

District Beacon



Michael K. McGovern, District Governor, 1999-2000

MAY 2000

CONFERENCE 2000

Mark Your Calendars!

May 7	Inbound GSE Team Arrives from Brazil
May 10	Deadline for Registration for Conference 2000
May 12	Brunswick 75th Anniversary, Knights of Columbus Hall
May 13	Camp Sebago Spring Clean-up
May 15	Rochester 40th Anniversary, Governor's Inn, Rochester (fellowship at 5:30; dinner at 6:30)
May 18-21	Conference 2000 Portland Marriott
May 21	Outbound GSE Team Returns from Brazil
June 4	Inbound GSE Team Departs for Brazil
June 4-7	Rotary International Convention, Buenos Aires
June 25-28	RYLA Camp Hinds
June 30	District Governor Nominations Due

Conference Secretary Bob is Looking for your Registration by May 10th!

District Governor Mike McGovern has announced that RI President Carlo Ravizza has appointed PDG B. A. "Andy" Milligan as his representative to our Conference 2000 on May 18-21 at the Marriott in South Portland. Andy is a member of the Rotary Club of Wolfeboro, New Hampshire and has served that club in many capacities to the present day. He was District Governor of District 7850 in 1996-97 and has chaired numerous committees for his district. Andy and his wife Janie, who is also a Rotarian, own Milligan's Pendleton Shoppes in Wolfeboro and Stratham, NH.



Friday evening's keynote speaker at the Conference will be RI Associate General Secretary Edwin Futa. Ed is a member of the Rotary Club of East Honolulu and will become General Secretary of RI on July 1, 2000. Ed is highly regarded as a speaker and in much demand as a keynote speaker at Rotary functions.

Rounding out the trio of distinguished invited Rotary speakers is RI President-Nominee Richard King, who will be the keynote speaker on Thursday evening. Each evening of the conference will feature exceptional speakers and outstanding entertainment, including Schooner Fare and the Boy Singers of Maine.

To highlight the tenth anniversary of our District, clubs and committees have been encouraged to produce a display highlighting their accomplishments. Sneak previews of some of the displays indicate that we are in for an impressive review of the past decade. If your club or committee has not made arrangements for a display yet, space is still available - contact Janet McLaughlin to reserve your space.

Another feature of the District Conference that everyone looks forward to each year is the Silent Auction. Clubs are encouraged to respond to PP Loretta Rowe with your club's auction item as soon as possible so that your contribution can be properly noted.

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Message from Mike:



Most of you have recently received a separate newsletter outlining the program for the District Conference that is now just two weeks away. Even a cursory review of that newsletter would show that this will be a different conference than what we have had in the past. The speakers will be stimulating and the entertainment and opportunities for fellowship will be unsurpassed.

As I sat down with my family for Easter dinner last week, I was explaining to my sister who is not a Rotarian what has been planned for the weekend. She asked if she could sign up for the conference, as she believes that the program and other activities will make for a fascinating couple of days. After quickly signing her up, I began to think of all the Rotarians in our district who may miss a similar good time, as they are unaware of the content of the district conference. This newsletter and the separate conference newsletter were sent to leaders of Rotary clubs, but not to all Rotarians. Please take the time to get the message out that this conference will be a great opportunity for hearing talented speakers, for exploring areas of Greater Portland we are only vaguely aware of, for wonderful food, for stimulating entertainment and for thinking how we can become better Rotarians and better citizens.

We have more meal packages available than any conference has ever had in the past. We will have an opportunity to elect representatives to the Council on Legislation and to the nominating committee for Rotary International director. We will review and possibly adopt new by-laws, and clubs will be recognized for their many achievements over the past year.

My invitation to you is not just as a district governor hoping for a well-attended district conference. I invite you because I know the conference will be successful from a programmatic point of view. I know that those who attend will have a great time. The only possibility for disappointment is that following the district conference many Rotarians will likely hear others say, "you should have gone." This is the week to say to others, "I am going and you should too."



GSE team members Garry Page, Sharyn Paul, team leader Eric Weinrieb, Mary Angit with DG Mike McGovern as they depart for Brazil.

[illegible]

by PDG Marie Williams

I personally want to thank each and every one of you who have done your part this year. What a wonderful feeling to know that you have helped make the world a better place for so many people that you will never get to meet. Hundreds of people will have the chance for **CLEAN WATER, FOOD, HEALTH CARE, and EDUCATION** because of **YOU!**

by President Dick Lagarde, Biddeford-Saco

Conrad, CEO of Prescott Metal in Biddeford, has served on many executive boards in addition to his Rotary involvement. He has truly exemplified Rotary's spirit of "Service Above Self."



Spotlight on . . . The Largest Clubs

This month we get a glimpse of life in our district's largest clubs, courtesy of three leaders of those clubs. The identity of the Portsmouth scribe will be obvious to members of that club, but for everyone else's benefit – the author was PP Scott Stringham.

Brunswick

by PP Lennie Burke

We are pleased to be celebrating our 75th anniversary on May 12th of 2000. We would invite all Rotarians to join us in this festive occasion!!

Our club has been active in the Brunswick/Topsham/Harpswell area creating a better community through varied activities and programs. At our celebration I am sure we will be looking back at our history – at those who have been instrumental in molding our club into what we are today. But as you will see, we also look ahead and to those coming after us and assuring they will have better opportunities.

For well over 10 years our "annual fund raiser" – our Meals and Deals book, has allowed us to sponsor a group of Brunswick High and Mt. Ararat High students to participate in Outward Bound. Each year it is rewarding to hear the current participants

come to our club and relate their experiences. However recently we were pleased to have previous participants (as long ago as 10 years) visit our club and tell us the life changes the Outward Bound experience made. It was inspiring to hear young people tell us that this one experience was a turning point – that without the Outward Bound experience they may have taken a different road.

We have several of our club members who are involved in our local Vocational High School – VOC 10. They serve as mentors, as coaches and as friends. At least once a year, our entire club enjoys having lunch at the school prepared by their culinary arts students. It is a great opportunity to understand the wonderful programs offered by this school and to again make a difference in the community.

As have other clubs, over the past two years we have been involved in the Friends Forever Project. We have had the pleasure of witnessing the "coming together" of two very different ideologies and the difference the "innocence of youth" can bring to the table.

Every 4th of July, our club holds a celebration on the mall with games and prizes for children and adults. Every year we are amazed by the diversity of the group. We are now enjoying the third generation of participants.

Over the years we have tackled several "special" activities, (such as raising \$50,000 toward the construction of the Bike Path in 1997), but this year we have undertaken a project that we are particularly proud of – thanks to the leadership of our current President Pat Forestell. He has instilled in a small group of our

membership, led by Kathy Vaden, "the fever" with respect to our sister state in Brazil – Rio Grande do Norte. On April 10th we brought Patch Adams to Merrill Auditorium in Portland, raising over \$50,000 to help build much-needed medical facilities.

As you can see, we are busy – but happy – here in Brunswick.

Portland

by Roxane Cole, President

Something new this year for Portland Rotary was the establishment of a Major Gifts Committee. The committee, headed by Past President Fred Thompson, was allocated \$32,000 by the Board of Directors to distribute to worthwhile recipients. When it advertised the availability of funds the committee received 32 requests for funding totaling \$350,000. So far this year we have given the YWCA \$10,560 for additional social workers for its parenting skills counseling project and \$900 to the Riverton School after-school project. Well Suited received \$1,500 to outfit lower-income women for job interviews; the Big Brothers/Big Sisters' multi-cultural mentoring program was awarded \$2,250, and we gave Portland Trails \$10,000 for a sculpture to be placed at the head of the Eastern Promenade Trail. The Major Gifts Committee will give away an additional \$7,000 this spring and is accepting requests throughout May. The Community Service Committee, headed by Larry Gross, subsequently funded some of the requests that were not funded by the Major Gifts Committee. The club was enthusiastic about this new initiative where the fruits of their fundraising were visibly shared with the community above and beyond the traditional committee

structure that disburses funds in Vocational Service, International Service and Community Service.



Speaking of fundraising, WinterFest has led the way again this year for fundraising for the club. Portland Rotary kicked off its third WinterFest holiday lights train ride with District Governor Michael McGovern riding the first train in late November. The project is a collaboration between the club and the Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad and runs from Thanksgiving until the end of the year. It is a huge success in many ways. First of all it provides a popular holiday event for families and also employment for neighborhood kids. Additionally, the club has formed an effective partnership with the Cumberland County Work Release Program and utilizes the program for set up and takedown of the displays. This cooperative effort provides critical labor for the project as well as team-building employment opportunities for the program participants. The club also holds an auction in the spring and a golf tournament for its other major fundraising endeavors.

As spring arrives Portland Rotary will be planting trees along the Eastern Promenade Trail in cooperation with the City of Portland Parks Department. With the help of City Arborist Jeff Tarling, the club has developed Rotary Grove. Certificates are being given to speakers noting that fact, and in lieu of speaker gifts, donations are being made to provide shade trees at Rotary Grove along the Eastern Prom Trail. The club will continue the program next year and hopes to expand its donations in order to provide more trees along the very scenic trail that parallels Casco Bay along the base of Munjoy Hill.

Dear Martha,

You won't believe what happened on my business trip to New England. I stopped by in Portsmouth, New Hampshire for my customary Rotary make-up. I went into this big restaurant called Yoken's and Martha, I thought I had walked into a District Convention, it was so big. I was about to leave when a gentleman called to me, "Hey, where's your name badge?" His name badge said his name was Artie.

"I don't have one," I said, "I'm a guest."

"Oh, sorry," said Artie, "I still don't know everyone here."

"How long have you been in the club?" I inquired.

"Twenty-six years," said Artie. "Come sit with us at the Oil Cartel table. My name is Artie."

When we got there I asked the obvious question. "Artie, why do they call this the Oil Cartel table?"

"Well, it used to be that just about everyone who sat here was in some aspect of the oil business," said Artie.

"Just about all of them have moved on, don't sit here any more, or are dead, but the name stuck. You cook with oil at home?"

"My wife does," I answered.

"Good, you qualify. Sit down."

Over what was one of the better Rotary meals I've had, Artie told me about his club. "Yeah, I know it's big.

No one is sure how it happened, it just did. But, you know, big clubs do big things. We gave away over \$109,000 last year including \$30,000 to the Rotary Foundation. We've been behind some of the best projects our City has put together, like our Strawberry Banke Museum. And the Friends Forever program began right here in this club 15 years ago."

"My club back home is small. I don't know if I'd like not knowing everybody."

"It's not like that," said Artie. "You meet everyone eventually. See that guy in the maroon jacket way over across the room? His name is Gene. Great guy. I sold Christmas trees with him in 1995. And here comes Julie. I barbecued chicken with her just last year. Yo, Julie, you da man! And there's our President Joe DeStefano getting ready to ring the bell. Do you know that this year he has completely eliminated scouting from this club? Haven't had one in months. Here's how he did it..."

Well, Martha, just then the bell rang and the meeting began. I'll tell you more later. And I'll sure have a lot to tell my little club about my most wonderful visit to Portsmouth.

Clem

Final Report: Remembering Buenos Aires

by Barnaby Olson, Ambassadorial Scholar

When I reflect on my year as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar in Argentina, I always remember first what might appear to be one of the most mundane aspects of my daily ritual – my morning bus ride to university on the crowded streets of Buenos Aires. Although commuters around the world grimace at the thought of morning rush hour, for me my daily commute was anything but tedious. Hanging from the ceiling bars and squeezed between city-goers at the back of a careening public bus, my morning ride was a cherished oasis for reflection. It was my private moment to step back from my various activities and savor the fact that I was actually living in Argentina, something that never ceased being hard to believe and which always made me feel overwhelmingly fortunate. I would watch the Spanish store signs and pedestrian-choked sidewalks whiz past and it always seemed that I was enjoying a pleasant dream in danger of ending at any moment with the ring of an alarm clock. Fortunately for me, that dream lasted a whole year.

But my morning bus ride was also an opportunity for something more than enjoying the sights and sounds of a foreign city. It was also an opportunity to dig deeper than the textbooks and academic papers. It was an opportunity to think about what my studies actually *meant*. I found my classes on Latin American history, politics, economics and international relations interesting in their own right, but it was significantly more engaging when each morning I glanced around at the assembled faces on a speeding public bus and wondered how my studies related to each of those individuals. My economics classes seemed much more important, and disconcerting, when I could look at the faces of the people directly affected by slow growth and high unemployment, and wonder to myself how they were managing to provide for their own families under such circumstances. And how had they survived the early part of the 90s when inflation reached more than 1,000%? History seemed much more alive when I bore quiet witness to the Argentines' emphatic gestures, which always made me think back to the waves of Italian immigrants arriving in Argentina at the beginning of this century with hopes of a new and better life. Finally, politics is ever-present in Argentina, even when not openly advertised. Where did my fellow commuters stand politically when the country was deeply divided between the Peronists and the anti-Peronists. And who on my bus might have been touched by the loss of a family member that became one of the many "disappeareds" during the military rule of the 1970s?

My year in Buenos Aires was an intense learning experience that broke the walls of the classroom and let learning spill out into every waking moment. It was a year in which the most ordinary of things could be cause for reflection, and where even a few minutes on a crowded bus seemed like time well spent. I would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to the Rotary Foundation, for this most rich and rewarding opportunity. I hope that while in Argentina I was successful in returning the kindness that was heaped upon me by friends, colleagues and Rotarians. And I hope that I can return the favor to the Rotary Foundation by continuing to spread the international goodwill that will hopefully make this world seem a little bit smaller and a little bit kinder. Thank you, Rotary.

Another Report from Argentina - Youth Exchange

Sometimes I wonder if I really could have done this if it wasn't for the family I'm living with. They are constantly making me laugh, and bringing me out of sadness when I encounter it. They have all made me feel as though I am a part of their wonderful family, from the first day I arrived. Recently, a horrible death occurred in their family: their young cousin was killed in a car accident here in Obera, and I watched as they all went through a painful time of grieving. It was so difficult to watch them go through this. My sisters took it very hard; I wanted to hold them until I could feel their bodies vibrating with their beautiful, infectious laughter, that often fills the house and can put me in a good mood instantly. One thing I feel came out of this horrible tragedy is that I feel it has brought me closer to them as a family, because not only have I shared in the joys and excitements, but also in the pain and grieving, and that is essentially what it is to be a family, to share everything, good and bad, leaning on each other for love, support, laughter and strength.

I thank my lucky stars that I have been fortunate enough to be with this family, and be in this beautiful city in Argentina: I am absolutely loving life.

Patty Ingwersen writes from Obera, Argentina; she was sponsored by Kennebunk.

**Rotary International
Convention
Buenos Aires
June 4-7**

**Come See For Yourself
What Barnaby and Patty
are Experiencing!**

DG-Elect Elias

Although P.E.T.S. is over for another year, let me re-cap the weekend. In a nutshell, District 7780 has the most enthusiastic, responsive and READY incoming Club presidents of any other District in the northeast. From the time they all arrived on Thursday, until they left on Saturday, this team of incoming presidents showed they are a cohesive group, ready to hit the ground running on July 1st. In addition, the six ADGs set a wonderful example for their peers - always ready to lend a helping hand to me, to the incoming presidents, and to anyone else who needed their help. Early on Friday and Saturday mornings, nine or ten eager presidents-elect from our District were in the hotel lobby waiting to go for our brisk morning walk, again setting the example of spirit and willingness for the rest of the folks at P.E.T.S.



"The **District Assembly - ROTARY UNIVERSITY - 2000**, was the best ever!" This is the kind of comment we continually heard from those attending. We tried some new things - new location, new day of the week, new format. The overwhelming success needs to be credited not only to the co-chairs, Sally Pachulski and John Stirling, but moreover to the Club presidents and incoming presidents who generated interest and enthusiasm for their fellow Club members to attend. Thanks for making this a huge success! If you have helpful comments for how to improve the Assembly for next year, please let me know.

ROTARY TAKES A SWING AT HOMELESSNESS. . .

On Sunday, August 13th, District 7780 will enjoy a wonderful day with the Portland Sea Dogs. We are pleased to announce that the Sea Dogs have agreed to split the profits from the ticket sales. In the meanwhile, we are also looking for corporate sponsors, so that we might achieve our goal of \$50,000 net profit for that one day. Whatever amount is raised, we will divide it among several projects that will benefit homeless people throughout the District. We need your help to make this a success. Contact your Presidents-elect for details.

We have a wonderful year ahead and are looking forward to serving District 7780. However, before July 1st, we all have a great deal to do to help District Governor Mike reach his goals. Let's all join together in **Acting with Consistency, Credibility and Continuity as we Create Awareness and Take Action!**

Credit Where Credit is Due . . .

Last month we printed a story about saving your change for the Rotary Foundation and what a large difference even a small amount can make to someone in need. PDG Dick Drukker has identified the "anonymous" author for us as C. Jean McMullan, a Methodist minister and Rotarian from Wallkill, N.J. Belated thanks to Ms. McMullan for her contribution.

REMINDER: Nominations for District Governor for 2002-2003 are due to DG Mike McGovern by June 30, 2000

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MARCH ATTENDANCE

	ATTENDANCE	CURRENT MEMBERS	YTD CHANGE	FOUNDATION GIVING*		ATTENDANCE	CURRENT MEMBERS	YTD CHANGE	FOUNDATION GIVING*
BATH	65.7	48	-6	36.07	OGUNQUIT	N/R	34	-8	14.29
BATH SUNRISE	82.0	17	-3	21.21	OXFORD HILLS	82.0	61	+1	33.33
BETHEL	N/R	35	+5	28.57	PORTLAND	70.2	197	+1	55.67
BIDDEFORD-SACO	N/R	64	0	30.77	PORTSMOUTH	73.1	254	+2	36.95
BOOTHBAY HARBOR	76.0	53	+2	200.00	PORTSMOUTH SUNRISE	82.0	30	+2	34.48
BRIDGTON-LAKE REGION	67.6	21	-5	0.00	ROCHESTER	70.0	75	+2	37.50
BRUNSWICK	84.5	119	-5	57.97	RUMFORD	79.2	38	-1	29.73
BRUNSWICK COASTAL	58.5	16	+1	103.13	SACO BAY	89.3	67	-2	38.97
CASCO BAY SUNRISE	N/R	30	+2	74.29	SANFORD-SPRINGVALE	78.0	61	+3	2.05
DAMARISCOTTA-NEWCASTLE	70.5	48	+4	23.51	SCARBOROUGH	76.0	28	+3	26.15
DOVER	71.3	78	0	0.00	SEABROOK-H. FALLS	57.5	20	+2	50.00
DURHAM-GREAT BAY	79.8	56	+3	12.96	SOMERSWORTH	80.8	24	+6	40.91
EXETER	78.1	43	-4	45.45	SOUTH BERWICK	N/R	43	+2	63.46
FREEPORT	81.0	34	+6	2.83	SO. PTLD-CAPE ELIZ.	85.8	51	+9	339.36
FRYEBURG AREA	62.0	27	-1	52.59	WELLS	83.0	49	-2	20.41
HAMPTON	77.4	61	+4	20.18	WESTBROOK-GORHAM	68.2	43	+1	25.60
KENNEBUNK	74.5	87	-6	44.01	WINDHAM	91.0	38	+9	0.00
KENNEBUNK PORTSIDE	85.0	39	-2	4.73	YARMOUTH	75.0	38	-2	43.68
KITTERY	74.0	26	+2	350.00	YORK	N/R	65	+7	0.00
NEWBURYPORT	82.0	74	+3	0.99					

*PER CAPITA AS OF MARCH 31, 2000

N/R= NO REPORT

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