



Good News from the Clubs

ROTARY DISTRICT 7780 CLUBS

SERVICE, FUNDRAISING, CELEBRATIONS
& COLLABORATIONS

MARCH 3, 2025



Boothbay Harbor

Winter in Boothbay Harbor means Community Lunch every Monday for around 75 people. A by-donation delicious lunch and just as importantly an opportunity to visit with friends and neighbors. Hosted by Brady's Restaurant, but the food (soup, casseroles, sandwiches, yummy desserts) is provided by different organizations, churches, or businesses each Monday. On Monday, February 17th, Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club had its turn. We made chicken rice casserole, pea soup, salad and cookies galore. The chef at Brady's always makes fish chowder. It's a wonderful winter tradition and the Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club was glad to participate.

Photo l-r, Rotarians Lois Hiller, a new member, Irene Fowle, Linda Clapp and Judi White.





Bridgton-Lake Region

In the interest of establishing a new environmental project in the Lakes Region, two of our recent speakers shared the work of the two biggest environmental organizations in our area. Matt Merkot, ED of Loon Echo Land Trust, talked about recent acquisitions and their uses. (photo left). Colin Homes shared about the issues facing our lakes, and what LEA is doing to remediate those problems (photo right). We're certain there are ways we can work together. More can be learned about both organizations on their websites and Facebook pages. For more about our club, go to lakesregionrotary.com or our FB page.





Damariscotta - Newcastle

Marianne Pinkham, Club Foundation Chair and District Foundation Committee member, issues an informative memo to her club members each month about the Rotary Foundation. It's very nice and perhaps something other Club Foundation Chairs would like to see. Contact Marianne at mhpmerganser@juno.com to get on her mailing list. P.S. I've not asked for her permission, but I suspect she would be pleased to do that.

Rotary

District 7780

Dover

Thanks to the REVO Casino in Dover, the Dover RC was presented with a \$48,118 check. In the photo are Gregg Dowty, Treasurer Dover RC, Brennan McCall, General Manager of Revo Casino, Dover, and Harry Cheney, President, Dover RC. We enthusiastically appreciate the REVO Casino of Dover for their support of Rotary and other area non-profits. (Photo top left, l-r)

Dover Rotarians President Harry Cheney, Cindy Imbro, Melissa Lesniak and PDG Marion Cheney presented dictionaries to 3rd grade students at Saint Mary Academy as part of the Rotary Literacy Project. The Club has distributed over 1,000 dictionaries over the years.

Bottom left photo Dover Rotarians donating gloves, hand warmers, hats and jackets to Community Action Partnership of Strafford County.

And, finally, the Club supported Interact's Purple Pinky Project.





Kennebunk

Kennebunk RC and Kennebunk High School Interact members raised a record \$5750 during our annual Salvation Army Bell Ringing during December 2024. A check was presented to the Salvation Army representative Velma Hayes on February 4th. A number of Interact members staffed three 2-hour shifts during the month exemplifying their commitment to community service. Photo of Kennebunk High School members presenting the check to the Salvation Army.





Kennebunkport

We had an incredible February, filled with community service and inspiring the next generation of Rotarians! Under the dedicated leadership of Kevin Simpson, our MSK (Middle School of the Kennebunks) Interact Club is thriving with 11 passionate members. Their commitment to service was on full display as they collected and donated an impressive **40 bags** of warm winter clothing to **Maine Needs** and **Kennebunk Cares Closet**, making a real difference for those in need. Additionally, thanks to the efforts of club member **Phil Giordano**, our annual **Dictionary Program** successfully delivered dictionaries to three local schools, empowering students with the gift of knowledge. Seeing these young leaders embracing Rotary's mission of service above self is exciting!

Photo : Kevin and Stephanie Simpson, with students from the Consolidated School in Kennebunkport



Kittery

Annual Souper Bowl Event Benefits Local Food Pantry

Three Kittery non-profits recently held their Annual “Souper” Bowl competition to see which group could collect the most cans of soup. The three organizations who participated were: the Kittery Lions Club, the Kittery Rotary After Hours Club, and the Kittery Rotary Morning Club. Narrowly winning this year was the Kittery Rotary Morning Club! The big winner is Footprints Food Pantry at Mainspring in Kittery where a total of 483 cans of soup were donated. Top Photo.

In another initiative with Footprints, the Rotary clubs of Kittery have joined the Food Pantry’s ADOPT-A-SHELF PROGRAM which asks community organizations to support a different commodity shelf each month. In January, over 100 lbs. of ground coffee were delivered to stock the coffee shelf.

Footprints Food Pantry serves individuals and families in Kittery, Eliot, and nearby areas.

For more information or to help, go to www.kitteryrotary.org





Ogunquit

The Rotary Club of Ogunquit Shares Love, Warmth & Food

Members of the Ogunquit RC volunteered to serve meals to seniors at the Wells & Ogunquit Center for a Saturday Day of Warming. The decorations were Valentine's Day themed and the room was filled with warmth, joy, laughter, good food, and a hustling group of Rotarians serving hot meals donated by a local restaurant. Pictured from left to right are Ed Seppa, Tracy Smith, Jim Anliot, Rick Haye, Susan DeQuattro, Melanie Tromblee, Alice Pearce, Carole Aaron, and Pete Woodbury. Not pictured are Erin Haye, who organized the event on-site, and Rick Barber, Club President. Besides being a fun event, it had the added benefit of inspiring one of the attendees to join our club meeting to see if she might want to become a Rotarian. A good reminder that Rotary events are also great recruiting tools for members!



Rotary

District 7780

Portland

Our Youth Exchange Students - It's been more than six months since we welcomed our incoming Exchange Student, Antonio Soriano Lujan from Valencia, Spain (photo bottom right), and bid farewell to our outgoing Exchange Student, Maya Newell, to Yaizu, Japan (photo top left).

Antonio is a junior at Deering HS and an avid soccer player. And he loves coming to our Rotary meetings and events. Last week, he joined us at the Maine Celtics game. As you can see, we took advantage of the free hat offer, and Antonio caught a fresh Celtic t-shirt launched into the crowd. (photo bottom left)

Maya, also a junior, is the daughter of Portland Rotarian, Zach Newell. While Antonio was shagging Celtics swag, overseas, Maya was getting some new threads of her own (photo top right). She is wearing a stunning Kimono to visit a Shinto Shrine in celebration of the new year with her host family.

These students are thriving and making the most of this exciting opportunity. We are grateful to the Newell family for hosting Antonio, Jan Chapman our Club's Youth Exchange Coordinator, and Kathi Perkins, District 7780 Youth Exchange Chair, for their support.





Portsmouth

Lots of things happened in Portsmouth in February. Cathy Nickerson reported the conclusion of the Basic Needs Committee's food and fundraising campaign. These efforts benefit Gather and other food insecurity agencies. Some \$740-plus-dollars' worth of food items made their way to Gather and beyond.

Katie Fleischer disclosed that our big golf outing will be on June 13. This is the club's top fundraising event, along with Christmas Tree sales.

Neal Ouellett collected numerous crutches and other mobility devices that became part of the District's Crutches4Africa shipment to South Africa.

Long-time and beloved former Portsmouth Rotarian Gene Bailey recently passed. He was a larger-than-life personality whose work on our Rotary TV auctions is fondly remembered.

We welcomed new member Jaime McCarthy, director of operations at Port City Air.

With the fading Covid era, President Midge disclosed that Zoom coverage of meetings will be terminated.



Saco Bay

The Rotary Club of Saco Bay kicked off 2025 with its participation in the 37th Annual Special Olympics Lobster Dip held at Old Orchard Beach on January 1st. A team of Rotarians and friends put on their swim suits, hit the beach, and raised a total of \$2,785. Unfortunately, due to a dangerous surf, the event organizers restricted the swimmers from entering the water this year but a good time was had by all for a great cause!

Photo top left: L-R Dave Lepauloue, Jim Pate, Jeff Slaton, Kyle Droniak, Rik Glover, Sasha Soroka, and Lily Pype. (Not pictured – Brad Paul, Jesse Souter)

Addressing food insecurity is one of the core service pillars for the Saco Bay Rotary Club and a team of Rotarians volunteer at the Bon Appetite Community Meal Program in Biddeford the 3rd Friday of each month. On average, 75 Bon Appetite guests are served each night of the week. The Rotarians help out by serving the guests, assisting in the kitchen, and handling all the dishwashing duties.

Photos top right: L-R -Rotarian Tony DeBarros presented a \$500 donation to Jim and Laura Cortright, Executive Director and Board President of Bon Appetite.

Rotarians Volunteering At Meal Photo bottom L-R Mike Collard, Bill Doran, Tony DeBarros, Curt Scamman, Lisa Boissonneault and husband, Dan Cote, Gary Hammond, Jon Safford, and Carmen Gawronski.



Saco Bay Sunset

The Saco Bay Sunset RC honored five people from the community with the Paul Harris Fellow award. Donna Lariviere received the award in honor of her work at LaDawn Quarter Horses Therapeutic Riding Center in Dayton. Old Orchard Beach resident Marie Sherwood was honored for the work she does for local veterans. Old Orchard Beach residents June Boulette and Bud Gottfeld received the award for their dedication to their community and helping others. Liz Gottfeld received the Paul Harris for her exemplary work supporting the vast amount of people that she knows and goes above and beyond with these efforts. Credits for the article go to Liz Gottfeld.





Sanford-Springvale

For the fourth year running, at the Sanford-Springvale Rotary Club's annual January Thaw event, \$10,000 was raised and donated to the Sanford Housing Authority for serving the unhoused in the community. Held at MEE-D Thai in Sanford, a combination of generous business sponsorships and proceeds from ticket sales to the 75 individuals in attendance brought the total to \$10,000. The evening included guest speakers who work directly with the unhoused in the area. Finally, warm clothing items were collected at the event. The Club extends its gratitude to all those who attended and supported this special gathering, held on January 14.





Sebago Lake

There was a great deal of excitement surrounding this year's 24th Annual Ice Fishing Derby hosted by the Sebago Lake RC. Recent cold temperatures allowed Sebago Lake to ice over for the first time in several years. Although the Big Bay was not considered completely safe, the Lower Bay and Jordan Bay were favorable to fishermen to enjoy a great day on the ice.

Organizers mentioned that you could hear excitement in the fishermen's voices as they came to register or weigh their fish, that they were happy to be on Sebago Lake again this year.

With nearly 700 registrants entering this year, the club was excited to see so many folks enjoying the outdoors and seeing some old friends back again. Sunday's festivities were cancelled in anticipation of the incoming storm.

Photo: Rotarian Greg Foster weighing fish at the Derby on February 15.



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