

Governor's Newsletter

Peter C. Johnson, District Governor 2001-2002

March 2002



From Governor Peter

This is a busy time of the year for Rotary. It is a time when club directors re-examine this year's goals and objectives, while at the same time next year's president is preparing for the upcoming year. This is a good time for all of us to do a little self-evaluation, both on a personal and club level, to ask ourselves as Rotarians, "Who are we and why are we here?"

Many of you have heard me comment about how important it is that we not take Rotary's existence for granted, for without the structure of vibrant and vital clubs none of our many accomplishments would occur. I have focused in the past on some of our local achievements; today's column is about three international opportunities.

One page three of this newsletter you will read that Past Director Dan Mooers will soon travel to China, giving him a unique opportunity to help with a wheelchair project. Please consider how your club can support this project.

Alternatively, you might wish to help with one or both of two projects which came about as a result of last year's Group Study Exchange with eastern Africa. Their team leader, Sudesh Walia, spoke about her club in Kenya. One of their many projects is eye cataract surgery. A person blind in both eyes is eligible for surgery. Only one eye is repaired, but for \$50 US (!) a person's sight is restored. Our District is collecting club donations which should be sent to Dave Moravick, 6 Heather Lane, Biddeford, ME 04005.

The other African project comes from our team leader, Craig Kelleher. He visited a "normal" elementary school in Kenya. Startlingly, this school has no plumbing: the more than 1500 students share 12 open pit latrines. Craig would like to address this problem and see that their sanitation needs are improved. Questions about this project's status and remaining needs should be addressed directly to Craig, craigdvm@aol.com.

Please consider these three opportunities for international aid as you plan the rest of your Rotary year. Remember "Mankind is Our Business."

District Conference

This year's District Conference promises to be an energizing event for all. The focus of this Conference is to display and discuss the wealth of service each club and our District provides.

Break-out sessions will be hosted by individual clubs, each one describing a successful community, international, or youth project it has undertaken. This is an opportunity to share successes and to broaden the scope of the service your club provides internationally and to your community. We have had a great response from clubs happy to share their stories. If your club has not yet decided how it will participate, please do so soon so your story can be shared.

The Conference will be held at the Eastland Hotel in Portland. We will begin the programs mid-morning on Friday and continue through lunch on Saturday. There will be a dinner dance at the Woodlands Country Club in Falmouth on Saturday evening.

To make the Conference more accessible to more Rotarians, the

(continued on page 3)

District Governor Elect's Corner

Our Rotary journey has begun. In January, Glad and I attended the International Assembly in Anaheim, California. It was an unbelievable experience for both of us.

If I thought I knew all about the scope of Rotary International, I was wrong. I cannot possibly explain all that went on out there, but it was exciting to learn as much as I could in one week. Others before us had tried to describe what to expect, but until we saw for ourselves it was just words. It was all and more than they had promised.

The procession of the flags of 203 countries at the opening ceremonies brought tears to our eyes. The parade of Rotarians in their country's costumes was simply breath-taking. When we say "Rotary International" that is exactly what it means: *International*. District Governors Elect from each country were gathered in one room to exchange knowledge and share fellowship. Some barely spoke English and we spoke not a word of any of their languages, but when we were together the language barrier was overcome ... everyone got the message.

I met the District Governor Elect of New Delhi, India, District 3013. We will be partners with them for a Group Study Exchange in Rotary year 2002-2003. A team will be going to New Delhi in January 2003 and their team will be joining us at our District Conference in May 2003. So, Rotarians, we will be looking for a team leader to travel to India. Think about it. This will be a great opportunity to bond a working relationship with another country.

To fulfill Rotary's commitment to eradicate polio from the world by 2005 the Foundation has named PolioPlus as one of the two fund-raising programs for 2002-2003. The goal is to raise \$80M worldwide. There are foundations that will match Rotary's goal dollar for dollar. This could become up to a 5-to-1 ratio. District 7780 has not received its goal at this time, but I will let you know as soon as I am told. By accomplishing our goals we would raise \$430M for the cause of erasing this dread disease from the earth.

Rotary International is going to be 100 years old in 2005. A huge celebration is being planned for the entire year with the finale in Chicago at the Rotary International Convention. During the next three years every club will be asked to participate by committing to a lasting service project in their community, i.e. a park, a garden, a monument, etc. We will be hearing more about the celebration in the near future.

It seems the programs that Rotary International supports are endless, but the projects that are taken on at club level are just as important. As Rotary International's President Elect Bhichai Rattakul says "Rotary works from the bottom up." So keep up the good work at home as well as supporting international aid. We are all asked to do much, but there is much to *do*, and unless members like you join in the work cannot be accomplished.

I am excited about the future of Rotary and hope I can convey my enthusiasm to you all throughout the coming year.

- Tim Placey

DISTRICT OFFICERS

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Peter C. Johnson

132 Drinkwater Road
Yarmouth, ME 04096

(W) 800-451-0369 or 207-791-5546

(F) 207-774-9684

(H) 207-846-6526

(E) peteryar@aol.com

DISTRICT GOVERNOR-ELECT

Tim Placey

10 Woodside Drive
Cumberland, ME 04021

(H) 207-829-3456

(F) 207-829-3456

(E) tng1966@aol.com

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

NOMINEE

Trish Hunter

1081 Mere Point Road
Brunswick, ME 04011

(H) 207-725-4457

(W) 207-725-8903 x518

(F) 207-721-0186

(E) thunter@downtime.com

IMMEDIATE PAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Elias Thomas III

Ledgewold

Acton, ME 04001

(H) 207-636-1246

(W) 207-636-2222

(F) 207-636-2223

(E) ethomas@gwi.net

DISTRICT SECRETARY

Elizabeth Valliere

48 Lafayette Street, #3
Portland, ME 04101

(H) 207-791-2719

(W) 207-799-8555

(E) evalli6066@aol.com

DISTRICT TREASURER

David Moravick

6 Heather Lane
Biddeford, ME 04005

(H) 207-283-0880

(W) 207-207-967-2000

(F) 207-967-9794

(E) moravick@cybertours.com

ASSISTANT DISTRICT GOVERNORS

John Cogan

(H) 603-743-3961

(W) 603-749-9750

(F) 603-749-1459

(E) john.cogan@citcomm.com

Bob Cook

(H) 603-330-9561

(E) rhcook1@juno.com

Meg Hickey

(W) 207-846-1444

(E) aameg@maine.rr.com

Brenda Knapp

(H) 207-363-8579

(W) 207-363-3588

(E) bknapp@maine.rr.com

Anne Marsh

(H) 207-443-1117

(W) 207-443-3341

(F) 207-443-1070

(E) john.c.marsh@verizon.net

Adrienne Murphy

(H) 207-767-3852

(W) 207-799-5000

(F) 207-799-9226

(E) amurphy@coldwellbankerhb.com

Tim Placey

(H) 207-829-3456

(F) 207-829-3456

(E) tng1966@aol.com

Joe Sirois

(H) 207-364-2659

(W) 207-364-7863

(F) 207-364-2672

(E) joenpat@megalink.net

(continued from page 1)

pricing structure is a la carte. Cost to attend the entire Conference is \$175. If someone can only attend a portion of the Conference, there is a registration option with meals priced individually. Details and registration forms will be distributed to clubs later this month.

Please encourage all club members to participate in this year's District Conference, particularly your club's newer members. This will be a great way for them to develop a better understanding of the variety and depth of the work accomplished by Rotary.

Maura Halkiotis
Carolyn Johnson
Conference Chairs

New Paul Harris Fellow



Indrani Dennen, middle, receives a Paul Harris Fellow award from Brunswick Coastal Rotary members Trish Hunter and John Woollacott at the club's weekly meeting at the China Rose Restaurant. Hunter, a Rotary Club District Governor nominee and past president of Coastal Rotary, and Woollacott, also a past president of Coastal Rotary, presented the award in recognition of Indrani Dennen's "outstanding community service" — including selling more than \$10,000 worth of Brunswick throw rugs in a Rotary Club fund-raiser at the Tontine Mall store she co-owns with her husband, John.

How Much is Mobility Worth?

by Dan Mooers, PRID

Some 100 million of the world's citizens are today deprived of mobility because of warfare, disease, disaster, or advanced age. The wheelchairs they need simply to get across the street — or across the room — are out of reach. But Rotary can help.

In October, 2000, during a goodwill visit to the People's Republic of China, I met with Deng Pufeng, the son of China's late leader Deng Xiaoping, and learned that there is a tremendous need for wheelchairs. In the PRC, Deng Pufeng, himself paralyzed and confined to a wheelchair, heads the China Disabled Persons' Federation. He pleaded with the Rotary delegation to assist with wheelchairs and we pledged our support.

In late March I am planning to return to the PRC with RI President Rick King for another goodwill visit and at that time we plan to deliver two containers of wheelchairs, in cooperation with the Wheelchair Foundation. For every \$75.00 donated by a Rotarian or Rotary club, the Wheelchair Foundation will match the donation and provide one wheelchair at the designated location. Mobility for \$150.00!

Can you and your club help with our effort in China? Just \$75 from your club will provide mobility to a disabled person. How many people can you help?

Please contact me for more information or any questions. I can be reached at

dwm@mooers-law.com

or at 207-767-7444. Thanks for your help!

Rotaplast Acquires Many New Friends Through One Rotarian in Wells

The name for the project came to Terry Hodskins in a rare quiet moment: "Wrap A Smile." Now more than two hundred hand-made quilts are ready to go to the smiling infants and toddlers who are the beneficiaries of Rotaplast.



Terry Hodskins with Rotaplast President John Uth

Bridget Burns, a member and Past President of the Wells Club and the District Coordinator for Rotaplast, made a presentation to her club, showing children of South America before and after surgery to correct cleft lips and palates. Terry noticed that the children were swaddled in some stiff looking material, and Bridget explained that it was plastic-backed paper, the sort used in hospitals as undersheets. Terry, an avid quilter, asked if it wouldn't be nicer for the patients to have a comfortable quilt, and how many children are involved in a typical Rotaplast trip? "About ninety," Bridget replied, "but we would only need about twelve quilts, because, of course, we could reuse them." Terry was not taken with that idea at all. "Each child should take a quilt home!" "Not possible," said Bridget. "Don't say that to a redhead," replied Terry. And "Wrap A Smile" was born.

Terry belongs to three quilting groups, Evergreen Quilters in Wells, Shiretown Stitchers in Alfred, and Winding Ways in Dover, NH. She proposed the project to those groups in November, with the caveat that the quilts would be needed by the end of January. At the next meeting of the Evergreen group (which has about 60 members), Terry was presented with 80 quilts. And that was just the beginning.

14 quilts were completed in a single all-day workshop. After an article about the project appeared in the Portland Press Herald, Terry began hearing from independent quilters offering to contribute. One woman sent her 18 quilts. Another

Maine State Quilting Guild, Cobblestone Quilters, had a holiday party and presented her with six. She has quilts from Internet contacts in Florida, California, and Michigan, and three from a woman in upstate New York who told Terry that she had been a Rotary Exchange Student to the Netherlands, and that she would do

anything she could to help the organization.

A class of second grade students from Hollis, ME, made two, and a Girl Scout troop from the same town made two more. Terry took the message to the Bethel Club and involved two more quilting groups. She is going to speak to the Fryeburg Club, and her contact there said that she already has 22 quilts waiting from a group in Conway. Terry did a make-up at the Four Peaks Club in Fountain Hills, Arizona, and that club is interested in taking up the project. John Uth, President of Rotaplast International, visited the Wells Club and took a sample quilt to the California headquarters. Who knows where this project may go?

What we *do* know is that 115 quilts were shipped off in mid-February to Cumana, Venezuela. And we know that Terry has at least 90 more quilts put away, to be sent to the next Rotaplast surgery site, San Salvador. Hats off to Terry Hodskins, who "grabbed her piece of Rotary" (DG Peter's phrase) and whose infectious enthusiasm resulted in a project that has taken off like a rocket.





Rotary District 7780 Conference May 17 ~ 18, 2002

Got *time* to *Celebrate*?

What's there to *Celebrate*? Being a *Rotarian*!

Where: The Eastland Park Hotel
157 High Street, Portland, ME

The Woodlands Club
39 Woods Road, Falmouth, ME

Why should we attend?

To *Celebrate* all the good deeds we perform
for our community, our country and our world!

District 7780 Conference Schedule:

Friday: The Eastland Park Hotel 11:00 - 5:00 Program
The Eastland Park Hotel 6:00 - 10:00 Cocktails/Dinner

Saturday: The Eastland Park Hotel 7:30 - 3:00 Program
The Woodlands Club 5:30 - 10:00 Cocktails/Dinner

Conference Fee: Prior to April 15th: \$ 50.00 per person. On or after April 15th: \$60.00 per person.
No conference fee for spouses.

Meal Fees: Friday Lunch \$25.00 per person Saturday Lunch \$25.00 per person
Friday Dinner \$50.00 per person Saturday Dinner \$50.00 per person

Package: All meals plus conference fee \$175.00 per person
After April 15th, meals plus conference fee \$185.00 person

Room Registration: Contact The Eastland Park Hotel at 207-775-5411

For additional information:

Maura Halkiotis, Conference Chair
207-846-5693 (Home)
207-846-9036 (Work)

Peter Johnson, District Governor
207-846-6526 (Home)
207-846-5546 (Work)

Look for registration forms & additional information mid-March!

Let's **CELEBRATE** together, our many Rotary accomplishments!



Throughout this year when I have had the opportunity to address Rotarians, I have commented frequently that when we stop and think about those things - **opportunities, friendships, outreaches, projects, and more** - that **ONLY** happen because Rotary exists to provide them, we start to begin to appreciate the powerful impact we enjoy! *This is the treasure of Rotary.*

District Conference is about **celebrating** our accomplishments. I've asked Clubs to provide the program material so that all our clubs can learn and grow from the success of each other. We've also listened to you and have tried to create a venue as user-friendly as possible.

You'll note from the registration information provided on the front that we are using a la carte pricing. If you can only make it to a small corner of the event, we are happy to have you, and believe we have a pricing mechanism to meet that need. The Saturday evening event should be particularly fun: we promise no big speeches; a few **highlight awards** for the Rotary year, and a **great entertainment** package.

This is *your* District Conference: Join us at The Eastland Park Hotel and The Woodlands Club to unite with other clubs from District 7780 to **celebrate** our collective achievements through Rotary. We hope you enjoy the Conference and have the opportunity to connect with old friends, meet new friends and learn something new about Rotary.

Message from Rotary District Governor, Peter Johnson

Rotary District 7780 Conference May 17 ~ 18, 2002

The Eastland Park Hotel, Portland, ME
The Woodlands Club, Falmouth, ME



District 7780 Attendance and Membership — February, 2002

	Attendance %	Members 7/01	Members 2/02	Change		Attendance %	Members 7/01	Members 2/02	Change
Bath	62.17	57	51	-6	Newburyport	85	76	79	3
Bath Sunrise	89.77	21	23	2	Ogunquit	89	35	31	-4
Bethel	88	35	40	5	Oxford Hills	83.4	60	53	-7
Biddeford-Saco	81	62	65	3	Portland	70.36	184	170	-14
Boothbay Harbor	70.38	51	46	-5	Portsmouth	79.2	250	250	
Bridgton-Lake Region	89	20	20		Portsmouth Sunrise	NR	29	NR	
Brunswick	80	122	116	-6	Rochester	NR	74	79	5
Brunswick Coastal	71	13	15	2	Rumford	NR	30	NR	
Casco Bay Sunrise	64.35	32	23	-9	Saco Bay	87.3	62	63	1
Damariscotta-New Castle	82.9	45	52	7	Sanford-Springvale	78.53	52	50	-2
Dover	NR	83	NR		Scarborough	67	25	33	8
Durham-Great Bay	NR	57	NR		Seabrook-Hampton Falls	NR	16	NR	
Exeter	84.84	43	47	4	Somersworth	NR	28	NR	
Falmouth	NR	20	NR		South Berwick	NR	46	NR	
Freeport	63	39	40	1	So. Portland-Cape Elizabeth	79	56	54	-2
Fryeburg Area	77.5	24	26	2	Wells	86	48	46	-2
Hampton	79.5	55	61	6	Westbrook-Gorham	68.3	38	40	2
Kennebunk	74	81	84	3	Windham	NR	39	NR	
Kennebunk Portside	NR	34	NR		Yarmouth	67	43	42	-1
Kittery	77	23	25	2	York	NR	65	NR	

District Assembly — Wednesday, April 17

On Wednesday, April 17, District Governor Elect Tim Placey and the Casco Bay Sunrise Rotary Club, with support from the York Rotary Club, will be hosting this year's District Assembly for Rotary District 7780.

The event will take place at the York County Technical College in Wells, Maine, and will run from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost for the Assembly will be \$30.00 per person before March 29, and \$35 per person after that date. The fee will provide you with a stimulating and educational conference that is sure to leave you asking how you can get more involved, fellowship with old friends, and the opportunity to make some new ones. A continental breakfast and full lunch are included, and parking is free!

The theme for this year's assembly is "Sow the Seeds of

Love." We ask that you join us as we embark on a new year with Rotary. Help us gain knowledge and strengthen our clubs. If we come together through love we can achieve anything.

To facilitate the planning of this year's District Assembly, the registration form was sent to all club presidents by March 1. We ask that you complete the registration form as soon as possible and send us a list of those planning to attend.

If you are interested in learning more about the District Assembly, you can log on to the Rotary web site at www.rotary7780.com or call Mike Walker, Assembly Chair at 774-1260. We thank you for your interest and commitment to Rotary and we are looking forward to seeing you on April 17.

Travels With Rotary

Barcelona — International Convention 2002

The 93rd Annual Rotary International Convention will take place June 23-26 in Barcelona, Spain. Barcelona will be in the middle of a non-stop year-long celebration of the International Gaudi Year, honoring the 150th anniversary of the birth of this fabulous Art Nouveau architect and original thinker.

RI President Rick King has made some significant changes in the program for the convention, insuring that it will be more inclusive, informative, and cost-effective than ever. A special, free Rotary Fellowship Salute will welcome you to the enchanting city of Barcelona, where you can meet the RI Board and Rotary Foundation Trustees and enjoy a variety of local entertainment. There will be a special orientation session for first-time attendees. A plenary session titled "Rotary's Investment in Youth" will be an inspirational highlight of the program.

District Governor Peter, his wife Carolyn, District Governor-Elect Tim Placey and Gladys, and at least six more Rotarians from our District will be attending. If you are tempted by a trip to Spain, a visit to a charming city, a great experience for you ... and your family ... feel free to call either DG Peter or DG-Elect Tim for more information.

The cost for the Convention is \$400 per couple if you register by March 31, \$450 per couple if you register on site. A single Rotarian may attend for \$275 before March 31 or \$300 on site. British Airways is offering a travel discount to Rotarians and families traveling to Spain.

South African Safari — View the Total Eclipse of the Sun!

Total Sun Eclipse African Rotary Safari

Early on the morning of 4th December 2002 the shadow of the moon racing across the African veldt will engulf the sun. In an instant day will turn to eerie night, softened by the ethereal glow of the solar corona radiating in pearly splendor around the black outline of the moon. It will be a sublime moment, imprinting itself on the heart of those fortunate enough to stand in awe before it. For this is a once-in-350-years occasion and only a few of the world population will be privileged to experience it. A total sun eclipse. To witness this celestial showpiece in a hauntingly beautiful place among wild creatures of Africa is to be doubly privileged.

The Rotary Club of Pietersburg is extending an invitation to Rotarians and friends to answer the call of Africa and join us in a Classic Safari of Yesteryear — opulent, elegant, exclusive, and exciting — to share in this natural wonder.

To provide you with the opportunity to view the eclipse in a truly private and unique ambience, a luxury tented camp will be specially erected in the world famous Chobe Game Reserve in Northern Botswana on the direct line of the eclipse. The camp will be 5 Star Platinum Class in traditional en-suite Safari Style tents. After adventure-filled days in the truly unspoiled corner of Africa, the safari will transfer to a luxury lodge in another African marvel — the Okavango Delta.

This one off safari is being offered at \$3,500 US per person sharing, all inclusive while in Southern Africa. The duration of the safari will be 10 days. Non-Rotarians are welcome. This African Eclipse Safari is an official project of the Rotary Club of Pietersburg, District 9250, South Africa, and all proceeds will be used towards the establishment of an Environmental Education Centre for Disadvantaged Children in the Pietersburg area.

For further details please contact PP Charles Hardy at charlois@mweb.co.za or PDG Bert Clews at bertclews@pixie.co.za.

News Flash!!

Our President's Representative for District Conference is Mr. Sam Okudzeto, PDG from Ghana. Mr. Okudzeto is a RI Director-Elect and will serve as Aide to President Nominee Johnathan Majiyagbe (2003-2004). Mr. Okudzeto has been active with the African Affairs Committee and with the African Regional PolioPlus Committee.

What an opportunity for all District Rotarians to learn more about the international aspects of Rotary!

Interact Clubs Offer Valuable Services

Not enough notice has been given in this publication of District 7780's wonderful Interact Clubs. Vibrant and active, continuing to grow in both numbers of clubs and individual participants, conducted with all the enthusiasm a group of motivated teenagers can bring to any enterprise, these clubs improve their communities in many ways.

The Dover Interact Club was organized last year with about 20 students; it will be chartered this coming April with 42 fully active members. The club is committed to community service, and so effective are its projects that the officers of the club were invited to speak at a school board meeting about the subject.

They average a *project a week*. One day a week a group goes to a pre-school to read to the children and to tutor. Another group (with a Rotarian) goes to a homeless shelter to cook a meal. There is a group which goes to local nursing homes to do projects with Alzheimer's

patients, and the whole club became involved in a quilting project — producing quilts for at-risk teenage girls living in a local shelter.

This club, being service oriented, does not need to raise a great deal of money, but they do hold bake sales and lollipop sales to provide funds for needed materials. They have only written one check, and that one was for a matching grant with another Interact Club and two Rotary Clubs to send medical equipment to Cumana for the Rotaplast trip.

The York High School Interact Club has about 30 members. Their current project is to produce a book for publication. Each member of the club works with four elementary school children to write and illustrate a story. When the project is completed, the book will be offered for sale.

This club has also collected and sent books to schools in Pakistan.

The members are participating in a fund-raising walk for Habitat for Humanity in Kennebunk in March.

The Yarmouth Interact Club, like the Dover one, is only two years old, but 40 members strong. Their primary focus this year is to fund and equip a "Joy Cart" for the Maine Children's Cancer Center at Maine Medical Center.

This project, which will give "graduation presents" to patients who have completed what is typically two years of cancer treatment, is being organized in memory of two Yarmouth High School students who died of cancer over the past three years.

The Yarmouth students ran a snow-shoveling service last winter and is hosting a Bowl-a-Thon to raise money for the Joy Cart.

These and the other remarkable Interact Clubs in the District give us all good reason to be very, very proud of our teenage members.

Mark Your Calendars!

March 30 — District Interact Conference in Portsmouth, NH

April 17 — District Assembly in Wells, ME

May 17 & 18 — District Conference in Portland and Falmouth, ME

June 23-26 — Rotary International Convention in Barcelona, Spain



Peter C. Johnson
Governor, District 7780
132 Drinkwater Point Road
Yarmouth, ME 04096



Marie A. Williams
P.O. Box 142
Kittery Point, ME 03905