



# THE DINGHY

FEBRUARY 1999

WILLIAM SKINNER DISTRICT GOVERNOR DISTRICT 7780 - 1998-1999

## DISTRICT GOVERNOR BILL'S MESSAGE

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We are very fortunate in our District that our leadership, in fact our whole team, works so well together, and that we are supportive of each other! Like any organization, we have meetings, and more meetings to do our work, and to enjoy each other's fellowship. During some of my recent meetings with you it has surprised me a bit that there is much talk about: District Governor Nominee Mike going to the International Assembly for his final training, the President Elects going to P.E.T.S., and new Assistant Governors having already started their thorough training.

I know I should not be surprised that this is all happening because it is that time of year, but it does make me realize how fast our year is going. As I do this article we have five months to finish our projects and to reach our goals, and by the time you receive this newsletter, there will be a little over four months till June thirty.

Please do a thorough review of all the wonderful things you have accomplished, look at our goals and do what is necessary to accomplish them:

Foundation annual giving support of \$52.00 per member.

New Benefactors, two per club.

Your clubs qualifying for the 1998-99 Presidential Citation.

Your clubs winning the Governor's trophy in your category, and, One percent net growth in membership.

Congratulations to the **South Berwick** club. They have been notified by our Rotary Foundation that their application for a Children's Opportunity Grant has been approved for \$15,000.00 for support of the Friends Forever program. They have also been awarded a Discovery grant to travel

(Continued on Page 2)





## THE DGN NEWS CORNER .... BY MIKE MCGOVERN DGN

Planning is in high gear for 1999-2000. PDG and District Trainer Craig Wellman conducted an orientation session for all six Assistant District Governors at my home on January 23rd. The session was also attended by 2000-2001 District Governor Elias Thomas. During February, all incoming Club Presidents are being hosted by the Assistant District Governors at pre-PETS meetings throughout the District. On February 26th, I will be off to Anaheim for eight days of intensive training. Ten days after my return, I will be joining nearly all of our incoming Club Presidents at PETS training in Nashua. The six Assistant District Governors will also be there as well as DGD Elias Thomas, PDG Marie Williams and Governor Bill. In addition, Craig Wellman will be serving as sergeant-at-arms for the event. After PETS, the next major training for club leaders for 1999-2000 will be the District Assembly at the University of New England in Biddeford on April 24th. Watch for more details next month.

I continue to enjoy doing make-ups at every club. By mid-February, I will have found 33 of the 39 clubs. It has been great to meet so many of you in your home clubs and to see many fine programs and to hear all that you are doing. The remaining clubs for me to attend are fairly close to home so I will be getting more sleep on Tuesday mornings. This has been a good adjustment for me in getting up early as I will never be an early riser. Nonetheless, I look forward to visiting all the clubs again from mid-July to Mid-October.

In closing, I wish to remind all incoming Club Presidents that I will be asking you to jot down at PETS the top three priorities for your club for next year. If any other Rotarians reading this have suggestions, now would be a good time to relate them to your 1999-2000 President.

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### DC MESSAGE CONTINUED

(from Page One)

to Cozumel, Mexico in March.

The following clubs are working on Matching Grants: Boothbay Harbor, Portsmouth Sunrise, Newburyport, and Bridgton Lake Region. Wells is working on a Discovery grant to Bosnia, and we have different members of our District traveling to Honduras and Romania. Please plan to come to the World Peace and Understanding Dinner Saturday, February 27, 1999 and hear about these interesting projects, and more.

Thank you for your support and encouragement, and for allowing me to be YOUR District Governor this year, it is an honor that I shall remember forever.

DREAM BIG, AND FOLLOW YOUR ROTARY DREAM.

*Your friend in Rotary.*

*Bill*

## **"RYLA 99"**

**CAMP HINDS**

**SET UP DAY**

**SATURDAY,**

**JUNE 19, 1999**

**RYLA**

**CONFERENCE**

**SUNDAY JUNE 20 -**

**WEDNESDAY JUNE 23**



# CLUB ATTENDANCE TIPS

All of our clubs are working hard to improve their attendance and I was really thrilled to see in a recent Governor's newsletter that the Newburyport Rotary Club had reported 100% perfect attendance. When I congratulated them on this achievement I received the following letter from Jay Howlett explaining how they did it, and I wanted to share it with you for your consideration.

*Dear Bill,*

Thank you for your kind letter acknowledging our efforts for 100% attendance. The club works very hard to attain this goal and I am pleased to share some of our strategy.

The effort begins with our Club President making announcements 2 months ahead of time regarding the November attendance. Next, we break the club into teams of ten with a captain for each team. The week prior to November, we have a special segment of the meeting devoted to attendance. The teams and captians are assigned and we get some enthusiasm going. Captains are responsible for making sure that each member of the team meets his or her attendance requirements.

We also have several activities scheduled for the month of November to make sure there are plenty of make-up opportunities. This year we planned a wine tasting fund raiser. We also put on our annual Christmas parade and follow up with a party for the children. The directors meeting is also open to all members this month. The members have one final

opportunity to make up by volunteering as part of our annual bell ringing for the Salvation Army. We also have a number of senior members whose attendance helps to bolster our overall numbers.

We all enjoy our Rotary fellowship and take great pride in our club. With careful event planning and our usual good natured enthusiasm, the attendance goals of November are easily achieved.

Very truly yours.

*Jay Howlett*

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## ROTARY FOUNDATION PROGRAMS FOR 2000-2001

The District Rotary Foundation Committee met after the Foundation Seminar to select the programs for the year 2000-2001. The committee selected \$25,000. in Humanitarian allocations which can be used for Discovery Grants, sponsor portions of Matching Grants, Helping Grants, 3-H Grants, as well as Disaster Relief, Rotary Volunteers, Polio-Plus Partners and New Opportunities Grants. The committee allocated \$35,000. to be used for educational programs. This would cover an ambassadorial scholarship, and, something new for this District, a \$12,000.00 allocation for a second GSE Team. A donation to the World fund of \$5000. was made with the stipulation that it be used strictly for literacy projects. The remaining \$2600.00 was donated to the Permanent Fund. This total of \$67,600.00 represents the 60% portion of total contributions as provided in the SHARE program. These funds were raised through contributions in 1997-1998 during Marie Williams' governorship and will be expanded during Elias Thomas' reign.

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## CORRECTIONS TO THE DISTRICT DIRECTORY

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Sarando O. Giftos

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## News And Notes Around District 7780

On January 18, Governor Bill Skinner visited the Rotary Club of Exeter. In his remarks he enthusiastically mentioned IMEC, the International Medical Collaborative, located in Seabrook, New Hampshire, as providing a wonderful opportunity for service for clubs from the entire district. Intrigued, two Exeter Rotarians paid a reconnaissance visit to the IMEC facility. One of the scouts, John Whiteside, is editor of the Powderhouse, the Exeter Rotary Club newsletter and he wrote an article about the visit. When Bill saw this, he asked that it be reprinted for The Dinghy. The article makes reference to one specific project, the Nepal burn unit, but the organization undertakes projects on virtually every continent, so there is plenty to do.

If after reading this, you and your club are interested in volunteering for IMEC, call their office at (603) 772-6358

### An Immediate Opportunity to Make a Difference

*(reprinted from the Exeter Powderhouse, January 25, 1999)*

If you are an old woman or a young child in Katmandu, Nepal, you are likely to be assigned to cook for your family or community under primitive conditions. Being slow and feeble, your likelihood of suffering burns, by hot coals or hot oil, is high. God help you if you are badly burned, for there is little treatment, and once you become disfigured and useless, your community ostracizes you.

Thus was the rationale for sending a medical burn unit to Katmandu explained by Thomas Keefe, a charismatic and visionary former hospital administrator who gave up his career to run IMEC (International Medical Equipment Collaborative), a non-profit organization that salvages medical equipment and sends it

all over the world to communities in need.

Andrea Sennott had originally arranged for a presentation to the club about IMEC and has been urging out involvement. Then Bill Skinner mentioned it during his visit last week. So, Al Reynolds and your Powderhouse medical correspondent visited IMEC last Saturday to see if our club could help, and to start assembling the burn unit. They were totally unprepared for what they saw. In an unheated warehouse of almost an acre in square footage sits medical equipment of every conceivable variety, donated or otherwise disposed of by hospitals throughout the country. The photos give only the slightest suggestion of the immense amount of equipment and supplies in this place.

IMEC needs Exeter Rotary's help and would like the Club to start by assembling the burn unit destined for Nepal. Al and your correspondent, along with three other volunteers, made a start. The first task was simply to clear a space to put the equipment which is currently scattered all over the warehouse. There is no inventory system. The task is reminiscent of cleaning out an overstuffed garage or attic, except on a vast scale. The work involved clearing a bay and moving high-tech resuscitators and stainless whirlpool baths from around the warehouse into it. This took several hours.

Once the equipment is moved, experts will come to assess and repair it. Then, it must be cleaned. IMEC insists that outgoing equipment be as clean and new looking as possible. The skills required are simi-



## News And Notes Around District 7780

lar to those needed for housework or car detailing. The deadline for shipping the burn equipment to Nepal is in March. Al and your correspondent are committed to help and appeal to the Club members to join us. At any particular time (evenings or weekends) a team of 5-6 people is most efficient. This is an international project, will cost us nothing except time and effort, and will make a profound, tangible, and knowable difference to



IMEC volunteer Kim Ryan, her mother, and sister stand with Al Reynolds in the area the team has cleared for assembly of the Nepal burn unit. Beside Al is a stainless steel whirlpool bath.



specific individuals that the Club will hear about. Besides, after a work session, we can all go out for a meal of, say, clam chowder and bleu-cheese burgers, as Al and your correspondent did.



Much of the equipment is high-tech, as are these units, contemplated by Al. Not knowing what they are did not stop the team from moving them.

The floor to ceiling stacks of medical equipment show on the left, in this case wheel chairs and crutches, are typical of the IMEC warehouse.

Thanks for continuing to send your club's bulletins to Mary Jane Peabody, 6 Sherman St., Dover, NH 03820



# DISTRICT 7780 CLUB ATTENDANCE FOR JULY

	Attendance %	Club	Members 6/30/98	Current Members	+/-
	A	B	C	D	E
1	88.58	South Berwick	42	46	4
2	87	Boothbay Harbor	47	51	4
3	87	Windham	35	38	3
4	86.1	Exeter	45	47	-1
5	84.92	Saco Bay	67	66	-1
6	83.1	Biddeford-Saco	83	71	-12
7	82	Damariscotta-Newcastle	41	42	1
8	81.73	Fryeburg Area	24	26	2
9	81.64	York	65	61	-4
10	78.4	Bethel	35	32	-3
11	77.6	Bath	63	58	-5
12	77.56	Sanford-Springvale	59	60	1
13	77	Freeport	32	32	
14	77	Kittery	23	26	3
15	76.6	Kennebunk	92	95	3
16	76	Wells	52	48	-4
17	75.4	Brunswick	145	131	-14
18	75	Oxford Hills	60	62	2
19	75	Seabrook-Hampton Falls	31	16	-15
20	74.44	Rochester	75	74	-1
21	73.5	Somersworth	17	18	1
22	73.42	Portsmouth	259	262	3
23	73.02	Rumford	42	44	2
24	72.92	Casco Bay Sunrise	28	27	-1
25	72.9	South Portland-Cape Elizabeth	53	51	-2
26	72	Portsmouth Sunrise	25	31	6
27	72	Scarborough	25	26	1
28	72	Westbrook-Gorham	41	41	
29	72	Yarmouth	38	39	1
30	70.4	Newburyport	72	74	2
31	70.4	Ogunquit	42	43	1
32	68.03	Portland	211	207	-4
33	66.42	Dover	90	82	-8
34	66	Brunswick Coastal	15	15	
35	66	Hampton	61	58	-3
36	NR	Bath Sunrise	24	24	
37	NR	Bridgton-Lake Region	25	25	
38	NR	Durham-Great Bay	50	50	
39	NR	Kennebunk Portside	40	40	
40		<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2274</b>	<b>2239</b>	<b>-38</b>
41	Deadline for attendance reports is the 10th of the month. Please FAX or Mail to District Secretary Phil Rinaldi				



## **MATCHING GRANT PROJECT BECOMES PARTNERSHIP**

In 1997 the Rotary Club of Kennebunk Portside and District 7780 "Showed Rotary Cared" when we worked with the Rotary Club of Assis do Vale and District 4510 in Sao Paulo, Brazil and purchased physical therapy equipment for children with Cerebral Palsy. This Matching Grant project was the beginning of a partnership between the two clubs. On January 14th 1999 Kathy Emmons, John Anderson, and I embarked on an adventure that furthered this partnership.

As representatives of this District, on a snowy day in January we traveled to Assis, Sao Paulo Brazil on a Discovery Grant funded through Share Funds of our District. It took us 53 hours to arrive at our destination because we were delayed by weather in New York. Early travel obstacles, 16 hour days, 90 degree temperatures, and minor medical problems could not dampen our enthusiasm to accomplish our task. Encouraged by the strength of our partnership we were able to see first hand the needs of this small city in Brazil.

Through our determination and the outstanding support of the Assis do Vale Rotarians we have come back with many service opportunities. Our visits included an environmental education program that keeps at risk kids from the dangers of the streets. They need educational materials and computer equipment. We toured hospitals with wards empty due to a lack of equipment not a lack of patients needing care. We met with dedicated medical professionals at a clinic who care for children with neurological disorders from the poorest families. Their list of needs is so long it makes more impressive what they have accomplished. We met with government officials, local employers, and education providers. This part of the trip, while not related to a specific project, gave us a better understanding of the community, employment, and the social situation.

We can not thank our hosts in Assis enough.

They opened their homes and hearts to us as if we were family. Our challenge was to see and assess need. Their challenge was to show us their city, in the best and worst light. The Assis Rotarians and hosts, at these various projects, made accomplishing our task easy by filling our days with scheduled tours and meetings. They exceeded their challenge by filling our hearts with an emotional attachment that spans 5,000 miles.

If seeing the needs first hand was not inspiration enough, the Assis Do Vale Rotarians provided us with an outpouring of appreciation for our 1997 Matching Grant Project that is permanently etched in our hearts. We visited the clinic where the equipment for the kids with CP is installed. The staff, parents, and children left us speechless by their gratitude. In Brazilian culture when words can not express your feelings, there are hugs. Each of us received hugs that will last a lifetime.

When we saw "our" kids getting their daily therapy and the Rotary wheel on the wall of the clinic it brought a chill and tears of joy. Later, at a Rotary meeting, our team, Assis Rotarians, and District Governors spoke of the personal impact the first project had and how it would guide us as we "Torne Seu Sonho de Rotary" (follow our Rotary dreams) and find new ways to help. The impact of this meeting was so powerful, that in a country known for "machismo", most were left with tears - - they felt the impact of our collective efforts.

On behalf of the Team from Kennebunk Portside, Assis do Vale Rotarians, and District 4510, thank you for the opportunity to represent you in Brazil and for your past and future support of the Rotary Foundation. You and the Foundation have given ordinary folks in Maine and Sao Paulo the tools to accomplish extraordinary feats by helping those in need. What projects come from this visit is not clear. Our commitment to help, however, is as strong as the friendships we formed in Brazil.

Obrigado! Thank you! Douglas Cook



