



Rotary International District 7780

Archive

Dec 1, 2007

[Home](#)

[print this page](#)

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](#)



Kittery recently inducted four new members, increasing the size of the club by 20%. District Governor Liz Cullen was on hand to participate in the landmark ceremony! Shown with our District Governor are District Governor Nominee and sponsor Jeff Pelkey, New member Dave "Obie" Obrien, New member Bill Cutts, Sponsor Lezlye Shea, new member Brad Hirst, new member Allen Marsh, Club President and sponsor Dave Gooch, and member Dee Bickmore, sponsor Pam Gray could not make the event, all sponsors were also recognized with the new "sponsor" Rotary Pin

A Word From Governor Liz

In Rotary, every month is a cause for celebration and in December we celebrate—you guessed it—the Family of Rotary! What could be more appropriate? And what better time of year to celebrate our theme: "Rotary Shares"?

Within our own families we are busy getting ready for Hanukkah and Christmas by cooking, decorating, shopping, attending school pageants and, of course, partying. At the same time every club in our district is reaching out to the larger family of Rotary: our community.

Rotarians and their families are stocking food pantries, hosting senior dinners, delivering coats, boots, toys and baskets of food to needy parents and their children. Rotarians are ringing the bell for the Salvation Army and working in homeless shelters. In addition to providing physical gifts to those less fortunate than we are, Rotarians extend their kindness by providing companionship to shut-ins and residents of nursing homes.

All over the district, Rotarians are giving hours of their precious time in order to sell Christmas trees, wreaths and flowers to raise money for scholarships and for the Rotary Foundation. Yes, we share our time, our talent and our treasure, but most of all we share our generosity of spirit. In the world outside of our communities, all forty-one of our clubs are involved in international projects to help save and change lives. We join with Rotarians all over the world to work for understanding and peace. However challenging that goal is, no other organization in the world is working harder than Rotary to promote peace on earth. At this time of year, I am reminded of the beautiful words of Isaiah, written in the eighth century BC, "...Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them. The cow and the bear shall be neighbors. Together their young shall rest..." (Is 11: 1-10)

May the peace, joy and blessings of this holiday season be with you and your families now and throughout the coming year and I wish you all Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and all the best in 2008!

Resources

Health & Hunger
Public Relations
Water

Liz, DG

SAVE THE DATES!!!

Youth Programs

Interact
RYLA
Youth Exchange

Saturday, January 26, 2008: The Interact Conference at Oxford Hills High School
Elias Thomas PDG, District Interact Chair
Lynne Schott, Interact Conference Chair

Saturday, February 23, 2008: World Understanding & Peace Dinner
Sable Oaks, Portland Guest Speaker:
Wilf Wilkinson, President of Rotary International
George Rice PDG & Patty Rice AG: Co-chairs

Service Above Self
Forms & Documents
RI Links/Contacts

Contact Us

May 2-4, 2008: District Conference, The Grand Hotel, North Conway, NH
Registration forms are on www.rotary7780.org
Gerry Hirsch PP: Chair

June 15-18, 2008: The Rotary International Convention, Los Angeles, CA
Registration forms are on www.rotary7780.org

THIS AND THAT

District Governor for the year 2010-2011.

If your club wishes to place the name of one of your members in nomination for district governor, you can find the necessary information in our district bylaws on our website: www.rotary7780.org. They are listed under "Guiding Principles" and the procedure is described in section 303, 303.1, 303.2 and 303.3. I also suggest that you read pp. 28-33 in the Manual of Procedure as well as the Rotary Election Guidelines on the district website. The candidate must fill out an information form, the club must adopt a resolution and these need to be submitted to me, the DG, by January 28. The original deadline of January 15 has been extended. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

All the best!
Liz



The Rotary Club Of **Oxford Hills** Donates \$2900 for ropes course elements. Sue Craib, SAD 17 High School Physical Education Dept. Chair talked to the club about the *Rope Course* & its new challenges. Sue was given a check for \$2,987 to help in this worthy cause.

In Picture L.to R. Sue Craib, Phys Ed Dept., Donna Martin Rotary Club Pres., Bob Schott, Club

Memeber

photo by : Steve Galvin

What's Happening in the Hills-December '07 by AG Patty Rice

On December 12th, the **Bridgton-Lake Region** Rotary Club will host its first Cookie Exchange Party. Containers of home-made goodies will be assembled for distribution to local shut-ins.

On December 14th they will be singing Christmas carols to the residents of the Bridgton Health Care Center. This annual event is followed by a pot luck supper at The Community Center to enjoy fellowship.

The **Fryeburg Area** Club recently did a donation to the Brownfield Food Pantry, and in addition to a monetary donation from the club, members donated turkeys to be used for local families for Thanksgiving. Each Christmas their club participates in the locally organized "Giving Tree". Club members take tags from a tree and purchase gifts for needy children in their area. Some club members, along with their interact members, also help with the shopping for those items not donated, as well as with the wrapping of the gifts. PP Phil Spurr was recently awarded special recognition by receiving a Paul Harris Fellow for his outstanding leadership and dedication to their club.

The Rotary Club of **Rumford** has a busy December planned with their community craft fair and Christmas in the Valley parade they'll be participating in. The Club will be holding another of their fundraiser lobster lunches on 12/10. Members will be gathering for a potluck holiday party where each of them is asked to bring \$10 toward food bags that Hannaford is organizing for families in need.

The **Bethel** Club is entering a busy season of fundraising and community service activity. On Dec. 11, the club will hold its annual Seniors' Luncheon at the Locke Mills Legion Hall. On Dec. 14-16 and 21-23 Rotarians will be at the Bethel Foodliner for Bell Ringing, collecting donations for the annual Christmas for Children effort. The project provides Christmas gifts for area children in need. On Dec. 18 the club will assemble Christmas Baskets for distribution to residents in the area. The Club has also invited the **Rumford** and **Oxford Hills** Clubs to a social evening of fellowship & fun!

The **Oxford Hills** Club will be shopping for Toys for Kids to provide over 40 needy children in the area with gifts for Christmas. Members worked together with the Interact club members and made a float for the OH Annual Christmas Parade which they participated in. They have invited the high school Show Choir to come and provide a morning of Christmas songs and music, and members are encouraged to bring partners/spouses to enjoy the magic.



Damariscotta Family of Rotary members Ring the Bell for The Salvation Army Rotarians Gary & Judy Speers and Kasey "the people magnet"!

Rotary Cub of Damariscotta – Newcastle Kicks off “Family of Rotary” Month with “Bells On”

District Family of Rotary Resource Teammates Gary and Judy Speers were joined by furry family member Kasey as they kicked off the 2007 Salvation Army Annual Red Kettle Bell Ringing Campaign. The annual fund raiser is coordinated by Rotarian Larry Townley who tirelessly makes the rounds at local Rotary Club and Lion's Club meetings to sign up the hundreds of Bell Ringers and field phone offers from other community volunteers to make this “Shared Effort” such a success. Volunteers are encouraged to make the event a “Family Affair” by bringing their entire families. Spouses, children, grandchildren and four legged family members are all welcome! Who can resist!

Carol Ransom
President, The Rotary Club of Damariscotta-Newcastle



The Rotary Club of Bethel Helps Children in Iraq

Thanks to Bethel Rotarian Robin Zinchuk children in Iraq are now playing their favorite sport with soccer balls sent from Maine. When Robin asked her son, U.S. Marine Cpl. Brian Zinchuk, what he wanted for his birthday in September, the young man didn't want gifts for himself. Instead, the 23-year-old Marine, on his second tour of duty in Iraq, asked for soccer balls and other toys for children in the area where he is stationed. His wish was publicized in several newspapers and to date more than 200 soccer balls, along with many stuffed animals, have been collected and sent to Iraq. Cpl. Zinchuck writes, “The children seem to be reacting really well to everything that you are sending but sometimes it's hard to tell them that I don't have anything left.” Coordination and shipping are being provided by the Bethel Rotary Club. For further information on this wonderful project for the children of Iraq, please see the World Community Service Page on this website.

Rotary Shares ...At the speed of E-Mail

At 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday November 27th Rotary Past President Gary Speers of the Rotary Club of Damariscotta-Newcastle Maine, District 7780 received an e-mail from fellow Rotarian Don McClure that his business associate, Rob Gardiner owner of a local business, Damariscotta Hardware, would like to donate 115,000+ water purification tablets to help flood victims in Bangladesh. The link that Rob was looking for was someone to ship to. Don thought a Rotary connection might be the key. They expected that the tablets could be here by the middle of next week and they could possibly have them in Bangladesh by that weekend. Don asked who do we talk to? Is this worth doing? Do they already have all they need?

Speers turned to the internet and researched the need created by widespread flooding from Cyclone

Sidr hitting Bangladesh on the evening of 15 November, determined that the hard hit region of Sirajganj, Bangladesh was 69 miles from the major city of Dhaka and found information indicating that water purification tablets were indeed needed. Utilizing the Rotary International Club Locator, a contact number for the Rotary Club of Dhaka Downtown was obtained and the following morning Speers joined McClure at his business and they made a phone call to Past President Zahirudin Babar of Dhaka Downtown. Rotarian Babar confirmed that water purification tablets were indeed in short supply and he would contact his current Club President to explore distribution plans. E-mail addresses were exchanged and early the following day Bangladesh Rotarian Iqbal Ahmad responded on behalf of their club by E-mail and a follow up phone call indicating that the distribution project had been approved and would tie in nicely with a food distribution effort his club was organizing to the devastated region.

Confirmation of plans to ship the water purification tablets to the Rotary Club of Dhaka Downtown (the first Rotary Club in District 3280) at the address they supplied, were completed by Thursday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. The shipment is to leave Damariscotta Maine on Tuesday (12-4) and should get to Dhaka via Federal Express (all paid for by Damariscotta Hardware) within two to three days. There are 115,000 tablets in bottles of 50 tablets each to be shipped, a badly needed commodity, as Rotarian Ahmad indicated there is only one factory in Bangladesh that produces them and only in response to a prepaid order.

Rotary Shares.....Quickly!

Gary Speers PP (2006-2007)
 The Rotary Club of Damariscotta-Newcastle Maine
 District 7780
 Contact Inf: Telephone # 207-586-5898
 E-Mail gji2@juno.com



On the Morning of Saturday November 17 several members of the **Rotary Club of Bath** met for the annual stringing of lights in downtown Bath. This is a long time tradition of the club to assist the Bath Main Street association in stringing of the lights.



Nominations Sought for District Officers

Clubs are asked to submit nominations for the following District 7780 Officers:

District Governor for 2010-2011

Budget & Finance Committee Member - Division B (York & Oxford Counties in Maine) for 2008-2011

Qualifications for the duties of District Governor can be found in the Manual of Procedure and include:

- Having been a member of a Rotary Club for at least 7 years prior to taking office.
- Having served a full term as Club President
- Being a member in good standing of a club in the district
- Being a member in a functioning club in good standing which has no outstanding indebtedness to RI or to the District
- Demonstrating the willingness, commitment, and ability, physically and otherwise, to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the office of governor

Budget & Finance Committee Member from Division A comprising of Massachusetts and New Hampshire clubs.

- The candidate must be willing and able to serve as a member of the committee for the three year tem.

Nominations in the form of a resolution of the club, adopted at a regular club meeting, as described in the Manual of Procedure must be forwarded to DG Liz prior to January 28, 2008. Please feel free to contact her with any questions relative to the process.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Awards It's Largest Matching Grant - EVER!

To PolioPlus!

By now, many of you have heard the wonderful news – The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has partnered with RI in support of our top goal of a polio-free world with a challenge grant of \$100 million which Rotary will match, dollar for dollar!!! This is the largest challenge grant ever given by the Gates Foundation and is the largest grant ever received by Rotary in its 102-year history.

This grant comes at a time when RI has been struggling to get the word out that we need to FINISH our goal of a polio-free world. Many of us thought the job was over in 2005. We were 99% there, but we desperately need to complete the mission. This last 1% to be conquered is, of course, the most difficult. Geographical isolation, poor public infrastructure, armed conflict, cultural barriers, and other factors all contribute to the difficulties of getting the job done. Polio is still a threat to all of us as long as the virus continues to attack our children. Our world is a different world that it was in 1985 when this program was initiated. The wild poliovirus is only a plane ride away.

Please, please, all of you reading this, bring the subject to the attention of your own club's boards. Think also about what you can do as individuals to help us reach this awesome goal. The Foundation has to come up with our side of the bargain - \$100 million – to make this happen. We need to designate a portion of our Foundation giving to PolioPlus Partners as we accept this historic challenge.

Joan Correll, PolioPlus Sub Committee chair

P.S. I would love to come to your Club and give a presentation on this exciting news and PolioPlus.

You can reach me @ joanc@correllassociates.com.



Boothbay Harbor Recognizes Local Veterans

In what is rapidly becoming an annual event, the Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club invited veterans and Gold Star ladies to be the club's guests for a special Veterans Day Recognition Night held last month.

Speaker for the evening was Maine National Guard Lt. Col David Duehring, recently returned from a one-year assignment in Afghanistan. He served as forward tactical operations officer for the 240th Engineer Group, which was responsible for building schools and bridges in an area of Afghanistan just a few miles from the Pakistani border. "He spoke of the great work done by our military to lend a hand and create smiles instead of sorrow," said Assistant Governor Wilt Jones, himself a Vietnam-era veteran.

The real stars of the evening were our veterans and Gold Star widows and mothers. A total of 35 veterans from all services and all wars (including 11 Rotarians), and three Gold Star widows/mothers (including Rotarian Muriel Jacobson), were recognized and applauded for their service and sacrifice.

Wilt sat across the table from John Druse, a World War II Marine with a chest full of medals. "He landed on Guadalcanal, Okinawa, and Bougainville, and was one of the first Americans inside the Forbidden City in China," Wilt said. "Well done, Boothbay Harbor! It was an honor to be in the room."

Home, Home on the Web

The current Rotarian magazine (Dec 07, page 21) asks the question: Is your club website doing its job?

Like it or not, our websites are our clubs' most public "faces." And as we all work to attract younger, presumably more IT-savvy members, the club website will be an ever-increasingly important recruitment tool as well as communications device.

Smart clubs think about the image they want to project before they develop their site. Take Brunswick Coastal (www.coastalrotary.org): Their home page leads off with the big question: HOW DO YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE? and then describes the myriad programs the club sponsors both here and abroad. The message is clear: We may be small in numbers, but what we are doing is big! Join us!

I'm not going to restate the points in the Rotarian article – read it! It includes great tips on website messaging, organization and design, and also my favorite topic: The need to keep your site up-to-date. If the last time you posted a new member induction was way back in 2003 ... or if you haven't reported on your "annual" family event since 2006 ... or if the last newsletter posted lists "upcoming" programs that took place last August ... need I say more?

Many of us have gotten so used to our websites, that it's hard to properly review them. After all, it was up-to-date the last time we checked, right? Oh, was it that many months ago? Ask a new/prospective member, or maybe a member's non-Rotarian spouse, to look at the site and truly, truly assess its strengths and weaknesses. Does it use Rotary acronyms that are inscrutable to the outsider? Does the page that describes the literacy program have, umm, misspellings or typos? Is it easy to find the "stuff" that Rotary newbies might look for, in the way they might look for them?

Or maybe you're starting from scratch. Of course you can always develop your own, but good software is available for club websites from ClubRunner and ClubWizard, at a cost of about \$50 per month. Not sure how to pay for it? Many of the clubs in our District ask local businesses to "sponsor" their site, and that opens the possibility to even turn the site into a profit center! Yeah! Check out Portsmouth (www.portsmouthrotary.org) and scroll down to the bottom of the home page for a great example of this.

Do you have an insurmountable problem – or a fabulous project – related to Club public relations? Let me know: mpeak@polaris.net and I'll share your wins and seek ideas to help cure your woes. Together, we'll spread the word on all the great stuff our clubs do!
--Marty Peak Helman, District PR Coordinator

"WHAT THE GATES FOUNDATION GIFT MEANS TO ROTARY"

Participate in an on-line discussion with

Rotary Foundation Trustee and PolioPlus Partners Co-Chair Louis Piconi

What wonderful news we got this week about the \$100 million challenge gift to Our Rotary Foundation from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. What a proud moment for all of us when we read the RI press release, or saw it in the newspaper, or heard it on TV or on the radio, or read it on the Internet. It was wonderful to share the news at our Rotary meetings and listen to the collective expressions of joy from the members.

But now that the warm glow is starting to fade, many Rotarians are starting to ask Rotary leaders "What does the Gates gift really mean for Rotary?", "Do we have to raise more money?", "How will this affect annual fund giving?", "Will PolioPlus Partners donations count toward the challenge?" I suspect most of us cannot really answer the many, many questions being asked. We need information.

To help sort this out, and to help answer some of the questions floating around Rotary meetings, **Rotary Foundation Trustee (and co-chair of the PolioPlus Partners Task Force) Lou Piconi** has agreed to participate in an on-line discussion on this and other Foundation subjects. The International Computer Users Fellowship of Rotarians (ICUFR) has generously agreed to once again make its "Community Forums" Internet site available so that Rotarians around the world can discuss the Gates Foundation gift, its impact on Rotary and our clubs, and other Foundation subjects with one of the most knowledgeable Rotarians.

The on-line discussion with Trustee Piconi will take place over a 51 hour period beginning at 900 A..M., EST, on Monday, December 10th and ending at Noon EST on Wednesday, December 12, 2007. This informative, and perhaps provocative, discussion with Trustee Piconi will take place at the web site <http://www2.icufr.org>. (Please note the "www2" in the address.)

To ask Trustee Piconi questions and to participate in the discussion, Rotarians must register in the Forum. To do that, go to the website and click on 'Register' at the top section of the opening page of the Community Forums (<http://www2.icufr.org>). A 'Terms' page will next appear and, once you accept the terms, you will automatically go to the 'Registration' page. Please complete all 'required' information. When you register, please make sure you make a personal, private record of the 'User Name' and 'Password' you decide to use when registering in the Community Forums. It will be necessary to add your club name and district, and additional information in the profile, if you wish.

After you "register", you will receive a confirming email from an ICUFR volunteer confirming your registration. After receiving the confirming email, you must post messages and participate in other services on the web site. Registering for the Community Forums carries no obligation, and you will not be placed on an email list as a result of registering.

You also may enter the Forum as a 'guest' and read the discussion in the Community Forum but you will not be able to 'post' without registering.

We suggest you go to the ICUFR's Community Forums now, register and then look around for a while to get a 'feel' for the Community Forums. Post a message or two in any of the sections and topics, make some friends, and be ready for the discussion with Trustee Lou Piconi. On Monday, December 10th, on or after 900 A.M. EST, you can log into the ICUFR's Community Forums, and be ready to go. Scroll down to 'HOT TOPICS', click on 'The Rotary Foundation' and then click on 'Discussion with Trustee Louis Piconi'. Then fire away with your questions about the impact of the Gates Foundation gift and any other questions about The Rotary Foundation.

We sincerely will appreciate you passing this message along to other Rotarians. Please post it on your district or club web site, publish it in your district and club newsletter, and forward it to all Rotarians in your email address book. In the meantime, if you have any questions, you can ask them in the ICUFR's COMMUNITY FORUMS in the 'Computer Help and Ideas' section under the topic of 'Help Using this Forum', or, alternatively, write to me at dwm@moers-law.com and I'll help with your questions.

See you on-line on Monday, December 10th.

Dan Mooers, PRID
 Zone 31 Coordinator, PolioPlus Partners Task Force
 Director, ICUFR



Senator John Sununu, Monica Zulauf, Somersworth President and Evan Thompson a junior at St. Thomas Aquinas High School, 11/20/07

DGE's Corner~

December – the “Family of Rotary” month

It starts right at the club level where we as members strengthen our friendship and mutual respect for each other at club meetings, through participating in service projects and joining one another in fellowship activities. However, our family of Rotary does not just include the members of our club – that is just where it all begins. It includes our children, spouses, neighbors, friends, past Rotarians & their families and co-workers of each and every one of us. It includes the Interact students that come and go each year, the Rotaractors, GSE teams, RYLA students, Youth Study Exchange students, our scholarship recipients, donation recipients and so much more. This is the time of year to be mindful of all that have come into our lives each year because of Rotary and to rejoice and be thankful from what we have learned and shared from one another.

Reach out and invite some of these people to your holiday event this month because after all, they already are your “Family of Rotary”.

Warm Rotary tidings to all,

Brad Jett, DGE



Joe and Liz got the dress code memo for the Foundation Seminar

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