



News from the Clubs

ROTARY DISTRICT 7780 CLUBS

SERVICE, FUNDRAISING, CELEBRATIONS &
COLLABORATIONS

MAY 1, 2023





Bethel

What a month it has been for the members of our club! Our weekly programs have been fantastic and we have established strategic partnerships, and providing funding to several area organizations. We presented a check for \$15,000 to Lyndsey Smith and Justin Bondeson, co-coordinators of the Northstar Program which provides guidance and mentorship to 12-18 students in each grade from 7th – 12th, at Telstar HS. We organized a Spring Breakfast that served as a fundraising and friend-raising event. 140 happy diners attended, and it was held at the beautiful GraceNote Inn & Spa, where we hold our weekly meetings. (Photos Clockwise, breakfast crew)

We also have had some terrific speakers! Stephanie Montgomery, from Gould Academy, shared with us the work she is doing to promote Diversity, Equity and Belonging at the school, and in our community (photo). We have enjoyed classification talks from several of our new members: Scott Parker, Tammy Vermette, and Joan Nichols (photo), who all bring an incredible set of skills and talents to the club. Our President, Jean Benedict, accompanied by Rotarians Steve Wight and Vice President Richard Tummon, were enthusiastic upon their return from the District Training Assembly. Also present, but behind the camera, was club member and Assistant DG, Michele Cole.

Additionally, this is scholarship season – and we awarded a \$1,000 non-traditional scholarship to Kate Webb, the program coordinator of Bethel Area Arts & Music, to pursue studies in Non-Profit Management (photo).





Biddeford-Saco

Our club hosted a Ukrainian Delegation visiting Maine to learn more about our government, our cultures and about Renewable Energy / Energy Independence as part of the Open World Program. The delegates were welcomed with a gala event held at Thornton Academy. The evening opened with a stellar performance by Valerie Nahorney, Steve Jones, Lisa Nelsen, and Larry Nelson, performing the National Anthems of Ukraine and The United States. A video welcome by John Hewko, CEO of RI, followed with a message of hope and support from Rotarians around the world in both English and Ukrainian.

Senator Angus King presented a heartwarming message of courage and expressed the incredible bravery of all Ukrainians. DG Claudia Frost highlighted the funds raised by Rotarians for humanitarian efforts for Ukraine refugees. DGE Marion Cheney spoke about Rotary's theme for the upcoming year; Create Hope in the World. Mayor Alan Casavant of Biddeford presented the group with a Proclamation to honor, celebrate and recognize this group for their purpose.





Bridgton-Lake Region

President Elect John Eliassen led a team of Rotarians, Interactors, Friends of Rotary in cleanup efforts in Bridgton on Earth Day. Together with other Chamber members, nonprofits and individuals, cleanup covered much of the town. (Photo: Interactors top left)

Speakers included Bridgton Community Development Director Tori Hill and members of the Bridgton Visioning Committee brought Rotarians up to date and sought input from members into Town Planning. Gary Colello, Bridgton Recreational Director, provided an update on the work at the Organization over the past 10 years (Photo top right).

We took time to honor members with PH Society, Polio Plus Society and new member inductions. (Photos: see new member Dan Hickman, bottom right, and PP Jessica Putnam, bottom left.)

For more information on Club activities visit:
<https://lakeregionrotary.com> or its FB Page.



Brunswick

The Rotary Club of Brunswick presents the First of July Games on the Mall & Cornhole Tournament, near the gazebo on the outdoor Mall in downtown Brunswick on Saturday, July 1, 2023. FREE Games starting at 10 am, featuring sack races, pie eating contests and more. Free fun for the whole family!

Starting at 12 noon, a Brunswick Rules Cornhole Tournament Community Fundraiser will begin. Three players per team. Enter to win bragging rights! Sponsorships available. Individuals may register for \$10 per player and sponsored team captains may register for \$100 per team. Registration is online at www.BrunswickMaineRotary.org by clicking on the "Cornhole Tournament & Community Fundraiser" link.

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FAMILY FUN & FUNDRAISING!!





Dover

The Dover RC and guests, including DG Claudia Frost, recently joined lead docent Nur Shoop on a Sankofa Guided Walking Tour presented by the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire. More information on future events at: <https://blackheritagetrailnh.org/>. (Photo Top Left)



We love helping those in the community. Recently Club President Megan Keil donated \$2,000 to the Dover Teen Center for their Summer Program. Thank you to Stephen Pappajohn for all he does to help the teens in the local community! (Photo Top Right)



The Rotary Club of Dover loves to learn from others at the recent Rotary District Training Assembly . (Photo Bottom Right)



32 people, one hour, 12+ bags of litter, many recyclables, a scooter, a suitcase, a long board, a metal thing, a piece of tire, a pipe. This was Don't Trash Dover's Litter Collection Walk, "Earth Day 2023." Next month, we will depart from Beckwith Park for Litter Collection Walk!





Durham-Great Bay

SAVE THE DATE

Durham Great Bay Rotary Club

Summer Fest

June 17 – 12-6PM

Boulder Field / University of NH

More Details Coming Soon!

A photograph of people sitting on a grassy field at an outdoor event, with trees and tents in the background.

Save The Date
DURHAM GREAT BAY ROTARY
SummerFest

JUNE 17TH 12-6PM
Boulder Field | University of NH

Join Durham Great Bay Rotary Club for an event that you will not want to miss. Our first annual Summerfest is sure to be a blast for all ages. Admission is free, donations are welcome.

*Live Music, Food Trucks, Cornhole
Tournament, Vendors, Kids
Activities, Bouncy House, and More*

More Details Coming Soon!

Exeter

Celebrate Spring while supporting those in greater need! The Exeter Rotary Club is holding a new fundraiser, a Dance Party on Friday, May 5th from 6:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. at The Saltonstall Farm on Stratham Heights Road in Stratham, NH. Tickets can be purchased online by going to the Exeter Rotary Club website at: www.exeterrotary.org


Once there choose Event Links. The acclaimed Sharon Jones of Portsmouth and her band will be “rocking the house”. So join us and invite your friends to celebrate Spring and Cinco de Mayo while supporting many community and global organizations.

EXETER ROTARY PRESENTS


Dance Party

SUPPORTING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND LOCAL COMMUNITY NON PROFITS

Featuring
Sharon Jones & Company Dance Band




MAY 5, 2023
6:00-9:00PM
SALTONSTALL FARM
STRATHAM




\$75/PP INCLUDES
TACO BAR & CASH BAR

PRESENTED BY:




Rotary Club
of Exeter, NH

FOR MORE INFORMATION
& TICKETS:



TINYURL.COM/
ROTARYDANCE
PARTY

SPONSORED BY:



EXETER HOSPITAL
an exeter health company



Oxford Hills

The Oxford Hills Rotary Club is pleased to welcome its newest member, Alisha Berry. Alisha's classification will be Mortgage Originator. Alisha lives in South Paris with her son, Corbyn, and they love to spend time together doing anything baseball! Congratulations and welcome to OH Rotary, Alisha! Shown L to R: Club President George Rice, new member Alisha Berry, and sponsor Patty Rice.

Club members spent time on Earth Day doing roadside cleanup along Penneseewasee Lake (a/k/a Norway Lake). Many interesting items were picked up, including a deer carcass! Shown L to R: Becky Kaurup, Paul Thornfeldt, John Griffith, Dave and Becky Preble, Beth Abbott. Photo taken by Peter Kaurup, Community Service Director.





Portland

Join us for a *free*
Fentanyl Awareness Concert
Sunday, May 7th at 12:30 PM
Deering Oaks Park, Portland

Award-winning, Singer-Songwriter Don Campbell is coming to Deering Oaks Park for a *free* concert on Sunday, May 7th, from 12:30 – 4:30 PM to raise awareness about the FENTANYL CRISIS in Maine. The event is co-sponsored by the City of Portland and the Portland Rotary Club. Public health partners and opioid support organizations will be on site to provide education and tools, including fentanyl test strips and Narcan.

Proceeds benefit the Portland Rotary's Recovery Task Force and social service providing partners like Preble Street, Milestone Recovery, Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center, MaineWorks, and Providence Place.

Join us and the Don Campbell Band for an afternoon of live music, connections and the opportunity to raise awareness and save lives! For more information, go to <https://portlandrotary.org>.



Portsmouth

On April 20th, 130 members and their guests gathered at the festively decorated Elks Club on the waterfront in Portsmouth to celebrate a huge milestone for the Portsmouth Rotary Club, our 100th. Past Presidents Cleo Villaflores and Neal Ouellett chaired the committee. They were instrumental in creating a fun and celebratory atmosphere geared towards members past and present, with dancing to live music by Yellow House Blues Band. Delicious food was provided by Great Circle Catering. The weather gods shined upon us with a bright, sunny spring day. Event planning was coordinated by Love Affair Event Planning's Emily Gross. Decorations were coordinated by PP Aileen Dugan and Betsy Scott. Photos Clockwise, L-R: Cleo Villaflores & Corey Mason; Joanie Dickinson, Yvonne Legge & Midge Leiter; Priscilla MacInnis, Betsy Scott, Aileen Dugan & Nicole Clark.; and PP Ben Wheeler points out that our Hands On Project sign, used for decades, has Portsmouth misspelled!





River Valley

River Valley Rotary Club had interesting speakers in April. Glenn Gordon invited members to participate in River Valley Community Clean Up held on Earth Day. He was seeking volunteers to help clean up road sides of the towns of the River Valley. Glenn also invited Rotarians to a forum on “End The Stigma Now” May 1st 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Apostolic Church, 9 Brown St., Mexico, ME. For more information, call Glenn at (307)357-1758 or email Glenn.gordon@ocmhs.org.

The second featured speaker was Chris Reed, Rumford Fire Chief. He addressed the concerns of the community of train derailments happening throughout the country. As head of the local Hazmat program, he explained the precautions and training the local Fire Department is doing in conjunction with the 30+- members of the Nine Dragon Paper Mill Hazmat team. The paper mill has the most hazardous chemicals in the State, pure Ammonia needed in their production of paper. Chief Reed assured us that the local Fire Departments in conjunction with the mill’s Hazmat team are prepared for any derailment mishap which could occur. He, also, addressed the new Fire Station being built on the corner of Falmouth Street and Essex Avenue, Rumford. The ground work has started!



Photo L-R : Rotarian Ed Paterson who sponsored the speaker, Chris Reed - Rumford Fire Chief, and Roger Whitehouse - Club President .



Saco Bay Sunset

As part of the Open World Program, three Ukrainians visited the area learning about how to improve their renewable energy after the war. The Rotary Club of Saco Bay Sunset was fortunate enough to have lunch with them at Batson River Brewery and Distillery in Biddeford on April 22, 2023. The Club enjoyed talking renewable energy and hearing about their families from Ukraine. This program was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Biddeford-Saco. Kudos to them and a special thanks to their club President Brenda Pollack!

Pictured at left are Saco Bay Sunset Rotarians and Ukrainians at the restaurant. On right Club President Carol Marcotte with Ukrainians.





Sanford-Springvale

Sanford-Springvale Rotary Club to Celebrate 100th Anniversary

In 1922, a local Sanford-Springvale businessman attended a meeting of the Portland Rotary Club and was so impressed he applied for membership. He was told the Portland Club already had a member in his classification, that it was a long ride from Sanford to Portland and that he should start his own club in his home town. He gathered together 20 local business and professional men and their first meeting was held on November 23, 1922. The club's new Charter from Rotary International arrived on January 19, 1923 and the Charter night celebration took place on February 17, 1923.

The rest is, as they say, "history." This year our club is celebrating 100 years of service to our community and the world. Our members have created a \$300,000 plus fund to provide scholarships to deserving students, raised awareness about the unhoused population in Sanford and raised and donated thousands of dollars to programs which support them; immunized several thousands of children against polio in India; built over a dozen water catchment dams in India; built a meditation garden for patients visiting the Cancer Care Center of York County; and supported countless other projects funded by District and Global grants. Finally, our members have cooked literally tons of chicken livers at the Acton Fair. And just as important as our service to others, we are a "family" - enjoying fun and fellowship with each other.

Our celebration will take place on Saturday, June 3rd with an evening of food, dancing, and fun in a hangar at the Sanford Seacoast Regional Airport! We look forward to this great celebration of our past and anticipation of the next 100 years of service to our community and the world!





South Berwick-Eliot

The Club has been super-busy these past few weeks and that will continue through the end of June! This is where our service and fundraising activities go into a frenzy.

On March 24th we had our annual international fundraiser, our Geography Quiz Night. DG Claudia was there as were so many in our communities and schools. This year's theme was "Where in the world is Milot, Haiti" as we supported the Life and Hope programs there and the vibe was wonderful. \$8000 was raised.

Then on March 31st we had our community gala for Camp Kita, a summer camp for young people impacted by the suicide of a loved one. This was a dance and auction and the community participation was fantastic thanks to the band "Undercover", a popular local dance band that donated their services to the event. This raised \$9000 plus the dance floor was full from start to finish. Community members asked us to do this again next year!

April activities helped raise funds for education and scholarships.





South Portland- Cape Elizabeth

SPCE Rotary Holds Successful Visioning Session

On April 1st, members of the SPCE Rotary club gathered to revisit, and invigorate club intentions and future goals. This is a systematic process partnered with District guidance and support. In the words of our founder: “Rotary is not an organization for retrospection. It is rather one whose worth and purpose lie in future activity rather than past performance.” Paul Harris Founder of Rotary International. For more on Visioning and how to involve your club, see the article on the Front Page.





Westbrook-Gorham

Congratulations to all the winners at the [2023 Westbrook-Gorham Rotary Pizza Challenge](#)! And thank you to ALL the pizza “challengers,” our sponsors, all the event volunteers, and especially the attendees! We raised over \$9,000 for our [Westbrook-Gorham Rotary](#) programs which include providing student scholarships, fighting food insecurity & homelessness, and training tomorrow’s leaders!

The [Westbrook Community Center](#) gymnasium was packed for this amazing community gathering and fundraiser - with plenty of great prizes, games and activities for kids and families, and most especially some great pizza from some of Westbrook and Gorham’s best pizzerias & restaurants! The people have spoken - and this year’s award winners are:

Best Tasting Pizza: Profenno’s Pizzeria & Pub.

Most Creative Pizza: The Frog and Turtle.

Two RT Jet Blue tickets (arranged by JetBlue Captain Phil Spiller): Lorraine Faherty.



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, RC of Bridgton-Lake Region

Michelle Lester, District Newsletter Publisher