### PrincetonIM<sup>™</sup> Web Manager - Control Panel

Main Menu My Pages Member Mgmt Admin View Public Site Help Log Off

Archive

Current Page View:

Published edit this page



### Home

**District Information** 

District Governor District Calendar DG Official Visits Officers & Chairs District Secretary District Treasurer Photo Gallery Photo Album (2007) District Bylaws

### Governors Newsletter Current Archive

### **District Club Info**

Links to Clubs Make Up Opportunities Club Fundraisers/Events Speakers Bureau World Community

#### **District Events/Forums**

District Assembly District Changeover District Conference Foundation Seminar Interact Conference Intl Convention Membership Seminar Mid-Term Assembly NE Multi-District PETS RLI Course Dates United Nations Day W.U.P.D.

### **District History**

Historian Past Governors

### Foundation

The Chair Alumni Directory Annual Giving Foundation Grants Group Study Exchange Polio Plus Foundation Scholarships

### Literacy

Literacy Chair Message Literacy Awards 2009-10 Literacy PR Release 4 Way Test Contest Read Across America Literacy Resources

### Membership

Chair Message Committee Membership Tools

### Resources Health & Hunger Public Relations



DG Marie and Exeter Rotarians welcomes the Marshall Legacy Institute The Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI) applies practical solutions to assist countries in easing the scourge of landmines. MLI provides mine detection dogs, management training, and mine awareness education to reduce suffering and restore hope to people, especially children, in war-torn countries. MLI also uses innovative technologies to improve the quality of life of landmine survivors. Very front starting with dog "Utsi" left to right: "Utsi" retired Belgian Malinois worked in Eritrea, Rachel McCasland, CHAMPS Assistant; Beth Ann Scanlon, Exeter Rotarian; Ret. Army Col.Perry Baltimore, President of the Marshall Legacy Institute

## A Word From Governor Marie-

http://www.princetonim.com/District7780/NewsletterArchive.cfm?cn=43

Apr 5, 2007

print this page

Water

My Fellow Rotarians,

Youth Programs Interact RYI A Youth Exchange

Service Above Self Forms & Documents **RI Links/Contacts** 

Contact Us

Page 2 of 12

It seems just like yesterday that I was talking to you and another month has gone by already! March was a very busy month for DGE Liz and I as well as all of you with Pre-PETS meetings; PETS; Fireside Chats with the sitting presidents and members of the clubs; preparations for the upcoming District Assembly this month and the District Conference next month – planning for next year and celebrating this year! The clubs are busy now trying to complete the Presidential Citation and Governor's Award Certification Forms. Before you know it our year together will be over and the next team will be in place. Now on to this month.

April is Magazine Month. Every Rotarian in the district gets the Rotarian magazine because their dues to Rotary International pays for their subscription. I wonder how many of you read it every month. If you don't, it is your lost! Every month the Rotary International President has a message on the first page. This month RIP Bill Boyd talks about the environment. He reminds us that there are no local decisions. Everything we do touches others. He reminds us that we must remember that our decisions never concern only us.

Let me quote him, "One of the lessons of Rotary is that one person can make a difference." Read the Field Reports to see what I am talking about. There are many great articles in the April issue of your Rotarian magazine. There is news from all over the world. Do you know where Sayod is? Have you ever heard of it? Have you thought about hosting an ecofriendly club meeting? Want to know how to get it together so you can lead the way? Want a Polio update - read the magazine. Want to learn about the RI Convention in Salt Lake City and the surrounding area - read the magazine. See how one District Governor raised \$10,000 for The Rotary Foundation by losing weight to tackle his diabetes. I don't have diabetes but I should have tried this one!

Have a Rotary minute in your club where you assign a different Rotarian each week to tell about something they read in the Rotarian magazine. You and your club members will all be amazed at what you learn. It is a useful tool, use it! Lead the Way to a more informed club by encouraging your members to read their Rotarian magazine each month.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Marie



New Member John Van Siclen, Rotary President Gary Speers, New Member Judy Speers, District 7780 Governor Marie Williams, Rotary First Spouse Bruce Williams

# **Rotary Cub of Damariscotta – Newcastle** Hosts Governor Marie's World Peace and Understanding Presentation

Rotary District 7780 Governor Marie Williams conducted a formal new member's ceremony inducting Judy Speers of Newcastle, John Van Siclen of Walpole and recognizing recent new member Don Cameron of Newcastle. Rotarians Karen Filler, Bill Murdoch and Shirley Tawney were recognized with Certificates of Appreciation for sponsoring new members this Rotary year. Governor Williams provided a beautiful segue into her World Peace and Understanding Program by honoring Multiple Paul Harris Fellowship award winner Joe Kindred for his significant contribution to the Rotary International Foundation for charitable giving.

Rotary Host John Atwood then formally introduced the program by Governor Marie Williams who presented a moving video from the recent World Peace and Understanding Dinner about what, where and how the clubs in our district are involved in international aid programs. All forty-one clubs in our Rotary district, basically northern New England, are involved in a club project in a foreign country to various extents. Some join in with programs started and sponsored by other clubs, while some clubs have dealt with the challenges directly and developed and presented projects to Rotary International who upon acceptance, provide grants, matching funds, expertise, and facilitation with other clubs to make the projects viable and successful.

The video Governor Marie presented was a very powerful statement of what the District clubs are doing in so many different areas to try to improve the quality of life, especially for children through out the world.

Thank You, Governor Marie! There was not a dry eye in the house!

### Gary G. Speers

President, The Rotary Club of Damariscotta-Newcastle



Bridgton-Lake Region Rotary Wine Tasting

#### Highlight of Happenings from Area 8 by AG Patty Rice

The **Bridgton-Lake Region** Club had a very successful 1st annual Italian Wine Tasting event and exceeded their ticket selling goal. They are busy planning their next fundraising event, the Club's largest fundraiser, the Bridgton-Lake Region Taste of the Lakes Dinner/Auction to be held on May 18th. Many local restaurants and merchants are again contributing their time and donations to help make it the huge success is has been in the past. The Club members are very busy with arrangements, advertising and ticket sales!

The Rotary Club of **Fryeburg** Area, in honor of Literacy month, send donations to five local public libraries; Fryeburg, Brownfield, Denmark, Lovell and Chatham, to be used as needed. Plans for their annual Bowl-athon fundraiser are about completed and the affair will take place on April 7 at the Saco River Sports Center in Fryeburg.

The **Rumford** Club has been busy joining forces with the Rumford Hospital to sponsor 3 blood drives each year. The one held on 2/28 was the best one in the state of Maine that day, according to a Red Cross Account Executive. At 89 good pints of blood, this was these sponsors' most successful drive ever, except for one immediately following 9/11. The Club members volunteer at the drives, including making reminder phone calls to donors prior to the dates of the drives.

The Rotary Club of **Bethel** is signing members up to accompany Telstar High School students on college visits. They also held another one of their delicious Country Breakfasts on 3/25 to raise money for their club projects.

The **Oxford Hills** Rotary Club hosted a Fireside Chat for Area 8 with 25 Rotarians and 2 spouses attending. Governor Marie reviewed requirements for the Presidential Citation and Governor's Award with the Presidents present, in addition to answering all questions posed to her. The Club has adopted a local homeless shelter and will be donating money, toiletries and essentials to the director at a club meeting. They are also shopping for food to make donations of Easter baskets to needy families.





# **Bath Sunrise Rotary Inducts New Member**

New Rotarian Scott Price (left) is congratulated on his induction to the Bath Sunrise Rotary Club on Friday, 9 March 2007, by his sponsor, assistant governor Jon Hiltz.

WINTER ADDRESS: 297 Cumberland Avenue Portland, ME 04101 (207) 774-5304 (207) 774-3463 Fax



EVERETT & PAT HENRY Captains / Camp Directors

#### SUMMER ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 304 Sebago Lake, ME 64075 (207) 642-3771 (207) 642-3387 Fax

April 3, 2007

Re: Camp Sebago- Clean-up Day

Dear Rotary Club President;

We are so grateful for the ongoing partnership with the many Rotary Clubs in District 7780 and the Governor, Marie A. Williams, in supporting the "Camp Sebago Rotary Clean-up Day". For many years now generous Rotarians give their time and energy in joining with us for this event. Again this year some of the annual projects include:

- Raking Leaves- (bring your rake or use one of ours)
- · Cabin interior cleaning & sweeping- equipment will be available
- Brush & Branch- personal saws & chipper equipment needed.

There are also a few projects that are specific to this year and require skill levels of professional people. Anyone that is willing and able to assist with these projects should contact our office so we can coordinate these projects directly with them:

- Replace stained 2x4 ceiling tiles in Dining hall dish room and Sebago hall.
- Install new screen doors at Motel porch entrances
- Replace broken 5" round fence posts and rails at camp entrance, Directors cottage backyard, and caretaker parking area.
- Clean out pens at nature area
- Scrape and paint at Directors cottage, Sebago Hall, Cabin 8, and Cliff House.

More than 1,200 children attend this camp each summer and more than 500 of them will come from the Rotary District 7780.

When: Saturday, May 5, 2006- 8:30am - 12:30 pm.
Who: All Rotarians, their families and friends
Where: The Salvation Army's Camp Sebago Route 114, Standish, ME on Sebago Lake (Directions available at www.campsebago.com)
7:30 am- Coffee and snacks
12:30 pm- "Cook Out" lunch as our way of saying thanks

For more information, I can be contacted as outlined below:

For more information, I can be contacted as outlined below: Captain Everett L. Henry III, Camp Director Telephone (207)774-6304 Ext. 220 Fax: (207)774-3483 Or visit us at www.campsebago.org

Thank you again for your interest and support of the young people of the district.

Sincerely,

Everett L. Henry III, Captain Divisional Youth & Candidates Secretary Camp Director- Camp Sebago

ELH:dbb



## Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club Enjoys a Crowded March Schedule

Early in the month, Governor Marie joined us, and among other festivities, presented the Four Avenues of Service Award to past president Mike Thompson. This award honors individual Rotarians who have excelled in each of the Avenues of Service, and by definition receiving this honor is very selective. Mike is an extraordinary Rotarian who is always the first to volunteer and the last to leave the room. To our knowledge, the only other Boothbay Harbor Rotarian to receive this honor (to date!) is Chip Griffin.

Then, we invited the local Friends of Safe Passage group to join us as we presented Paul Harris Fellowships to Safe Passage staffers Ed Mahoney and Rachel Meyn. Each of these individuals went to Guatemala to volunteer at Safe Passage for a few weeks ... and that was about five years ago. Once they met the children and shared the passion, neither of them ever left! Rachel looked out at the crowd of people in the Clubhouse, many of whom have volunteered at Safe Passage, and said of us, "You are a small peninsula with a big heart!" Truer words were never spoken.

That weekend, we staffed the umpteenth annual Girls' Midcoast Basketball Tourney, which we have been cosponsoring since before women's athletics became fashionable. It's a great time for the young athletes, and we more creaky Rotarians enjoyed ourselves as well.

Mid-month, we invited the Damariscotta-Newcastle club to dinner, and asked local fisherman Andy Morley to regale us with Tall Fish Tales (every one absolutely true, of course)! And then the following week, the Cub Scout Pack that we sponsor filled the Clubhouse, showed off their Pinewood Derby cars, and told us of their activities this year.

After weeks of special guests filling our Clubhouse, we moved to a larger venue at month's end and invited the entire community to the 11th annual Soup Bowl Supper. A sell-out crowd enjoyed soups, chowders, chili plus salads and desserts, and each participant took home a soup bowl hand-crafted by artisans at the Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts. It was a great evening and a money-maker as well!



# **Rumford Rotary Pairs with Local Hospital**

Holding a Red Cross Blood Drive sign are Rumford Area Rotary President Angella Roberts and Rumford Hospital Auxilary President Barbara Belanger. The two organizations collaborate to sponsor three blood drives a year.





Dover Rotary Child Care Room Dedication: Marie Williams, Kathy Fink, Greg Burdwood

# HUB Family Resource Center's Dedication of the Dover Rotary Child Care Room

As a community service organization, Rotary leads the way.

In our increasingly polarized society, Rotary International's membership – certainly exemplified by this club – is quite diverse and reminds us that, regardless of our philosophical, religious, or political viewpoints, we share common values that unite us in our work toward a better community, a better nation, and a better world... and that is what I love about Rotary and that is what makes me proud to be a Rotarian.

This club has a stellar history of working (as the Rotary Foundation phrases it) "...toward goodwill and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education and the alleviation of poverty." Dover Rotarians, that is what you have done here, with your support of the HUB Family Resource Center's move to the McConnell Community Center, because although we serve all families, some of them are among our community's most vulnerable in terms of access to healthcare, education, and economic opportunity.

The tenants of this amazing "center of community" have many of the service recipients in common. A mom comes to a HUB group to get support, manage stress, and become a better parent. She learns about a number of resources at McConnell, including the GED programs that Dover Adult Learning Center provides. With encouragement and support, she walks downstairs to Dover Adult to get more information. She registers for her first class with a mix of excitement and worry. She walks to the Human Services department because this month she is choosing between groceries, rent, and heating oil. She gets some short term help and she also learns about some resources for finding a job. "I can't work because I can't afford childcare," she responds, and she learns that she is eligible for child care assistance from the state. She walks downstairs to the Dover Children's Center and begins the process for registering her two year old. She also learns that her elderly father can take advantage of the offerings at the senior center here... and she uses her new confidence and assertiveness to find out more about "Ageless Dreamer." Can they really help her father with his dream to become a painter? He would be so much happier with that kind of a goal to work toward. She reports back at her HUB parenting group that her life is starting to move forward... they provide encouragement and support and two parents who are in similar circumstances now have a sense of possibility for their own lives... they're still hesitant, but she walks with them down to Dover Adult Learning Center to get more information about classes.

Healthy and economically independent families grow from inter-related experiences such as these and Rotary's support has made it possible for the HUB to contribute to the ultimate success of so many more families.

A parent once told me, "I am the parent I am today because of the HUB." And now we can say, "We are the family resource center we are because of Dover Rotary." That is why, in recognition and appreciation for your role in our success, we hereby dedicate this room the "Dover Rotary Child Care Room."



**GSE Teams Update** 

District 7780's GSE Team arrived safely in Switzerland and are having a wonderful time! On Thursday evening our team and the Swiss team were all at Ajay Bhatnagar's home in Basel for dinner. Ajay is Steve Wight's counterpart in Switzerland. If you want to see where our team is going while in Switzerland, checkout the District Website under Group Study Exchange, GSE Team Info 2007 and see where they will be next. If you click on GSE Inbound Team 2007, you will see pictures and bios of the Swiss team that will be here next month. We have a great team from District 7780 and a great team coming from District 1980!

District GSE Chair Steve Wight is busy trying to finalize all the details for the Swiss team when they are in District 7780. They will be with us at the District Conference on Friday evening for dinner and all day Saturday through dinner so if you don't get a chance to meet them before you will have the opportunity at the Conference. They will give their presentation at 8:45 on Saturday morning. As soon as Steve gets our hosting schedule all finalized, we will post it on the district website. You will see when they are going to be in your area and maybe you can makeup at that club to meet them. It would be nice if clubs that are fortunate enough to host the Swiss team, would invite area clubs to attend their meeting when the GSE team is there.

#### I don't know about you but I am anxious to hear all about their experience from both teams!



Kitchen Duty - BC Rotarians Bill Paschke, President Margaret Lonsdale, Mark Costa

# Brunswick Coastal Rotary Celebrates St. Patrick's Day

Despite the stormy day, 300 people turned out for Coastal Rotary's St. Patrick's Day Dinner. St. Charles Borromeo Church and Rotary collaborated on the event which featured a traditional dinner, Irish band and a performance by the Stillson School of Irish Dance.



To Guatemala and Back: Putting Textbooks in the Hands of Mayan Students – for the first time

I just returned last month from my third trip to Guatemala in the last twelve months to help deliver textbooks to rural schools in the central highlands, schools that previously had no textbooks for their middle school students. As an educator, I was stunned to visit schools where there are no textbooks for students, where the only materials a teacher has to offer her students are a blackboard and copybooks.

The sponsoring group for my travels is the Guatemala Literacy Project, a group that works in the rural areas of the country to provide textbooks to secondary level students, children in grades 7-9, who previously have never had any books. The project, which is substantially supported by Rotarians in the US and Canada, provides Spanish, math, science, and social studies textbooks to students at the secondary schools. In return, families agree to pay a small rental fee for the books, about \$10 per year. Those funds are accumulated for five years, providing the resources for the school to replace the books for students in future years. In this way, the program is a self-sustaining way for schools to begin to provide books for their students. It is through Rotary, that the first books are provided, with the community maintaining the commitment to providing books for their school. On this tour, we delivered over 20,000 books to more than 4,000 students. These are 12 and 14 year old students who, for the first time, now have text from which to learn, now have photographs to see what a cell or a skyscraper looks like, and now can see how to construct a graph or a diagram.

The students who benefit from this project are Mayan children. They live in very remote, rural areas of Guatemala and are truly the poorest of the poor. When the children begin school, they learn Spanish for the first time, as most of them have grown up speaking one of the 21 dialects of Mayan spoken in their area of the country. The children and their families live in very poor conditions, many having no electricity and no plumbing. In many communities, clean drinking water is virtually unheard of. Most families make their living by subsistence farming. In rural areas, only about seventy percent of the children ever begin school. About seventy percent of those children don't finish "compulsory school," a sixth grade education.

As I traveled to the various schools, it never ceased to amaze me how appreciative the parents, students, and the community are of the textbooks. When we bring the books, there is an "inauguration," a community celebration. The number of parents and people from the community that attend is frequently nothing short of amazing. When you stop to consider that many of these adults are themselves illiterate, that many of the women have not attended school beyond the second grade, and that time taken to attend this inauguration is time that means the adult is not working, it underscores the community's and each individual's commitment to helping their children learn to read and write.

The Guatemala Literacy Project has made a huge difference in the lives of the children of rural Guatemala. Currently, the GLP provides textbooks for about ten percent of the secondary schools in the country. The results of the project show that school enrollment has increased by about 50% in the schools where there are textbooks. The real results, however, is the pride reflected on the faces of the students and their parents.

Visiting Guatemala is an incredible experience. Travel to many of these villages is over rough, dusty, poorly marked roads. Accommodations are often basic, at best, and you always have to worry about the water. The challenge of the travel is well worth the rewards of helping so many children access a better education. The country is beautiful, full of breathtaking mountainside views, volcanos, and the lush foliage. The Mayan culture that I experienced with the ancient customs and regional clothing is like stepping back in time and experiencing first hand some of the history I studied when I was in school. All that natural and historical beauty pales, however, to the welcome and appreciation I felt from the people I met in each tiny village who thanked us for helping them help their children have a better life through better educational opportunities.

Carolyn Johnson Rotary Club of Yarmouth



# Calling All Rotarians and the Family of Rotary!

Your District Conference will be here before you know it. Please join Bruce and I and all your friends at The Colony in Kennebunkport, ME on May 18-20, 2007. You will be able to learn about existing projects, new projects, learn a new language, find out how to do a 501©3, see old friends, meet new ones from Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Lousiana, and Switzerland – a real worldwide event! Bid on some wonderful items in our AWESOME SILENT AUCTION, which will benefit Our Rotary Foundation. Take part in a scavenger hunt being organized by your fellow Rotarians in Kennebunk Portside. Your Conference Committee lead by Conference Chair Rich Emerson has done a terrific job of putting a fantastic program together for you along with some good food and exciting entertainment. Juston McKinney the comedian for Friday night is hilarious! (I have been told I should bring a supply of depends.) There is murder in the air for Saturday night with a Murder Mystery Dinner – how good a detective are you, come and find out!

For those of you that have just decided you want to stay overnight, you can still get a room right now but the rates maybe higher. Be sure to tell them you are with the Rotary group. For all you commuters and overnighters that haven't registered with Registration Chair Maura Halkiotis, be sure to do it soon. The current registration fee is \$55 for Rotarians and \$35 for non-Rotarians but after May 1 it is a \$75 registration fee for everyone! If you are commuting, you can pick and pay for only the meals you are going to be at The Colony for. Rich and his committee have tried to make it affordable for everyone. Don't be the only one sitting home on May 18 – 20, join us all at THE COLONY for FELLOWSHIP and FUN!



## **DGE's Corner: Another PETS!**

Presidents-elect from eight northeastern districts met from March 16-17 at the Sheraton Tara in Nashua, New Hampshire to attend the annual Presidents-Elect Training Seminar, fondly known as PETS. In addition to our incoming presidents, more than a dozen other Rotarians from District 7780 were there. Rotary International Vice-President Michael McGovern was a featured speaker and PRID Dan Mooers and six PDG's served as discussion leaders. DGN Brad Jett served as a Sergeant-at-Arms. Simultaneously, Assistant Governors, including DGND Jeff Pelkey, attended a training session designed especially for them at the nearby Marriott.

In addition to our own Mike McGovern, guest speakers included Past RI President Frank Devlin, Rotary Foundation Trustee Carolyn Jones, and Frank Marks, a current Ambassadorial Scholar.

While a March snowstorm raged outside, the two days of intensive training included five plenary sessions and seven breakout sessions which covered topics such as Membership, The Rotary Foundation, Goal Setting, and The Fine Art of Being a Club President.

We ended both days with a gathering of all of the folks from 7780—PEs, PDGs, AGs, the PRID, the DGE, the DGN and the DGND. This gave us all a head start on the goals, plans and direction for the 2007-2008 Rotary year, as well as a chance to find out what all of these initials mean.

PETS is much more than a mandatory training seminar. It is a milestone in the year of a president- elect and a fond memory in the years as past president. Presidents change every year, but three things remain constant: It is always intense, but fun; District 7780 always has the best cocktail party, and it always snows at PETS.

Liz Cullen DGE



# District 7780 Attendance, February 2007

	06/30/06	02/28/07	02/28/07	Year to date Change
ClubName	Club Size	Club Size	Attendance % for Month	
Bath	46	46	73.00%	0
BathSunrise	21	21	95.20%	0
Bethel	36	35	85.00%	-1
Biddeford-Saco	57	61	60.21%	4
BoothbayHarbor	38	41	59.33%	3
Breakwater Daybreak	14	10	80.00%	-4
Bridgton-Lake Region	23	29	72.00%	6
Brunswick	80	77	73.80%	-3
BrunswickCoastal	21	17	66.00%	-4
Casco Bay Sunrise	29	24	65.00%	-5
Damariscotta-Newcastle	61	60	73.21%	-1
Dover	85	84	71.51%	-1
Durham-GreatBay	52	50	60.80%	-2
Exeter	34	40	81.00%	6
Falmouth	18		ii	
Freeport	23	23	63.00%	0
Fryeburg Area	35	38	84.00%	3
Hampton	69	72	65.00%	3
Kennebunk	71	67	71.62%	-4
Kennebunk Portside	37	40	84.62%	3
Kittery	23	20	84.00%	-3
Newburyport	77	74	54.00%	-3
Ogunquit	28	30	75.00%	2
Oxford Hills	42	44	81.98%	2
Portland	151	161	54.00%	10
Portsmouth	239	225	65.94%	-14
PortsmouthSunrise	36	36	73.00%	0
Rochester	83	85	72.10%	2
Rumford	25	25	73.00%	0
SacoBay	70	65	56.05%	-5
Sanford-Springvale	42	50	56.02%	8
Scarborough	34	29	47.00%	-5
SebagoLake	32	37	71.00%	5
Somersworth	18	<i>, ,</i>		
South Berwick	32	32	67.82%	0
South Portland-Cape Elizabeth	51	49	77.80%	-2
Topsham Expresso	20	18	100.00%	-2
Wells	37	37	81.00%	0
Westbrook-Gorham	38	41	59.00%	3
Yarmouth	34	27	63.00%	-7
York	58	60	77.50%	2
Totals	2020	1980	<u>69.44%</u>	-40

And finally.....



Dr. John Mason of Bethel recently donated three dentist chairs that will be shipped to Armenia for use there. Handling the logistics — and the heavy lifting — on the project were several members of the Bethel Rotary Club.

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