

# District Beacon



Michael K. McGovern, District Governor, 1999-2000

July 1999

LITERACY MONTH

## Mark Your Calendars

July 1	Carl Miller Discovery Grant Due
July 15	Ambassadorial Scholarship Applications Due
July 22	District Governor's Visits Begin
Aug. 1	Rotary Matching Grants over \$20,000 Due
Aug. 8	RYLA Reunion Barbecue
Aug. 14	District Ambassadorial Scholarship Interviews
Aug.- Sept.	Area Membership Seminars
Oct. 23	District/Club Community Service Day
May 18-21	Millennium District Conference

## Rotary 2000 Underway

At the recent Singapore Convention of Rotary International, new RI President Carlo Ravizza added to this year's theme of "Rotary 2000, Act with Consistency, Credibility and Continuity." He said it must also be a year when we have the "courage to change."

District 7780's thirty-nine clubs and over 2200 Rotarians will all be part of a change in Rotary. We will have a new district leadership plan. A Rotary 2000 Committee chaired by PDG Mort Schmidt will reach out to the entire district to evaluate how the district works with clubs to promote the object of Rotary. The committee will also review our by-laws which have not been updated in ten years.

The new club presidents are keenly aware that each Rotary club needs to grow in 1999-2000 with new members and new committed Rotarians. A district-wide goal is to have no single club with a net membership loss this coming year. This will be difficult to obtain, but if we believe in Rotary, we are up to our responsibility to pass on a vibrant organization into the new millennium.

We will be asked in Rotary 2000 to look into our hearts and to provide support to one of the world's greatest foundations, our Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. Every club is being urged to provide a total of \$67.50 per capita in combined club and individual contributions to our foundation. District Governor Mike has agreed to donate \$67.50 in his own funds for every club meeting its goal.

As Mike travels the district, he will be emphasizing the need to be visible in our communities. As part of the effort to promote visibility, DGE Elias Thomas III is encouraging every club to have a hands on project in their community on October 23, 1999. We will also be having a Rotary Awareness Seminar in January to be chaired by the 2001-2002 Governor, who will be chosen in late July.

While we need the courage to change, we will also be consistent in moving forward with support of Rotaplast, Polio Plus, Friends Forever, RYLA, Youth Exchange,

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## Message from Mike:

This month six brave Rotarians are wearing a new Rotary pin that has not yet been seen in our district. The pin reads, "Assistant Governor." The new district leadership plan is part of the "Rotary 2000" changes that we are seeing. The assistant governors will be conducting most of the pre-governor club assembly visits when club leaders review their goals and objectives for the year. They will also be serving as an advisory board to the governor on issues that cut across the entire district. Each will also be working with district committee leaders to establish regional membership and Rotary Foundation seminars instead of the tradition of having one of each seminar for the entire district.

Why this change? First, it is the recommended leadership plan from Rotary International with over 50% of districts worldwide now having implemented it. Second, it enables the governor to spend more time on projects and district wide priorities instead of reviewing and preparing reports. Third, six Rotarians have the opportunity of further service in Rotary and more experience that might encourage them to serve as a governor in the future. Fourth, the sharing of responsibility and knowledge should allow better service and responsiveness to clubs. Fifth, by reducing the number of mandatory meetings for a governor, more individuals might be able to dedicate time to serve as a district governor.

The brave Rotarians who have agreed to take on this opportunity for service are Linda Brown of Sanford-Springvale, Doug Hooper of Saco Bay, Peter Johnson of Yarmouth, Mary Larnard of Newburyport, Gaylene McHale of Bath Sunrise and Jack Schraeter of Windham. I look forward to working with each of them and know that clubs and Rotarians will be as appreciative of their service to Rotary as I am.

The best to all of you for a successful Rotary 2000.



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Interact, World Community Service, Rotaract, CPR Training, the International Medical Equipment Collaborative and the many vocational and community service projects that are undertaken by every club in the district.

Rotary 2000 is an opportunity for every Rotarian and every club to evaluate their commitment to service through Rotary. On June 30, 2000, we will all look back at the year and feel good that we made a difference in our community and in our world.



# Focus on the Foundation

## Changes in Evanston

We have been asked to pass on some address changes for RI and the Foundation. Effective immediately all contributions to the Foundation should be sent to:

The Rotary Foundation  
P.O. Box 75133  
Chicago, IL 60675-5133

Wire transfers should be sent to:

The Rotary Foundation  
Account #99074  
The Northern Trust Company  
50 LaSalle Street  
Chicago, IL 60675  
ABA #071000152

In addition, email addresses for everyone at RI have changed. Email addresses to the left of the @ sign are the last name of the individual (up to seven letters) then the first letter of the first name. This is followed by:

@rotaryintl.org

Thus the address for our service representative, Francoise Garcia, is

garciaf@rotaryintl.org

and for our Foundation representative, Fabiola Elias, is

eliasf@rotaryintl.org

## Aberystwyth-Bound!

The deadline is rapidly approaching (July 15) for applications for Ambassadorial Scholarships for the year 2000-2001. PDG George Rice chairs the Ambassadorial Scholarship committee, which will hold interviews on August 15. The district will be fortunate if we locate a candidate half as exceptional as last year's selection, David Hughes of Yarmouth. David will begin his graduate studies at the University of Wales at Aberystwyth in September. He is enrolled in two master's programs: "Politics of the EU" and "Economic Security Studies." After completing his master's degree, he will begin the Ph.D. program in the fall of 2000. David is the recipient of a multi-year scholarship and will receive support from the Foundation for three years.



David is a 1999 graduate of the University of Southern Maine where he graduated summa cum laude with a degree in political science. While at USM, he completed internships with Senator Snowe, Congressman Allen, the White House Chief of Staff and the White House Department of Communications. David was one of only 5 interns who work within the White House itself (the remaining 200+ work in the Executive Office Building).

David chose Aberystwyth because of its outstanding International Politics department. He summed up the objective of their program as "understanding why different countries don't get along and how to advance international relations." In talking with David, one cannot help but be struck by how much his scholarly interests coincide with the goals of the Rotary Foundation. We wish David much success in his studies and are proud to have him as an ambassador from District 7780.

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### A \$100 CONTRIBUTION PROVIDES:

- 4 New wells for rural villages in Zimbabwe
- Textbooks for one elementary school in Zambia
- 1,000 trees to help reforest desolate regions of Guatemala
- A hearing aid for a deaf child in Pakistan
- Six desks for a school in Mexico



## *Spotlight on...*

### *The Northern Clubs*

Mary Jane Peabody has done a great job for two years reading thousands of club bulletins to cull items for "News and Notes Around the District." This year we will try something different – focusing on just a few clubs each month in more depth. We start out at the northern edge of our district with the clubs of Rumford, Bethel, Oxford Hills and Bridgton-Lake Region.

The Rumford Club was chartered 75 years ago next March, sponsored by the Lewiston-Auburn club (now in District 7790). The Rumford Club is the ancestor of four other clubs in our district: Bethel which was chartered 25 years ago and in turn sponsored Oxford Hills in 1983; Oxford Hills then sponsored Bridgton-Lake Region in 1991; Fryeburg forms the end of the chain, sponsored by Bridgton-Lake Region in 1994.

#### **Rumford**

Seventy-five years is a long time in which to form traditions – one of these is Rumford's lobster lunch fundraiser, a nice variation of the lobster feed which many clubs undertake. Once a month during the summer, the club takes orders from the businesses in the community for bag lunches with lobster rolls. They spend a morning making up the lunches and then deliver them. They make about \$1200-1300 each month from this project. Too bad they can't deliver all over the district!

Despite Rumford's proud traditions and notwithstanding this year's motto of "consistency, credibility and continuity", President Patty Duguay would like to add a fourth "C" for "change." She plans to try some new things like switching the raffle from 50/50 to the deck of cards method gaining popularity in many clubs. She is also considering varying the seating arrangement (is that allowed!!). Patty would also like to place increased emphasis on committees, devoting meeting time once a month for committees to meet.

Other goals for Rumford this year are increased involvement with youth and more public awareness of Rotary. She'd like people to look at Rotary and say "Wow, that looks like a great organization. I'd like to be involved in that."

#### **Oxford Hills**

Lloyd Decato of the Oxford Hills Rotary Club claims that they have "more fun than any other club in the District." I suspect some of you might challenge that statement. They certainly are busy this summer, if that's any gauge of having fun. They recently got up at 4 a.m. to cook a Project Graduation breakfast. Next on the schedule is the Beanhole Festival, run jointly with the Kiwanis Club. The highlight of the festival is the Cow Chip Casino; as one member says, "It has it all." The club sells chances at \$25 each. A local field is divided into 100 squares, a cow is released into the field and...let the chips fall where they may!

Oxford Hills is in the unique position of having *two* Interact clubs – one in the high school and an unsanctioned club in the middle

school as well. The club is looking forward to the arrival of exchange student Anna from Germany in September. They are already corresponding with her by e-mail. These are just a few of the activities of the Oxford Hills Club – members and visitors are reminded at every meeting of the club's many areas of service by the custom placemats which list the club's charities and projects. What a great way to remind everyone of all they have to be proud of.

If the Oxford Hills Club lives up to its admirable history of generosity, President Curtis Cole should have no trouble exceeding DG Mike's Foundation giving goal of \$67.50 per capita. Their contributions for this past Rotary year totalled \$116.00 per member – Way To Go, Oxford Hills!

#### **Bethel**

The Bethel Club has had a very busy month of June, which included an auction and flea market, their 4<sup>th</sup> annual golf tournament and the celebration of their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Many friends and District officers joined the members for the celebration, including Charter President Romeo Baker. They were entertained by Maine story teller, Joe Perham, who says of his home town of West Paris that "it's not the end of the earth, but you can see it from there."

A rash of thefts seems to occur whenever the Bethel and Oxford Hills Clubs intermingle, so the Oxford Hills Club presented its parent club with a gavel embedded in concrete. President Anita Remington will have quite a job ringing the bell with that!

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The Oxford Hills Club also presented each member of the Bethel Club with a personalized commemorative 25th anniversary coffee mug.

In a program reminiscent of the Friends Forever program, the Bethel Rotary Club is assisting in a school-to-school teacher exchange between Bethel and Belfast, Northern Ireland. Two teachers from Bethel spent a week in the Belfast school system this past year. They hope to continue the exchange and include other types of professionals as well.

### ***Bridgton-Lake Region***

Bridgton President Nelle Ely got off to a headstart over the rest of the 1999-2000 presidents. Due to the sudden departure of 98-99 President Nancy Smoak to a new job down east, Nelle found herself in the driver's seat two weeks early on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Making up at the Bridgton Club is a great way to start your morning – they have a delicious breakfast, lots of fellowship and, as if that weren't enough, a bird has its nest just inches away from the window. The club is proud of all they have done in such a short time, especially sponsoring the Fryeburg Club. They engage in joint activities with their offspring club, including the famous baked potatoes they sell at the Fryeburg Fair.

Camp Sunshine and Camp Hinds (RYLA) fall within the Bridgton-Lake Region Club's territory, so they are big supporters of these activities. They recently handled the registration for both of these district projects.

The club has just received approval from the Rotary Foundation for its first matching grant, in collaboration with the Wallingford, Conn. Club and two clubs in the Dominican Republic. A former member, Dr. Bob Chagrasulis (Dr. Bob), went to the Dominican Republic as a volunteer and found it so rewarding that he is now working there. To mimic a political slogan, Dr. Bob says of most of the illness he sees: "It's the water, stupid."

The necessity of drinking bottled water has turned that into a huge business and unfortunately has reduced the incentive for municipal governments to provide a sanitary water supply. The Bridgton grant will pay for clean water at a hospital and four other locations. The people living in the barrio (slum) surrounding the hospital will be able to get clean drinking water for themselves at the hospital. Anyone interested in finding out more about this project, should contact Dick Enright at (207)693-3588. The Bridgton Club plans to continue their assistance to the people of Haiti and the Dominican Republic and hopes to enlist the assistance of other clubs in providing them with sanitary drinking water.

*(Editor's Note: Friends in the news business suggested that I ask the clubs what they think is unique about their club. The answer to that question from each of the four clubs featured this month was the fun and fellowship. I have a suspicion that this will prove to be what is "unique" about each of the 39 clubs in our district!)*

## **Tell It To The Press**

Each of the presidents of the four clubs highlighted this month said that one of their goals for this year was to increase public awareness of Rotary. Furthermore, this need, along with membership growth, were the two top issues of concern to club presidents surveyed at PETS. As noted in the lead story, we will have a district-wide seminar on the topic of Rotary Awareness in January. In addition we would like to use the newsletter as a venue for communicating information and ideas about public awareness and PR in general. If your club has done something that has worked well for you – in either public relations or membership development – please pass your ideas along to the newsletter editor or your assistant district governor.

We are indebted to Dan Davidson, a Rotarian and public relations professional with 37 years experience, who has provided much of the information on public relations which will appear in the newsletter. Club PR Chairs can reach Dan at (207) 767-4682.

The first step in making your club visible in the community is to ensure that someone is assigned the responsibility of Club Publicity Chair. That person does not need to have a PR background. They only need a desire to do the job. Help can be provided, but without someone having this specific responsibility, opportunities for favorable media exposure will be lost. However, PR is everyone's job, *not just that of the PR Chair or the President.*



# ***RYLA Report***

Camp Hinds in Raymond, Maine, was host again for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Conference. 100 high school students and 4 youth exchange students took part in the four day outdoor leadership experience. New additions to the RYLA program included canoe drills led by the Scouts, considered very popular with the students. A 2 1/2 mile long compass course was also added to this year's program and took each group on a trip all around the camp. This was led 2-3 times daily by PDG Bill Skinner, Thane Pearson of Kittery, and Al Cowie of Scarborough. The food was greatly improved and the bugs were pretty mild. We could not have asked the State of Maine for better weather. It only threatened rain once, right before the final BBQ, but we whipped out the tarps from Saco Bay to cover everything up and scared the rain away. RYLA was a success this year due to the large number of Rotarians from across the District who gave of their time to help.

This year's full-time Rotarian Facilitators included Carol Aten of Exeter, Judy Bennett of Casco Bay Sunrise, Ellen Fitts-Byrne of Scarborough, Kristen Martin of Kennebunk Portside, Bob O'Connell of Dover, Joe Pace of Durham-Great Bay, and Eric Weinrieb of Portsmouth. The facilitators are trained by the Program Chair, Lionel Ingram of Portsmouth. We are glad to announce that Joe Pace has agreed to Co-Chair the Program Committee with Lionel Ingram and that Ellen Fitts-Byrne is

taking on the Administrative Co-Chair with Shannon Aldrich. If you like being outdoors, working with bright kids and would like to join us at RYLA 2000 as a Facilitator, please contact Lionel Ingram (603) 772-0479. We need more Rotarians to go with us to Camp in 2000.

New games have been added to increase groups working together. Low ropes and high ropes courses were monitored by the COPE team. Once again the High Ropes element was thrilling for all. Camp Hinds waterfront staff worked with everyone on swim tests and canoe safety. The conference participants performed their share of community service by helping put up tents for the incoming campers. Camp Hinds had finished two new flushable latrines before our arrival, to the happiness of all. The hope is to have the shower house on the Tenney side of the river completed before next year.

Windham Rotary Club put up the fence for the COPE course Tower in a matter of hours! George Bartlett, Jeff Martin and Bruce Sawyer from the Windham Club were joined by Cliff Plummer from the Westbrook Club. Amazing what a crew can do with a power post hole digger. The Camp Hinds staff is thrilled with the results and wishes to thank the Rotary Clubs for making this possible. Many other Rotarians showed up from around the District to lend a helping hand – Dave & Betty Parsons of Casco Bay, Ann Kaiser of Hampton, Becky Halliday & Dave Shannon of Yarmouth, Sandy Martin of

Exeter, Kitty Chadbourne of Saco Bay, Nancy Hawes of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth, and the trio of Edna Fadden, Emma Gibson-Bodwell, and Betsy Moriarty from Bridgton-Lake Region. Our thanks to everyone for checking tents, re-building cots, helping with registration, putting up fences, cleaning latrines and hauling gear.

Certificates for all RYLA '99 grads will be in the mail shortly. We ask each club to bring the RYLA Graduates and Graduate Facilitators to a meeting so they can thank the club for sending them to RYLA. RYLA graduates expect to help their local clubs with at least one community service project in the year following RYLA. Team Photos were taken by Tim Byrne of Scarborough. For copies, contact: shannonald@aol.com or write to: RYLA, P.O. Box 4632, Portsmouth, NH 03802. We are happy to bring our traveling RYLA show to your next meeting. Ellen Fitts-Byrne and Shannon Aldrich are available to present programs at your clubs. If you are interested in reports from the Facilitators on your RYLA students please contact Shannon.

The annual RYLA Reunion BBQ is scheduled for Sunday, August 8 from 12 noon to 4 p.m. at Four Tree Island, Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Tickets are \$3. Grilling will be done by the Portsmouth Sunrise Club. Bring goodies to share with the crew. Hot dogs, hamburgers and sodas provided. Activities, sharing of photos and games. RSVP by August 1 to: shannonald@aol.com. All RYLA graduates, their families, facilitators and Rotarians are welcome to attend.



## ***DG-Elect Elias***

It is hard to believe that only a few days ago, Jane and I were enjoying the gentility of a time gone by – while we attended the District Conference held at The Colony in Kennebunkport. For those of you who were unable to attend, you missed probably the finest weekend of superb weather on the Maine Coast. Imagine, waking to the distant call of the seagulls as they swoop down to fish the ebb and flow of the rugged coastline, and take in the smells of spring.

While we attended various plenary and breakout sessions, luncheons and dinners, we heard Jim Speer, who was representing the President of R.I. He passed on a number of snippets of advice, while sharing stories of his time in Rotary. He strongly advised each of us to take the time to recognize and to compliment those in our clubs who are making contributions to our communities and to the international community, those who are making a difference to others throughout the world. All too often, we miss the opportunity to recognize these folks, and we should not forget to include non-Rotarians in our accolades.

Jim Speer's main focus was MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT and RETENTION. We all know how much we enjoy service to our communities through Rotary. We all know the thrill of working on an international project, whether it be raising funds to send to Honduras for "Hurricane Relief" or to drill a well in the Dominican Republic; whether it be helping to sponsor and host a Friends Forever group from Northern Ireland or collecting enough money to purchase water heaters for an orphanage in Romania. Well, my question to you is, "If we are having such a great time, why are we keeping it to ourselves?"

We need to look within our communities to find people of like minds and interests to join us. We do NOT need to look for those who might fill in a missing classification, simply because our club is missing a hardware store owner or an accountant, a manufacturer or a funeral director. Rather, we need to look in the communities which our clubs serve and find people who are already Rotarians, but who do not happen to belong to a Rotary Club.

Let me explain. This past week, I asked a fellow Rotarian in my club to assist me with determining the recipients of various awards. Without my asking, this Rotarian also sent along the comments I might share about each of these recipients, when I presented their awards. I would like to share one of these with you: "Sally Pachulski was a Rotarian long before she became a member of Rotary. Through her efforts, she demonstrated that we are all a part of a great international community, where the efforts of one person here can directly benefit the life of a less fortunate person thousands of miles away."

Look for those persons who exemplify the ideals of Rotary and invite them to join your club and to share what you have enjoyed. In this way, we will be CONSISTENT in carrying out the Rotary ideals, we will remain CREDIBLE within our communities and throughout the world, and we will CONTINUE Rotary's nearly century-old traditions.

### **District 7780**

Extends a Heartfelt

## **THANK YOU**

to

**Paul Thornfeldt**

and

**Mary Jane Peabody**

for *Service Above Self*  
in their contributions  
to our District  
in editing (Paul) and  
covering club news  
(Mary Jane) in the  
District Newsletter  
for 1998-1999  
as well as 1997-1998  
(Paul & Mary Jane)  
and  
1995-1996 (Paul)

### **NOTE**

Effective July 6, 1999,  
the Hampton Rotary  
Club will be meeting  
for the month of July  
at the Partridge House,  
777 Lafayette Road,  
Hampton, NH. Meeting  
day and time remain  
the same - Tuesdays  
at 7:30 a.m.





# Conference 2000

*CELEBRATING THE LAST DECADE OF  
ONE MILLENNIUM AND THE  
BEGINNING OF THE NEXT*

The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference of District 7780  
May 18 - 21, 2000

**Sign up your Club NOW  
to guarantee a tee time for the  
District Golf Tournament**

**being held at Sable Oaks Golf Club**

**Thursday, May 18, 2000**

**Contact District Secretary Bob Carson at (207) 774-5541  
for registration forms and more information**

Michael K. McGovern  
Governor, District 7780  
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Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107

