

District Beacon



Michael K. McGovern, District Governor, 1999-2000

September 1999

NEW GENERATIONS MONTH

Mark Your Calendars!

Sept. 9 Governors' Council
Kennebunk Inn (PDGs)

Sept. 14 Membership Seminar,
Parkview Hospital,
Brunswick, ME

Sept. 20 Amb. Scholar David
Hughes Departs for
Aberystwyth, Wales

Oct. 13 World Community
Service Committee
Meeting

Oct. 20 Group Study Exchange
Application Deadline

Oct. 23 District Community
Service Day

Oct. 30 GSE Team Leader
Interviews

Nov. 7 GSE Team Member
Interviews

Dec. 8 World Community
Service Committee
Meeting

May 18-21 District
Conference 2000

Clubs Planning Hands-on Projects for October 23rd

Clubs have begun active planning for the District-wide Community Service Day set for October 23rd. Each of our 39 clubs has been asked to find a worthy project in their community that will enable Rotarians, family members and prospective Rotarians to come together for fellowship and community service.

District Governor-Elect Elias Thomas said the idea for the day evolved from goals presented by club presidents-elect when they met at the PETS training in Nashua, New Hampshire this past March.

The now sitting club presidents indicated that they wanted the community to be more aware of Rotary; they hoped their club members would work together as Rotarians instead of just giving checks and they wanted to have special opportunities to show prospective members what Rotary is all about. They also desired not to have projects that took them away from their families on a weekend day; thus there is an emphasis on working on projects with family members.

Among the activities being planned for October 23rd are work on a habitat for humanity house, the construction of a fence and other

improvements at a historic cemetery, the construction of a handicapped access ramp to a public beach, clearing of walking trails along a greenbelt, painting of a bandstand by the community library, road cleanups and the planting of trees. One club is inviting scouts to participate in a project. Another club has asked all service organizations in the area to join in undertaking a number of projects throughout their area. Another will work with the Lions' Club in repairing and painting a historic church building.

Clubs are reminded to keep Elias informed of their plans so that the District may assist with publicity for your project. Elias may also have suggestions on what your club might undertake for a project as he continues every day to hear of interesting projects being planned by clubs.

A few clubs have asked if it is necessary for the project to be done on October 23rd as this date conflicts with another club or community event. While the date is recommended, what is most important is the project itself and the further building of a community spirit within the Rotary club.

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District Governor 2001-2002

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Message from Mike:

This month, in recognition of New Generations Month, my focus is on the programs we provide that help younger members of our communities, both locally and around the world.



In the 24 clubs I have visited in July and August, I have heard of students receiving Rotary club scholarships amounting to over \$100,000. I met our new ambassadorial scholar hoping to attend school in Chile as the result of a Rotary Foundation Committee awarded \$23,000 scholarship. Several weekends ago, eight students gathered with our Youth Exchange Committee prior to the students' departure for year-long experiences in Asia, South America and Europe. This week, eight international students are arriving in our district to be hosted by clubs for a year. In August, a RYLA reunion barbecue saw many young people get together who had attended a Rotary Youth Leadership program as the result of club generosity.

Other young people headed off to conservation camp this past summer thanks to Rotarians here in New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Maine. A Croatian student is beginning studies at Southern Maine Technical College because Rotarians care. Young Protestants and Catholics in Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland are looking forward to visiting us through the Friends Forever program. A mother in South America is praying that her child may benefit from a Rotaplast operation. A father in India anxiously awaits news of a polio immunization day.

This month, Interact and Rotaract members will plan service projects for the upcoming academic year. Clubs will begin to honor students of the month. DARE programs will start anew. School libraries will have more books and infants in Lesotho will see their mothers talking to a Rotarian from Biddeford who is there to help them. And children will be born in Yoro, Honduras in a better-equipped hospital thanks to IMEC and Rotarians in District 7780. This is "New Generations Month" and we should be proud of all the activities I have described as well as those I don't have room to mention that give opportunities to young people.



PDG FRANKLIN G. HINCKLEY



District 7780 notes with sadness the passing of PDG Franklin G. Hinckley on July 31 at the age of 85. Frank had been a member of the Portland Club since 1950 and served as that club's president in 1957-58. He was District Governor of our predecessor District 779 in 1967-68. He had a long and distinguished career in the legal profession and was involved in community service through many organizations, in addition to Rotary. We will miss this exceptional Rotarian.

Focus on our Foundation

How Much Should I Give?

Many organizations – church, the United Way, etc. - offer suggested guidelines on how much an individual should contribute. RI Director Lou Piconi spoke at our district's Foundation seminar in 1997 and presented the following suggestions for giving to our Rotary Foundation. His guidelines were printed in PDG Marie Williams' newsletter (also titled the District Beacon), but since we copied her title, we're not too proud to copy these guidelines again as well! Seriously, the following "formula" reminds us of how incredibly blessed we are to enjoy the standard of living that we have, and of how much good our Rotary Foundation does for those who are not so blessed.

- \$ Just because you are a Rotarian, give \$10.
- \$ If you have never suffered from chronic hunger or seen a member of your family die from starvation, add \$10.
- \$ If you have a child who has never been critically sick with no doctor available, add \$10.
- \$ If you have never been out of work and unable to feed your family, add \$10.
- \$ If you have never had polio, add \$10.
- \$ If your home is clean and you have unpolluted water, add \$10.
- \$ If you sleep safely in a warm bed each night, add \$10.
- \$ If you would like to assure that your grandchildren would live in peace and not die in some unnecessary war, add \$10 for each grandchild.

If each Rotarian in District 7780 were to follow the formula, we would surely all exceed DG Mike's goal of \$67.50 per capita.

Postcard from Argentina

August 11, 1999

"Everything continues to be well in Buenos Aires. I recently returned from some winter break travels in Northwest Argentina near Bolivia, where a friend and I did a 7-day hiking trip in the Andes Mountains. Enjoyed views of painted mountains and fields of wild llamas from heights of up to 14,000. Perhaps most interesting were the tiny traditional Quechua villages that we passed through. Since many are deep in the mountains and can only be reached by mule train they are quite cut off from the outside world. Visiting them felt like traveling back in time. Quite fascinating."

This postcard (actually email) was written by District 7780 Ambassadorial Scholar Barnaby Olson, who began his studies at Universidad del Salvador in Buenos Aires in the spring. Sponsored by the Damariscotta-Newcastle Club, he is studying economics and international relations. Before embarking on this exotic hike into the Andes, Barnaby submitted his first report to the Foundation. In it he writes, "Never before have I been so aware of the alarmingly large economic and political role that the U.S. plays in the international sphere. In two months of studies not a day has passed that my course on the History of Latin American International Relations hasn't spent a significant amount of time discussing U.S. foreign policy and I have yet to attend my Argentine Politics or my International Economics classes without hearing at least some mention of the U.S. Fascination with the U.S. 'economic miracle' and cautious respect for U.S. foreign policy extend from the countless casual conversations to any of the daily papers. For me this has meant thoughtful reflection on my current role as a U.S. 'ambassador' in Argentina and on the impact that my native country is likely to continue having on the world scene for years to come."

He concludes his report with "a warm heartfelt thank you to the Rotary Foundation for making possible the countless enriching experiences and opportunities for reflection which have accompanied my unforgettable first couple of months in Buenos Aires."

Our Newest Scholar

The Scholarships Subcommittee of the Rotary Foundation Committee, chaired by PDG George Rice, met on August 14 to interview seven applicants nominated by Brunswick, Kennebunk, Portsmouth and South Berwick. Jennifer Beattie, nominee of South Berwick, was chosen to receive a scholarship, which she hopes will enable her to study Spanish Language and Literature in Chile. Jennifer is currently employed creating CD-ROM programs for learning Spanish and Portuguese. Congratulations, Jennifer – we look forward to your “Postcards from Chile” next year!



Spotlight on . . .

The Beaches

As summer draws to a close we travel to some of the clubs famous for their fine beaches: Hampton, York, Ogunquit and Wells. These clubs share some common benefits and problems attributable to the heavy influx of tourists in the summer. The dramatic increase in the population (Wells for example swells from a population of 9,000 in the winter to 35,000 in the summer) places demands on the communities' infrastructures and creates traffic congestion. On the other hand the tourists enhance the local economy (a large proportion of the Ogunquit members are in the hospitality industry) and provide the opportunity to make new friends. PP Gordon Lewis of Ogunquit delights in meeting people from all over the world at his own club – one visiting Rotarian sent him a postcard inviting him to stop in the next time he was in the Cape of Good Hope! A York member noted that the region's popularity meant that people moved to the area frequently but many people tend to move on too. And tourists can mean dollar signs for Rotary clubs too – Hampton takes advantage of the more than 125,000 people attending the Seafood Festival Sept. 10-12 to raise money through a 5K Road Race and a food booth.

York

A fellow visitor to the York club observed that its members have a

"healthy disrespect for each other." This is obvious as soon as the meeting starts when a throne mysteriously appears for President Jim Hager, dubbed by the club as "His Royal Highness." Despite the napkins being pelted at him during the meetings, Jim knows that he can count on this group of 60 community leaders to pull together and make significant contributions to their community. For instance the club was pivotal in establishing a very popular Teen Center, which has been open for three years. The club organized the renovation of the building and makes monetary donations as well as having representation on the Board of Directors. The Center is a nonprofit organization and is currently making plans to become a full-service community center.

The club is also very supportive of its local schools, having recently contributed \$25,000 for lights at the athletic field. They also give away four different scholarships totaling \$7,000 each year.

The club is also a big supporter of the Food Pantry – in fact many times the raffle winnings are donated to the Food Pantry.

Ogunquit

Ogunquit was chartered in 1972 by South Berwick. It in turn sponsored both York (1982) and Wells (1986). Like York, the Ogunquit club is very involved in feeding their neighbors. The club delivers Meals on Wheels to local senior citizens and each member of the club takes turns delivering meals.

As mentioned above, the traffic congestion and the nature of their businesses sometimes make it

difficult for members to attend the lunchtime meeting regularly in the summer. However for those who can make it, the fine food at Jonathan's and the pleasant gurgling of the aquarium in the background make it worth fighting the traffic to get there.

One of President Donna Brown's goals this year is to expand their fund-raising activities. The club just completed one of its major fund-raisers – the 2¢ Sale. This involves collecting gifts from local merchants and displaying them on several tables with 50 gifts per table. Customers purchase \$1 tickets at each table for a chance on one of the gifts at that table (\$1 for 50 chances; thus the "2¢ Sale"). In conjunction with this they hold a silent auction for their nicest items.

Wells

The Wells club is a very "hands-on" club, as is evidenced by their recent construction of a pavilion in



Harbor Park. They are currently putting the finishing touches on this 30'x60' picnic shelter which was built entirely by Rotarians and was paid for through donations that the club solicited from local businesses. President Diana Young plans to continue improvements at Harbor Park through renovation of the playground at the park.

Many in the district remember Wells for the "Blankets for Bosnia" two years ago. The club continues to aid Bosnia – they are outfitting

3 medical clinics there, with the assistance of IMEC and a grant from our Foundation.

Wells raises money through chicken barbecues, candy machines placed in local businesses and an auction in April.

Hampton

The Hampton club represents the towns of Hampton, including Hampton Beach, and North Hampton. Under President Bob Dennett's leadership, the club plans to conduct needs surveys in their 3 communities to make sure the club continues to be vital to the community.

Hampton meets for breakfast in a brand new elegantly furnished facility. Small U.S. and Rotary flags as centerpieces at each table add to the festive atmosphere. To encourage make-ups, the members' make-up credits at other clubs are read aloud at each meeting. And speaking of make-ups, they are planning to take a trolley to Wolfeboro, NH for a group make-up. All aboard!

Like most clubs, Hampton awards scholarships to deserving local students. The club had a 7-year fund-raising drive, which ended last year when the Scholarship Foundation reached \$100,000 and became a self-sustaining fund.

In addition to profits from activities at the Seafood Festival, the club raises money through holiday poinsettia sales and a televised auction.

Lest the title lead you to think that the clubs featured this month are merely beach communities, let us point out some of their other attractions, such as the many historic homes of York Village, the scenic Marginal Way and art galleries of Ogunquit, antique shops and the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge in Wells and beautiful Fuller Gardens in North Hampton. Why not visit them now that the tourists are gone!

DISASTER RELIEF

On August 17th, a devastating earthquake, with tremors registering as high as 6.7 on the Richter Scale, shook 6 major cities in northwestern Turkey. Thousands of innocent lives were taken and countless are rendered homeless, struggling to survive without adequate food, shelter, clothing and medicine.

The governor of District 2430 requests international assistance to provide immediate relief to the victims of this terrible calamity.

Remembering the generosity our own district received during the ice storm, clubs and individual Rotarians wishing to respond to this terrible devastation may forward contributions through our Rotary Foundation. Checks should be made payable to The Rotary Foundation and earmarked for disaster relief in District 2430 (mail to The Rotary Foundation, P.O. Box 75133, Chicago, IL 60675-5133).

Our own 1998-99 exchange student Sebnum, sponsored by the York Club, was from Turkey and we hope that Sebnum and her family were not harmed by this tragedy.

Willkommen!
Bienvenida!
Bemvindo!

As students in District 7780 head back to school this month, they will be joined by eight Rotary youth exchange students visiting us from all parts of the globe. A big District 7780 welcome to:

Alejandro Sorondo from Argentina
(Freeport)

Mariela Quezada from Bolivia
(Wells)

Andre Jardim from Brazil
(South Berwick)

Anna Dieckmann from Germany
(Oxford Hills)

Chizuru Homma from Japan
(Portsmouth)

Raul Villasanti from Paraguay
(Kennebunk)

Eszter Sisak from Romania
(Kennebunk Portside)

Omrum Bozkurt from Turkey
(Windham)

Our district's Youth Exchange Committee, chaired by Karen Dunfey, is also administering the exchange for three students in District 7790: Xavier from Belgium (West Bay), Clara from Ecuador (Camden) and Oki from Indonesia (Gardiner).

Their counterparts, eight students from our district and three from 7790 have departed for India and the countries listed above except Germany and Turkey. Ogunquit and all the clubs listed above except Oxford Hills sponsored outbound students.

Best of luck to both groups of students for a successful and enriching year!

Peter Johnson To Be District Governor 2001-2002



The District Nominating Committee, led by PDG Bob Patten, met on August 6 to fill the slot of District Governor for the year 2001-2002. Peter Johnson of the Yarmouth Club was selected to follow Elias Thomas as District Governor. Peter joined the Casco Bay Sunrise club in 1992 and served as president in 1994-95. Under the guidance of PDG George Rice, Peter formed the Yarmouth Club and served as charter president in 1996-97. He led a GSE team to Poland and Sweden in 1997 and is an "unabashed champion of the program." He coordinated the cultural exchange for the Russian "fishermen" last year and serves as ADG this year in the greater Portland area.

Peter is a financial adviser and portfolio manager with Paine Webber and is married to Carolyn, an elementary school principal in Gray-New Gloucester. Their son Andrew is a recent college graduate.

The committee was also charged with recommending a member of the New Hampshire Clubs to serve on the Budget and Finance Committee from 2000 to 2003. PP Phil Rinaldi of the Dover Club was selected for the position. Phil was District Secretary last year and has been very active in RYLA.

Congratulations to Peter and Phil, and thank you for your willingness to contribute Service Above Self to District 7780!



Membership Trends

Our district governor apparently was suffering from insomnia one night this summer and as a cure he played with the 1998-99 membership statistics. He must have fallen asleep before he did an analysis of variance for statistical significance, so we don't know if the following reflect an underlying cause or if they're just a curious coincidence:

During Rotary Year 1998-1999, the District lost 70 members or 3.1%

Lunchtime clubs lost 73 members or 5.5%
Breakfast clubs gained 6 members or .7%.
Dinner clubs lost 3 members or 2.6%

The 10 newest clubs gained 17 members or 5.5%
The first ten chartered clubs lost 44 members or 4.8%
The 19 middle clubs lost 43 members or 4.1%

The ten largest clubs lost 55 members or 4.7%
The ten smallest clubs gained 4 members or 2.1%
Clubs in size from 32 to 63 lost 19 members or 2.2%

Clubs meeting on Wednesday lost 46 members or 10.1%.
Tuesday and Thursday clubs gained 13 members or 1.1%

Four-Week, Expense-Paid Trip to Brazil, April-May 2000

Interested? The District's Group Study Exchange (GSE) Committee certainly hopes so!

We're looking for a few good people to accept this offer. One Rotarian leader and four youngish professional non-Rotarians will venture forth to Brazil next April for a 4-week team adventure.

For you Rotarians, consider applying for the team leader position. You'll need to be in good health (it's a rigorous schedule) and have outstanding communication and leadership skills.

For your non-Rotarian friends, they'll need to be U.S. citizens, also be in good health, and not family members of a Rotarian. They should be between the ages of 25 and 40, be open-minded, and show promise and enthusiasm in their vocation.

A member of the GSE committee will be getting in touch with your club this month. Former GSE team members are also available as program speakers. Please contact Craig Kelleher with any questions (603-964-5003).

This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, for your professional life, your personal life, and your Rotary life. Please take us up on it and share it with your non-Rotarian friends!

DG-Elect Elias

Last week one of my club members expressed disappointment that we would not have an opportunity to socialize with the District Governor prior to his official visit this week. This occurs as a result of the new leadership plan. In a nutshell, there are no longer Governor's Reps, but rather Assistant Governors. The ADG meets with the Board for the "pre-visit" and then fills in the District Governor to give him a "snapshot" of our club in preparation for his official visit.

The concern which prompted Rotary International to formulate this new plan is the huge time commitment a DG must make, and not just for "his" or "her" year, but one or two years prior to the term and at least three or four following the term of service. While there is no question as to the time and financial commitment on the part of the DG, I have been sensing some strong sentiment regarding the change from the "traditional" visit schedule.

A perfectly valid argument is "how can the District Governor possibly get to know our club if he or she only spends the time allowed for the official visit?" Knowing that this might be a drawback of the new plan, DG Mike made informal visits to every club in our district last year to get a head start on getting to know us better. We should also keep in mind that by reducing the time commitment of the DG early in the Rotary year, it may enable him or her to spend more time interacting with the clubs during the rest of the year. We will have many opportunities to see our District Governor at both district and club functions through the remainder of the year and I know Mike is looking forward to getting to know all of us a little better in the year ahead.

Since this is still in the ironing out stages and we want to make this new plan work as successfully as possible in District 7780, please make your comments to one of the ADGs, Mike, Peter or me. Please think about how YOUR Rotary District can do more for you, and how we can be of assistance to your club. This is the only way we can improve the system and make it work for YOU!

Elias



Conference 2000

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

The 10th Anniversary Conference of District 7780

May 18 - 21, 2000
Portland Marriott Hotel
South Portland, Maine

Pre-registrations to reserve admission to events now being accepted.

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JULY ATTENDANCE

CLUB	ATTENDANCE	CURRENT MEMBERS	CHANGE
BATH	78.0	54	-2
BATH SUNRISE	N/R		
BETHEL	87.2	31	+1
BIDDEFORD-SACO	78.0	64	0
BOOTHBAY HARBOR	74.0	49	-3
BRIDGTON-LAKE REGION	N/R		
BRUNSWICK	81.2	125	-5
BRUNSWICK COASTAL	66.0	14	0
CASCO BAY SUNRISE	55.7	29	-1
DAMARISCOTTA-NEWCASTLE	67.3	45	0
DOVER	63.8	78	-2
DURHAM-GREAT BAY	77.1	54	+1
EXETER	82.7	47	0
FREEPORT	86.0	30	-2
FRYEBURG AREA	84.5	29	+1
HAMPTON	78.7	60	+1
KENNEBUNK	74.6	92	-1
KENNEBUNK PORTSIDE	83.0	42	0
KITTERY	N/R		
NEWSBURYPORT	81.0	73	-1

CLUB	ATTENDANCE	CURRENT MEMBERS	CHANGE
OGUNQUIT	82.0	41	0
OXFORD HILLS	84.0	58	-2
PORTLAND	74.7	198	-8
PORTSMOUTH	72.4	252	-1
PORTSMOUTH SUNRISE	N/R		
ROCHESTER	71.7	74	-2
RUMFORD	76.6	39	-1
SACO BAY	76.9	71	+2
SANFORD-SPRINGVALE	79.6	59	+1
SCARBOROUGH	75.0	24	-1
SEABROOK-H. FALLS	N/R		
SOMERSWORTH	62.5	22	+2
SOUTH BERMICK	90.7	42	+2
SO. PTLD-CAPE ELIZ.	75.3	46	0
WELLS	77.0	51	+5
WESTBROOK-GORHAM	61.0	41	0
WINDHAM	92.0	35	0
YARMOUTH	72.0	40	0
YORK	87.6	60	+1

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