

Foundation Committee - December update

The big events of the fall were Polio Plus day and the Sam Owori dinner. Behind the scenes, plans for next year's Foundation trainings were ongoing.

Polio Plus. Various clubs had bridge crossings, walks, pinkie days; all designed to raise awareness and funding to End Polio Now. Of particular note was the Portsmouth Bridge Walk, again sponsored by the Seacoast club and now in its third year. Bridgton Lake's walk garnered pledges of \$1595, which the club matched for a total of \$2190. Impressive! Separately, the good people of Cape Elizabeth have shown their appreciation for retiring city manager Mike McGovern with over \$7000 in gifts to PP of their own. As a result of this and more, District wide, PP donations have reached \$20,734, in pace with last year's record giving levels.

Sam Owori dinner. It was very exciting to host President-nominee Sam on what was his first Rotary event since his nomination was official! It is also exciting that, our District is significantly involved in two of the three major Foundation events currently ongoing in his home district. We had 147 Rotarians at the dinner, and registration for each included a \$26.50 donation. Biddeford-Saco paid for three of its members to come, and although no Damariscotta-Newcastle Rotarians were there, the club generously sent a check for \$106 (4 times \$26.50) to the District. In total, District Rotarians contributed \$4,001.50 to the Annual Fund from the dinner. The final costs for the dinner itself are still being computed; we anticipate a small shortfall. To be continued.

Getting out the word. I have spoken to three clubs in the past two months; those and upcoming visits are interspersed with presentations of banners recognizing 2015-16 giving, and more presentations are scheduled by Sheila Rollins, Lawrence Furbish and me. Meanwhile, Peter Johnson is reaching out to Club Foundation Chairs for one-on-one conversations about potential PHS donors in the clubs. He is also providing primers on how to use TRF reports. We feel there is good potential - particularly with younger Rotarians in promoting a Rotary Direct campaign; more on that in the future.

2017-18 Grants Training. The 2017-18 decks have been updated; videos have been taken, and Curt Combar is working to put together the new training modules. Interestingly, 7780 is seen throughout Rotary as a leader in this area; Dave Underhill and I are now part of a Learning Center team that is working on this and other grants modules to be used across the Rotary platform, and it is sort of delicious to hear other districts talk of "borrowing" their material from 7780's own and learning from our experiences. All is on tap for the new modules to be ready on February 1, as scheduled. Our next big step is to develop a "cloud" to better manage Club Qualifications.

Challenges remain. The biggest, of course, is to turn the Sam Owori dinner into major gifts to The Rotary Foundation. To be continued.