



The New Centurian

Special Interest Articles:

- Brad Jett Named DG Nominee-Designate!
- Characteristics of "The Best" Rotary Clubs Defined?
- Passage Could Be About Our Rotary Foundation!
- Clubs Challenged To Meet Annual Program Fund Goals!



Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar,
President
Rotary International

AG Club Highlights:

- Brad Jett - Area 1
- John Rainone - Area 3
- Rich Emerson - Area 5
- Todd Doolan - Area 6
- Chip Griffin - Area 7
- Bobbi Steele Marotta - Area 8

Note: Clubs, please submit information to your AG by the 18th of the month.

The Newsletter of Rotary International District 7780

Brad Jett Named as District Governor Nominee-Designate! - Bob Laux, District Governor

It is an honor to announce the name of **Brad Jett** as your **District Governor Nominee-Designate** to serve our District during the years 2008-2009.

Brad is a Past President (2003-2004) and current member of the Rotary Club of Hampton, NH. He joined the Hampton Club in 1997. This year Brad has served as an Assistant District Governor for Area One, which includes the Clubs of Exeter, Hampton, Newburyport, Portsmouth and Portsmouth Sunrise.

Brad and his wife **Penny** are the owners of PTV Productions, a video production company specializing in training, marketing and safety videos, located in Hampton, NH. **Brad** and **Penny** are active members of the Hampton community, where **Brad** serves on the advisory board of the local cable network,

Channel 22 and both are members of the Hampton Chamber of Commerce.



The nomination of **Brad Jett** was announced at the World Peace and Understanding Dinner in Hampton Falls, NH. Brad is shown here with his "enthusiastic" wife, Rotarian **Penny**!

Characteristics of "Best Clubs" Defined! - Bob Laux, District Governor

What an amazing experience it has been, to visit over 2,000 Rotarians in our District and experience the magnitude of effort 41 Clubs muster to make a difference in their communities and around the world! I can't think of a more enjoyable experience.

In my ongoing research to improve my life as a Rotarian, I have read with great admiration the works of several Rotary leaders, specifically those who have contributed to the discussion about what characteristics are inherent in the "**Best Rotary Clubs**". The findings are not new but certainly worthy of review by all clubs.

The **Best Clubs** have:

Great Fellowship – Rotarians coming together as friends, enjoying the fellowship of the club and opportunities to gather both for club functions and

otherwise.

Meaningful Service Projects – Working side-by-side with those you care about making a difference in your community. Members "buy-in" because they care about the outcome.

Ongoing Education – Rotarians need to know what Rotary is all about. The best clubs encourage information sharing about Rotary, attend District events to learn more and encourage discussion about the passion of Rotary.

Great Leadership – The best clubs support their leaders, strive for continuity and encourage working together toward the common good of the Club, the District and Rotary International.

This is a great time of the year to examine whether your club fits the definition as "the best". I know personally, that many Clubs in our District are indeed among the best!

Be Proud To Be A Rotarian!



William "Bill" Boyd, President-Elect of Rotary International addresses his incoming President during the March 9-11 President Elects Training Seminar (PETS) in Nashua, NH. "**Lead The Way**" will serve as next year's Rotary motto. The New England PETS is among the largest in the world, serving eight Rotary Districts and training over 500 incoming Presidents! Both President Elect **Bill** and his charming wife **Lorna** were in attendance!

This Message Could Be Written For 'Our Rotary Foundation'! – Cynthia Moran-Laux

At the World Peace and Understanding Dinner late last month, Governor Bob read a passage from a book entitled "It Was On Fire When I Lay Down On It", written by noted author Robert Fulghum. Leading up to this writing, Mr. Fulghum came to some conclusions when questioned about whether he really did learn "all I really need to know I learned in kindergarten." His comments not only remind us of the reality of life, but seem to be written to reflect the potential impact **Our Rotary Foundation** can still make in the world.

"Here's the tough part of what I know now: that the lessons of kindergarten are hard to practice if they don't apply to you. It's hard to share everything and play fair if you don't have anything to share and life is itself unjust. I think of the children of this earth who see the world through barbed wire, who live in a filthy rubbled mess not of their own making and that they can never clean up. They do not wash their hands before they eat. There is no water. Or soap. And some do not have hands to wash. They do not know about warm cookies and cold milk, only stale scraps and hunger. They have no blankie to wrap themselves in, and do not take naps because it is too dangerous to close their eyes.

Theirs is not the kindergarten of finger paint

and nursery rhymes but an X-rated school of harsh dailiness. Their teachers are not sweet women who care, but the indifferent instructors called Pain, Fear and Misery. Like all children everywhere, they tell stories of monsters. Theirs are for real – what they have seen with their own eyes. In broad daylight. We do not want to know what they have learned.

But we know. And it ain't kindergarten stuff.

The line between good and evil, hope and despair does not divide the world between "us" and "them". It runs down the middle of every one of us.

I do not want to talk about what you understand about the world. I want to know what you will **do** about it. I do not to know what you will **hope**. I want to know what you will **work for**. I do not want your sympathy for the needs of humanity. I want your **muscle**. As the wagon driver said when they came to a long, hard hill, "Them that's going on with us, get out and push. Them that ain't, get out of the way."

Rotarians, we can "lead the way" to a better world through **our Rotary Foundation**. Let's "get out and push", because we can!

Clubs Challenged To Meet Annual Program Fund Pledges

As we approach the end of our Rotary year, Clubs are reminded to meet their "Club Goals" toward **Our Rotary Foundation's Annual Programs Fund**. The future of our Rotary District's efforts to "save and change lives" depends on it!

Every year, Rotary Clubs from around the world make a pledge, or financial commitment to support the Rotary Foundation. Those "Club Goal Report Forms" are tabulated as an estimate in support of the Annual Programs Fund. The Annual Program Fund determines two very important amounts of money to each District, the "**District Designated Funds**" (DDF) and the "**District Simplified Grants**" (DSG). Whatever

Tim Placey, Foundation Chair

a District raises in a particular year, comes back to the District as DDF (50% of all funds raised) and DSG (20% of all funds raised) three years later.

DDF are most often utilized for international Matching Grants, which combine local Club efforts with District, RF and a host Club funds, while DSG funds are most often applied to community efforts within the District. Both are critically important to Rotary's future and depend on contributions from individuals and Clubs toward the Annual Program Fund.

Please make every effort to meet this very important pledge! Many lives depend on it!



PRID and World Peace and Understanding Dinner Event Coordinator **Dan Mooers** joins RI Ambassadorial Scholar **Takayo Kotani**, Foundation Trustee and honored guest **Carolyn Jones** and **RIDE Michael McGovern**.

AG Club Highlights – Area 1 – Brad Jett

A group of Rotarians from the Rotary Club of **Portsmouth** spent a week in Mexico last month helping a small rural village build a cistern. The trip was organized by **Lynn-Del**, the club's International Service Chair, who also recently presented a program on the trip to the club. Participants included Past President **Neal Ouellett** and his wife **Darlene**, Rotarian **Charles Bourdages** and his wife **Holly Zurer**, Rotarian **James Petersen**, and **Becky Neis**, a friend of Lynn-Del's. The hardy group stayed in the Mixteca Alta Region, in the town of Nochixtlan and were hosted by CEDICAM, a regional development group formed in 1989. They worked side by side with both CEDICAM and the local residents and



successfully completed their project over the course of a week. This is a true example of Rotary in action – congratulations to all! (See below!)

The Rotary Club of **Hampton** had a rare opportunity this month. A very special event was held right here in our own back yard. Jointly hosted by our District 7780 and District 7930, The **World Peace and Understanding Dinner** was held in Hampton Falls featuring guest speaker, **Carolyn Jones**. Carolyn's initial claim to fame was all her good works through her home Club in Alaska where she was responsible for projects in assisting orphanages in Russia (still in her home district). Most recently, Carolyn's was named as a Rotary Foundation Trustee,



the first woman ever appointed.

Next, the **Hampton** Club was very well represented at the recent event in Westborough, MA, to hear RI's President, **Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar** in his only New England appearance.

Recently, the **Hampton** Club was ceremoniously feted at the Hampton Area Chamber of Commerce's year-end awards dinner with a "Seafood Festival Award" for its enormous contribution to the success of this annual Festival. Our Members turn out in record numbers each year to man the entrance gates for this very popular September event.

*Several District Club Presidents had the honor of meeting **Rotary International President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar** at a recent joint, 12 District- New England event in Westborough, MA. President **Carl-Wilhelm** is pictured here with (from left) Club Presidents **Steve Wight** of Bethel, **Ann-Lee Hussey** of South Berwick and **Karen Wendell** of Portsmouth. What a great opportunity to hear from our current leader!*

AG Club Highlights - Area 3 – John Rainone

Don MacAulay, member of the Rotary Club of **Ogunquit** gives a splendid presentation at a recent "Membership Drive Meeting". The event drew 18 guests, of which at least 15 represent perspective new Rotarians. During a recent **Ogunquit** Club meeting, **Stuart Nudelman**, won the Jackpot in our 50/50 drawing. The pot rolls over weekly when there is no winner. **Stuart** won \$306.00!



During the month of February, the Rotary Club of **Wells** donated \$1,000 toward the installation of a stand-alone clock at the Transportation Center. This Rotary gift capped a major two year effort by the Wells Chamber of Commerce to install the inscribed timepiece at the rail station. At its final meeting in February, Club President **Bill Chigas** presented the check to Wells Chamber President **Will Bradford**.

The club also wrote and produced a 30-second television spot on the local Time Warner outlet as well as on Wells Community Television. The spot focuses on a number of Rotary achievements in the Wells area as well as promoting membership.

Last November, The Rotary Club of **Kennebunk-Portside** sponsored

the visit of 10 high school students from Antrim, Northern Ireland, in a program which Portside created **AMCARE**: Antrim-Maine Cross-Atlantic Rotary Exchange. The kids worked with a similar number of their peers from Kennebunk High School on service projects, classroom visits, sleepovers, group-building and thought-provoking exercises and the "Ropes Course" at Northern York County YMCA. With the help of many "**Portsiders**", the community and the school, the students did a tremendous job of helping break down very real barriers in their communities. This coming August, the Kennebunk students will be going to Northern Ireland, with the kids raising their own money for the trip.

Rotary International District 7780

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More on the District
Website!

See us at:

**www.Rotary7780.
org**

Rotarian's Needed!

District 7780 has a proud history of "Lending A Hand" in support of the **Salvation Army's "Camp Sebago's Rotary Clean-up Day!"**. For many years Rotarians have given their time and energy to rake leaves (bring your own comfortable rake), provide interior cabin cleaning and remove brush and branches (personal saws and chippers welcomed!). When: **Saturday, May 6, 9AM-12:45PM**, Where: **Camp Sebago, Rt. 114, Standish, ME**. For additional information call **Captain Everett Henry, Camp Director, (207) 774-6304 Ext. 220**, or visit us at www.campsebago.org



AG Club Highlights – Area 6 – Todd Doolan

District Areas 6 and 7 are looking forward to hosting a "**Fireside Chat**" with District Governor **Bob** and other members of the District leadership team on **Wednesday March 29th, 6 PM at the China Rose restaurant in Brunswick**. The event is intended to be an open forum where any and all questions about the District as well as its new "Club Leadership Plan" will be discussed. All Rotarians are welcome. Cost for the all-you-can-eat Chinese buffet is \$13 or \$10 for salad and appetizers only. Special thanks to the Rotary Club of **Brunswick Coastal** for opening up their Wednesday night meeting for this event!

The Rotary Clubs of **Brunswick** and **Topsham Expresso** are pleased to report that in March the restoration project of the Topsham/Brunswick **Swinging Bridge** will begin. The Swinging Bridge was constructed in 1892 by the John A. Roebling Sons Co., which also designed and built the Brooklyn Bridge. Both clubs have been fundraising for this project for several years and have contributed greatly to the approximately \$500,000 budget which also included a grant of \$350,000 from the Maine Department of Transportation. The restoration was also a Centennial Project for the **Brunswick Club**.

Rotarians from the Rotary Club of **Freeport** are anxiously awaiting April when they will send a delegation of Rotarians and Interactors to Santa Barbara, Honduras to oversee the distribution of the first 100 water filters as part of its multi-year "**Pure Water for Santa Barbara, Honduras**" project. This group will be led by Freeport President **Bob Hanson** and **Shannon Combar**, wife of President-Elect **Curt Combar**.



On the home front, the **Freeport Club** is assisting a senior resident in finding new housing, providing canned goods for the community's hungry and providing books for the Children's Library. The Club's other international projects include toiletries and books for their project in **Kakamega, Kenya**, and two milk cows, courtesy of our Interact Club, to a project in **Rwanda**.

As part of their 10th anniversary celebration, the Rotary Club of **Yarmouth** will honor ten people in the Yarmouth, North Yarmouth and Cumberland communities with a **Paul Harris Fellow**. **Paul Harris** was a founder of Rotary International more than 100 years ago. Rotary clubs around the world honor his name by bestowing a "Paul Harris Fellow" recognition (a \$1,000 donation to the Rotary Foundation) on those members of their club and volunteers from the community who best exemplify the Rotary motto "**Service Above Self**."

The **Yarmouth Club's** annual "**Bowl-a-thon**" will be held on Tuesday, March 28th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Yankee Lanes in Portland. This will be a great family event and your chance to show off your fundraising skills as well as your bowling skills. Please contact Yarmouth President **Maura Halkiotis** at 846-3984 or islander@maine.rr.com for more details.



Long time Rotarian **Steve Burton** was awarded the "**Four Avenues of Service**" Citation by Rotary Club of **Damariscotta-Newcastle** President **Wilt Jones**, during their recent Winter Social.

The Rotary Club of **Casco Bay** in support of the **Maine Children's Cancer Center** recently raised over \$30,000 during their 8th Annual Beer and Wine Tasting event. **Steve DiMillo** of **DiMillo's Floating Restaurant** is honored for his continuing support by President **David Caron** (right) and President Elect **Dan Smith** (left).

AG Club Highlights – Area 7 – Chip Griffin



Several Rotary Clubs in the District have supported the program called **Safe Passage**, an educational program that benefits children living in and near the Guatemala City dump. Combining support from the Rotary Clubs of **Boothbay Harbor, Bath, Bath Sunrise** and **Freeport**, the District and a Rotary Foundation Grant last year, a 15 passenger van was purchased and has been in operation for about six months. Recently District 7780 (and other) Rotarians and friends volunteered at Safe Passage and saw (and rode in) the living proof. Yes, that's the District's First Lady **Cynthia** you see standing third from right. Clubs have joined in with the Rotary Club of **Boothbay Harbor**, which is well on their way toward providing new vehicles for Safe Passage this year!

The Rotary Club of **Boothbay Harbor** has a long history with the local Lions Club. Over the years there have been sporting events, competitive "blood

drives", and collaborative projects of all types. The relationship is kept alive through semi-annual exchange meetings where we share programs and fellowship. This month's meeting at the Rotary Club was overridden by a power outage which prevented meal preparation and meeting. In best Rotary style, flashlights appeared, social beverages brought out, and fellowship continued "in the dark".

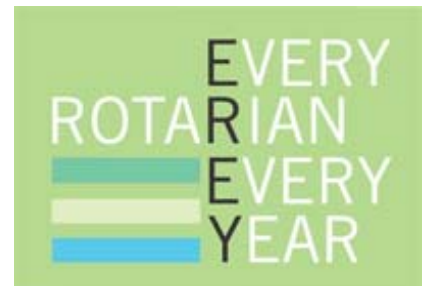
The **Boothbay Harbor** Club's annual YMCA/Rotary Basketball Tournament was held March 10-12. A great community event was provided, supported by refreshment sales, etc.



*Rotary volunteers including Fisher Mitchell School Grade 1 teacher **Marie Smith** (left), **Janelle Favaloro** (Rockport, MA) and **Charon Curtis** (Bath Sunrise, Maine) recently read to very excited **Netza School** children in Zihuatanejo, Mexico. Rotarians and other volunteers brought over 200 new books purchased with funds raised by Rotary Clubs in mid-coast Maine.*



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!



AG Club Highlights – Area 8 – Bobbi Steele Marotta

The Rotary Club of **Rumford**'s President **Rod McIntyre** had to relocate for an employment change mid-year. Past Presidents are taking turns conducting the meetings until the end of the year, with several agreeing to a month at a time! President Elect **Angela Roberts** recently attended PETS and is anxious to get going in her year of service!



Linda Earle** was recently named "Rotarian of the Year" by the Rotary Club of **Oxford Hills**, at their Anniversary Dinner. **Linda**, wife of Club President **Roy Earle** is the consummate volunteer, instilling the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self" among others. She is pictured here receiving the award from Club member **Stan Brett**. Congratulations **Linda!



*Pictured here are some of the two dozen members of the **Bethel Interact Club**, made up of students from both Gould Academy and Telstar High School and affiliated with the Rotary Club of **Bethel**. Interact has been working on a variety of projects in recent months: a shoe collection drive and a benefit basketball game for **Armenia**; a textbook collection for **Uganda**; collecting bottles, washing cars and passing the hat for a water project in **Kenya**; and volunteering at the **Bethel** Rotary Club's Senior Christmas Luncheon, the Bethel Food Pantry and the Crescent Park Elementary School.*