



May 2026

Club News

Rotary

District 7780



Bethel

Country Breakfast & 5K Run/Walk!

Diners and Rotarians alike enjoyed Bethel Rotary's annual Country Breakfast on March 29, held at Gould Academy's Ordway Dining Hall. More than 130 people turned out, with proceeds going to the club's community projects. A great time for a great cause!

Next, we are gearing up for our annual 5k run/walk on May 16, another fundraiser for our programs.



Rotary
Club of Bethel
MAHOOSUC KIDS / **5K**
RUN/WALK

Saturday,
May 16 Crescent Park School
19 Crescent Street, Bethel

7:00 am - Registration
8:30 am - 5K Run/Walk
9:15 am - 1 mile Youth Race (12 & under)

Register - www.runreg.com/bethel-rotary-5K

18 & Under - Free | Over 18 - \$15 pre-reg. | \$20 day of

Presented by:  **HEALTHREACH**
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS 

Biddeford-Saco

Being Kind to the Environment with Beach Cleanup!

With Rotary recognizing April as Environment Month and Earth Day on the 22nd—it was a time for Biddeford-Saco to highlight projects that protect natural resources and promote sustainability. For this month's Kindness Day the club hosted a cleanup at Bayview Beach in Saco. Volunteers from the University of New England joined the effort, along with Senator Donna Bailey, helping remove debris and restore the shoreline.

Special thanks go to Rotarians Conrad Welzel and Cynthia Giroux of the Kindness Committee for organizing the event and keeping our focus on service that supports a healthier environment.



Boothbay Harbor

The Big Gray Barn is Open for its Sixth Season!

On Saturday, April 4, the Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club opened the doors of its Big Gray Barn for its sixth season of selling furniture, household goods, art, collectibles, boats—well, just about anything. The Barn was originally built by club members to store donations for the long-running August Rotary Auction. When the pandemic halted that event in 2020, the Barn was overflowing, so the Club opened it to the community—masks and all. The response was tremendous, and the Barn has since become our primary fundraising venue.

To keep it running takes real Rotary People Power: pickup crews, organizers, and the Saturday sales team working together each week. The Barn is open Saturdays, 8:30–11:00 a.m., at 66 Montgomery Road. Come early—there's often a line waiting for President Laurie Zimmerli to open the doors.

Photos: Doug and Jeff moving the chair, Brian and Interactor AJ, who joins us most Saturdays, supervising. Below, Bill, Jeff, Doug and AJ.



Bridgton-Lake Region

Bridgton-Lake Region Shreds Your Secrets!

The Bridgton-Lake Region Rotary Club is once again hosting its popular **Shred-a-Thon** on Saturday, May 2, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Food City parking lot in Bridgton. This drive-through, rain-or-shine event offers residents and small businesses a safe, easy way to dispose of sensitive documents while supporting Rotary service projects across the Lake Region.

All materials will be shredded on-site by Records Management Company, and staples or paper clips don't need to be removed. A suggested donation of \$18 covers a standard Banker's Box, with all proceeds benefiting Rotary programs in Bridgton, Naples, Denmark, Harrison, and Sweden.

The club extends its thanks to this year's sponsors: **Food City, Northeast Bank, and Southern Maine Retirement Services.**

FMI about our projects and programs, go to our website LakesRegionRotary.com and our FB Page.



SHRED-A-THON

FIGHT IDENTITY THEFT

SATURDAY MAY 2
8am-12pm
Food City Parking Lot



SAFELY SHRED
Bank Statements
Medical Records,
Tax Files, ETC...

SUGGESTED DONATION
\$18 Bag or Box 15" x 12" x 10"

SPONSORED BY:



207-583-5936
lakeregionrotary@gmail.com



Dover

Celebrating Literacy & Welcoming New Leadership!

The Rotary Club of Dover enjoyed a meaningful month of connection, service, and new beginnings. Our annual dictionary project brought members to Saint Mary Academy, where students lit up as they received their very own dictionaries—an enduring tradition that strengthens literacy and inspires a love of learning. Moments like these remind us why investing in young minds matters.

We also proudly welcomed **Robb Clemons** as our newest member. Introduced by Stephen Pappajohn, Robb shared highlights of his journey—from award-winning accordion virtuoso to UNH graduate, CPA, devoted husband and father of four, and committed community volunteer with organizations such as End 68 Hours of Hunger and Gather.

We're thrilled to have Robb join our Rotary family as we continue serving Dover with energy and heart.



Damariscotta-Newcastle

Shifting to Spring & Summer Mode!

Despite winter lingering in MidCoast Maine, the Rotary Club of Damariscotta-Newcastle is shifting into Spring and Summer mode. Soil preparation for our District Grant Pollinator Garden with Inn Along the Way began last fall, and spring planting is now underway. Our members continue serving the community through the Ecumenical Food Pantry, Meals on Wheels, and our well-known parking and traffic crew for CLC YMCA events. Planning is also in motion for Karl's Kids on October 18 and our first annual **SummerFest Fun Fair** on June 20.

SummerFest is a free, family-friendly fair designed to bring neighbors together while supporting local needs. Activities will include food trucks, three bands, a kids' zone, craft fair, tug-of-war, dunk tank, raffles, silent auctions, Sully's hot dogs for children under 11, cotton candy, garlic fries, and more—something for every age to enjoy.



Hampton

Our Club's Work Spans the Globe!

This month, we heard from two of our own Hampton Rotarians whose service reaches far beyond our local community. Joan Correll shared her work in India through a Rotary International project focused on building dams and expanding access to clean water—an effort that continues to transform daily life for families and villages.

Rick Considine reflected on his many years in Rotary, including his time with the Rotary Club of Galway in Ireland. He brought pieces of the club's history to share, from a district flag to newspaper clippings highlighting their service.

Both presentations were powerful reminders that Rotary connections—and Rotary impact—truly span the globe.



Oxford Hills

Two Clubs, One Island, One Purpose!

The Oxford Hills and Kennebunk Interact Clubs teamed up for a Peak's Island beach cleanup in honor of Earth Day—a joint project coordinated by June Huston of the Kennebunk RC and Tina Fox of the Oxford Hills RC, in partnership with the Peaks Environment Action Team.

Twenty-three Interact students—12 from Kennebunk and 11 from Oxford Hills—were mixed into four teams, starting the day with icebreakers that quickly turned into genuine connections. Their shared commitment to service made collaboration effortless, and new friendships formed as they worked side by side to protect the island's shoreline.

Special thanks to June Huston, Tina Fox, Beth Abbott, and Susan Thomb for bringing together two schools, two Rotary clubs, and two Interact clubs for one meaningful cause. In photos, Tina & Interactors and the Peaks Environmental Action Team.



Portland

Portland Talks Trash!

A baker's dozen Portland Rotarians tackled a cleanup at Riverton Trolley Park, hauling out a trailer-load of truly *fugly* stuff. (Fugly is a word; look it up.) The volunteers covered the trails and hillsides, armed with long-stem grabbers and plenty of determination.

Walkers enjoying the day thanked us along the way — we assured them we were Rotarians, not court-ordered help.

Photo: Trolley Park Cleanup Team. Tom Talbott 2nd from left. Who else do you recognize?



JOIN US FOR AN

EPIC DAY OF SERVICE

Rotary
PORTLAND, ME



WITH

&



“HELP US MAKE OUR COMMUNITY CLEANER AND GREENER”

MAY 16TH, 9AM-11:30AM

COFFEE, DONUTS, AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES AT 8:30

LITTER HAPPENS- SO DOES CLEANUP! COME HELP THE PORTLAND ROTARY AND THE PRCC CLEAN UP THE PARKS AND STREETS OF PORTLAND.

SUPPLIES PROVIDED AND TEAM PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED

**MEET AT THE SALVATION ARMY PARKING LOT
88 PREBLE STREET, PORTLAND**



Portsmouth

Portsmouth Rotary: April Highlights!

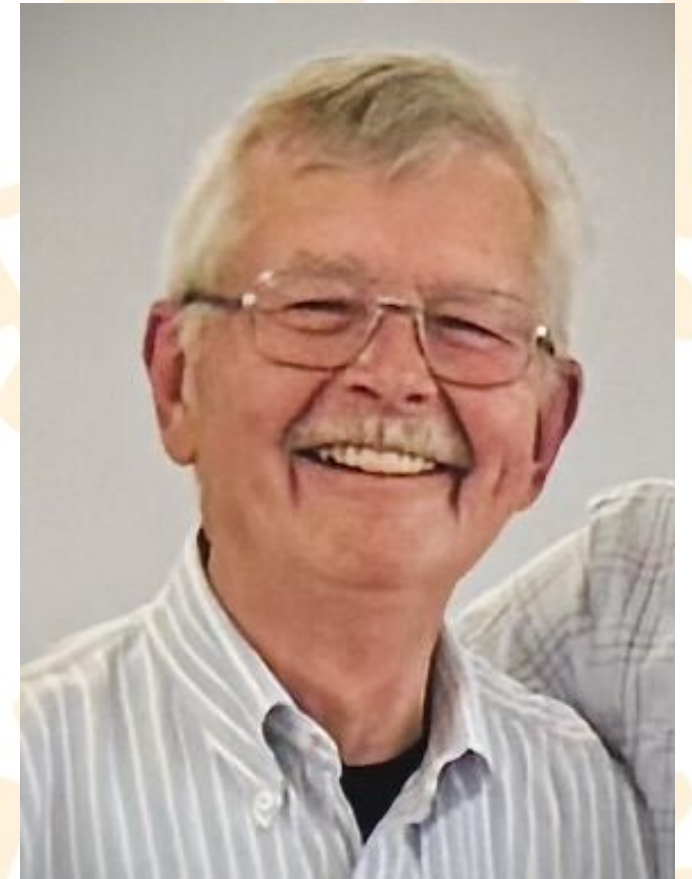
Dr. Al Lantinen received the Rev. Gordon Allen Humanitarian Award, with music provided by the co-directors of St. John's Church and Portsmouth Pro Musica's Overtones—a group Dr. Lantinen (in Photo) sang with for 13 years. The award honors Gordon Allen, a 39-year Rotarian and longtime Rector of St. John's.

Eileen Joyce-Coute reported that our RYLA students have raised \$2,500 to support homeless students. She has also secured more than \$12,050 in golf tournament sponsorships, though additional sponsors and foursomes are still needed for the June 12 event at Pease.

The club held its first 2026 social at the Black Rock Social Club on March 26 and celebrated its 103rd anniversary on March 28.

We also welcomed fourth graders from the Rye Elementary Chess Team, recognizing the important work of the Jeremy Alex Fund.

May brings book collections for President Ian's Little Free Libraries, Vocational Award nominations, a May 7 clothing drive for Friends in Action, and our annual scholarship awards on May 14.



River Valley

River Valley Rotary: April Highlights!

The River Valley Rotary Club enjoyed a full month of service, new members, and strong community partnerships. Rumford Town Manager George O’Keefe joined us to share updates on several local initiatives, from community development projects to progress on recreation and housing efforts. (Top photo – Rotarian of the Day Dick Lovejoy & O’Keefe.)

We inducted three new members—Jessica Hines and Fawn Ouellette from the HOPE Association, and Vickie Morton—expanding our club’s leadership and community reach. (Middle photo – Rotarian Jennifer Merrill, new members Jessica & Fawn & Club President Dan Duguay.)

Our partnership with Jobs for Maine Graduates shone brightly during “Making a Difference Day,” where Mountain Valley High School students worked alongside Rotarian mentors at the American Legion. Ten students and their RSU 10 supervisors spent the day learning hands-on service, supported by Rotarians Eddie Patterson and Dave Duguay.

A strong month of connection, service, and growing the next generation of community leaders.



Saco Bay

A Month of Momentum in Saco Bay!

The Saco Bay Rotary Club packed May with service, fellowship, and big wins. At the 28th Annual Mary's Walk, President David Arenstam led a strong volunteer crew, partnering with the Saco Police Department to keep traffic flowing safely. Their efforts helped the event raise an impressive **\$170,000** for the Maine Cancer Foundation.

Fellowship took center stage with a special meeting at the Dyer Library/Museum, where members enjoyed an engaging tour of the historic building.

The month wrapped with our biggest fundraiser of the year—the **Auction Extravaganza**. After two weeks of online bidding, the excitement peaked at the live auction on April 18. A full hall of Rotarians and friends helped push proceeds past **\$36,000**, making it one of our most successful events yet.



Sanford-Springvale

Big Checks, Big Cleanups, Big Insights!

April was a powerhouse month for the Sanford-Springvale Rotary Club. We kicked things off by presenting a **\$10,000 check** to the Sanford Community Youth Alliance—funds raised at our annual January Thaw event to support vulnerable students ages 14–21 who are at risk of homelessness.

Just days earlier, members teamed up with the Sanford/Springvale Beautification Program for a spirited cleanup of the Route 109/4 roundabout. More improvements are planned, and the momentum is strong.

We wrapped the month with a truly eye-opening meeting inside the **York County Jail**, where members received a behind-the-scenes look at daily operations and the challenges faced by staff and inmates alike.

Service, impact, and curiosity—April delivered all three.



Sebago Lake

Reeling In Support for Maine's Wildlife!

Sebago Lake Rotary reeled in a win for conservation this month, presenting **\$1,890** in 50/50 proceeds from its recent ice-fishing derby to **Maine Operation Game Thief**. Club President Robin Mullins handed the check to MOGT Chairman Greg Sirpis, celebrating a partnership that protects the state's most treasured natural resources.

MOGT works to shine a light on abuses against Maine's wildlife and to support the officers who safeguard our woods and waters. Their efforts help track down and prosecute those who introduce non-native fish and commit other environmental violations—crimes that threaten the health of Maine's ecosystems.

A great day for Rotary, a great day for conservation, and a great boost for the people who keep Maine wild.



South Berwick-Eliot

Globe-Trotting for Good: Quiz Night Powers Guatemala Project!

Our annual **Geography Quiz Night** delivered another high-energy, full-house success in support of the Global Grant project in Santa Cruz, Guatemala. Global Grant lead DGE Michele Bois-Gilbody, district grants expert Carolyn Johnson, and Peter Johnson—who even jumped in as part of a winning team—joined hundreds of enthusiastic participants for an evening of learning, laughter, and lively competition.

Now in its **15th year**, the event once again showcased the incomparable quizmaster Mike Moloney, guiding **28 teams** of adults and students through rounds of brain-stretching geography challenges. Guests enjoyed great food, bid on auction items, snapped up 50/50 tickets, and kept the friendly rivalry going.

Early tallies show the event raised **about \$8,000**—a fantastic boost for the school project in Santa Cruz.

Huge thanks to everyone who played, volunteered, and made the night unforgettable.



Westbrook-Gorham

Celebrating 100 Years of Service to our Community

Over 40 Rotarians & friends celebrated 100 years of service to our community on Thursday April 9 in the Culinary Arts Dining room at WRVC.

Portland Rotary sponsored our club, and was well-represented that night by President Laura Young and DGND Tom Talbott. Laura presented a statement in honor of our 100 years to our VP Eli Small.

We were honored to have several members of the DG track in attendance, including DG Emma, DGE Michele & PDG Dick Hall.

Westbrook Mayor and W-G Rotarian David Morse read a proclamation via video.

A delicious meal, including an incredible charcuterie board were prepared and served by Chef Maureen Hernandez & her students.

Mocktails were provided courtesy of Machias Savings Bank and prepared by Deb & Barb.

