



## Rotary International District 7780

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### A Word from Governor Bob-

Years ago, I flew as a Navigator on C-130s with the Rhode Island Air National Guard. One year, we were down in Panama for a two week rotation. We flew daily throughout Central and South America delivering passengers and supplies, usually to the Embassies. One day we went over to the airport at Port au Prince, Haiti, to off-load some cargo. We were only on the ground for 20 minutes or so, but as we made the circling approach to the airport, we flew directly over the city only a few hundred feet off the ground, so we had a bird's eye view of streets and houses. I say houses, because almost all the capital city of Haiti consisted of hovels covered with sheets of tin for roofs. The poverty had to be seen to be believed. And high up on the hills surrounding the city, were beautiful villas occupied by the wealthiest Haitians. The occupants of these villas were the privileged, the oligarchy who rule the country with the blessing of whomever the current dictator is, living in obscene opulence at the expense of the ordinary citizens who live every day of their lives in that oppressive heat with no running water, no sanitation, little food and no protection by the government. In fact, the government is to be feared, and the police are probably the ones stealing what little they own.

Towards the end of September Hurricane Jeanne roared through the Caribbean, devastating Island after island, but none more than the island of Haiti. I am sure you saw the television pictures of the devastation that resulted from the Hurricane. Several days later, I received the following E-mail from Carolyn Meub, founder of "Pure Water for the World", concerning this:

Dear Governors,

I am writing asking for you immediate help. Pure Water for the World is seeking funds to help desperate Haitians. Would you please consider forwarding this email on to your Club presidents with a note of support? I ask that you appeal to the humanitarian in each Rotarian to give to the "Pure Water Relief Effort in Haiti."

*The New York Times* called the lives of hundreds of Haitians as "shattered." As you know from the news, Haiti was devastated by Hurricane Jeanne. Not only have people lost their homes, but are at increased risk of losing their lives. Health officials now fear cholera and other water borne diseases to reach epidemic proportions. According to one source, at least 250,000 people living on the west coast are at risk of not having clean drinking water. The hardest hit region is Gonaives north of Port au Prince.

My goal is to raise \$10,000 (That is only \$100 from 100 clubs) from Rotarians from throughout the Northeast which will be sent to a partner organization Haiti. I ask that at each club meeting, the president pass the hat asking for contributions to the "Pure Water for Haiti fund." If we could raise more, that would be a god send. These funds will be collected and sent to our partner organization in Haiti so to manufacture slow sand filters which will be then installed. Time is of the essence -- soon people will be dying.

And I realize that several districts have active Water Committee raising funds for projects in Honduras, please note that this is an additional request. It is because of these ongoing efforts in your district and because of immediacy of the Haiti situation, I ask each club to pass the hat as the response would be quicker and the funds will be put to work sooner.

Checks can be made out to "Pure Water-Haiti" and mailed to PO Box 55, Rutland, Vermont 05702. For more information on the work of PWW, please see [www.purewaterfortheworld.org](http://www.purewaterfortheworld.org) All funds will be sent to Haiti. I will send you a report on participating clubs.

Being a Past District Governor myself, I can appreciate all the emails you have received asking for relief effort. I realize that deciding between equal compelling causes is difficult. Thank you for considering this request.

## Membership Tools

**Resources**

Health & Hunger  
Public Relations  
Water

**Youth Programs**

Interact  
RYLA  
Youth Exchange

Service Above Self  
Forms & Documents  
RI Links/Contacts

Contact Us

If you have any questions, please contact me at 802-747-0778 or at the above email address.

Carolyn Crowley Meub,  
PDG D7870 and Executive Director  
Pure Water for the World

In response to this E-mail, I sent the following message to all the District Presidents:

My friends,

Those of you who have heard my Governor's speech know that the genesis of my talk is the desire of all of us to make our lives more meaningful by helping those who cannot help themselves. Here is an opportunity for individuals and Rotary Clubs together to make a significant, immediate difference in people's lives, right now. Please help. My check for \$100 is going out today.

DG Bob

As clubs met within the week of this announcement, eight clubs "passed the hat" at their meetings and raised a total of \$1684 for Haitian relief. The clubs were Bethel, Falmouth, Kennebunk Portside, South Berwick, Scarborough, Portland, Westbrook and York. There may be more to come, but as we go to press, this is a very impressive response to a great humanitarian need. Practically all of this was donations from individual Rotarians. Thanks to all of you.

We had a great turnout for the combination Membership/World Community service Seminar at the York Community College on September 25. I think we had over 50, which comes close to setting an all time record. The session on membership and WCS were very good. I was very pleased with the whole day.

In recent years there has been a recent downturn in attendance. Where a monthly attendance of 80% used to be embarrassing, it now is considered excellent and a rate to be strived for. In the past three months in this District, only one club reported attendance as high as 80%. Two clubs were in the 40 percentile. The rest reported between 55 and 75%. That is, these are the numbers that are reported. Each month, between five and eight of the clubs don't even report. Either they forgot or are too embarrassed to send in the numbers.

In talking to members of other service organizations, I find they have the same problem. I hear arguments that say that attendance doesn't matter, it's what the clubs do that counts. According to that logic, attendance literally does not matter. Taking the argument to the extreme, it is perfectly OK if no one shows up to a meeting. But if it matters if someone comes to a meeting, then what percent of the members need to show up so that there is "no problem"? 10%? 20%? 50%? I recently learned what can happen when a club suffers continuous low attendance. A lady from a very large Western club said that her President wanted to increase attendance which was always around 30%. When I asked how they do any projects when no one shows up for meetings, she said that they don't do projects. With so many members, they have lots of money from dues, and they use that for project support. So there is a club where no one shows up and they don't do anything. What is the point of that?

I'm asking Presidents whose attendance is in the 60% range to think about this; ponder what the long term implications are for their clubs. Could the above example happen some day to a 40 member club in this District? Next month I'll discuss what I think are the reasons for this change in attendance, and what can be done about it.

DG Bob

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## Reserve Your Seat for ROTARY UN DAY!

Registration is now open for the 2004 Rotary Day at the United Nations on 6 November. This annual event offers Rotarians a chance to visit the United Nations Headquarters in New York City and participate in panel discussions featuring leaders and officials from the UN, UN-affiliated nongovernmental organizations, and Rotary International.

Because seating for Rotary-UN Day is limited, Rotarians are encouraged to submit their completed registration forms ahead of the 23 October deadline. The day's program also includes a tour of the UN (advance ticket purchase required).

Registration fees and UN tour tickets for adults are US\$30 and \$10.50, respectively. Organizers are

developing a separate program for younger attendees, ages 8-18. For these school-age participants, registration fees and UN tour tickets are \$10 and \$7 per person.

A brown-bag lunch of a sandwich, beverage, fruit, and dessert is included in the registration fee and will be served in the main UN cafeteria overlooking the East River.

[Download registration forms and get more information.](#) You can submit completed forms to [H. Bradley Jenkins](#), alternate RI representative to the UN, 908-766-4790.



## South Berwick Rotary Club New Meeting Place!

This is to inform you that we have voted to move the venue of club meetings to  
Spring Hill Lodge  
Pond Road  
South Berwick, ME 03908  
Tel. 384-2693

The change is effective November 4, 2004 (our meetings are at 7:15 a.m. on Thursdays). This is a lovely facility that we have used for a number of our club's events and we are very excited about being there weekly. We hope it will attract even more members to join us!

The directions are:

Go South Berwick center via Rte. 4. Continue on Route 4 out of town towards North Berwick. After the golf course on the right you will see a sign for Spring Hill. Take a right off Rte. 4 onto Pond Road. Follow it about 2 miles until you see Spring Hill on the left.  
Thanks for publicizing our upcoming change.

Helen Goransson  
South Berwick Rotary Club



It is the last day of September, early evening, and Governor Bob is at a District Budget and Finance meeting in Brunswick. Since we are taking off in a couple of days for a two-day vacation (Connecticut and Washington DC) before heading for Zones 31 and 32 Rotary Institute in Cambridge, MD, I decided to write the October Lobster Trap newsletter. Both "First Dog" and the Governor's Maine Coon cat, Leona Helmsley, are sharing the divan with me.

My gardens have been neglected just as they were when I was President of the Boothbay Region Garden Club. I remember saying to the members at a general meeting that the pussy willows had come and gone, and I never even noticed. But I wouldn't have missed that two year experience for the world any more than I would have missed "this tour of duty" with Bob.

Did you know Brenda Thibodeau, Secretary of the Fryeburg Club, and very active in Rotoplast, is a private pilot, and she and her husband own an airplane?

Here is a hint that was given to me by a Rotarian at the Sanford-Springvale Club – a tablespoon of vinegar a day will help keep your legs pain free.

A "Clunker" adventure.....

A scrumptious dinner this particular night was at the Damariscotta River Grill with members and spouses of the Damariscotta Club. It was a great evening. So we were on our way home, when I asked Governor Bob why we were driving without lights at nine o'clock at night. "Because the alternator is dead" he answered. We had no phone, flashlight or even a candle with us. Cars traveling in the opposite direction were blinking their lights at us. It was pitch-black. Every so often he would turn the lights on, which were very dim. He said he thought

he could make the 15 miles to our house. He did. As we drove in our driveway, I breathed a sigh of relief, and said almost happily, "I think the Clunker has had it". He assured me that the alternator could be replaced. When we got in the house, I said that I thought we would never get home. He put his hands on my shoulders and said, "Just think of this as an adventure. Got you home safely, didn't I?" We both laughed. There are many adventures with the Governor. Oh, yes, the Clunker has been fixed.

In Portsmouth, I met the darling Darlene Ouelett, wife of that club's President. We shared many gardening ideas. It was a joy for us to be the Ouelett's guests in their lovely home.

And believe me when I say, the Oxford Hills Club has some of the most friendly and interesting members.

If you want to have a delicious lunch, do a makeup at the Ogunquit Club. It was Chicken a la King in puff pastry the noon we were there.

Little Jake went with us on our Wells/Exeter visits. Not actually to the meetings, he stayed in the Mustang. In order to bring Little Jake with us, we had to take a marginal motel the night before. For instance, someone had cut a hole in the bathroom door so you could peek in. One of the motel rules was that dogs were not permitted on the bed. I told Little Jake he would be reported if he did. He eyes told me he had every intention of getting on the bed, because after all, he is First Dog. He is always game to go with us, but we are not game on staying in a place like that again.

I can't remember the last time I was given a corsage. So it was such a pleasant surprise when Liz Valliere, President of the Casco Bay Sunrise Club, pinned one on me the morning of our visit. It stayed lovely for a week.

And what a compliment for Governor Bob from a summer makeup Rotarian at my own club, who said his talk was the best he had heard in 53 years of perfect attendance.

At the Yarmouth Club it was nice to chat with former Boothbay Harbor Club President Dr. Gary Howard. Also Carolyn Johnson. PDG Peter didn't come because he couldn't get his car to start. Carolyn and I agreed that Governor Bob could relate to that.

Oh, the charm of Paul Deschambault, President of the Biddeford-Saco Club. It never ends. At this club, I received a box of Milk-Bone Biscuits for First Dog..

Did you know the Governor was a navigator on B-52s and C-130s in WW II? That is what I read in one Club's newsletter. Let's see. That would make him how old??? He's old, but not THAT old!!

A big thanks to all the spouses of Presidents who have come to the dinners and meetings that we have attended. At the District Membership and World Community Service Seminar, Bruce Sawyer, President of the Windham Club, asked if I remembered him. I said laughingly, of course, you are Linda's husband!

That's it for this month's First Lady's column in the Lobster Trap newsletter, except to say, I still haven't won any club raffles. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the District Conference in Northport.

Yours in Rotary,  
Muriel Jacobson

"Thought for the Day"

The Final Analysis

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered;  
Forgive them anyway.  
If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;  
Be kind anyway.  
If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;  
Succeed anyway.  
If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;  
Be honest and frank anyway.  
What you spend years building, someone may destroy overnight;  
Build anyway.  
If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;  
Be happy anyway.  
The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;  
Do good anyway.  
Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;  
Give the world the best you've got anyway.  
You see, in the final analysis, it is all between you and God;  
It was never between you and them anyway.

--- Mother Teresa of Calcutta

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## October 2004 Events

- October 14 – October 17      **District Conference**
- October 16                **Rotary Leadership Institute**  
Asnuntuck Community College, Enfield, CT  
RLI Parts I, II, III, Faculty Training
- October 23                **Rotary Leadership Institute**  
Dartmouth Medical Hitchcock Center, Lebanon, NH  
Parts I, II, III
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10/06/2004

*from the Times Record*

### **Coastal Rotary Club keeps plugging away in effort to fight AIDS in South Africa**

BRUNSWICK - The Brunswick Coastal Rotary Club, a service organization with only 24 members, is the smallest club in its district, which primarily includes the state of Maine.

But don't confuse size with power.

The pygmy of Rotary clubs is attacking an elephant in South Africa — and it's making significant progress.

With the help of other Rotary clubs and the Rotary International Foundation, the Brunswick Coastal Rotary Club has raised almost \$400,000 to help combat AIDS in South Africa. The money has benefited the Mariannahill Mission Complex, a Catholic organization in the KwaZulu-Natal province on the outskirts of Durban. The complex houses St. Mary's Hospital; a Community Outreach Centre that provides basic home-based nursing care and health education to people in the communities; and Jabulani, a self-help women's cooperative.

KwaZulu-Natal has one of the highest AIDS rates in the world. One in three individuals between the ages of 15 and 49 has the disease, according to Dr. Douglas Ross, chief executive officer of St. Mary's Hospital. Ross and Sister Regina Bachman of St. Mary's visited Brunswick last week to express their gratitude to the Coastal Rotary Club and to do additional fund-raising.

"It's quite a leap for you sitting in Maine to have a grasp of something that's happening in another country," said Ross, sitting at Wild Oats Bakery & Cafe in Brunswick.

John Dennen, a Harpswell lobsterman, former resident of South Africa and member of the local Rotary Club, visited St. Mary's 10 years ago. There, he learned that the majority of babies born in the hospital were HIV positive. Now, about one-third — or 150 — of the 500 babies delivered each month are HIV positive, according to Ross. If untreated, most of these babies will die before their third birthday.

Returning to Maine, Dennen solicited a donation from the Coastal Rotary Club to help purchase a \$6,000 incubator that would help save the lives of premature babies. The day the incubator arrived at St. Mary's, the nurses broke into Zulu songs of celebration and thanks.

Since Dennen's first visit to the hospital, members of the Coastal Rotary Club, in conjunction with the

Rotary Foundation and two other Rotary clubs in Australia and South Africa, raised \$150,000 to help build a 20-bed AIDS hospice at St. Mary's.

The Coastal Rotary Club, along with Boothbay Rotary Club, also raised \$20,000 to purchase about 20 sewing machines for Jabulani. The clubs donated more than 300 pairs of shoes for the Community Outreach workers, volunteers who visit AIDS patients in their homes. The clubs also helped purchase a portable X-ray machine, worth about \$28,000, which arrived at the hospital last month.

Earlier this year, Jack and Mary Rembe, a Georgetown couple who recently received the Paul Harris fellowship, a prestigious Rotary Club service award, donated one ton of food to Jabulani. The Rembes, along with help from John Woollacott, a member of the Coastal Rotary Club, also secured 4,000 meters of Italian fabric that will help the women of Jabulani make sheets for the hospital and clothing with their sewing machines.

Woollacott wrote to Alberto Mascioni, a fabric maker in Varese, Italy, requesting a donation earlier this spring. If he could donate some fabric, Woollacott wrote, "God will smile."

The next day, Mascioni responded, "In an effort to stay out of hell for the next 100 years, I'm forwarding a container." The container was 40 feet long and full of fabric. Mascioni also paid for the shipping fees from Italy to South Africa.

A grant is currently in the works that would supply more than 300 medical bags for the hospital's Community Outreach program. The Rotary Club is also working on two new projects: a resource center that would enable nurses to use computers to gain access to medical information in a multi-media resource center and a learning laboratory that would help nurses learn various medical procedures.

"You can make a difference, even across the sea," said Ross.

**To donate** to St. Mary's Hospital, the Community Outreach Centre or Jabulani, make checks out to the Brunswick Coastal Rotary Club, c/o John Dennen, P.O. Box 911, Brunswick, ME 04011. A compact disc, titled "Break the Silence," features music created and performed by the artists of KwaZulu-Natal and is available at Indrani's in the Tontine Mall in Brunswick. Proceeds are donated to the fight against AIDS.

**For more information**, go to [www.coastalrotary.org/PhotoAlbum.cfm](http://www.coastalrotary.org/PhotoAlbum.cfm).

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