



# The New Centurian

## Special Interest Articles:

- Fireside Chats - Coming Soon!
- Continuity and Cooperation – Food For Club Thought!
- We Have A Lot To Be “Thankful” For!
- District Simplified Grants Are Announced!



*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  
Bobbi Steele-Marotta – Area 8

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

## The Newsletter of Rotary International District 7780

### “Fireside Chats” With District Leadership, Coming Soon! - Bob Laux, Billy Hobbs, Liz Cullen

One of the most talked about segments of the recent District Conference were the two “Fireside Chats” held by our District Leadership. The intent was to provide an opportunity for any Rotarian, family member or guest to ask questions about Rotary from Rotarian leaders in the District and our Presidential Representative **Brenda Cressey**. These after-hour events appeared to hit a need.

In recent months our District Leadership, as you know, has been working on a Strategic Plan for the District. What better way to gain input into the direction sought from the membership than to conduct “Fireside Chats” around the District and to talk about the needs, concerns and expectations of District members. So beginning in January, DG **Bob**, along with **Billy Hobbs**, DGE, **Liz Cullen**, DGN, Assistant Governors, Committee Chairs, Resource Group Leaders and others will be

hosting at least four regional events around the District, most likely in the south, north, west and central part of the District. They will be open to all Rotarians who want to know about Rotary and have questions or concerns about District management, Our Rotary Foundation, membership issues, or the District budget. These open forums will serve to assist members in better understanding how Rotary works.

Events will be planned in the early evening, most likely from 5:30-7:00 PM, allowing Rotarians time to join their family or friends for dinner after. “All we really need is a friendly place with a fireplace, good fellowship and conversation to make it work!” sights Governor **Bob**. Watch for notice of a Fireside Chat coming to a neighborhood near you beginning in early January '06, just after the holidays!

### “Continuity” And “Cooperation” Key Elements in Club and District Planning - Bob Laux, District Governor

Rotary International President **Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar's** charge this year should have a broad-based impact on the organization, from the leadership of RI, through each Rotary District, right down to the Club level. The introduction of such a simple word like “**continuity**” brings a challenge to every level of Rotary to begin planning for transition in leadership, service projects and planning efforts. And by challenging us to think in terms of “**cooperation**” with others, allows each Club to achieve more by partnering with others who might have similar goals in world and community service.

Continuity in leadership at the Club level challenges each Club officer to begin the process of planning for their replacement, identifying emerging leaders within the Club and constantly developing leadership capacity.

“Each job in the Club should have someone in training for that job and everyone in the Club should have a defined responsibility to contribute and make the Club better”, sites DG Bob. Continuity comes about by realizing that leadership is not an annual thing for Clubs but a constant and evolving process of keeping a Club on track toward its goals.

Rotary has already demonstrated the concept of cooperation, through its joint efforts with UNICEF, WHO and CDC, in polio eradication around the world. This simple concept can also challenge Clubs to develop joint partnerships with others. By working with groups like your local church, YMCA or Lions Club, Rotarians can expand their scope of community service while providing valuable education and awareness opportunities about our amazing organization, Rotary.



## A Lot To Be Thankful For! – Cynthia Moran-Laux

What a great time of the year! Our seasonal holidays coincide with our year end, a special time to reflect on accomplishments, personal commitments and plans for the coming year. It's also a time to give "thanks" for all we have, both in each other and because of each other. Go figure, we have holidays to celebrate as well! Looks like someone really planned this stuff out!

The holidays provide a great opportunity to gather with our Rotary family and friends. I recently came across an article written by Reverend Kent of the Rotary Club of Oshkosh Southwest in Wisconsin. Reverend Kent has some words I thought summarized many of the things we all need to be thankful for:

"Now we're in the month of November and I'm trying to think Thanksgiving. Now let's see:

- I'm grateful for the teen complaining about doing the dishes because that means she's at home and not on the streets.
- I'm thankful for taxes because that means I have resources or are employed.
- I'm glad for the mess after the party because it means I have friends.
- I'm glad for the clothes that fit too snugly

because it means I have enough to eat.

- I'm grateful for leaves that need raking and windows that need washing and gutters that need fixing because it means I have a home.
- I'm thankful for all the complaining I hear about government and other things because it means I am free to speak my mind.
- I'm glad for the parking spot at the far end of the lot because it means I have transportation and can walk.
- I'm even glad for the pile of laundry because it means I have clothes to wear.
- I'm thankful for my morning alarm because it means I am awake and alive.
- And I'm glad for my weariness at the end of the day because it probably means I'm a productive person."

Bob and I extend our best wishes to you and your family throughout the holiday period. Give thanks for all you have accomplished, for all you have to offer and for the great fellowship that comes from our great organization. We are more than **"Proud To Be Rotarians!"** sharing this great experience with each and every one of you.

**Michael Colasurdo**, along with his wife **Ann**, joined us for the District Foundation Seminar on November 12<sup>th</sup> at the York County Community College. **Mike** is a Past District Governor of District 7500 and hales from Brick, New Jersey. His passion for "Our Rotary Foundation" was readily apparent to anyone in attendance! What a great opportunity it was to share this great Rotary event with friends!!

## District Simplified Grants – Our Rotary Foundation at Work in Your Community – Tim Placey, Foundation Chair

One of the unique characteristics of "The Annual Giving Program" of the **Rotary Foundation** is the ability of a District to direct funds under the SHARE program. In any given year the funds a District and its Clubs provide the Foundation are apportioned three years later with a split: 50% to the District under **District Designated Funds (DDF)** and 50% to the **World Fund**. The World Fund pays for things like Group Study Exchange Teams (GSE), Peace Scholars and 3-H Grants, among other activities of the Foundation. DDF funds are directed back to Districts for utilization in Matching Grants along with 20% going toward "**District Simplified Grants**" (DSG). This year our DSG funds totaled just over \$15,000.

Our District Grants Committee recently

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announced the 2005-2006 DSG fund recipients. Although a record breaking 16 Clubs applied, nine were awarded some level of funding. Here are the award recipients and the projects being developed in our communities:

- The **Saco Bay** Club received \$1,854 for a portable AED machine for rescue units
- The **Windham** Club received \$1,850 for a pediatric trauma kit for the Sebago Emergency Medical Services Rescue Unit
- The **Rochester** Club received \$900 to add a reading component to the community first grade safety program
- The **Sanford-Springvale** Club received \$2,750 for an adult literacy program
- The **South Berwick** Club received \$2,000 for a literacy project in the elementary school

• The **Brunswick Coastal** Club received \$1,121 toward the purchase of equipment used to assist a health clinic

• The **Kennebunk Portside** Club received \$1,500 for a community health campaign

• The **Bethel** Club received \$2,000 toward a "smile fund" that provides dental work to improve health, employment opportunities and self-confidence.

• The **Newburyport** Club received \$1,200 toward a "challenge soccer program" involving kids with disabilities.

Many excellent examples of how Rotary Clubs can utilize "Our Rotary Foundation" and the Annual Giving Program in their home communities! Congratulations to all!

## AG Club Highlights – Area 1 – Brad Jett

The Rotary Club of **Portsmouth** enjoyed its official visit from Governor Bob and Cynthia on October 20<sup>th</sup>. The night before, members of both the **Sunrise** and **Noon-time** Clubs took Governor Bob and Cynthia out to dinner in downtown Portsmouth. The joint activity was an excellent venue to discuss Rotary matters as well as a great opportunity for the two Clubs to share ideas and get to know each other better. At the lunch meeting the next day Governor Bob recognized Rotarians **Bill McDonough** and **Dick Ingram** with Service Above Self Awards from the Club, for their contributions to the Seacoast community through their efforts to "Save The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard".

The Portsmouth Club has also been busy completing a major project for Compass Care, a day care center for patients with Alzheimer's Disease. The project was funded through the Club's "William M. Cash Committee", co-chaired by **Kathryn Gill** and **Jim Wilton**, and consists of building a deck and a memory garden for the patients. Fellow Rotarian **Lyn-Del** is the project's leader and many of the club's members have

participated in the different project phases. Some Rotarians, such as **Basil Richardson**, **Bill Powers**, and Director Emeritus **Carl Brage**, have participated in all phases and are now experts in deck building! Good weather permitting, the deck should be completed by November 19<sup>th</sup> and the garden will be completed in early Spring 2006.

During the month of October the Rotary Club of **Hampton** helped the Light-House Kids raise money over \$108,000 for the impressive restoration of the White Island Lighthouse by auctioning off the 4-foot all-weather LobStars. These fiberglass sculptures were artfully painted by local artists and placed throughout the seacoast for display during the summer months. The Lighthouse Kids are 7th graders and 7th grade alumnae from the North Hampton Middle School who have been working on this ambitious service project since 2000-2001.

Over twenty **Hampton** Rotarians managed to lend a hand with a "Random Act of Kindness" to **John** (a Hampton Rotarian) and **Pam Nyhan**, Innkeepers

of Hampton's delightful Victoria Inn, to raise over \$19,000 for the St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, victims of Hurricane Katrina. John and Pam managed and hosted four wonderful events in one weekend at their lovely Inn, including a New England Clambake, a cocktail hors-d'oeuvres party, a Unity Breakfast and A Fall Concert.

Though somewhat small in number, the Rotary Club of **Exeter** came up with a painless fundraiser to benefit one of the International goals. Each meeting they pass a plastic fishbowl labeled "Rotoplast" from table to table for any donations. They average close to \$30 per week and last year they raised enough by this method to fund 2 life changing operations. A side benefit is that the weekly passing of the bowl increases member and guest awareness about the Rotoplast effort.

The Rotary Club of **Newburyport** was very visible at their annual Santa's Parade on the Sunday following Thanksgiving in downtown Newburyport. The annual event draws over 5,000 people to watch Santa and Mrs. Claus parade through the downtown in a sleigh pulled by **Rotarians wearing antlers!** (We really can't make this stuff up!) Many other Club members follow behind throwing candy to kids along the way. The parade ends with the lighting of the Holiday tree in the square. Somehow it seems that each year Santa bears a striking resemblance to whoever is the current Rotary President!

**Have a great and happy holidays!**

*Be Proud To Be A Rotarian!*

## AG Club Highlights Area 3 – John Rainone

The Rotary Club of **Wells** had a fairly active month of October. Their Annual Chuck Cumming Memorial Golf Tournament was once again a success. DG Bob and First Lady Cynthia's visit included a Board of Directors and partners thought provoking "fireside chat" at Pres. Bill's home followed by the next morning's meeting with DG Bob's wonderfully inspiring presentation. The Club also had a fun night at Wells' Recreation Park Halloween Hayride. Several Rotary Interactors along with Club and non-club members manned many of the action stations with fun and hard work. Wells was also well represented at the Membership Seminar with eight attendees. Great Month!!



***Inbound Youth Exchange Students** gathered for the beginning of their adventure at the Sunday River Inn for a weekend of orientation. "Great group of young adults!" cited proud Chair Scott Simmonds. What a great opportunity for Rotary Clubs and what an amazing experience for the Students! Welcome to District 7780!*

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More on the District  
Website!

See us at:

**www.Rotary7780.  
org**



*Past President **Mark Costa** of the Rotary Club of **Brunswick Coastal** had a great opportunity to meet and talk with Rotary International President **Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar** while doing a makeup at the Rotary Club of **San Juan, Puerto Rico**. **Mark** discussed with President **Carl-Wilhelm** his Club's efforts to work with contacts in China. Since their discussion, Rotary International has added both **China** and **Cuba** to those countries which will be fostering the development of Rotary Clubs.*

## AG Club Highlights – Area 6 – Todd Doolan

During a recent meeting of the **Rotary Club of Brunswick Coastal**, a waitress brought a phone and introduced Club President **Mary Tenant**, along with Vice President **Margaret Lonsdale** and Club member **Bruce Goodman**, calling from South Africa. They were visiting their sponsored AIDS hospice, delivering training programs to Community Outreach volunteers, organizing the rebuilding of a crumbling wall at an elementary school and visiting a nursing college, among other things.

In other recent news, **Brunswick Coastal Club** member **John Woollacott**, paired up with **Indrani Dennen**, to ship eight large boxes of stuffed toys to a Rotarian outside of the New Orleans District. This Rotarian just happened to be principal of a local elementary school and offered this insight: "The children in New Orleans must be devastated and could really benefit from something to hug. It also provides us an opportunity to build awareness of Rotary in the Community."

The Rotary Club of **Freeport** hosted its First Annual "Thank You Dinner" for Public Service Providers on November 15th. President **Bob Hanson** presided over the white table cloth event as Rotarians both served and cooked for 107 municipal officials, educators and public service providers. Maine State Senate leader Beth Edmonds and State Rep David Webster both spoke to the roll in which reeport Rotary plays in serving its community. The event was a smashing success and served not only to thank those who do so much for so little but also to build awareness of Rotary in the Community.

The Rotary Club of **Yarmouth** and the Yarmouth Interact Club volunteered October 28-30 in a state-wide program called "Keep ME Warm". This program sends teams of volunteers to the homes of low-income elderly and citizens with disabilities to assist them in winterizing their homes, hopefully cutting their heating bills and making them more comfortable through the winter months. The Rotary Club of **Brunswick** is participating in this program as well.

The Rotary Club of **Yarmouth** is also

working with the **Rotary Club de la Comercial** of Montevideo, Uruguay (RI District 4980) on a project related to the urgent needs of children and adolescents from one rural area of the country. The Yarmouth Club is hoping to partner with other Clubs in the District to raise money for a school bus. If you are interested in working on a very important international project, please contact **Maura Halkiotis**, President, Rotary Club of **Yarmouth** at [islander@maine.rr.com](mailto:islander@maine.rr.com).

The Rotary Club of **Brunswick** recently featured speaker Keerthi de Silva from Sri Lanka. Keerthi spoke on the devastation that his country is enduring in the aftermath of the Tsunami of last December. Some statistics: 38,000 killed, 22,000 injured and 5,000 missing. Over 1 million people are displaced, meaning 25% of the population was affected, and 25-33% of those are below the poverty line, which consists of \$1 a day. 35,100 homes were destroyed and another 47,500 damaged. 1000 miles of roads and 23 bridges were damaged. 4000 miles of power lines were destroyed. Water problems included damage to delivery pipes and contamination of supplies, mostly through saltwater contamination. 182 schools were damaged and the surviving schools were used as shelters. So education ground to a halt. 15,300 fishing boats were destroyed as were a million nets. And when the industry started to come back, people wouldn't eat the fish out of concerns about the fish coming from the sea that had attacked them.

But the country is beginning to come back. Schools are schools again, as temporary housing has been built. And houses are being rebuilt. Rotary has committed to rebuild 22 schools at a cost of \$12 million in the Duwe Modera area, which will go a long way to continue getting education back on track. And we are working on rebuilding livelihoods. In this ocean side area, fishing is a primary occupation. The **Brunswick** Club has applied for a \$75,000 Rotary Foundation Grant to help in this effort. \$37,500 will go to boats, \$12,500 to working capital and \$25,000 to infrastructure. That is \$75,000 to revive an entire industry. Proof positive that a little bit goes a long way.

## AG Club Highlights – Area 7 – Chip Griffin

The Rotary Club of **Damariscotta-Newcastle** kicked off our "Protein Day" for the Food Pantry as the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Club Meetings. It seems protein products (Tuna, Chicken, Peanut Butter, Baked Bean, etc.) are in short supply as healthy offerings to the needy.

Along with the pantry, the Club was active in roadside-overlook cleanup on the Route 1 bypass with a "SWAT of Rotary Bushwackers" carrying chain saws, weed wackers, clippers and pure will power! Thanks to **Phil Congdon** they picked a sunny day!

The Rotary Club of **Damariscotta-Newcastle** was very pleased to once again host the "Friends Forever" students and team leaders. We are all proud of the work Friends Forever does and the impact these ambassadors of peace and understanding will make to the many people they will touch in the US and in Ireland, as well as the changes this experience will make to them personally. The Club looks forward to continuing its support for this exemplary

program.

The Club also had great participation at the District Foundation Seminar, Membership Seminar and the Rotary Leadership Institute at Bates College! An active Club with a lot of energy and commitment to Rotary!

The Rotary Club of **Boothbay Harbor** recently named **Frank Helman** its 2005 Rotarian of the Year. **Frank** writes and distributes the club's weekly newsletter, the Rotary "Star," and he serves as treasurer of the club's 501(c)3 foundation. In addition, he recently assumed the position of assistant treasurer for the club itself.

**Frank**, a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, is known around the club for getting things done with little fanfare, and he was clearly stunned by the honor. "All I do is publish in the 'Star' the kind of information that I want to know," he said. "For once in my life I am speechless." It's that kind of quiet service that exemplifies Rotary at its best!



*The Rotary Club of **Damariscotta-Newcastle** enjoyed their Fall Lobster Bake Social at **Linda & Dirk Brunner's** in Walpole on the banks of the Damariscotta River. It was great to see the Rotary partners, families and many of the widows of past Rotarians. Governor **Bob** and **Cynthia** dropped by to help on this beautiful fall day, the first of October.*

## AG Club Highlights – Area 8 – Bobbi Steele- Marotta

Members of the Rotary Club of **Bethel** had a tour Nov. 1 of the Bumpus Mine, located in Albany Township near Bethel. The mine, which was formerly an important source of beryl and feldspar, ceased operations in the 1960s. It now serves as a historical and educational site, with tours provided by the Maine Mineralogy Expedition Company.

Rotarians in **Bethel** also held their bi-annual "Country Breakfast" at Gould Academy, serving over 270. They were greatly assisted in their work with the local Interact Club, which consists of local Telstar High School and Gould Academy students. Great fellowship, great grubs!

The Rotary Club of **Fryeburg** just held its first "Bountiful Harvest" at the Fryeburg Academy. With over 75 in attendance, they featured a spectacular food fare offered by local restaurants and the Club, along with a silent auction and live auction. The proceeds will fund local scholarships.

Members of the Rotary Club of **Bridgton-Lakes Region** recently teamed up with the Lake Region Environmental Association (LEA) staff members to create a walking trail. After four hours of hammering, sawing, bruises and stiff backs, this hardy group completed about 50 feet of curved raised boardwalk, which will eventually become part of approximately 2 miles of trail. LEA received a grant but had difficulty finding people to complete the project. Enter Rotarians, always willing to place "Service Above Self". This ongoing project is one of many of their commitments to the community.



*Can anyone really look into these eyes and say "No?" Won't you please consider a year end contribution to **Our Rotary Foundation**? Please join **Governor Bob** and **Cynthia** and make your pledge to save and change lives! For a link, please see the District WebSite at [www.rotary7780.org](http://www.rotary7780.org)*