

Rotary International District 7780

Governor's Newsletter

Peter C. Johnson, District Governor 2001-2002



July 2001

Rotary Literacy Month

2001-2002 Selected Schedule of Events

July: Literacy Month

July 15:
First Opportunity to Apply
for Matching Grants

August: Membership and Extension

August 5:
"Take a Swing at Homelessness"
Seadogs Game,
Hadlock Field, Portland.

August 15:
Rotary International President
Rick King dinner

"Mankind is Our Business"

Welcome to Rotary Year 2001-2002, the year "Mankind is Our Business."

The ghost of Jacob Marley spoke those words in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. Doomed to an afterlife of eternal regret for his heartless behavior on earth, he reflects that what *should* have been his business was not business but mankind. "Mankind was my business! The common welfare was my business: charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence were all my business. The dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!"

Rotary honors the dealings of every trade, and has as its foundation an ethical, moral standard. Being members allows us to meet like-minded people, to have our eyes and hearts opened to those less fortunate than we, and to make our contributions to mankind ... in our communities and in the world.

Towards that end, 2001-2002 marks some important changes in the

organization of District 7780's leadership. A Membership Retention and Development Committee has been expanded to 11 members; a new Public Relations Committee of eight members has been formed; a new Speaker's Program Bureau of eight members has also been created; and the number of Assistant Governors has been expanded from six to eight.

These changes will allow each Rotary Club in the District to be as vibrant a force in its community as it can possibly be. We will do this recognizing that the business of mankind is all about strengthening our individual clubs in order to accomplish our worldwide and local service.

Mankind is Rotary's business every day, every month, *every* year.

Peter Johnson
District Governor



Falmouth Rotary Club Established

Aaron Rugh was a member of the Portland Rotary Club for seven years, but he lived and worked in Falmouth. Austin deGroat was a member of the Yarmouth Rotary Club for three years, but left Rotary because he, too, lived and worked in Falmouth. Aaron felt strongly the lack of community involvement in Falmouth, and Austin felt strongly the lack of Rotary in his life. Aaron and Austin got together, and the Falmouth Rotary Club became the newest member of District 7780 on May 10, 2001.

Most of the 22 charter members have no experience of Rotary. What they do have, in the finest tradition of the organization, is a strong commitment to service to the community, enthusiasm, and energy. They are also, as Aaron put it, "insanely busy." In fact, it is characteristic of Rotarians to be "insanely busy," which is probably why they accomplish such a wondrous number of things.

With encouragement from District Governor Peter Johnson, Aaron and Austin decided to hold their meetings at a time unique in the District - from 4:15 - 5:15. Aaron starts his business day at 7:00 a.m., so breakfast meetings were out. Most prospective members couldn't attend luncheon meetings, and no one was interested in meeting at dinner time. So, when Falmouth Rotary Club members are filling out their calendars, the last appointment of the day on Mondays is Rotary.

Immediate Past District Governor Elias Thomas III was extremely helpful to the fledgling club. Beyond shepherding Aaron and Austin through the formation process, he was most attentive to their notion of starting up a food bank (none currently exists in

Falmouth). Indeed, Elias helped them put together a package for the District Community Assistance Plan requesting a grant of \$5000 for the project. Their application is now pending approval from Rotary International.

The young club had its first fund drive in June, participating in the Foreside Estates semi-annual garage sale. All members had a great incentive to clean out their cellars and attics, as well as their garages!

We welcome this newest club in District 7780. The members would be delighted to have you visit them at Moose Crossing Restaurant on Route 1 in Falmouth at 4:15 on Monday. And their Charter Night will be held on Friday, September 28 at The Woodlands Country Club in Cumberland at 6:00.

Congratulations to the Rotary Club of

Biddeford-Saco received one of two **BEST CLUB WEBSITE** awards for Zone 31 at the Annual Rotary Convention in San Antonio, Texas, last week. Zone 31 includes all of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut as well as northern and western New York State. See the site for yourself at:

www.biddeford-sacorotary.org.

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Rotary's Global Quest

What is it? Why is it? And why should you care?

"Rotary's Global Quest" is a phrase you will hear often for the next few years. Note: "years." Not "months." Not "this President's year." *Years.*

The Quest is designed to instill in every Rotarian the original vision and the fundamental desire to expand our organization so that it becomes the most powerful movement for good that has ever existed. To achieve such a noble goal, we must continue our Quest indefinitely, renewing and strengthening our membership every year.

At its core, Rotary's Global Quest is a major campaign to increase Rotary membership worldwide.

Cynics might say "We're tired of hearing about the need to find more/new members." The Global Quest is not just about membership. It is about recognizing that our organization is perhaps unique in its ability to make a major impact upon the world in solving the problems of humanity. In order to expand our great humanitarian and educational works, and to strengthen our efforts to advance world understanding and peace, the simple fact exists that our membership needs to grow.

Long-standing Rotarians will correctly ask "I think I've heard this membership stuff before, so

what's different this time?" Several things. Gone are the days of club leadership pronouncing "I expect us to grow by X members this year." Rather, we are asking each club to determine the approach to growth that is most appropriate for that specific club, planning how to achieve the goals of that approach, and then working the actual plan. (After all, this is what we do in our businesses, so why shouldn't we do it in Rotary?)

To assist clubs toward that end, our District Membership Committee has been dramatically expanded, and they promise to deliver District membership seminars (in September) such as you've not seen before.

Gone are the days of working in isolation. Take some time to investigate www.rotary.org thoroughly. You'll find multiple "best of practice" ideas, tips, and suggestions. Feel the need to advertise locally? You'll find new, improved, and current advertising content for today's society.

Gone are the days of "thou must." Part and parcel of today's Rotary is "thou mayest." The 2001 changes by the Council of Legislation reinforce this concept in multiple ways.

Most importantly, *now* are the days of growing our ranks. Not because of the numbers, but because it matters. And it really

(see "Quest" continued on page 4)

Record Numbers Attend District Conference

Rotary District 7780 held its annual assembly at the Eastland Hotel in Portland, Maine, this year, and a record number of Rotarians attended. Well over 300 members from throughout the District convened to learn about the past year's activities and to renew old friendships.

More important, they came together to accept the challenges facing the District in the year ahead. First and foremost is the challenge to sustain and increase our Rotary numbers. Without increasing our membership, we cannot support and increase the good work our District's Rotarians do in their communities and throughout the world.

Without healthy membership there are no trips to India to inoculate hundreds of thousands against polio, no student exchanges with South Africa, no welcoming of young Irish people to learn about friendship and cooperation instead of hatred and distrust, no new water wells, no dental clinics, and on and on ...

At District Assembly we Rotarians shared in the various workshops addressing how we can increase and maintain membership. We talked about why the Rotary Foundation and its programs are so important for us to support. We discussed ideas for fundraising.

For all of us in attendance, this District Assembly gave us the chance to recharge our Rotary batteries, to learn more about all the good we do throughout the District and the world, and to enjoy knowing there are so many others who have the same goals we do for helping to make this a better world through "Service Above Self."

Many thanks to District Governor Peter Johnson and all his crew from the Yarmouth Rotary Club for the hard work which made this year's assembly so successful - and thanks to all who attended. It couldn't have been a success without your being there.

by Paul Draper
President, Yarmouth Rotary

Rotary's Global Quest

(continued from page 3)

does matter, and it matters in a big way.

When Governor Peter speaks of Rotary he often shares his observation about the gazillion things in the life of humanity that might not have happened had not the local Rotary club been in existence in the first place. My fear is that we are taken for granted; my goal for each and every club is that, should they decide to cease activities, the local paper headline reads: "Rotary Club Folds. Town Fathers at Wit's End to Replace Needed Services."

Keep building. Keep growing. Keep sharing Rotary, and, by all means, keep Rotary current and active for our members. We do this, and Rotary's Global Quest is a foregone conclusion.

HELP WANTED

District Job Opening Rotary Foundation

A position remains open for an individual interested in advancing the Rotary Foundation in District 7780. The emphasis, in part, will be on assisting Marie Williams, PDG and Chair of the District Committee for Foundation, with creating and promoting a meaningful Rotary Foundation District Seminar.

Any interested Rotarian should contact District Governor Peter by phone or email.

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 on 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,

ANNOUNCING THE 2001-02 DISTRICT 7780 NEW MEMBER RAFFLE

The rules are fairly simple.

Cause TWO people to join a Rotary Club and your name goes into Peter's Hat.

On October 1 we draw one name; that person receives free registration to the May 2002 District Conference. Non-drawn names stay in the hat, and we draw again on November 1 for an identical prize. We continue to do likewise on December 1, January 1, and February 1.

We draw again on March 1. This time the winner *and spouse* win a *fully paid registration, meals, and lodging package* (one night) to attend the May 2002 District Conference.

Possibility #1: If you bring FOUR people into Rotary, your name goes into the hat twice, and so on.

Possibility #2: If a member from Club A refers a person to Club B (which may or may not be a part of our District), BOTH the person from Club A *and* the person from Club B who closed the deal may "double-dip" on the new Rotarian. [Let the 4-Way Test apply!]



BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!!!

We will continue the raffle until June 30, 2002, at which time we will place the names of all District 7780 Rotarians who have brought THREE or more people into Rotary into Peter's Hat, and the winner will receive

**\$1500 CASH TOWARD EXPENSES INCURRED TO ATTEND
THE ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, JUNE 1-4, 2003, IN**

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA!!!





Caroline Johnson, DG Peter Johnson, Rotary International President Rick King, and Cherie King

Rotary International President Rick King to Speak in District 7780

Who Will You Bring as a Guest for this Event?

500 Rotarians and 500 prospective Rotarians will be able to hear Rotary International President Rick King share his vision of Rotary 2001-2002. Newburyport will be the sponsoring club for this event, which will take place on Wednesday, August 15. The venue has yet to be determined, but it will take place somewhere in the Southern area of the District. It is a particular privilege and honor for our Rotary area to host President Rick - there are more than 29,000 clubs in over 500 Districts worldwide at which he might speak. Mark August 15 on your calendar and think about which of your friends or acquaintances would like to share this special event with you. More information will be forthcoming.



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