

Rotary International District 7780

Governor's Newsletter

Peter C. Johnson, District Governor 2001-2002

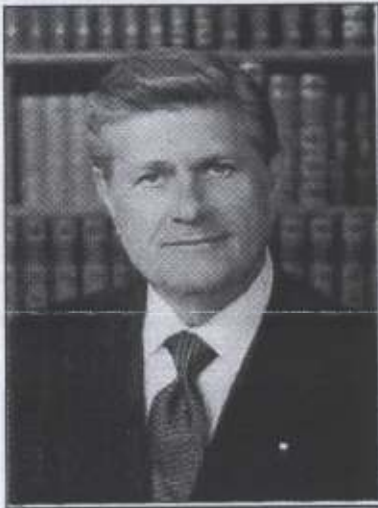


August 2001

Rotary Membership and Extension Month

Council on Legislation

by District Governor Peter Johnson



Rotary International President
Rick King
Wednesday, August 15
Sheraton Hotel, Danvers, MA
Dinner and Address
6:30 p.m.

This is the first time in well over a decade that a sitting R.I. President is visiting the District. It is a particular privilege and honor for us to have a chance to hear President Rick share his vision of Rotary 2001-2002. He wishes to address non-Rotarians as well as current members, so please ask a prospective Rotarian to join you. Cost for the evening is \$46 per person. RSVP to District Secretary Liz Valliere.

Every three years Rotary International holds a major, parliamentary session to vote upon proposed changes to The Rules of Rotary (officially, the Manual of Procedure). We were fortunate to have PDG Jim Labrie serve as our District's Representative this past Spring. Here are my thoughts on some of the changes which Rotary adopted.:

1. My personal passion is creating new clubs, not for the sake of just another club, but with the firm belief that when we create more local opportunities to attend a Rotary meeting, the greater the participation. Rotary just made it easier. We no longer have Club Territories, nor is "permission" required of one club to start another. If ONE PERSON can assemble enough interested people to start a new club, we have a new club and a host of new Rotarians.

2. Three new subcategories were added to the official list of approved "make-up" opportunities. The intent of this change is to recognize that when one is doing the business of Rotary, it counts toward attendance. In reality, we're coming to recognize that club attendance figures are one way of applauding each club's enthusiasm, nothing more. I'm repeating the words of a 20+ year, 100% attendance Rotarian who recently reminded me that "PERFECT attendance is 60%, because that is what we ask of each club member."



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3. We no longer denote "Senior Active Rotarians." We are now either Rotarians or we are not. Long time Rotarians know that the reason "Senior Active" was created was to free up classification slots. The new rules, especially in the U.S. culture of expansive classification titles, simply adjust us to reality. While there are still some statistical limits imposed, the intent is clearly to permit any person who can, and should, join Rotary to do so. Limits are left in place to remind clubs to broaden their appeal throughout the community.

4. Under the old rules, a Rotarian was automatically dropped for nonattendance at club meetings. Under the new

rules, this discretion is left to the local club's board. This may sound obvious, and is reflective of much current practice, but Rotary is saying that each local board, not Evanston, knows what is best. This is good.

The truly wonderful news is that Rotary, while having to work its way through multiple cultures, multiple expectations, and multiple histories of each club, clearly wants to keep our organization relevant and pertinent. I remind our readers that American membership in Rotary is neither a majority nor a plurality; thus many cultures must be addressed. The great news is that we are moving forward. Keep up the great work and energy in each of your clubs and the Rules will take care of themselves.

Quotable

"I will never forget the man who came to my office and invited me to Rotary. He changed my life. And I submit you too will always remember your sponsor. There are millions of quality men and women who are not yet members of a Rotary club because no one has ever asked them. We must do so now."

Richard D. King

"Each and every day we have the opportunity to say to someone: 'I'm curious, has anyone ever asked you to be a Rotarian?' Let's each make this a daily practice."

Peter Johnson

District 7780 Attendance and Membership — July, 2001

	Attendance %	Members '00	Members '01	Change		Attendance %	Members '00	Members '01	Change
Bath	NR	61	57	-4	Newburyport	NR			4
Bath Sunrise	88	20	22	2	Ogunquit				
Bethel	NR	39	35	-4	Oxford Hills				-5
Biddeford-Saco	NR	64	NR	NR	Portland			187	-2
Boothbay Harbor	NR	56	50	-6	Portsmouth		248	251	5
Bridgton-Lake Region	95	21	19	-2	Portsmouth	NR	30	30	0
Brunswick	NR	121	122	1	Portland	NR	77	74	-3
Brunswick Coastal	70	16	13	-3	Portland	NR	38	37	-1
Casco Bay Sunrise	77	30			Portland	NR	66	71	5
Damariscotta-New Castle	NR				Portland	76	60	49	-11
Dover	NR				Portland	78	24	28	4
Durham-Great Bay				0	Scarborough	NR	20	16	-4
Exeter			44	2	Seabrook-Hampton Falls	NR	24	28	4
Falmouth	NR	NR	NR	NR	Somersworth	NR	24	28	4
Freeport	NR	36	41	5	South Berwick	85	43	46	3
Fryeburg	NR	26	23	-3	South Portland-Cape Elizabeth	78	52	58	6
Hampton	NR	61	56	-5	Wells	NR	53	48	-5
Kennebunk	NR	86	85	-1	Westbrook-Gorham	NR	42	39	-3
Kennebunk Portside	NR	39	36	-3	Windham	NR	39	40	1
Kittery	NR	24	26	2	Yarmouth	NR	38	42	4
					York	NR	63	65	2

Rotary's Global Quest: "One new member every month"

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District Governor-Elect's Corner

This year begins a new adventure in my Rotary travels. District Governor-Elect is proving to be an exciting trip.

As Gladys and I visit each club, I hope to share with you many of the interesting ideas that make up the fund raising projects and contribute to the camaraderie within the club and the communities. From community giving, these projects expand into our international community and reach across language and cultural barriers to enable Rotarians to become one worldwide family.

At our first visit to the Rumford Club, we learned of members' involvement in the Rotaplast projects. This thirty-one member club has sponsored two cleft palate surgeries. They donate time and money to community projects such as the local food pantry and The Free Store, a project to provide low-income people with furnishings and clothing. They have also provided a scholarship to a local student attending college.

The club sponsors the Moon Tide Festival 5-K road race just for fun. Lots of fun and lots of publicity for Rotary.

This year the Rumford Club took on a project that touched my heart. They established a fund to erect a memorial plaque recognizing all Rumford veterans who died in all wars and conflicts. Gladys and I rode by the memorial after the meeting and it certainly was an impressive tribute to these citizens.

Rumford Rotary should be proud of the effort put into these projects and the many others that are not as well publicized but are equally important

because they affect many people in the community. With Casey Cramton at the helm this year, I am sure the Rumford Club will continue to make Rotary well known in the district.

Our visit with the Bethel Club coincided with Bob Laux's first official meeting. He did a great job of keeping the meeting running on schedule. Don't lose that clock, Bob!

The club heard from two RYLA graduates. They were very impressed with and enthusiastic about their experiences at the training center.

I asked for and received a list of fund raising projects and activities that the forty-one member club supports. They have NINE major fund raisers including yard sales (Glad's favorite), a country breakfast (my favorite), a golf tournament, and an annual poinsettia sale. Club participation is 98% and projects range from supporting Camp Sunshine to filling Christmas baskets to financing local scholarships.

On the international front, Bethel has teamed up with the Bridgton-Lake Region Club to support a well-drilling project in the Dominican Republic. They also have an ambassadorial scholar studying in Ghana. With her assistance, they hope to organize a project in that country which Rotary can support.

On one of Glad's shopping trips she found a magnet for my work area. It reads, "To realize a dream you must have a dream to realize." This could be a motto for all Rotarians.

Tim Placey

Peter Johnson Installed as District Governor

Peter C. Johnson was installed as Governor of District 7780 on Monday, July 9, at the Val Halla Country Club in Cumberland.

More than 90 Rotarians from over a dozen clubs attended the breakfast meeting. Yarmouth Club President Paul Draper presided over the occasion. He opened the installation proceedings by reading a letter from Caroline Johnson, Peter's wife. She and Peter had not compared calendars until after the date for the induction was set. Too late she realized she was committed to a seminar for school administrators. Her letter was eloquent, loving, and supportive.

Immediate Past District Governor Elias Thomas III spoke. He summarized his year as Governor using three hats as symbols. The first was the old slouch hat he wore on occasions when he posed as a homeless person outside Rotary meetings. The second was the "Polio Plus" visor he wore when he was in India dispensing vaccine to the children and where the plight of desperately sick and deformed homeless people was impressed on him at every turn. And the third — coming full circle — was his ball team cap from last year's Sea Dogs game, where he began his crusade to "Take a Swing at Homelessness." Elias then presented Peter with the District Governor pin.

Newly inducted DG Peter opened his remarks by noting that it is not the District Governor who does the "block and tackle" work of the District — the clubs do. And he pointed out that every person in the room has worn, is wearing, or will wear the hat of a Rotary member of the board, president, secretary, treasurer, committee chair, or, in all likelihood, several. He asked all those assembled to give themselves a large round of applause.

DG Peter spoke about Rotary's Global Quest. He made the point that it is more than just another membership drive. Its most important aspect is to focus us on *who* we are, *what* we do, and *why* we do it. The Global Quest *is* about adding one new Rotarian per month per club, but it *is not* just about the member count. It is about creating Rotarians — people with a passion for service and a belief in the institution. And it is about focusing on membership each and every month and each and every time we meet. Reality is that when we focus on well-run meetings with quality speakers and we engage in programs that touch our member's hearts, finding and keeping great quality people as Rotarians is easy.

Gifts, tributes, and thanks were given in abundance.

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Rotary Youth Exchange 2001-2002

This month we will be bidding farewell, *adios*, *au revoir*, and *hosca kal* to the following outbound students from our district who will be traveling overseas through Rotary Youth Exchange for the experience of a lifetime:

- To Mexico: Mike Cicio
(Kennebunk Portside)
- To Turkey: Erin Fuller
(South Berwick)
- To Argentina: Kasey Matthews
(Kennebunk) and
Beth McEvoy (Ogunquit)
- To Belgium: Lisa Merrill
(Somersworth)
- To S. Africa: Megan Pelletier
(York)
- To India: Erik Munn
(Oxford Hills)

Also from our district is Kendra Treadwell of Dover, NH, who will be going to France through the sponsorship of the Bar Harbor Club. We wish these students well as they embark on

a unique adventure that will allow them to become citizens of the world.

Last month several students returned home from their exchange; these students are known in exchange parlance as "rebounds." In a poll taken by Todd Garland of Kennebunk in his web newsletter (exchangestudentnews.com), two-thirds of rebound students said the hardest part of their exchange year was coming home. If your club has a student returning to the U.S., please make a special effort to welcome that student home again. These students find it hard to bid farewell to all the aspects of their new culture that they have come to love, and they are eager for opportunities to relive the experience by talking to you about it.

If your club does not have a returning student, feel free to contact Tom Wilbur at tom@wilburs.com to find a neighboring student to share a fascinating program at your club.

The Governor's Newsletter is a monthly publication of Rotary International District 7780 for the Rotary year 2001-2002.

Club Presidents and Secretaries, please share this publication with your club's bulletin editor. We encourage reproduction of articles for your general membership. Please ask your editor to send copies of each of *your* newsletters to Holly Holbrook at the address below,

so that we can report news from your club.

Articles and information are welcome and need to be received by the 15th of each month prior to the month of publication.

Please contact the editor, Holly Holbrook: call 207-846-0875, fax 207-846-0138, or write to her at 63 Sligo Road, Yarmouth, ME 04096.

Club Announcements

Rotary Club of Falmouth Charter Evening

On Friday, September 28, at 6:00 p.m., the Falmouth Rotary Club will receive its charter. The event will be held at The Woodlands Club, 39 Woods Road, Falmouth.

Anyone from the District is most welcome at the event. The Falmouth Rotarians are inviting members of the clubs of Falmouth, England, Massachusetts, and Kentucky to join the celebration. The cost is \$30.00 per person.

If you would like to join in welcoming the newest club to our District, please contact Falmouth Club President Aaron Rugh at 207-781-5057 or Debra Madigan at 207-828-7077 by September 1.

Rotary Club of Hampton, NH New Meeting Place

The Hampton Club will be holding their breakfast meetings at The Ashworth by the Sea Hotel, 295 Ocean Boulevard, Hampton Beach, NH, on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m.



Rotary
Club of Exeter
Holding Subaru Outback Raffle

A 2001 Subaru Legacy Outback is worth \$23,445! Tickets are only \$50.00 each, and only 800 will be sold! Interested? Call Club President Allison Field at 603-778-4271. to take a chance.

August - Rotary Membership and Extension Month

Selected Schedule of Events

August 5: Rotary "Takes a Swing at Homelessness"
Sea Dogs Baseball Game

August 15: Dinner and Address by R.I. President Rick King
District Event in Danvers, MA

September 5: District Membership Seminar
3:30—6:00 p.m. USM Gorham Campus

September 15: District Membership Seminar (repeated)
8:00—11:00 a.m. UNE Biddeford Campus

September 28: Rotary Club of Falmouth Charter Evening
Dinner and Celebration



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