



# Good News from the Clubs

ROTARY DISTRICT 7780 CLUBS

SERVICE, FUNDRAISING, CELEBRATIONS  
& COLLABORATIONS

JANUARY 2, 2024

Three cartoon snowmen wearing red hats, green scarves, and yellow boots, standing on a blue background with white snowflakes.

*Come in From the Cold*

Join Sanford-Springvale Rotarians at the JANUARY THAW

- MEE~D THAI - Main St. Marketplace, 886 Main Street, Sanford
- Tuesday, January 16, 2024 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.
- Admission: \$40.00 per person, includes one free signature drink PLUS complimentary sampling of all food choices
- EXIT Realty Corporation International will match Net Proceeds to a maximum of \$2,000
- Bring at least one WARM clothing item
- Event to benefit the unhoused in the Sanford area
- Tickets - email [rotaryss.me@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryss.me@gmail.com)

In collaboration with Sanford Housing Authority Development Corporation - 501c3 and to benefit the Community Outreach Program of the Sanford Police Department.

Rotary

The Bethel area was hard hit by the pre-Christmas storm with flooding and power outages. The Club set up an Emergency Response donation site as well as an Emergency Assistance application for individuals who had lost homes, vehicles and possessions as a result. Donations have been incredible and we are in the process of evaluating needs and issuing financial assistance checks. Rotary at work!

At the same time our regular programs continued, including Christmas for Children with the help of Telstar HS Interact Club members. We helped to provide holiday gifts to 101 children, ages 0-18. We fed 75 area senior citizens a complete holiday noon meal and we packed 25 complete turkey dinners into decorated boxes and deliver them to families in need. Teachers at three local schools were grateful for purchased and presented needed school supplies. We assisted a local Telstar HS student organization, Northstar, with a huge bottle drive. And, finally, we cut, split and delivered firewood to a family in need. Last but not least, we presented two scholarship checks to 2023 graduates who have finished their first semester of post-secondary school. Victoria Owings is currently studying languages at University in Kazakhstan, and Keaton Chapman is studying at Hampshire College with the eventual goal of becoming a civil rights attorney. (Photos highlight some event top left and clockwise.)







## Bridgton-Lake Region

The holiday season is always a bright spot for our Rotary Club. Each year we buy new winter outer gear for students in need at 3 elementary schools in our region. That includes coats, snowpants, boots and this year socks and hats as well. Here (top left) Rotarians George Klauber and Erin Nelson hand over bags of gear to School Counselor Erika Quелlette of Songo Locks School.

The Festival of Lights is a good excuse for Rotarian Jesse Walsh to dress up his truck and trailer and exhibit in the parade. This year Lake Region HS Interactors helped distribute candy to the kids on the sidelines.

Last but not least, we supported Rotarian Nicholas Orgo at his free Community Event at the Bear Mountain Inn. We set up and staffed the decorating of Christmas tree bulbs with the youngsters (Here bottom left Elf and PP Aaron Hagan always captivates the kids!). We had wine glass decorating for adults. Although many adults were also interested in decorating their own tree ornaments. Hundreds turned out for this afternoon event.

For more information about the Club's activities, see our website:  
<https://lakeregionrotary.com> or our FB Page.





## Damariscotta-Newcastle

December was a busy month for our Club. Graciously hosted again by PP Bill and wife Polly Vaughan, our Potluck Holiday Social was a warm, cozy event.

Every Monday all year, several members help unload the weekly delivery from Good Shepherd food pantry to our ecumenical food pantry; in December, there are extra pallets so thanx to Rotarians for the heavy lifting.

As in years past, December saw Rotarians and Lions ringing bells and collecting funds in kettles at Sherman's Books, Main Street Grocery and Rising Tide Coop. Money raised is used by both organizations to support local programs. Many businesses and NGOs take a shift or an entire day!

The Service Committee disbursed 6 x \$1,000 checks to support Twin Villages Food Bank, the Community Navigator, FARMS at The Y, CHIP, Coastal Kids PreSchool and Veggies to Table.

Our local public access television station, LCTV.org, interviewed PP Mike Hall and Mary Berger for "Chamber Chat" about Karl's Kids (<https://vimeo.com/889132456>). This program helps Lincoln County youth participate in athletics and pursue active lifestyles who otherwise might not be afforded the opportunity.





The Dover RC had a December of many celebrations. Each month, we celebrate 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, with the stories shared by a new student and a teacher about how he was there for them and he'd been a student at the school for only a short time.

The Together on Tuesdays was a tour of lighted areas—another night of a million lights. 40 Rotarians from area Clubs came together for fun and hot chocolate.

An annual celebration with the Chamber is generating a theme and then decorating trees for auction. This year the theme was Creating Hope in the World. Always a nice event. This year included heavy involvement with local Interactors., bottom right photo, and the Dover RC tree, bottom left.





Turning the town of Exeter into a magical wonderland on Christmas Eve. Exeter Rotary's labor of love for its community. As they prepare the paper luminaries and proudly display before distributing throughout the town of Exeter. Then providing a small sampling of the downtown area all alight. All together Rotarians placed and lit over 1,200 luminaries throughout Downtown Exeter for everyone to enjoy.

A beautiful tradition. Always well received.



## Fryeburg Area

Fryeburg Area Rotary Donates Warm Winter Coats to the Community

In the hard winters in western Maine, a warm coat is so important. But some families in our community find it hard to afford them. Fryeburg Area RC teamed up with a Rotarian founded non-profit, Operation Warm, that purchases high-quality, low-cost coats for children, young adults and adults. Fryeburg Rotarians and its Fryeburg Rotary Charities purchased 60 coats at ~\$22 each and gave them to the local Fryeburg Thrift Shop to distribute the coats to the local community for free, based on need. The Interactors at Fryeburg Academy unpacked the coats and tagged them. FARC has partnered with Operation Warm for its second year now and has served almost 100 families. If you are interested in Operation Warm and it's coats and shoe programs, please contact Fryeburg Rotarian Ron Smith at [rsmith.rotary@gmail.com](mailto:rsmith.rotary@gmail.com).





## Kittery

For many years the Rotary Club of Kittery has helped kick off the holiday season by greeting the Holiday Parade at Ranger Park with free cookies and hot cocoa. For the last several years, the Interact Club of R.W. Traip Academy has joined us. Club numbers swelled as the parade units arrived, and more Interact club members donned Rotary aprons and joined the fun of making smiling faces. This year parade on December 2<sup>nd</sup> was no exception. Warm weather brought out the crowds as hundreds of marchers were handed cookies and cocoa.

Picture 1: Kittery Rotary President Pam Gray and Interact Club member Merideth McGonigal serving youngsters awaiting the parades arrival.

Picture 2: Traip Interact members Anne Krumsiek and Sage Hoffman serving early parade watchers.





# Portland

The Portland Club rings in the New Year with bells, laughter, and song.

Our Rotarian "bell ringers" supported the Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign at Northgate Plaza on weekdays throughout most of December. A total of \$4,691 was donated to help those in need in our community.

We ended the month with a Portland Rotary first: *Karaoke Christmas*. Thanks to Quinn Slayton, for bringing her joy and charisma to lead us in an afternoon of song and merriment. For decades, singing was very much a part of our club, but it has fallen off in recent years. Like vinyl, maybe it will make a comeback!

Happy New Year to all our friends in District 7780!







## Portsmouth

December in Portsmouth is all about Christmas Tree sales. The effort began Thanksgiving weekend with 1,440 trees on the lot. At sale's end only 40 were left. The annual ornament (this year being the Gundalow) sold out. New in 2023 was a visit from Santa (former Portsmouth Assistant Mayor Bob Lister) and a Veterans discount of \$55 dollars for any tree on the lot. The club gave away 20 gift certificates to Gather, brightening their clients' holiday.

With a few days left before the year's end, our gross Christmas sales of \$111,000 was the second-most ever. Add another \$4800 for sales of Portsmouth-opoly games. The total net will be around \$45,000. Congratulations to Midge and Yvonne who did a first-rate job to make this happen. Bruce Ricci unloading trees, others selling them.

Another special treat was bringing Christmas to the Galloway family newly installed in a home built by Habitat for Humanity, which we helped with earlier in the year. Our donated tree, the family's first one ever, and with the kids "Santa wish list" as a guide, we were able to make dreams come true. President Yvonne Legge and President Elect Midge Nelson at the donated tree with presents at right.

Happy New Year, everyone!





# Rotary

District 7780

## River Valley

The River Valley RC has several interesting speakers each month. Recently, Father Aaron Duboise of the Holy Savior Church in Rumford, who grew up in Caribou, Maine, spoke about the projects the local Church is involved with in trying to help the less fortunate. (Photo: l-r Catherine Ross, Rotarian of the Day, Father Duboise, and Club President Catherine Johnson.)

Another speaker was Roger Arsenault, Board Member of Black Mountain of Maine ski area and Chisholm Ski Club. Located in Rumford, the resort is mostly famous for its Nordic skiing facilities. The 4<sup>th</sup> highest peak in Maine, the resort has 31 trails of downhill skiing, serviced by two chairlifts. They partner with L.L. Bean to bring skiing to all.

Scott Huddleston, Wal-Mart Super Center Manager, Maine was presented a Certificate of Appreciation from the PP Roger Whitehead for donating supplies to the Senior Citizens Weatherization Project for those residing in the area towns (seen in photo on right), an important Club project.

Finally, welcoming our newest Rotarian, Tammy Daigle, SVP of Human Resource and Marketing, Oxford Federal Credit Union. Photo bottom l-r President Catherine Johnson, Tammy Daigle, and Dave Duguay.





## Saco Bay Sunset

It was a wonderful Christmas for many children and families this year due to two members of the Rotary Club of Saco Bay Sunset Club who spearheaded the effort -- Tina Wilson and Leo Menard. With Toys for Tots they were able to provide gifts for approximately 400 families and directly 900 children. In addition, as part of their volunteer efforts, by working with three other organizations, Toys for Tots served about 2000 children in the area. Tina and Leo gathered volunteers from other Rotary Clubs, local citizens and UNUM volunteers to aid with the distribution. The Rotary Club of Saco Bay Sunset also participated in Ring the Bell for Salvation Army. This was spearheaded by Dennis Robillard.

Photo top left – Tina Wilson and Leo Menard

Photo top right – Michelle, a volunteer from UNUM

Bottom photos show tables of gifts.





## Sanford-Springvale

Each year our Club rings bells for the Salvation Army. This year was no exception.

And one of our favorite meetings each year is when the Sanford HS Honors Chamber Chorus visits to sing Holiday songs.

Last but not least, one of our biggest fundraisers is still to come:

COME IN FROM THE COLD - All are invited to join us on January 16 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. At MEE-D THAI, Main St. Marketplace, 886 Main St., Sanford. Admission \$40/person, which includes a Free signature drink and a Sampling of all food choices. Bring at least one WARM Clothing item. For tickets email [rotaryss@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryss@gmail.com).



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## South Berwick - Eliot

As is our tradition, the South Berwick – Eliot Rotary Club provided and served a Thanksgiving feast to the senior citizens of South Berwick on the Monday before Thanksgiving.

There were almost 100 people at the Community Center who enjoyed the turkey dinner with all the fixings plus dessert and beverages. This photo shows a number of club members who provided manpower during the feast.







## South Portland - Cape Elizabeth

SP-CE Club was filled with holiday spirit this year, from selling Christmas Trees to singing carols, bringing Christmas meals to First Responders, hanging a wreath at Bug Light and donating toys and books to needy kids. It was a bountiful year.

Sam O'Brien, aka SP-CE Rotary's Honorary Lighthouse Keeper, with the help of Tony Wagner, hung a giant wreath donated by Jack Roberts on Bug Light! Bob Hansen, an SP-CE Rotarian, theologian, and scholar, recently discussed the tradition of hanging evergreens during the holiday season. By maintaining these historic structures and time-honored traditions, we Rotarians are truly Creating Hope in the World.

Finally, with the help of a generous benefactor hundreds of toys were donated to several agencies for distribution to area children. Led by SPCE Rotarian Tony Wagner and his crew they delivered 775 toys and 120 books to 717 kids. An awesome mission to serve our community.



# 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](mailto:RotaryNews7780@gmail.com).

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

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

Dennis Moulton, District Newsletter Publisher, RC of Portsmouth