



# Good News from the Clubs

ROTARY DISTRICT 7780 CLUBS

SERVICE, FUNDRAISING, CELEBRATIONS  
& COLLABORATIONS

JANUARY 6, 2025



# Bethel

Bethel Rotarians were very busy this past month with many service projects that our community members embrace and that make a positive difference in the lives of our citizens! Photos: Clockwise from top left. Susan and Rich Kenney are wonderful greeters at our Annual Senior Luncheon. An appreciative crowd enjoyed the Senior Luncheon. Rotarians stood outside our local grocery store each weekend between Thanksgiving and Christmas, collecting donations for our Annual Christmas for Children program. Our club made a donation to the Telstar HS Boys and Girls Basketball teams to assist them with travel costs to away games. Just before Christmas, Rotarians gathered to assemble and distribute 30 complete turkey dinners for families in need. For more information on our programs see [BethelRotary.org/](http://BethelRotary.org/)







## Bridgton-Lake Region

It's that time of year again when the Bridgton-Lake Region Rotary Club shops for and presents winter outer gear to local elementary schools. Certain items and sizes are requested by school counselors for their students in need. At left Rotarian & PP Aaron Hagan presents a bag of gear to Stevens Brook Elementary School in Bridgton. And at Right Rotarian George Klauber (left) and Aaron Hagan (right) present a bag of winter outerwear to Crooked River School principal and counselors in Casco.





# Rotary

District 7780

## Damariscotta - Newcastle

### Rotary and Lions Help Light the Damariscotta-Newcastle River Bridge

– As part of the Villages of Light, the Rotary and Lions Clubs of D-N hung garlands and lights on the bridge connecting the twin villages. The lightpoles, decorated with garlands and wreaths, were a gift from the D-N RC with assistance from a District 7780 grant in 2005.

**The Bells Were Ringing** – Once again the Rotary and Lions Clubs of D-N rang bells, greeted folks, shared holiday cheerful smiles, braved cold and wind (thankfully no blizzard this December) and fun raising almost \$10,000 to help our two services organizations meet local needs.

Thanks to Main Street Grocery and Sherman's Books for providing the locations as well as businesses and community volunteers that took shifts during the three weeks.

**Holiday Social** – The 5<sup>th</sup> Question in the 4-Way Test – Is it Fun? Club members and spouses/partners again enjoyed a holiday potluck dinner evening at the home of PP Bill and Polly Vaughan. A warm, jolly and festive evening with lots of socializing, enjoying each other's company as 2024 ends and we move into a New Year of Service Above Self.





# Rotary

District 7780

## Dover

Photos Clockwise starting at Top left. Vintage homemade tree prepared by Dover Rotarians for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce Festival of Trees.

Helped organize, sort, and fill holiday bags of toys, books and games for kids in our community. Dover Professional Firefighters L1312 Annual Toy Drive.

Welcomed "Songfest" with the Garrison Players Showstoppers. Solo and duet numbers were followed by a sing-along. A great way to get into the holiday spirit.

Middle School Students of the Month Eleanor Gorman and James Gould were celebrated .





## Kittery

The **Choose to Be Healthy Coalition of York Hospital** presented their **"Bright Light Award"** to the Rotary Club of Kittery. The club was nominated for the Award by Kittery School Superintendent Eric Waddell, a member of the Coalition and longtime Rotary club member. He noted that the Rotary Club of Kittery is a true embodiment of the spirit of the Bright Light Award, shining as a beacon of community service and support in our town. Although small in size, this mighty organization consistently exemplifies selflessness, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to service above self. Top Photo (l-r) Brad Hirst, co-President Kittery RC, holding the Bright Light Award Candle, Sally Manninen, award presenter, Choose to Be Healthy Coalition of York Hospital, and Eric Waddell, Kittery School Superintendent and award nominator.



**4 Rotary Club of Kittery Community Champion Award Winners** - Annually, Kittery RC requests nominations from the community to celebrate individuals who quietly give their time and embody Service-above-Self to their neighbors. Each honoree is recognized at a dinner celebration with family and friends. They each receive a certificate, a pin, and are made a Paul Harris Fellow. Our 2024 honorees are Whitney Blethen (Seacoast Fridge), Julie Dow (School Committee Chair), Frank DeSarro (posthumously, State Department J-1 Program coordinator) and Kelly Philbrook and Steve Lawrence (Buoy Tree, Stuff-a-Boat and more). Bottom Photo (l-r) (left-to-right) Club Co-President Pauli Rines, Alan Bauters (accepting for Frank DeSarro), Kelly Philbrook, Steve Lawrence, Julie Dow, Whitney Blethen, Club Co-President Brad Hirst







## Ogunquit

### Smiles All Around at OGT Rotary Club Holiday Luncheon

The annual holiday luncheon hosted by the Ogunquit RC was a great success! Community members of all ages enjoyed a meal together, sang holiday songs, and got to spend time together at this joyous gathering. It's all hands on deck to pull off an event of this size, but once again it was worth the effort as you can see from the excitement and smiles in the photos. Pictured from top left and moving clockwise are Rotarians Elizabeth Ford, Eileen Conlon and Pete Woodbury (photo credits, including this selfie, go to Pete). Next, we have Santa's helper Elias Thomas distributing books to the students who attended the party. Club President Rick Barber is seen chatting with club member Carole Aaron, OGT Police Chief Lizanecz, and DG Bob McKenzie. Past DG Elias Thomas and a local student can be seen leading the group in song, with the student signing as the group sang (photo credit: Tracy Smith). And finally, one of the organizers of the event, club member Erin Haye, can be seen in the middle photo directing the food service with a big smile. The Rotary Club of Ogunquit wishes all in District 7780 a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year!



## Oxford Hills

OH Rotary members enjoyed a special presentation by the Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School Chorale, under the direction of Dennis Boyd (Key Club Advisor). The Chorale dressed in festive attire and put on an excellent show and then joined the members for breakfast. Club President Dan Allen presented a donation on behalf of the club.

Do you know what 200 pillows look like?! Here they are ready to be delivered to the annual Christmas for Teens program by PP Beth Abbott. Unfortunately, there are many teens 'couch surfing' and this allows them to have their own pillow. A pillowcase is also provided.

We still have some 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 207-890-3122, [gwrice124@charter.net](mailto:gwrice124@charter.net) or Patty Rice 207-890-2332, or your favorite OH Rotarian. FMI go to [www.oxfordhillsrotary.org](http://www.oxfordhillsrotary.org) or find us on FB.







## Portland

One of Portland Rotary's three major goals this year is to create a strong public image, an image that will share our story, attract new members, support our fundraising activities, and instill a sense of pride in all of us.

Thanks to the efforts of Cort Hepler, Chair of the Public Image and Marketing Committee, we are well on our way!

We launched version 1.0 of the new website on December 20th.

Take a look, [Portlandrotary.org](http://Portlandrotary.org)

## We are People of Action

Improving the lives of others through service, fun & friendship



# Portsmouth

**Christmas Tree Sales** - There was plenty to be merry about this holiday season. Our major fund raiser — Christmas Tree sales — logged a record \$46,600 profit and we did it in record short time as well. Some 1,000 trees and 400 wreaths were sold, along with ornaments, and Portsmouth monopoly games. Kudos to president-elect Ian O’Neil and his leadership team.

**Thanksgiving Dinner** - Under the capable direction of Priscilla MacInnis, Rotary once again pulled off a successful Thanksgiving Dinner. Despite driving rain, wind and a few snowflakes, a team of more than 15 drivers delivered 348 meals from Cape Neddick, ME, to Seabrook, NH. Another 95 guests enjoyed sit-down meals at the Jarvis Center. About 70 volunteers made the event happen. Neil Cohn completed his 36th year carving up 75 turkey breasts donated and cooked by Portsmouth Hospital. Later, twelve of those birds, potatoes, stuffing, and some pies were donated to Crossroads House.

**Care Packages** - Our “care packages” for the deployed New Hampshire Air National Guard members were delivered to Pease. They included 27 items in each, among them 30 pounds of coffee.

**New members** of the club are Larry Goodwin, Mylene Hollich and Chris Scales. Finally, the William Cash Committee matched Neal Ouellette’s \$2,000 gift to **Operation Blessing**.





# Saco Bay Sunset

This month, the Rotary Club of Saco Bay Sunset donated funds to two groups.

Top Photo: Students from Loranger Memorial School in RSU 23-Old Orchard Beach were very excited to receive a check for \$300. The money will be used by the third, fourth and fifth graders to purchase outside playground items. The student group will collaborate at the three different grade levels and brainstorm about how the money will be used. The students will survey their peers to determine how the money will be spent. This is solely a student focused decision-making process. Rotarian Carol Marcotte (right rear) and Principal Matt Foster (left rear) were so pleased that the students were so engaged in this project.

Bottom Photo: Courage Lives/Saint Andre's Home was a recipient of the second donation. On November 4, 2024, Saco Bay Sunset RC received monetary donations at Fill the Bus of \$85. This was presented to Carey Nason, Director of Courage Lives, and Board members Mark Lamontage and Mary Colombo.

Donations of clothing, coats, furniture, food and personal items were obtained for Human Sex Trafficked survivors at the event as well. The collective amount of those donations was worth \$10,000.





# Sanford-Springvale

1. Sanford-Springvale Rotarians once again demonstrated Service Above Self by teaming up with the Salvation Army of Sanford to bell ring this holiday season. Photos of bell ringing Rotarians. Clockwise from Top Left, (l-r) Bob Ferguson and Andy Orazio; Top Right, (l-r) President Bob Myott and Elias Thomas; Bottom Right, (l-r) Lesley Unger-Mochrie, Sara Guillemette, Shawn and Heather Beaupre.

2. Sanford-Springvale Rotarians recently gathered for their annual Yankee Swap at Sanford's Meeting Grounds Cafe, a fun morning of fellowship. Photo Bottom Left.







## Sebago Lake

The Sebago Lake club fills Holiday gift bags for seniors at the Raymond food pantry. Sox, toiletries, cookies, candy, shampoo, hot chocolate, and even lottery tickets. Photo (l-r) Members Ingo Hartig, Cyndy Bell, Mark Morrison, Greg Foster, President Max Bang and ADG Kathy Perkins, member of the Gorham/Westbrook club.



# South Berwick - Eliot

Rotary Club Pachacámac and Interact Club Pachacacamac, inaugurated on December 08, 2024 two fully equipped school modules, for children between 1 and 5 years old, of the PRONOEI "My Little Talents", at the Curva Zapata Rural Population Center in Pachacacámac, Lima-Peru. This project was made possible by the great management of Nellie Young, a member of Interact Mashwood High School, who supported by her mother and her club sponsor District 7780 Rotary Club South Berwick & Eliot managed to raise the funds which made this project possible. Pres Helen Goransson of SB-E RC says thanks so much to all those in District 7780 who made this project happen.





# 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, Bridgton-Lake Region RC

Dennis Moulton, District Newsletter Publisher, Portsmouth RC