



# Rotary International District 7780

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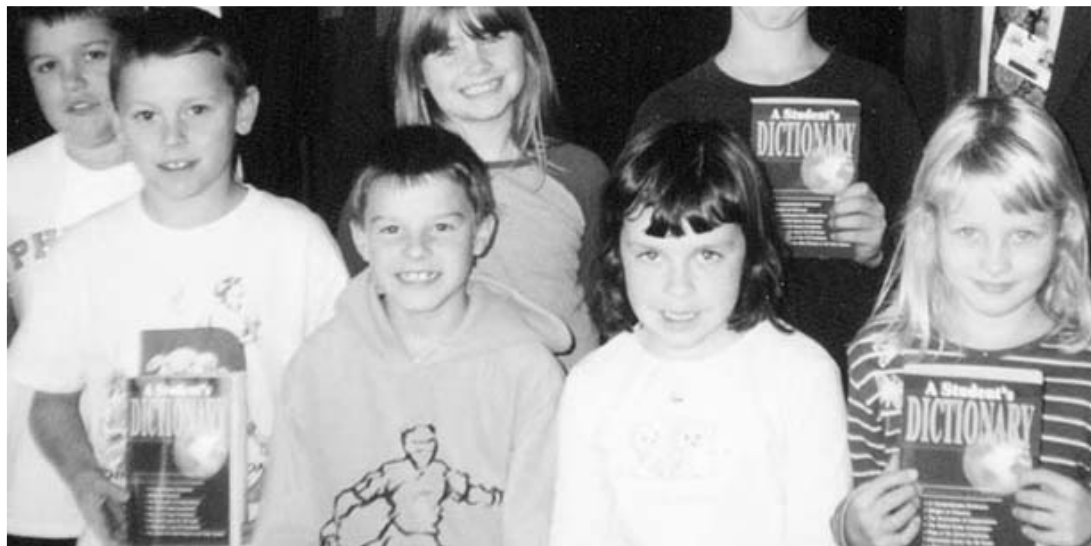


photo courtesy of Barb Olsen

**The children in this picture are holding dictionaries provided by the Oxford Rotary club, who distributed one to every third grader in the Oxford Hills School District.**

January is Rotary Awareness Month. Projects like Oxford Rotary's dictionary campaign remind us that Rotary awareness projects come in all sizes (and ages!). We may never know which of these kids is a future Interactor, Rylarian, Youth Exchanger or Rotarian. The point is, this seemingly simple project spreads more than just goodwill throught the community – it plants the seeds for our future.

There are many ways to raise awareness. Saturday, January 10, is the perfect opportunity for us to get some publicity, fly the club banner and maybe get on TV – at no cost to the club. It's our Second Annual WGME13 Rotary Bottle Drive for Maine Mentoring. Rotarians all over the District will be Lending A Hand at participating Shaw's Supermarkets collecting bottles and cans, displaying their Club banners, and showing their communities that Rotary cares. WGME will be doing live interviews with Rotarians throughout the day – what a great PR opportunity for us all!

It's also a time of fellowship. Haven't your best times in Rotary been when you've rolled up your sleeves and worked side by side with your fellow club members? I challenge each Rotary club with a Shaw's in their community to show their spirit –and their club banner – and let everyone see what an asset Rotary is to Maine. This is a great way for clubs with Interact groups to participate, as well.

The best way to increase our membership is to highlight our strengths as a service club. So many people want to help. Let's get the word about Rotary!

## **Get Ready for January 10, 2004**

### **WGME 13 & Rotary Bottle Drive for Mentoring**

WGME 13 and District 7780 have teamed up again with Shaw's Supermarkets to hold our second annual Bottle Drive for Mentoring. On January 10, 2004, Shaw's Supermarkets across the District will host Rotarians collecting bottles and cans, with the proceeds benefiting Maine Mentoring.

WGME will be providing heavy on-air promotions and PSA's before the event, highlighting Rotary's commitment to the community. Here are just a few of the participating locations & clubs:

Portland Rotary at Shaws Northgate, Portland  
 Falmouth, Freeport, and Yarmouth Rotary at Shaws, Falmouth  
 Bath and Bath Sunrise Rotary at Shaws, Bath

Public Relations  
Water

Scarborough Rotary at Shaws, Scarborough  
Brunswick Coastal Rotary at Shaws, Brunswick

### Youth Programs

Interact  
RYLA  
Youth Exchange

Bring your returnable bottles and cans to help Mentoring Projects and Partnerships in Maine.

This is an excellent PR opportunity, and all clubs are urged to participate. If you don't have a Shaw's supermarket in your community, team up with a club who does!

Service Above Self  
Forms & Documents  
RI Links/Contacts

FMI, contact Tom Talbot, PP of the Portland Club, 207-839-8440.

Contact Us

**Nominations are Due by January 15, 2004 for:**  
**Finance Committee Member, must be from a club in Oxford or York County.**  
**District Governor, 2006-2007**

Forms can be found at: [Forms & Documents](#)

Administration Login

*Interested parties contact Nominating Committee Chair,  
PDG Bill Skinner, [lskinner@nh.ultranet.com](mailto:lskinner@nh.ultranet.com)*

**"Rotary summons men to respond to their best impulses. ..their best selves... [to] lift up their heads in every land. The best things in us are not confined by national boundaries. "**

*- The Tree That Is Rotary, THE ROTARIAN, December 1934*



*PDG Carolyn with an orphan from Blagoveschensk, Russia, in eastern Siberia, one of the beneficiaries of her "Children of Russia" program.*

## Rotary Birthday Bash & Foundation Dinner!

**Guess what? It's Rotary's 99th birthday!**  
**And to celebrate, we've invited Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator Carolyn Jones to help us begin our Countdown to 100!**

**Tuesday Evening, February 24, 2004  
at Verillo's Restaurant**

*Don't Miss this Event!*

**Meet our Special Guest  
CAROLYN E. JONES,  
PDG District 5010**

A small town girl from Tarrytown, New York, Carolyn Jones graduated from Stanford University with distinction and received her LL.B. from Yale Law School. She was an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Alaska Attorney General's Office for 23 years, and a supervising attorney in the office during the last seven years before her retirement in 1998.

Carolyn joined the Rotary Club of Anchorage East in 1987. From 1997-1998, she was the governor of R.I. District 5010, the largest Rotary district in the world, including clubs in Alaska, USA; Yukon Territory, Canada; and Siberia and Far East, Russia. Her past Rotary activities include: President's Representative to Districts in Italy, Canada and the USA; 2000 International Training Leader; delegate to the 2001 Council of Legislation; service on a variety of RI committees; membership on the Northwest PETS Operations Committee; 2002 member of the Anaheim International Institute Committee; and the 2003-2005 Rotary Regional Foundation Coordinator for the western half of zone 22 and parts of zone 23.

As the District 5010 Foundation chairperson for 2002-2003, Carolyn spearheaded the committee that produced a Rotary Foundation seminar that was broadcast live over cable TV to the Rotarians in District 5010 and live over the Internet for the entire Rotary world, as well as translated fully into Russian.

She has received the Rotary "Service Above Self Award" and the Rotary Foundation "Citation For Meritorious Service," as well as the Alaska Bar Association's "Distinguished Service Award." Most recently, she was named over 149 other nominees as the "Volunteer of the Year" by the Russian Children's Foundation – a nonprofit organization based in Moscow, Russia.

Carolyn has traveled to Russia 26 times in her service to Rotary – four of those visits as a Rotary Volunteer. Her story “The Children of Russia” was published in the July 2002 issue of The Rotarian and in “Chicken Soup For The Volunteers’ Soul.”

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### ***New Year Notes from Ted Hunter***

Each January 1, people around the world celebrate the new year with different traditions. In America, those celebrations are followed by statements of optimism and hope for what the future holds. But what about those less fortunate? Think of the millions of people around the world who have no reason to celebrate. Their countries may be ravaged by war, disease, poverty. They have no expectation of a better life. They believe nothing can or will be done.

In 2005, Rotary will celebrate 100 years of service and as such, one of our gifts can be the bringing of hope to those who have lost it. Each matching grant or service project we complete for clean drinking water or preventing blindness, Lends A Hand to someone who might never have known that Rotarians care.

Even in our own communities, I urge each Rotarian to bring the gift of optimism. Many of our neighbors have been disadvantaged through our up-and-down economy, have suffered the loss of a loved one, or are enduring the pain of a long term illness. We need to remember that good fortune sometimes passes people by, and that as Rotarians we can help our neighbors by demonstrating good will through our efforts and our deeds. If you know of a need in your community, please let your club know about it. A problem shared is more likely to become a problem solved. Make this simple saying your New Year's resolution.

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### ***New Foundation Chair***

Tim Placey, PDG has been appointed our District's Foundation Chair for the next three years.



Elias Thomas, PDG, is now our Annual Giving Chair. Both Tim and Elias are completely committed to the Foundation goal, "Every Rotarian, Every Year", so you'll be seeing a lot of them in the future.

We welcome Elias and Tim, and extend our thanks to outgoing chair Mike McGovern for his service to the District.

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### **Youth Exchange Makes a World of Difference**

The following is an e-mail received by Elias Thomas from an exchange student, part of our Youth Exchange program, who stayed with our district three years ago, during Elias' year as District Governor. If you ever thought “Why do I need to contribute to the Foundation?” this note will certainly make you think again! As our clubs and our Youth Exchange Committee are finalizing the placements for students for next year's youth exchange, this is certainly confirmation that our work and Rotary does make a difference!

Dear Elias,

I am the Rotary exchange student from Turkey in the year 2000-2001 to Maine. I am now doing my junior year in Istanbul Bogazici University, on Translation and Interpreting. I am working on Turkish, English and French. This is a thank-you mail just because i felt like sending my thoughts and feelings about what you are doing with the Rotary. My understanding of the world has changed a lot after my one year experience of being an exchange. I now know there will be many people with beautiful souls wherever i go on Earth. The exchange year has taught me to feel at home and to gain new eyes, rather than see new landscapes. It helped me start an exploration into myself, which is the most breathtaking scenery i have ever seen, in Turkey and in Maine, where the leaves' turning to crimson is a wonder...Elias, I'd like to thank you, on behalf of my exchange friends, for contributing greatly to such a marvellous organization. It's a wonderful feeling to know there is a door to knock on wherever you on Earth.

Best regards,

## A. Pinar KOPRUCU



**Inbound Youth Exchange, Rotary Club of Ibarra, District 4400**

**A letter to Youth Exchange Outbound Chair Tom Wilbur from one of our students:**

*Christmas here was great. Here the tradition is a bit different. The holidays lasts from the 24th of December, till the 6th of January, and that's how long my school break is, so it's not all that bad. On the 24th we put the tree up, my host Mom and I, it was so pretty, they don't use electric lights, they use candles, and hang sparklers on the tree, it is really cool. On the 24th we had a small lunch with the Grandparents, and then for dinner just soup, I guess you're not supposed to eat to much on this day. After dinner we opened the presents and then went to the church at 11pm for a mass. It was pretty cool to see a totally new way of celebrating things. On the 25th we went out to eat, at the steak house, a pretty American restaurant, but it was good. On the 26th we went skiing and then had a big turkey dinner, the meals just don't seem to stop. So the holidays were a lot of fun, everyone was saying I would get homesick, but I didn't really. For New Year I am going to Wien (Vienna) with the other exchange students, which will be lots of fun. The snow has finally come, and the skiing out here is amazing, I have been going just about everyday. I hope you had a good Holiday, and Happy New Year. Fertig, Whitney*

**Congratulations Wells Rotary Club!**  
**Sponsor of the new Wells High School Interact Club!**



***First Fun Event of the New Year!***

If you are like me, you probably are already tired of winter. Well, grab your spouse or partner and mosey over to DiMillo's Floating Restaurant on Commercial Street in Portland on February 4th from 5 PM to 8:30 PM. Casco Bay Sunrise is having their 6th Annual Rotary Wine Social and Silent Auction. There will be fabulous hors d'oeuvres along with great wines and beers and cold soft drinks. We also have a fantastic silent auction (so bring your credit card!). Our raffle table is also well known for its great prizes.

All proceeds from the auction go to help the kids at the Maine Children's Cancer Program, so you know you're donating to a great cause.

Some of the clubs in our District even make it their weekly meeting. Do come to our Wine Social! We know you'll have a great time. To reserve your tickets, or for more information, you can either call Christy Chase at 1-207-871-6274 or e-mail her at [chasech@mmc.org](mailto:chasech@mmc.org). The tickets are \$25 a person or \$35 a couple. Last year we sold out, so hurry.

Your friend  
 Tim Placey  
 Rotary Club of Casco Bay Sunrise

**The Benefits of Literacy**

The consequences of literacy are remarkable. When 146 adult literacy students were interviewed about the benefits of learning to read and write, here's what they had to say: Without a single exception, the students, both men and women, the quite young and the very old alike, all claimed that literacy had improved their lives. This was irrespective of the level of literacy attained and the subsequent context of its use. The students reported that their minds "opened up." "Everything improved." "Everything became up-to-date."

Imagine something most of us take for granted – being able to read and write – made such a dramatic difference in these peoples lives. Stop and think how you would feel if you:

- could not read to your children or grandchildren
- couldn't determine if your paycheck was correct
- were unable to read your birthday cards
- didn't know if the mail in your mail box was really yours
- didn't know if you were charged correctly for an item that you purchased!

Most of these things are things we do daily and don't even think twice about it. Let's think twice about it! What can you as a club do in your community or internationally to improve literacy? Let's "Lend a Hand" and make this a better place to live for everyone! Watch for project ideas next month.

Marie A. Williams  
District 7780 Literacy Promotion

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### ***Jaipur Limb Project***

These photos are of individuals who belong to the Amuka Twende Disabled Group. \$200 covered their travel expenses and accommodations from northwestern Kenya to Nairobi, where the limbs are provided at no cost to the individual. The work is a project of the Rotary Club of Biddeford-Saco, done with a \$200 personal donation from a Rotarian. This is Rotary at work!






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## Falmouth Club Raffle

The Falmouth Rotary Club is selling raffle tickets to benefit the Maine Family Crisis Shelter and the Maine Kidney Foundation. The lucky grand prize winner will receive their choice of one of the following:

- \$5000.00 Cash
- Arctic Cat Sabercar LX
- Arctic Cat 500 4X4 ATV

Only 1000 tickets will be sold. Drawing will be held on Monday, January 26, 2004. Support two great causes and have a chance to win one of three great prizes!

For more information, please contact our co-chairs Jim Castonguay at 671-0540 or Nancy Ashe at 772-3767 x16

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## Group Study Exchange Team is Getting Closer!

The Group Study Exchange Outbound Team is working hard pulling things together getting ready for a late April departure for Queensland, Australia. It's now time to build the itinerary for our inbound group. Our guests from Australia will arrive about 5/18 and leave about 6/13. The district is planning the World Peace and Understanding Banquet for about 6/13 to be a send-off for the team. The entire experience should be a great time. The following clubs have expressed interest in hosting the inbound team:

Hampton, Biddeford-Saco/Saco Bay, Yarmouth, Kennebunk Portside, Windham,  
Bethel, Damariscotta, Wells, Durham Great Bay

Obviously not everyone can be a host club. I am going to choose clubs based on a variety of factors including past participation, geographic location. If you are in a club other than the above and are interested in hosting let me know. I will include as many clubs in the district as possible. The expectations of hosting the GSE team or team members include:

- Host clubs are expected to "host" for between 4 and 6 nights. That means finding a home to host each of the six members of the team. Hosting involves providing a bed a few meals and some transportation. It also means that your family gets to spend time with some very interesting (and fun) people.
- Host clubs will coordinate the activities of the group during their time in your area. This includes working with area clubs to have meetings, joint meetings and activities. Host clubs are not expected to take the group every day but the host club will coordinate the activities. Transportation coordination is also a part of being a host club.
- Host clubs will make sure that the guests have a vocational day during their week. Host clubs don't have to put on the vocational day (though they can) if another club in the area is willing to help.
- Feel free to jointly host the team with another area club. Last year Biddeford-Saco and Saco Bay jointly hosted – it worked out great!
- RI requires one vocation day each week, no more than 3 Rotary meetings in a week, a half day rest time mid week and a full rest day on the weekends.

The schedule for the GSE team is being completed now, so if your club is interested in participating, I need to know immediately. By February 15 I'll need a complete list of host families and contact info and

a tentative schedule of your planned activities. The inbound team has asked that we have itineraries and host families early to allow them to prepare.

Let me know if you have any questions or suggestions.

Scott Simmonds  
Rotary Club of Biddeford-Saco  
District GSE Chair  
Saco, Maine USA  
207.284.0085

## Bringing Help and Hope to Cameroon

On the west coast of Africa, just at the so-called hinge, sits the relatively tiny country of Cameroon. Most people in this country hardly know it exists let alone where it is. However, that's not the case for Christine Gianopolous, of Greene, Maine, who joined a Rotary Foundation sponsored Polio Plus Immunization (NID) team that visited the country last January. The team was composed of Rotarians from the states, a bunch from Australia, and a horde from Canada.

As luck would have it, and further proof of how small the world is, among the contingent of Canadian Rotarians were two of Portland Rotary's newest members, **Marjorie and Jim Dawson**. The trio does an excellent job explaining their experiences, the nature and needs of Cameroon, and the challenges of conducting a polio immunization campaign there.



Cameroon is about 5 ½ times the size of Maine with more than 12 times the population and a 25% smaller operating budget. Poverty is rampant with 48% of the population living below the ephemeral subsistence level. The rate of unemployment is 30% and the minimum wage is a mere quarter of a dollar. They have an infant mortality rate 15 times higher than Maine and an HIV/AIDS rate ten thousand times higher. Despite conditions that we find unfathomable, Cameroon is faced with an influx of economic and political émigrés from Nigeria, one of four African countries where wild polio outbreaks still occur.

Due to successful immunization efforts, Cameroon has been polio free for several years. Given this backdrop it was clear to Rotary International that this country needed help to immunize against the potential spread of polio from neighboring Nigeria.

While the government was supportive of the efforts of Ms. Gianopolous and the NID team, they could do very little to help to make its job easier. A president for life rules the government, though the country professes to be a democracy. Each district has tribal chiefs orchestrating the affairs of the community. Getting around is difficult, dangerous and costly. Roads are often blocked and tribute demanded for further passage.

When Christine and the Dawsons got to the village hospitals, they found them to be little more than hovels designated as havens for the sick. The hospitals didn't have a refrigerator to preserve certain medicines (like the polio vaccines). Along with the 8,000 doses of vaccine for polio, the NID team carried suitcases full of common patent medicines that were welcomed as treasure by the hospital staff. Doctors are extremely scarce, so nurses who somehow keep their uniforms immaculately white despite the dirt floors and smoking wood fires provide most of the care. They are proud of the care they give although they know how much more that they could do.

Christine, Marjorie, and Jim offer tremendous insight into life in this third world country, as well as the efforts the Rotary Foundation makes as it tries to eliminate the wild polio virus. It is rewarding to see how effectively the \$25,000 Portland Rotary raised last year for the Polio Plus campaign is being used on the front lines to meet Rotary's goal of eradicating polio worldwide by 2005.

## **Portland Rotary to Be Broadcast Over Local Cable**

Portland Rotary Club will begin cable casting our meetings over the Time Warner system on the Community Television Network (Channel 4) in January. The one hour program will be called "Portland Rotary Presents," and will air every Sunday at noon and 8 pm, and on Mondays at 1 and 7 am.

"Portland Rotary Presents" will consist of two recent program presentations from December Portland Rotary meetings (Bruce Foresly and Susan Conroy), edited into one show. Each month going forward the Community Television Network will tape and air Portland Rotary meetings to rebroadcast the

programs our Club members enjoyed in the previous month. Each broadcast will also include information about Rotary International and Portland Rotary contact information.

I'm hoping that by sharing our meetings with the 65,000 households who receive TV4 through Time Warner, we can build community awareness of Rotary, our Club, and perhaps help our membership development efforts.

So tune in and share your thoughts.  
Laurence W. Gross  
President, Rotary Club of Portland

## **Service Above Self - Exeter Rotary**

"Freedom of Choice" took on a new meaning for me this Holiday Season. It was very gratifying to have shoppers at Shaw's openly thank us for "standing out there in the cold" to Ring the Bell for the Salvation Army. But as uncomfortable as it was, we all knew that, for us, standing out in the cold was a "choice" – and we all had nice warm houses to go home to when our "shift" was over. For at least some of the recipients of the donations, being homeless in the cold of winter is not a "choice."

Have you ever been in a city and seen a panhandler, or someone sleeping curled up on a subway grate for what little warmth that could be found there, and wondered how (and why) anybody could live like that? For most of them it's pretty obvious that it's not on purpose. They "live like that" because they don't have any other option – they don't have the resources necessary to live a better life.

To be sure, there are some that have "made that choice" in the form of drug or alcohol abuse – and some that suffer from mental illness – but there are others that are simply caught in the cycle of despair that comes when the cost of living exceeds the ability to earn that living – because of injury; or lack of education; or age; or just sliding so deep into a debt that they can't get back out without help.

Often, the operative term here is "without help." "Help" can take many forms. The best form, of course, is that of helping people to help themselves. Very few people really like to be "on the dole" and most people would prefer to "be able to take care of themselves" – if they just had the resources to do it. As we enjoy the bounties that this holiday season brings to us and our friends and families, let us think about what we can do, both as individuals and as a club, to help others to earn "bounties" of their own. "Feed them a fish – and you have to feed them again tomorrow. But teach them to fish – or equip them to fish – and you feed them for a lifetime." Let us, as Rotarians, continue to do all that we can to help others to help themselves.

Except from Rotary Club of Exeter Newsletter  
Bob Mitchell, President

## **Tigers and Kings National Immunization Day To India**

*Hosted by Elias Thomas, PDG*

**For all interested Rotarians, spouses, and friends of Rotary  
February 18 - March 3, 2004**

In 1999, more than 100,000 Indian Rotary members and their families joined the government of India in immunizing more than 130 million children against polio on a single day, signaling the largest public health event ever in the world. On February 22, 2004, the members of this trip will participate with Indian Rotarians and their families, first in promotions and then distribution of polio vaccines on National Immunization Day. By joining this event, American Rotarians will have a close experience of the India that most tourists never see.

The geological history of the Indian sub-continent has produced an incomparable diversity of eco-systems. These include the world's highest mountains, arid deserts, great flood plains, cloud forests, swamps and scrublands. Many Indian jungles are thick and dense - predators as well as their prey depend on stealth, camouflage and surprise rather than numbers or speed. For this reason, tracking these animals is an unforgettable thrill. The Ranthambhor Wildlife Reserve offers stretches of open grasslands as well as lightly forested hills, making it easier to spot elusive predators like the Tiger.

Our tour after the NID offers a grand panorama of the Indian wilderness as well as the fabulous art and sculptures that this ancient civilization has produced. The tour also presents many of the amazing, colorful facets of life on the streets and in the countryside that make up the ever-changing, ever-lasting kaleidoscope of India.



Please share the attached with your fellow Rotarians and other friends of Rotary. This hopefully will be the last National Immunization Day against Polio in India, and I am pleased to be leading a group to participate in this life-saving event, as well as to see the splendor of India.

Yours in Rotary service,  
Elias

Elias Thomas III  
Past District Governor ~ 2000-2001  
[ethomas@metrocast.net](mailto:ethomas@metrocast.net)

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## District 7780 DDF Watch!

Governor Trish started the year with \$63,722.95 in DDF funds for Matching Grants. So far, the following applications have been sent to the Rotary Foundation:

**MG 50836** A grant to help establish a Revolving Loan Fund for organizations and groups of people caring for AIDS orphans in Kisumu, Kenya. DDF Committed: \$10,000.00

**MG 51389** A grant to provide a mobile x-ray machine for the Radiology/Ultrasound Department of St. Mary's Hospital, in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. DDF Committed: \$4,318.00

**MG 22838** A grant to provide a clean water to an orphanage in Romania. DDF Committed: \$7,000.00

That leaves \$42,404.95 remaining in DDF funds.

Please submit your Matching Grant applications to the Grants Coordinator, Tom Stypinski. email: [jtstypinski@gibbscox.com](mailto:jtstypinski@gibbscox.com)

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## Upcoming Events & Deadlines!

**January 6, 2004** Informational session for Rotarians interested in being District Governor. FMI contact PRID Dan Mooers, 767-7444 or [dwm@mooers-law.com](mailto:dwm@mooers-law.com)

**January 10, 2004** WGME 13 & Rotary Bottle Drive for Mentoring, Shaw's Supermarkets, District-wide. Save up your bottles and cans!

**January 13, 2004** Presidents & Presidents-Elect Dinner, DiMillo's Restaurant, Portland, ME

**January 14, 2004** District Budget & Finance Committee, Rivergreen Bank, Kennebunk, ME

**February 2, 2004** District Nominating Committee Meeting, Key Bank, Saco, ME

**February 24, 2004** Rotary 99th Birthday Bash & Foundation Dinner, Verillo's, South Portland, ME

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## **So you finally made it to the end...**

**and what do you see? Another request!** Got any great pictures? Memories that would make a terrific Rotary story? Letters to the editor? Was one of your club's speakers especially good? Did you top all records in your latest project? Let us know! We'll put it all in the newsletter and make sure everyone knows about it. Call, write, or email Trish, Carolyn Johnson, or Liz Valliere. Each edition goes out during the first week of the month. So it's not too early to start thinking about the February issue!

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