



News from the Clubs

ROTARY DISTRICT 7780 CLUBS

SERVICE, FUNDRAISING, CELEBRATIONS &
COLLABORATIONS

DECEMBER 5, 2022





Bethel

The Rotary Club of Bethel had a fantastic November filled with service above self! We brought in two new members committed to serving our communities, Todd DeMaio, and Marilyn DiFillipo. We enjoyed several informative and inspiring programs- with highlights from the Northstar Youth Mentoring program and from Mornings at the Museum - a living history program for youth at the Bethel Historical Society. We served more than 40 hungry diners on Thanksgiving, a first-time event to raise funds for the food insecure in our region. And we began our annual collection for the Christmas for Children program, a 35-year tradition of our club! It is so fantastic to share our energy and resources with those in need!

Learn more about our club's activities at bethelrotary.org.



How does NorthStar work?

Aspirations/Relationships

- Informal Relationship Building
 - Peer and Adult Mentorship
- Cohort Model
 - Meetings (voice and choice)!
 - Core Trips
- Peripheral Programming
 - Civic Engagement/Service
 - Community Partnerships
- Workforce Development





Biddeford-Saco

Susan Gajewski managed the list of Rotarian Volunteers for the 2022 bell ringing for the Salvation Army. Volunteers could ring the bell at either door at Walmart Biddeford with a fellow Rotarian or a family member.

The Club acknowledged Karen Garnett for taking the initiative to write all the thank you letters to those who contributed to the Earl A Goodwin Charitable Fund. It was a lot of work that didn't go unnoticed.

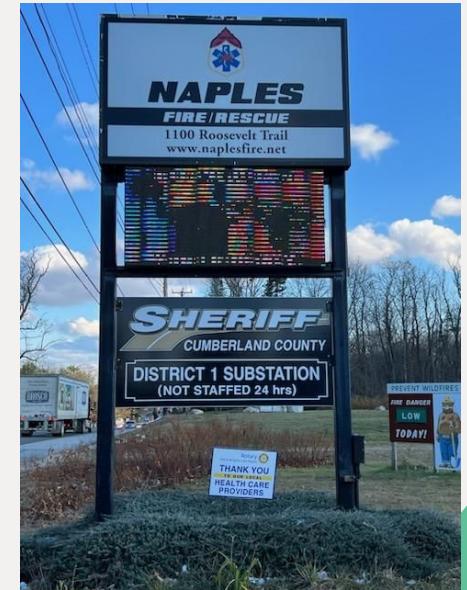
An important speaker this past month was Sheriff William L. King, Jr. of the York County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff King lead a living discussion about the programs of his office and the work he is doing with his teams.





Bridgton-Lake Region

There was a lot going on in the lakes region during the past month. But pictured highlights include helping Interactors at Lake Region High School with their annual Veterans luncheon. PE John Eliassen and PE Nominee Jesse Walsh are in the back of the group photo. Then we thanked community health care workers. We designed and posted signs at Bridgton Hospital, North Bridgton Family Practice, Bella Point Assisted Living, Naples EMT, Naples Family Practice and elsewhere in the lakes region. Signs thank local health care workers in conjunction with honoring rural health care providers throughout the US and beyond in November.





Brunswick

The Rotary Club of Brunswick presented Susan and Steve Weems with the 2022 Walter H. 'Doc' Phillips Memorial Award in October at the Harpswell Town Hall. Susan and Steve Weems live in Brunswick and were recommended for the award by their fellow community members and endorsed by members of Rotary Club's Pride and Heritage Committee. Both have been very active in the broader community for many years.

Walter 'Doc' Phillips was a member of Rotary for more than 40 years, was a multiple Paul Harris award recipient and raised many thousands of dollars for the Rotary Foundation. Doc died in 2019. In his honor, the Club created an annual Walter 'Doc' H. Phillips Memorial Award. Doc's widow Joan joined members of the Rotary Club at the recent ceremony to honor Susan and Steve Weems.

A permanent plaque is mounted at the Harpswell Town Office with places for each awardee's name. The award criteria includes that the recipient has demonstrated dedicated involvement in a field of Doc's interest, such as land conservation, volunteerism, education, water quality, and science programs. Pictured are Steve Weems, Susan Weems, Joan Phillips and President Lisa Harrison, RC Brunswick.





Damariscotta-Newcastle

Damariscotta-Newcastle Rotarians have been busy for weeks helping the Twin Villages get ready for the holiday season. At the Central Lincoln County Y annual holiday bazaar, they assisted with parking control. Meanwhile, with our friends in the Damariscotta-Newcastle Lions Club, other Rotarians decorated the bridge over the river with lights and fresh garlands in preparation for the area Chamber of Commerce Villages of Lights festivities. The beautiful lamp posts on the bridge were a gift to the community via a Rotary district grant.

Annual Bell-Ringing has begun in Damariscotta. The Damariscotta-Newcastle Rotary and Lions Clubs, joined by many local businesses, the Salt Bay LEGS Rotary, and community volunteers, have begun the annual holiday kettle collection at downtown Damariscotta and at Main Street Grocery. Monies raised local will stay local to assist local agencies.



The Dover Rotary Club knows how to have fun, raise money and distribute to worthy causes. Several members shopped recently, filling the Kids Closet with healthy snacks for the winter supporting teachers in local elementary schools. At the same time, \$3500 in gift cards were given to teachers to fill needs as part of the same program. Much was done during Polio Awareness month, including having Mike McGovern as a speaker and holding a third fundraiser of the year to help eradicate polio. What better place to do that than Bingo night? See all the red tees among players. And, finally, a highlight of the past month was a fellowship event of wining and dining before seeing Bye Bye Birdie with our very own Rotarian Kathy Fink as music lead.





Fryeburg Area

Fryeburg Area Rotary Club has partnered with Operation Warm, a Rotary Club started national nonprofit that manufactures brand-new high-quality coats for children. Operation Warm has partnered with Rotary Clubs and others all over North America serving over 4.6 million children and families since 1998.

Our club has, so far, purchased 36 winter coats from Operation Warm for children and young adults. During these challenging times we want to make sure everyone is safe and warm during the winter months. The coats are being distributed to needy families in our area by the Fryeburg Thrift Shop with gift tags showing the club's logo.

If you are interested in helping or knowing more about this wonderful and amazing project, please contact Ron Smith, FARC Operation Warm Team, 215-896-6870, rsmith.rotary@gmail.com.





Hampton

The Hampton Rotary Club hosts a Rotary Day each month. It's an opportunity for our members to invite guests and neighbors to join us. We tell them a little bit about our Club and the different service projects we're involved with. Guests have a chance to meet us and check out our Club. They are fun and informative events and we get to meet more great people.





Kennebunk Portside

Kennebunk Portside Rotary, under the leadership of Laura Andrews of Northeast Credit Union, has helped form a new Interact Club at the Middle School of the Kennebunks. Laura acts as advisor to the program. There is an active club at Kennebunk High School. She and the Club wanted to give younger students an opportunity to participate in such a program.

Their first project was a food drive in which they collected 1011 items to donate to Community Outreach Services (COS). The students created the advertising, delivered collection boxes to classrooms, and gathered all the boxes for counting before delivery to COS. The classroom collecting the most items will be rewarded with a party.

Pictured are three generations of Rotarians: Bob Wester, daughter Laura Andrews and grandson Brady Andrews, a seventh grader. Brady and five other students made up the Interactors on this successful first project.



Ogunquit

The importance of the Rotary Foundation is a frequent topic for Ogunquit Rotary Club members. Long time members have done a great job explaining to newer members how beneficial the foundation is to all of us around the world. At a recent club meeting there was a double celebration as Club President Heath Ouellette announced that Kerry Ellen Enright has been awarded her Paul Harris Fellow level 2 pin for having reached the \$2000 level of giving to the Rotary Foundation. In another announcement, Heath handed the club's Rotary Foundation Chair, Dr. Joe Boyle, an award from the Endowment Fund of the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International for becoming a benefactor. Joe has included the Endowment Fund as a beneficiary of \$1,000 in his estate. Big congratulations to Kerry and Dr. Joe!





Portland

In mid-November, the Club was honored to host Brenda Cressey, the District's Foundation Fund Development Chair, who officially recognized members of Portland's PolioPlus Society. *(Standing l-r: Bruce Moore, Dave Small, Dick Hall, Jim Willey, Amy Chipman, Jan Chapman; Seated: Brenda Cressey and Patty Byers; Not shown: Leslie Clark.)*

The Portland Rotary Club just completed a warm, winter boot drive for Portland elementary and middle schoolers who are homeless or new Mainers. There is a huge need as many families are experiencing a Maine winter for the first time.

Lamey Wellehan contributed 44 pairs of new boots and sold the Club 36 pairs at their cost. Goodwill contributed 70 pairs of gently used boots. Another 34 pairs were donated by Club members and the public. In all, 184 pairs of boots were contributed to keep students' feet warm and dry during the cold winter months.

At a Community Service Fair at the Amanda Rowe Elementary School in Portland held for new Mainers, volunteers from the Portland Club distributed boots to 40 students. So great to see their smiles, and many thanks from everyone at the Fair.





Saco Bay Sunset

As part of our District Grant's sustainability requirements for Stop Human Sex Trafficking – Educate, Empower and Hope, the Club held a raffle to support survivors. The drawing took place at JJ's Restaurant in Old Orchard Beach. The winner of the prize of \$100 bill and many scratch/lottery tickets was Liz Menard of Brunswick, ME. \$900 was raised. The Club thanks all of you for contributing and purchasing tickets for this lottery.

Recently the Club donated to the Salvation Army and the Saco Food Pantry for the purchase of food items for those in need. Photos are of President Carol Marcotte handing checks to John White of the Saco Food Pantry and Major Dan Brunell of the Old Orchard Beach Salvation Army. Club members will do bell ringing too for the Salvation Army.





Sanford-Springvale

On Wednesday, December 14th, in a cooperative effort with the Sanford-Springvale Kiwanis Club, the Sanford-Springvale Rotary Club will be co-hosting a Christmas event at Sanford Pride Elementary School. Approximately 150 students in need will gather and will be provided with a wonderful pizza party, dessert, and individual photos with Santa (where one of our very own will stand in for the big guy in the red suit!). Each child will also receive hand-knitted mittens, hats, an avatar, snow boots or snow jackets, and a gift they had wanted from Santa. This is a special event that has been held for over a decade, bringing holiday cheer and spirit to these children.



South Portland- Cape Elizabeth

The South Portland Cape Elizabeth Rotary Club began its 60th Annual Christmas Tree Sale on Friday, November 25th in Mill Creek Park, South Portland, 10am-6pm. There will be access to the tree lot plus an online ordering & curbside pickup option. To learn more about the hybrid style sale and online option, visit our website: rotarychristmastrees.com. Trees and wreaths can be reserved and paid for in advance. Continued hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 3-7pm. Saturday, Sunday 10am-6pm. **CLOSED** on Tuesday.

The Christmas Tree Sale is a major fundraising event that permits the SPCE Rotary Club to support local initiatives throughout the year such as food banks, scholarships, human welfare projects and more. The sale also provides us the opportunity to spread good cheer throughout the area, not to mention high quality Maine grown trees.





Westbrook-Gorham

Even though the Grinch apparently shut WG Rotary members off from the holiday tree supplies again this year, they refused to cut back on their annual fundraising goals. Bows in the Barn gatherings had Rotarians putting bright red bows on more than 270 wreaths, which were all sold before December 1.

November meeting guests included RYLA and Interact students from both Gorham and Westbrook High Schools. The students shared some of what they learned at RYLA and their impressive goals for the 2022-23 school year.

Photo of Rotarians & wreaths include Christine Johnson, Kathy Perkins & others. Other of student sharing his experience and goals.



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. About 75 words and a couple of photos with the identity 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 Bridgton-Lake Region

Michelle Lester, District Newsletter Publisher