

Rotary International District 7780

# Governor's Newsletter

Peter C. Johnson, District Governor 2001-2002



September 2001

Rotary New Generations Month



Rotary International President Rick King (at podium) with, from left to right, PDG George Cashman, DG Peter Johnson, DG Donna Lee Young Rubin, DG Ralph Hammond, DG Carolyn Crowley Meub, Carolyn Johnson, and Art Richardson, a past Director of Rotary International.

*photo by Phil Chura*

It was a rare treat to attend the presentation of Rotary International President Richard D. King at the dinner event hosted by the Rotary Club of Newburyport. The club, led by its President Liz Cullen, did a superb job at attending to logistics with the valiant support of Liz Valliere, District Secretary and member of the Casco Bay Sunrise Club. Our own Past District Governor George Cashman, also a member of the Newburyport Club, was a wise and witty Master of Ceremonies.

Among the hundreds of attendees was a contingent from the Hampton Club which arrived on a chartered trolley - bright red, with wooden slat seats. Portland Club Rotarians came clad in black (which is correct ... that is the

*(see "King" continued on page 2)*

## From Governor Peter

Each month this message becomes harder to write. The more I know about your efforts, the more I burst with the pride of Rotary — the pride of our members and your genuine sincerity, and pride of the accomplishments and scope of your projects. All of which I want to share in grand/glorious detail on these pages.

My demanding editor has different ideas. Keep it short and focused says she.\* Of course, editors are always right, so my focus today is ROTARY'S GLOBAL QUEST. It has been rewarding to see the enthusiasm about this effort, and it is clear Rotarians are taking the effort to heart, so today I share a few early observations:

Foremost is a reflection on the Quest's byline: "One New Member Every Month." Rotary has stated this as the goal. Perhaps it is better stated as the RESULT!

*(see "Quest" continued on page 2)*

\*That's because *she* loves to write up those grand/glorious stories!  
*Ed.*



(*"King" continued from page 1*)

color President King has chosen for the jackets for his year). But the black in this case was t-shirts, and they were emblazoned with the words "Rocking with the King!" It



photo by Brenda Knapp

turns out that the Portland Club had a benefit dance in 1994 featuring Elvis impersonators!

President Rick spoke powerfully about the scope, the impact, and the meaning of Rotary. Several quotes resounded. Governor Peter's transcriptions include:

"We have the unique potential to be the greatest force for good that **ever** existed."

"When it comes to finding quality Rotarians, we seek not the quality of their income or position, but the quality of their heart."

"What we accomplish matters, and it matters *greatly*. So take great pride in what you accomplish as a Rotary Club."

Tom Talbot, Vice President of the Portland Club, said "King is the kind of person I'm glad to see as President of Rotary International. He is outgoing, enthusiastic, spontaneous, a leader for the times. At today's (frantic) pace it is hard to create 'Rotary time.' King pointed out that with the right attitude we can have fun, do good, and do Rotary's work."

Doug Hooper, a member of the Saco Bay Club called the event "Great, fantastic!" He said he feels that King is "an excellent

spokesman for Rotary. He is a fun speaker, with a nice voice, and professional in the way he makes everything he says interesting." Doug, who is Chair of the Membership Development & Retention Committee, said he was particularly interested in and inspired by King's comments about the Global Quest.

John Rainone, President of the York Club and his wife, Laura were present at the event. John said "President King's presentation made *sense*. I was impressed by how the things King talked about relate not only to Rotarians, but to *life*. We are fortunate to have such a leader." Laura found King "energetic and inspiring."

It was a special honor for six new Rotarians to be inducted by President King. And PDG George Cashman presented King with a replica of the first Coast Guard Cutter (Newburyport is the home of the Coast Guard).



photo by Phil Chura

The strong turn-out and enthusiasm of Rotarians, not only from District 7780, but from neighboring Districts, especially greater Boston (District 7930), was special. Those in attendance sensed the enthusiastic atmosphere and positive energy as we celebrated our strengths and successes and accepted the challenge to expand our reach.

(*"Quest" continued from page 1*)

It is the **RESULT** of realizing that the quality of the weekly speaker program matters greatly to attract and keep members.

It is the **RESULT** of realizing that club projects must be varied enough so that *every* member is compelled to stay involved, to further the one or more efforts that touch that member's heart.

It is the **RESULT** of realizing that when existing members can clearly articulate the "who are we and why are we here?" answer, new members will not only join, but stay.

It is the **RESULT** of creating meeting spaces which look and feel like spaces where community leaders would want to gather, and when meetings are run to respect people's time, new members will join and stay.

It is the **RESULT** of realizing that every member will not bring in a new member, so we need to empower those who are effective at closing the sale, and empower those who are not to improve other aspects of the club.

It is the **RESULT** of being proud of who we are, proud of what we accomplish, and proud of what we represent.

And finally, it is the **RESULT** of remembering to ask the simple question, "I'm curious. Has anyone ever asked **you** to be a Rotarian?"





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## District Governor-Elect's Corner

Our club visits this month have taken us on some early morning rides down winding back roads. "No (easy) way to get there from here." Glad got up and went with me to Oxford Hills with the promise of food ... their corn fritters were greatly enjoyed on a Wednesday morning.

This club works and plays hard in their fund-raising projects. Their annual bean-hole supper was held in July, but was not as successful as it had been in years past. Lots of beans left over. Members discussed whether the event should continue or perhaps change locations. It's sad to think of a tradition like this ending. They are now getting ready for their lobster fest which is a major fund-raiser for them in August. It's lots of hard work but needed for the projects they fund.

Oxford Hills also holds a lawn sale and auction in collaboration with the Kiwanis. The theory behind this: more hands, more community benefits. Sounds good to me.

The Bridgton Lake Region Club also holds a breakfast meeting ... lots of happy morning people ready to face the day and take on the world! This club is really dynamic in their fund-raising efforts. They reported on a lawn sale they had just held. (Thank goodness Glad hadn't heard about that!) This one was so profitable they have another planned for late August or early September.

The club raised \$2000 selling ducks for the July 4 Duck Race on the river. Picture 400 yellow plastic ducks bobbing down the river. What fun! The big fund-raiser for this club is the Potato Booth they co-sponsor with the Fryeburg Club. Glad and I took a razzing for never

having attended the Fryeburg Fair. I guess we will be going this year!

For an international project the Bridgton Lake Region Club and the Bethel Club have joined forces to apply for a grant to fund a well-drilling project in the Dominican Republic. On the home front Bridgton has given scholarships to local students and has donated funds for playground equipment for the new school in town.

We literally skidded into Fryeburg for our Tuesday visit. It was almost a *true* case of "can't get there from here." But we made it, and weren't fined for being a bit late. Fryeburg is a 19-member club, actually 20 members now, as they inducted a new member the morning we were there ... Rotary's Global Quest in action! It's great to see the new Rotarians coming into the clubs. We have much work to do and never enough hands to do it.

Fryeburg has an impressive, enthusiastic, and active 27-member Interact Club — a real credit to their sponsor. We again heard about the Fryeburg Fair Rotary Potato Booth. The "potato lady," Brenda Thibodeau, was sitting at our table. Are Glad and I the only people who have never been to the Fryeburg Fair? I think not! So, you Rotarians, let's get out to the Fair, support these good people, and make it a banner year for potato sales!

The closeness we have seen in these clubs is genuine warmth and friendship that goes far beyond just being a Rotary Club member. It is all about caring and doing for others. After all — "Mankind Is Our Business."

Tim Placey



## Group Study Exchange 2002

Group Study Exchange (GSE) is one of several programs that our District participates in each year. This year we have the pleasure of hosting and sending professional businessmen and women between our District #7780 and District #3780, Quezon City, Philippines.

The participation of every club in the District is essential to make this program a success. The task of the GSE Committee is twofold: first, to assemble a team of business/professional people to travel to the Philippines, and second, to prepare an itinerary and secure host families for the incoming team members.

The Committee's initial request from each club is to identify potential candidates who are able to travel for one month from March 24, 2002 to April 20, 2002. Team members — four will be selected — may not be Rotarians or close relatives of Rotarians. They should be between the ages of 25 - 40, employed full-time in their present profession/vocation, and U. S. citizens. The team leader must be a Rotarian (no age restriction) capable of leading the group for an intense itinerary. Our goal is to have a candidate pool that is representative of the strength of the business and professional sectors in District #7780.

The deadline to have both team leader and team member applications to the GSE Committee is October 19. All applications postmarked by that date will be accepted for consideration. For more information and applications go to the Rotary website — [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) — or contact Chairman John Anderson or other committee members listed on page 33 of the District Directory.

## Rotary Club of Kittery Feeds Philippine Children

Our District clubs sponsor many successful projects, each one unique, important, and often heart-warming. Here is one:

During World War II Harrison E. Lemont (current member and Past President of the Kittery Club) served in the Army Air Corps. His platoon landed on the island of Leyte on October 20, 1944.

"When the island was secured we set up camp. It was not the Army's responsibility ... to feed the Philippine people. We simply were not equipped or prepared to do so. The Army's duty was to care for our men, and in the early days of fighting there was scarcely enough food for that. The cooks set up a tent kitchen and prepared the rations they had received. We lined up so they could deposit what we considered slop in our mess kits, then we would find a shady spot to sit and eat. The routine concluded with each of us dumping our leftovers into a big garbage can ...

... many of the native children would gather by the big garbage can, asking that we dump our leftovers into their outstretched bowls or cans. Some of the children, only one or two years old, would be holding the hand of an older brother or sister, maybe nine or ten years old. It was incredibly emotional and difficult to see those sad little barefoot urchins in their ragged clothes, begging for food.

In the August 1997 issue of the 'Rotarian' ... there was a list of Rotary clubs celebrating 50 years of service. One of those was in Tacloban, the capital of the island of Leyte. It brought back a flood of memories ... I sent them a letter of congratulations along with a photograph of those little children that were so strongly etched in my

memory. I soon learned that the street children still 'live' in Tacloban. The Kittery Rotary Club and I decided it was time to 'make a difference.'

With a relatively small amount of money the authorities in Tacloban would be able to get these kids off the street, provide them with shelter and food, and give them an education. There was hope — and we needed to act now! We went to work and raised the money through several projects and gained a matching grant from Rotary International. This year, with the assistance of our friends in the Tacloban Rotary Club, we will complete our project to 'make a difference' in the lives of some young children that we don't even know but that we care about very deeply. It's a great feeling and well worth the effort."

The money raised by the two clubs and matched by R.I. was spent on rice cookers, a gas stove, frying pans, and other utensils as well as food. The President of the Tacloban Club, Dodge Mante, wrote to report that food is served and evaluated on a weekly basis, physician members of Rotary conduct a medical evaluation of all the participating children, medicine is distributed to children sick with fever or coughs, and mothers are educated every Friday on how to prepare healthy meals. "Our sense of gratitude will be forever etched in every Rotarians' hearts," Mante wrote.

"I still think about those children," said Lemont. "I felt so helpless because the Army wasn't prepared to feed them. But through the Rotary Club, we were able to do something."



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## Youth Exchange — An Amazing Alumnus

Let me tell you an amazing success story happening right here in our own District. Once upon a time there was a young man who wanted to be an exchange student. The Rotary Club of Kennebunk Portside sponsored him and he went to Brazil in August 1999.

He learned to speak Portuguese. He lived with a family who loved him as one of their own. He made lots of great new friends. He spent Christmas at the beach. In January he went on a trip with 80 other exchange students to northeast Brazil and had a fabulous time. In short, his exchange year was "awesome."

Then in summer 2000 he came home. Although he was glad to be back, there was a void in his life. He missed Brazil, the family, the friends, the culture. And rather than supporting him, his friends just didn't want to hear about how things were in another country.

Last October he thought of a way to share his stories with people who would listen — he started a newsletter for exchange students. Starting out with a printed newsletter, he soon realized that he would need to publish online to make it a truly international publication. Although he knew nothing about web design he launched a web site ... which he describes as "pitiful." He revised and revised until he arrived at its present format. You can check it out at [www.exchangestudentnews.com](http://www.exchangestudentnews.com). He is about to launch a separate web site as a free email service for international Rotary exchange students ([www.rotaryexchangestudent.com](http://www.rotaryexchangestudent.com)).

The student is Todd Garland.

While studying full time at the University of Massachusetts he published the International Exchange Student News on the Internet on a monthly basis. It caught on like wildfire. Each issue is packed with stories from students from all over the world who are eager to share their experiences and are grateful for the opportunity to do so. His circulation has grown exponentially and he projects it will be 14,000 by the end of the year. Visit Todd's website. It will make you proud of him and of Rotary's Youth Exchange program.

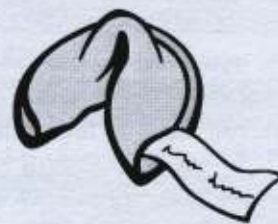
by Nancy Hawes

## Truth is Stranger ...

DG Peter visited the Brunswick Coastal Club in August. He enjoyed his visit greatly, not only for the good company of a group of fine Rotarians, but because it is the only club in the District which meets (for dinner) at a Chinese buffet restaurant.

The meeting progressed in the usual fashion, and then Peter was asked to present a long-time member with a Paul Harris Fellowship. This he was delighted to do, and, following the short recognition ceremony, the honoree returned to his seat.

At that point the new Paul Harris Fellow realized that he still hadn't opened his fortune cookie. DG Peter swears that this is the Truth:



It is important in life  
to support  
your foundation.



## Membership Seminars

This year's first District Membership Seminar will be held on **Wednesday, September 5** from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. at the USM Gorham Campus in Hastings Formal Lounge. The second (a repeat of the first) will take place on **Saturday, September 15** from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the UNE Biddeford Campus in the Student Center.

Perhaps you remember attending the last District Assembly. The clubs' leadership enthusiastically supported the idea of *not* holding these seminars during July and August. Now is your chance to show your appreciation of having the summer off by attending these

far more convenient events!

The seminars will be quite different from those in past years. They will be set up like a job fair with opportunities to visit tables that specialize in a single topic. This will allow attendees to tailor their time at the seminar to meet their needs.

Topics may include (but not be limited to): Why Be a Rotarian; New Clubs/Extensions; From Proposal to Induction; Identifying Prospective Members; Orientating New Members; Plans for Retaining Members; Strategies for Global Quest; Community Outreach; Publicity; Rotary Alumni; Minimum Club Size.

These seminars are being organized by Doug Hooper, Chair of the Membership Development and Retention Committee. Each club in the District is expected to send a minimum of seven members, but Doug can handle as many as wish to attend. He may be reached at 207-282-7552(W) or (207-238-4121 (H).

Articles, photos, and information for **The Governor's Newsletter** 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.

## District 7780 Attendance and Membership — August, 2001

	Attendance %	Members 7/01	Members 8/01	Change		Attendance %	Members 7/01	Members 8/01	Change
Bath	58.91	57	52	-5	Newburyport	NR	76	NR	
Bath Sunrise	92.1	21	21	0	Ogunquit	NR	35	NR	
Bethel	83	35	38	3	Oxford Hills	NR	60	NR	
Biddeford-Saco	NR		NR		Portland	NR	184	NR	
Boothbay Harbor	73.09	51	52	1	Portsmouth	75.29	255	250	-5
Bridgton-Lake Region	NR	20	NR		Portsmouth Sunrise	66.96	29	28	-1
Brunswick	81	124	122	-2	Rochester	65.1	74	77	3
Brunswick Coastal	69	13	NR		Rumford	NR	35	NR	
Casco Bay Sunrise	63.76	32	26	-6	Saco Bay	76.48	67	62	-5
Damariscotta-New Castle	93.01	45	47	2	Sanford-Springvale	72.97	52	47	-5
Dover	56.95	83	86	3	Scarborough	71	25	28	-3
Durham-Great Bay	NR	57	NR		Seabrook-Hampton Falls	NR	16	NR	
Exeter	80.77	43	42	-1	Somersworth	NR	28	NR	
Falmouth	NR		NR		South Berwick	83	46	39	-7
Freeport	66.5	41	38	-3	So. Portland-Cape Elizabeth	73	56	57	1
Fryeburg Area	73	24	20	-4	Wells	87	48	48	0
Hampton	79.6	55	54	-1	Westbrook-Gorham	64.4	38	36	-2
Kennebunk	79.7	81	80	-1	Windham	NR	39	NR	
Kennebunk Portside	84	34	35	1	Yarmouth	63.56	43	41	-2
Kittery	71	23	23	0	York	NR	65	NR	



## Good News Department

No, this is better than "good" — this is "great," this is "superb," this is "overwhelming" ...

Rotary International began the work of the Polio Plus program in the 1980's. In 1985 India continued to report 200,000 new cases of polio a year. From January 1, 2001 to June 30, 2001 India reported only **14** new cases!

## Seabrook-Hampton Falls Updates

The Rotary Club of Seabrook-Hampton Falls is a small but very active club. It's most recent fund-raising effort — the raffle of a Harley-Davidson motorcycle — netted them more than \$10,000!

They have a new meeting place: the Old Salt Restaurant on Route 1 in Hampton, NH. They meet for lunch on Wednesdays at 12:15.

Please note the following corrections to their listings in the District Directory:

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## "Back to School" in Dover, New Hampshire

There is a Housing Authority Project in Dover. Projects such as this can usually use a helping hand, so the Dover Rotary Club opened a door and started a dialogue. After a lot of discussion it became clear that one of the greatest needs was for children in the project from ages 5 to 12 to have back-to-school clothes. But it was important - actually necessary - that the children earn the money themselves.

So Rotary drew up a contract between the Housing Authority Partnership, the students, the parents, and the Rotary Club. Thirty children accepted the contracts, which required them to attend homework labs, complete their schoolwork, behave in a civil manner at all times, and participate in Community Service Projects.

For one full year these children were tracked. Homework was checked, behavior evaluated, and the kids helped the Rotary Club with Community Service projects: keeping the Housing Project's grounds mulched, mowed, and weeded, and participating in Rotary's town-wide clean-up days (remember, these children ranged in age from 5 to 12!).

At the end of the year 26 of the original 30 children had fulfilled their contracts. Rotary negotiated with the local Ames Discount Store, which created "charge cards" worth \$150 apiece for each child and opened the store an hour early for them. Rotary

rented a bus, picked up the children, and took them to Ames where they were met by the rest of the Dover Rotarians who helped them make their school clothes choices. The \$3900 needed for the "charge cards" was raised through various Dover Rotary Club events.

The reaction from children to Rotarians to parents to Housing Authority Partners to Ames Discount Stores to the town of Dover in general has been so positive that there is no question this project will continue for years to come.

*(This project was the brainchild of Dover Club member John Cogan, and was reported to the editor by Dover Club President Cindy Imbro.)*

## Rotary International Service Above Self Award

150 Rotarians are selected each year to recognize extraordinary humanitarian service exemplified by personal volunteering and active involvement in service to others through Rotary. This is the highest honor RI bestows on individual Rotarians. See the Rotary International website — [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) — for more information about eligibility and the selection process. Deadline: nominations must be received at Rotary International by September 15, 2001 for the 2001-2002 Rotary year.



# September — Rotary's New Generations Month

## Selected Schedule of Events

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

September 15: District Membership Seminar  
8:30-11:00 a.m. UNE Biddeford

September 15: Deadline for Nominations for Service Above Self Awards

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

October 19: Deadline for Applications for Group Study Exchange Candidates



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