



# The New Centurian

## Special Interest Articles:

- District Strategic Plan Unveiled – Input Sought!
- It's Almost "Presidential Citation" Time! Are You Ready?
- February is World Peace & Understanding Month!
- Deadline for Matching Grants Approaches! Much Yet To DO!



Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar,  
President  
Rotary International

## AG Club Highlights:

- Brad Jett - Area 1
- John Rainone - Area 3
- Todd Doolan – Area 6
- Chip Griffin – Area 7

**Note:** Clubs, please submit information to your AG by the 18<sup>th</sup> of the month.

## The Newsletter of Rotary International District 7780

### Strategic Plan Finalized And Unveiled To The District! - Bob Laux, Billy Hobbs and Liz Cullen

Last May, members of the District Leadership Team (DLT), consisting of many committee and resource chairs, AG's, several PDG's, the current DG, DGE and DGN, began a process of "Strategic Planning" for the District. Led by President **Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar's** charge of "**Continuity and Cooperation**", the intent was to create a plan, not for the current year, but one that incorporated the thoughts, challenges and ideas that would become the mainstay of the District for years to come. In November the final planning meeting was held and now the implementation process is well underway.

Readers will recall from previous newsletters that the "Plan" is broken down into areas that very much reflect RI's encouragement of "Club Leadership Plan". These include: **Membership Development, District Leadership Development, Our Rotary**

### It's Almost "Presidential Citation" Time! How Are You Doing? - Bob Laux, District Governor

February is a great time of the year to evaluate how your Club is progressing toward reaching the challenges outlined in the prestigious "**Presidential Citation**" to be awarded by RI President Carl Wilhelm Stenhammar.

"The work of a Rotary Club is in the hands of its members, and it is through hands-on service and active participation by each Rotarian in the Club that our work is meaningful and successful. This year's citation reinforces this message by focusing on participation, planning and quality service", cites the RI President.

In order to achieve the Citation, Clubs are asked to achieve the **Membership goal of one net new member and one activity from four of the five categories outlined.** The categories are, as expected in areas most active clubs engage in regularly: **Public Image, Club Service, Vocational Service,**

### **Foundation, Rotary Ethics/Values, World and Community Service and Public Image.**

In January the Plan was unveiled to Club Presidents and the Council of Governors. Over the next several months members of the DLT are hosting "**Fireside Chat's**" in various parts of the District to unveil the effort to fellow Rotarians, seeking input and direction. And in a few short days, the Plan, along with the corresponding "**Accountability Matrix**" will be available on line through the District's Web Site.

The Plan identifies some firm District commitments designed to further the cause of Rotary, while assisting Clubs in their quest to make their communities and the world a better place! Take time to review the plan and provide your input! It's your Plan!

**Community Service and International Service.** Each category has 4-6 options that are relatively easy to achieve, but require a certain degree of planning and enthusiasm by the Club. For example, under the category of International Service one of the goals is to "help the members of your club understand the internationality of Rotary by participating in an international exchange program such as Group Study Exchange, Rotary Friendship Exchange or Youth Exchange." For complete details on the Presidential Citation, Club Presidents are encouraged to visit the Rotary website ([www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)) or check with your AG.

This is also a great time to review the "**Governor's Trophy Challenge**" on the District Website ([www.rotary7780.org](http://www.rotary7780.org)). This honor will be bestowed on one Club at the Changeover Dinner on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

*Be Proud To Be A Rotarian!*



*District 7780, in concert with District 7930 are honored to welcome **Carolyn E. Jones**, first woman Trustee to the Rotary Foundation as our speaker for the **World Peace and Understanding Dinner**. This event will be held at the **Faro Gardens** on Route 1 in Hampton Falls, NH, on **Saturday, February 25, 2006**. What a great opportunity to hear from one of Rotary's outstanding leaders!*

## February is World Understanding Month! –

Cynthia Moran-Laux

February is **World Understanding Month**. “Every year the anniversary of the founding of Rotary, 23 February, is celebrated as World Understanding and Peace Day”. Subsequently, the month of honor to our great founders!

Rotary, due to the internationality of our membership, is in a unique position to promote peace and goodwill. Through our international service projects, club to club contacts, peace programs, cultural and educational exchanges we make a meaningful contribution to world peace. This effort is the reason Rotary International has had a long standing, close collaboration with the United Nations and many of its member agencies. Through our efforts and service projects Rotarians are making a difference

worldwide.

Our District, 7780, has taken the lead in demonstrating its commitment to world peace and understanding by becoming a **Pioneer District**. “Any District that committed from its District Designated Funds US\$50,000, the amount needed to fund a Rotary World Peace Fellow selected for study at the Rotary Centers for 2002-04 or 2003-05, is known as a **Pioneer District**. Pioneer Districts received appropriate recognition for their commitment”.

I am “**Proud to be a Rotarian**” and so should every member of District 7780. Our efforts and financial contributions clearly make a difference in our communities as well as communities throughout the world

“Paul Harris Society Announced!” – Roland Gagne,  
District Foundation Annual Giving Chair

District 7780 is graced with many Rotarians who have the capability of becoming **Charter Members** of the newly formed “**Paul Harris Society**”. Recently, the Rotary Foundation Trustees adopted the **Society** as an officially recognized program. Beginning this Rotary year, every Rotarian who annually contributes \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation will be awarded membership in the **Society**. **Society** members will receive a special Certificate of Recognition and a distinctive gold and blue lapel banner which can be worn with your Rotary pin. Contact **Roland Gagne** for additional information ([rgagne@valueofadvice.com](mailto:rgagne@valueofadvice.com))

## Deadline for Matching Grants Approaches! There's Money Waiting For Your Projects – Tim Placey, Foundation Chair

One of the **Presidential Citation** areas this year involves “International Service” and challenges Clubs to “conduct an international service project in support of **water management** and **sanitation**.”

As most of you know, our District annually receives **District Designated Funds** (DDF) which can be utilized for these and other worthwhile international projects. But the deadline for submitting Matching Grants is rapidly approaching! Rotary International must receive the grant requests by **March 31<sup>st</sup>**! Your Club doesn't have to complete the project by then, only the application.

Clubs can find projects in many ways.

For example, the Rotary International website ([www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)) has a link to **World Community Service** (WCS) which allows Rotarians to discover projects by country, District and area of need (i.e. literacy, water, etc.) Clubs and Districts from around the world register their needs and seek partnerships with other Clubs and Districts. “World Community Service has been described as the ‘quiet revolution of hope’. Isn't it time for you to

- Reach out to someone who needs help
- Develop a relationship with a club in another country
- Become acquainted with the customs and culture of a faraway place
- Get involved in a WCS project?”

There are many other ways Clubs can develop International Service projects. Our District will soon play host to a **GSE Team** from District **7030**, which incorporates the southern Caribbean and several countries in South America. Why not talk to these visitors about projects in which you might help?

You can also go on line to affiliate with another Club in an area recently devastated by a natural disaster, such as Pakistan, India or the Philippines. All it takes is your initiative, a spark, a passion, a concern. Isn't that what Rotary is all about? Don't miss your opportunity to utilize our DDF to make a difference and **to “save and change lives!”**

## AG Club Highlights – Area 1 – Brad Jett

A group of 25 hardy swimmers went into the water for the Rotary Club of **Portsmouth's** "Polar Bear Plunge" on Saturday, January 14th at Newcastle Commons. Even though it was raining, the weather still cooperated with the air temperature in the 50's – balmy for January: President **Karen Wendell's** alter ego, Xena Warrior Princess, made a thankfully rare appearance and was assisted by a trio of rowdy Viking Warriors (PP **Ted Alex**, PP **Neal Ouellett**, and Board Member **Eric Weinrieb**). The event was organized by Board Member and Veteran Polar Bear Peter Billipp who did a fantastic job in coordinating Rotarians and leading the pack not once, not twice but three times into the water! Final figures will not be in for a while but it looks like about \$10,000 was raised – Congratulations to Peter and all the Polar Bears!

The Rotary Club of **Hampton** will host the first of the District's "Fireside Chats" featuring District Governor Bob and other District Leaders. At press time over 40 representatives from the southern area had signed up to participate in the discussion. Topics include "just about anything" from the new Club Leadership Plans, Our Rotary Foundation, the District's Strategic Plan, Rotary Membership and anything else

brought to the open forum.

Fireside Chats on various Rotary topics were considered a big hit at the District Conference. This event is being held on Monday, February 13th in Hampton at the Bella Rose on Lafayette Road in North Hampton from 5:30-7:00 PM. A second event is already scheduled for Thursday, March 29th at the meeting site of the Brunswick Coastal Club, the China Rose from 6:00-7:30 PM. District members are encouraged to attend and participate in the forum.

Rep. **Walter Wheeler** (D-Kittery) has teamed up with the Rotary Club of **Kittery** and other community organizations to sponsor a public spaghetti supper on February 11th. Proceeds will benefit the "Keep ME Warm Fund", a charity home heating assistance fund. Initiated by **Governor John Baldacci**, the fund is a public-private collaboration aimed to help those most in need throughout the state cope with the rising cost of fuel. Money collected will be distributed to local agencies helping citizens with heating assistance. In Kittery, the York County Community Action Corporation will administer the program. "All of the money we raise will benefit our neighbors in the Kittery area," said Wheeler. "Our combined

efforts will go a long way in helping older people on fixed incomes and strengthening families in our community who are struggling with this year's rise in fuel costs." Special guests will be **Governor Baldacci**, Speaker of the House **John Richardson** and House Majority Leader **Glenn Cummings**.

Rotary has lots of traditions! During the annual Christmas Tree Sale hosted by the Rotary Club of **Portsmouth**, DG Bob and First Lady Cynthia worked along side President **Karen Wendell** and an active crew of Rotarians for a successful Saturday of sales. The Portsmouth Club annually sells over 2,000 trees with funds supporting local and international projects.



Jim (a **Wells** Rotarian) and her sister Fran Farwell of Portland. (Fran will be 97 on St Patrick's Day!). Many community and state leaders participated in the celebration.

Bea was the first Teacher in the Ogunquit Village School back in the 20ies! She and her late husband went on to purchase and run lodging for tourists in the Ogunquit and Wells area. Later on, they established the Spillers Farm stand on Rt. 9A in Wells, which is still run by the family. Bea is now the oldest living Ogunquit Rotarian!

## AG Club Highlights - Area 3 – John Rainone

The Rotary Club of **Wells** recently initiated what is to be known as the "Grethe-Poli Award", an annual recognition named in honor of Club founders and current members **Russ Grethe** and **Nick Poli**. The Grethe-Poli Award will go to a member who, in the opinion of the Club President, is identified as "achieving the spirit of service above self!"

Call it civic responsibility but the **Wells** Club is also hosting a "Meet the Candidates Night" at the York County Community College. Although questions from the public will be supplied to all candidates in advance, an open forum will be provided for attendees to ask questions in person as well.

Finally, the **Wells** Club took particular pride in awarding a Paul Harris Fellowship to longtime member **Marcia Vieira**, affectionately known as "Marcia the Money Maiden" who for the past half dozen years has been collecting the weekly attendance fees. Marcia blesses everyone with her ever pleasant personality and helps establish a meeting mood that's appreciated by members and guests alike. Her Paul Harris was given with much affection and appreciation.

Wells, Maine resident **Bea Spiller** was made an Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of **Ogunquit** at their January 25th meeting, the day after she turned 100 years old! This special event was attended by her immediate family, her son Bill Spiller, his wife Anna, their son



## Rotary International District 7780

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More on the District  
Website!

See us at:

**www.Rotary7780.  
org**



*The Rotary Club of Ogunquit recently joined in the celebration of Wells resident **Bea Spiller's** 100<sup>th</sup> birthday! The Club made her an Honorary Rotarian for her years of dedicated community service!*



## AG Club Highlights – Area 6 – Todd Doolan

The Rotary Club of **Brunswick** has been awarded more than \$33,000 in grants for its project to assist residents of a small fishing village in Sri Lanka recover from the 2004 Tsunami that devastated much of south Asia.

The **Rotary Foundation** has awarded a Matching Grant of \$20,225, plus a grant of \$13,000 from Rotary **District Designated Funds**. The Brunswick Club will contribute \$13,000. The Rotary Club of **Colombo Central** in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and two non-profit organizations, Emerging, Inc., in Maine and IDEAS in Sri Lanka, will contribute the balance of the \$75,000 needed to fully fund the project.

In the wake of the Tsunami, the partnership between the two Rotary Clubs and the two non-profit development organizations quickly formed to provide immediate relief for the residents of Duwe Modera, a small fishing village of 398 households in the Galle District of southwestern Sri Lanka. The partners immediately contributed \$40,000 to rebuild ten of the 50 houses totally destroyed in the Tsunami.

The unique partnership developed a plan for mid to long-range assistance, focusing on livelihood restoration and diversification, and community redevelopment. The goal is to help the people of Duwe Modera to help themselves, by providing critical infrastructure, tools and materials to promote economic redevelopment and a broadening and diversification of the community's economic base beyond fishing. There are many elements of success built into this project. *For more information contact **David Fuller**, President of the Brunswick Rotary Club, at (207) 353-6494, email [cafdrf@suscom-maine.net](mailto:cafdrf@suscom-maine.net)*

The Rotary Club of **Brunswick** continues to work feverishly on their April 15th fundraiser, a performance at the Merrill Auditorium in Portland by "The Capital Steps." This is a nationally renowned group of political satirists. Sponsorships are still available. Proceeds from the event will benefit Brunswick Rotary Club projects including: Hurricane Katrina reconstruction in partnership with Rotary Districts **6200, 6820 and 6840**, Tsunami relief

through Economic Livelihood Restoration in Duwe Modera, Sri Lanka partnership with the Rotary Club of **Colombo Central** and support for the Brunswick Teen Center. For more information, contact Club President David Fuller at [cafdrf@suscom-maine.net](mailto:cafdrf@suscom-maine.net)

The Rotary Club of **Freeport** continues to enjoy the re-invigoration of its **Interact Club**. Under the tutelage of **Ron McGranahan**, the group has grown to more than 30 kids from both Freeport High School as well as Pinetree Academy. With the proceeds from a recent fundraiser, the Interactors plan to purchase a cow for the Kakamega, Kenya orphanage, a project long supported by **Freeport** Rotarians. They have also been active supporters of **Freeport's** "Pure Water Project" in Honduras.

My how time flies! On Saturday evening May 20th the Rotary club of **Yarmouth** celebrates its 10th Anniversary with a special celebration. Save the date for this special event! More details to follow.



***Marcia Vieira**, member of the Rotary Club of **Wells**, was recently presented with a Paul Harris Fellowship by her Club for her years of dedicated service to Rotary and her community. **Congratulations Marcia!***

*February is World Understanding Month. Please support "Our Rotary Foundation!" Together we can make a difference in the world!*

## AG Club Highlights – Area 7 – Chip Griffin



The Rotary Club of **Boothbay Harbor** traditionally collects “Toys for Tots” during the holidays, but this year the club sent toys and gift certificates to New Orleans with Rotarian (and Katrina volunteer) **Marty Peak Helman**. The donations were enjoyed by children and young adults at a neighborhood African Baptist Church and the New Orleans Covenant House. Marty volunteered for two weeks over Christmas and New Years, and brought back a fundraising project that she hopes will make it possible for Rotarians in the Rotary Club of **Slidell Northshore**

([www.slidellnorthshorerotary.org/](http://www.slidellnorthshorerotary.org/)) to rebuild (better than ever) a soup kitchen at the local AME Baptist Church. Here, the old facility lies in mold and neglect. It will have to be rebuilt on a nine-foot platform and the kitchen upgraded to meet current standards. No time can be lost, while the kitchen remains derelict, local residents and flood victims go hungry.

The Rotary Club of **Bath Sunrise** will be hosting their annual “Death By Chocolate” event on Saturday Feb. 25th from 5:30 to 8:30pm at the Hyde School in Bath. Desserts are donated by local businesses as well as the items in the Silent Auction. Music will be performed by the Morse High School Jazz Band. Feel free to bring your dancing shoes. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. For additional information contact President **Jonathan Hiltz** at 207-443-3838.

Last year, the Rotary Clubs of **Boothbay Harbor, Bath, Bath Sunrise** and **Freeport** worked together on a **Rotary Foundation** matching grant to purchase a van for “Safe Passage”, the educational support program that makes it possible for 500 children to attend school and leave

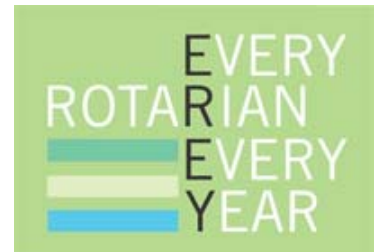
the Guatemala city dump where their parents support themselves as pickers. Here, the Rotary Club of Guatemala Sur President **Jorge Aufranc** presents the keys to the brand-new 15 passenger van to Safe Passage representative **Ed Mahoney** (at right). This **Rotary Foundation** grant was not only a success, but through the excitement it generated, five 7780 Rotarian volunteers at Safe Passage last June; another group of Rotarians are there this month and already, several more **Rotary Foundation** grant proposals are underway.



*We often find Rotarians celebrating the holidays in the strangest ways!* **Marty Peak Helman** of the Rotary Club of **Boothbay Harbor** recently returned from two weeks of “vacation” assisting victims of Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana! Talk about “Service Above Self!”



The Rotary Club of **Damariscotta-Newcastle** recently heard from two of their scholarship winners. **Iyla Hopkins**, graduate of Medomak Valley High School, and **Ellen Capone**, graduate of Coastal Christian School, each received a \$1,500 “Dave McCloud Scholarship” from the Club. Iyla is a freshman at Emery University while Ellen is a freshman at University College at Thomaston. Both young women had proud parents with them to hear them update the club on their college year. The Club’s Vocational and Scholarship Committee selects and awards \$6,500 in scholarships each spring.



*Our Rotary Foundation does make a difference! Matching grants, scholarships, polio plus, 3-H grants, GSE teams – all happen because of you! Won’t you consider helping to make the world a better place! You matter, Our Rotary Foundation matters!*