (l-r): Beth Gilbert (Holiday Baskets), Diana Marzinzik (Table of Plenty), Megan Shapiro-Ross (Footprints), Emily Flinkstrom (Fair Tide), Agnes Charlesworth (Life & Hope Haiti), presented by Co-President Brad Hirst.

One of our projects is to provide funds for classroom books for each of the Mitchell Primary School 3rd Grade Classrooms. The Club presented the teachers with \$100 each to buy books for their classrooms. Other Club school related projects include: Books for the Mitchell Primary School incoming Kindergarten students; bags full of school supplies; "Student-of-the Month" Awards presented to worthy students at Shapleigh Middle School and R. W. Traip Academy. At the awards ceremony, the students sign a book to be donated in their names to the school libraries. A Scholarship to one or more Traip Academy graduating students. This year the Kittery School District identified a need for an in-house washer and dryer at the high school for student use. Kittery RC responded. Bottom Photo: (l-r) Co-President Pauli Rines with 3rd Grade Teachers Alicia Reynolds, Terri Hartley, Christine Dorazio, and Sadie Bloom receiving their check for new books.





Oxford Hills

We have less than 100 - 3# Cabot extra sharp cheese bricks for sale. \$25 per brick and can be shipped (you pay the shipping). If anyone wants more info, contact George Rice 890-3122, gwrice124@charter.net or Patty Rice 207-890.2332, or your favorite OH Rotarian. (see picture)

In honor of January being Vocational Service month, we invite local business owners to join us and share their education, experience and pride in their chosen vocation. We also encourage members to put their vocational service in action by using their skills and expertise to serve the community; to mentor young people to help achieve their career goals; to offer leadership and professional development and guidance to others; and to practice their profession with integrity and inspiring others to do so as well.

FMI go to www.oxfordhillsrotary.org or find us on FB.



Rotary

District 7780

Portland

Youth Services is all about Rotary's commitment to the future. Here's what the future looks like!

Like so many Rotary Clubs in District 7780, one of the highlights of Portland's Youth Services program is providing scholarship support to outstanding students who demonstrate Service Above Self. Over the course of the school year, we award eight \$1,000 scholarships to Portland area high school seniors and a Promise Scholar at USM. In addition, our Club makes a \$100 donation to a charity chosen by these service-minded students.

Here are our latest YSA recipients, along with our Youth Services school liaison, proud family members and guidance counselors, and these are just the first three to be recognized at our meetings this year. Top Photo left – Nov: Rotarian Jim Willey (center left) and Cheverus High School senior Sophia Segal. Top right - Dec: Rotarian Jan Chapman (on right) and Portland High School senior Felisberto Mamuisi. Bottom – PE John Thompson (on left) and Baxter Academy senior Sofia Kuzma.

Congratulations Sophia, Felisberto and Sofia. These fine young people represent the future of Rotary! Judging from these examples, it is a bright future indeed!





Portsmouth

Amidst a week of arctic cold, it was a delight to host Star Island CEO Joe Watts. His presence allowed us to dream of balmy summer days out at the Shoals-- a good 10 miles from the maddening crowd.

Patte Ardizzoni and Cathy Nickerson (Photo left) are coordinating a Basic Needs Committee drive to a mass food for distribution to local food banks. Several \$500-dollar gifts will be given to smaller charities.

The club collects peanut butter, jelly, oatmeal, granola bars, healthy cereals, and/or Pop Tarts at our weekly meetings through February 13 for donating to local food banks.

Joanie Dickinson continues to gather can tops that can be converted to cash which we are using to help disabled vets.

Neal Ouellett spearheads the clubs Crutches for Africa initiative. He already has a big delivery slated for the District drop-off point.

Finally, a Standing O of thanks to Dennis Moulton (Photo right), who has retired to a life in Spain. Dennis rendered outstanding service to our Club and our District.



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