



Rotary International District 7780

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GREETINGS FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Spring is finally here and we find ourselves approaching the homestretch of this Rotary year. It has been a great privilege and pleasure seeing all that you are accomplishing in your communities and around the world. You are changing and saving lives of so many each and every day. I hope to see many of you at our end of year district conference where we will celebrate how you have succeeded in making dreams real this year.

As we are approaching the end of this Rotary year, I again ask all of you and your clubs to consider making a contribution to the *annual giving program* of **The Rotary Foundation**. Remember, this is **our** Rotary Foundation, we support it each year because we believe in it – we contribute to it each year because the educational programs and humanitarian projects that are funded by The Rotary Foundation are important to us as Rotarians. Please send in your contributions today, so that we may continue to “make dreams real” in the years ahead.

As far as raising money for the Gates challenge, you have been absolutely wonderful in your efforts in fundraising throughout this year and I congratulate you! Over the last few months, there has been a committee of volunteers throughout our district working earnestly on a district wide golf raffle in an effort to raise even more money to eradicate polio from this world. They are excited and ready to unveil this golf raffle at the district assembly on Tuesday, the 21st. So, I hope to see many of you there next week as DGE Jeff Pelkey shares with all of us that the future of Rotary is indeed in our hands.

Yours in Rotary service,

DG Brad Jett

“Making Dreams Real” at the Samoset

On June 5th, 6th and 7th, District 7780 will be celebrating "Making Dreams Real" at the Samoset

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Resort in Rockport, Maine at our annual end of year District Conference. The Samoset Resort is one of the premier oceanside resorts in the state of Maine and offers an 18 hole championship golf course, outdoor tennis courts, basketball court, shuffleboard, volleyball, children's playground, indoor swimming pool, and a brand new 100,000 outdoor zero entry swimming pool. There are local museums (the Farnsworth Art Museum & the Wyeth Center) to visit and Rockland & Camden have historic shopping districts lined with art galleries, boutiques and antiques. There are so many reasons for Rotarians to attend and to invite their families to join us on this weekend of fun and fellowship. There is a golf tournament and a tennis tournament planned for Saturday for those up to the challenge and an afternoon of outdoor recreation.

Arrive early, as our conference opens up late Friday morning at 11:30 a.m. and includes an afternoon of panel discussions on how dreams were made possible this year in our local communities using district simplified grants, followed by a panel discussion on Polio; our challenge and our promise to the world. Join us for a cocktail reception Friday evening, followed by a **surprise** and **very meaningful**, **"Making Dreams Real" Friday theatrical opening** that you and your family will not want to miss!!!

Saturday will include presentations from our Youth Exchange students, our inbound and outbound GSE teams from Poland, a panel discussion on making dreams real through matching grants, a plenary on our Rotary partners which include Rotaplast, the Guatemala Literacy Project, Clean Water for the World and others, as well as our district's Four Way Test Contest winners and then a free afternoon for you and your family to enjoy everything the Samoset and it's surrounding community has to offer. We will have another cocktail reception on Saturday evening starting at 6:00 p.m. followed by a black tie (optional) dinner, remarks from our RI President's rep and entertainment to close out the evening. Join us Sunday morning as we remember those that we have lost in our clubs this past year at our memorial service, share fellowship at Sunday brunch and wrap up this wonderful Rotary weekend with memories that will last forever.

We will have a "House of Friendship" open throughout the conference, where we will display club and district projects, a wrap a smile coloring station for all to participate, great items to bid on at our silent auction to raise money for **our Rotary Foundation**, and plenty of table and chairs for you and your family to sit and **relax**, drink a beverage, have a snack or two and share the fun and fellowship all weekend long at the 2009 District Conference. So, please don't wait any longer, register today for your meals package online at www.rotary7780.org and book your hotel room by calling the Samoset directly at **1-800-341-1650**.

MESSAGE FROM RI PRESIDENT D.K. LEE

Today, with Rotary's club membership spanning more than 200 countries and geographical areas, the mandate of its publications is more complex, and more vital, than ever. The English-language flagship magazine, *The Rotarian*, is edited at RI headquarters in Evanston, Ill., USA, and has a circulation of about 500,000. Around the world, 31 more magazines are published in 24 other languages, for a total of 32 magazines published by the Rotary World Magazine Press, and a total circulation of about 1.25 million.

The RI Board of Directors has designated April of every year as Magazine Month. It is a time to recognize the role that our Rotary publications play in our Rotary lives – and the role that we should play in our publications. For the magazines to live up to Paul Harris' original vision, it takes more than just an editorial staff. It also takes the good work of Rotarians. I always feel that the best part of reading any Rotary publication is the opportunity to find out what other clubs are doing. Each issue, each article, is a chance to be informed and inspired.

In an era when electronic communication seems to be everywhere, the role of the paper-and-ink magazine is still important to our organization. Rotary magazines provide us with an overview of what's happening in different clubs and districts as well as important news and updates from RI headquarters. Even the many Rotarians who regularly visit www.rotary.org will find something new in every issue.

It is a privilege today to be writing this message as Paul Harris once wrote his, and to see his vision of this publication – a magazine filled with the great ideas and great works of Rotarians – brought to life.

Dong Kurn (D.K.) Lee
President, Rotary International

News from Rotary International



President of Rotary International Nominee Ray Klingensmith, far right, along with representatives from St. Mary's Hospital and members of Rotary Districts **7780** and **9270** at the opening of the Clinical Laboratory at the Nursing College in Marriahill, South Africa (That's John Dennen of **Brunswick Coastal Rotary Club** second from the left)



The unveiling of the plaque in St Mary's Hospital commemorating the opening the Rotary Palliative Care Center, a Project of the Rotary Foundation, with Brunswick Coastal Rotaran John Dennen, second from the left



RI President Nominee Ray Klingensmith with some of the St. Mary's Hospital patients

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

District Assembly

Tuesday, April 21, 2009
YCCC, Wells, ME

<http://www.rotary7780.org/DistrictAssembly.cfm>

District Conference

June 5th – 7th, 2009
Samoset Resort
Rockport, ME

<http://rotary7780.clubwizard.com/IMUupload/ACF6635.doc>

International Convention

June 21st – 24th, 2009
Birmingham, England

<http://www.rotary.org/en/Members/Events/Convention/Pages/ridefault.aspx?housead>

District Changeover Dinner

June 30th, 2009
Holiday Inn By the Bay
Portland, ME

"Our Rotary Foundation's Annual Giving Program"

"Will the Rotary Foundation save the world?" No! "Will it solve all the problems between warring nations?" NO! "Can the Rotary Foundation solve political conflicts?" A resounding NO! NO! NO! But . . .

Our Rotary Foundation's Annual Program Fund *CAN* bring a rejuvenation of life to war-torn countries; bring food and water to those denied those simple essential by others; bring literacy to children who would otherwise be absent these basic life changing skills; and eliminate deadly diseases from the face of the world. The Annual Program Fund can change lives, it can bring hope and most importantly, it does make a difference!

Through our yearly contributions to the Annual Program Fund, Rotarians provided needed resources for Group Study Exchange Programs (GSE), Ambassadorial Scholars, World Peace Scholars, Matching Grants, 3-H Grants (Health,

Hunger, and Humanity), The Polio Plus Program and funds used in our Rotary communities as District Simplified Grants (DSG). And 50% of the funds annually committed come back to the contributing District for use with District projects both locally and abroad. Rotarians are committed to enhancing the lives of people throughout the world by creating a better understanding of our likenesses and differences, while advancing the quest for peace in the world. Our Rotary Foundation's Annual Program Fund is indeed designed to make a difference and change lives.

Although most Rotarians quietly and consistently go about doing what they do because they are Rotarians and that is what Rotarians do! Our Rotary Foundation has established several ways to recognize contributors to the Annual Program Fund, including the "Every Rotarian Every Year" (EREY) effort, the "Rotary Foundation Sustaining Member" program and the "Paul Harris Fellowship" donor recognition program. Rotary certainly wishes to recognize those who make these programs work and values each and every contribution.

The Rotary Foundation may not save the world, solve political unrest or eliminate the misunderstandings between cultures. But "Our Rotary Foundation" can and does make a difference in the lives of those we impact as well as the lives of each and every Rotarian working to make a difference. Please join your fellow Rotarians in that effort through the Annual Program Fund.

PDG Bob Laux Committee Chair

Spark Community Action with a District Simplified Grant

District 7780 clubs make big things happen with District Simplified Grants. Consider Kennebunk and Kennebunk Portside. The two clubs got together to help the local school district fund the emergency communications equipment it needed. In addition to applying jointly for a District Simplified Grant (DSG), the clubs also cohosted a fundraising dance and a VIP opening. Somehow, even though it hadn't been budgeted, after all that community activity the school district stepped up with the remaining money to support what had grown into an \$8,654 project! Then there's the Rumford Club, which proves that all you have to do is ask. Rumford's DSG grant money was matched and more by Dead River and Brookfield Power Company. Operation Heat Saver, which the club began with the aggressive goal of helping 60 local families get through the winter, is morphing into a

multi-year, all-community project to winterize homes of elders and other needful neighbors. Way to go, Rumford!

A DSG (combined with sweat equity) made it possible for Saco Bay to construct a stairway along its community River Walk last fall. Similarly, a DSG was part of Wells' fundraising for its new Rotary Pavilion. And 12 other clubs are currently finishing up their community projects paid for – or partially paid for – with 2008-09 District Simplified Grant funding.

So how can your club take advantage of this Rotary Foundation program? It's easy! Start your thinking now! Check the Foundation page on the District website – updated information and the 2009-10 application will soon be available. Attend the DSG breakout at the District Assembly. And remember: The deadline for applications will be [July 31](#).

For more information, contact Marty Peak Helman, district grants subcommittee chair: grants@walterfoundation.org; or Sandy Bisson, 2009-10 DSG coordinator: sandmarcfarm@metrocast.net.

And think of all the neat community work your club can do with a District Simplified Grant!

Marty Helman

**District Governor Elect Jeff Pelkey:
Thoughts from the Membership Conference of RI President D.K. Lee**

I recently spent the weekend in Greenbelt Maryland, jut outside of our Nation's capital with several other leaders from our District at RI President DK Lee's Membership Conference.

It proved to be a wonderful experience that I know was equally as well received by the others in attendance. President DK shared some of his continued hopes that at the end of the 2008-2009 Rotary year our organization will have grown to 1.3 million members worldwide. Considering that our membership has held steady at 1.2 million for many years, this could be a big feat.

As a group we examined many opportunities to share with our Districts and Clubs. The most challenging aspect of the entire event for me is that many of these ideas are not new. Our population has increased from 90 million people in 1905 to a staggering 306 million people in 2008. So it is clear that opportunity and people are not the problem. We continue to have multitudes of people to invite in and keep as members, but we are not.

So why? Well it would seem that this organization is one of the best-kept secrets in the world! Our members, for whatever reason, are not sharing the opportunity to serve with others, at least not here in North America. We see that in other parts of the world Rotary is growing in leaps and bounds, and yet here in North America we are declining. So what do we do? Again so many good answers as it would seem, however many of these same answers have been bounced back and forth for years and it would not appear they are working!

If we have the people to bring in and our mission is arguably the best in the world, then maybe, just maybe, we as clubs and District leaders need to look at our club structure and how our club appears to others.

Think for just a minute, are our clubs open and inviting to others? Do we make guests and perspective members feel welcome when they walk in the door? Are we attractive to younger families? I would suspect that each of us would answer yes to these and many of the other questions that could be asked.

However the truth of the matter is, if yes were true for all of us, our membership would really be taking off and it's not.

My hope for this year is that each club will really evaluate many of the previous questions, not just internally, but involve perspective members, reach out to former members (I know this is hard, but they left for a reason), and find out what it will take. Look at the hard questions and decide if we can meet the challenges of tomorrow, if we do not make changes today.

Know that Governor Brad, myself, and all the other present, future, and past District leaders, are here to help; just reach out.

DGE Jeff Pelkey

Club News

Soups, Chowders, Chilies and More!

The **Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club** once again paired with the Watershed Center for Ceramic Arts to put on a community dinner that can't be beat! Each year Watershed's artists create dozens of hand-thrown bowls, local restaurants contribute soups and chowders, Rotary cooks bring on the salads and desserts, and satisfied participants go home after a great meal with their very own one-of-a-kind pottery bowl. Then Rotary and Watershed split the proceeds, and talk about how to make the event even bigger and better in the future.

After a great event like that, who wants to cook dinner tomorrow night? **Interact** to the rescue! Our Interact club threw a Spaghetti Dinner the very next night at our Clubhouse. The kids raised over \$450 to combat child abuse (and in so doing, used up the desserts "left over" from the Soup Bowl Supper). Way to go, Interact!



Frank Helman and Foster Stroup rake in the cash at Boothbay Harbor's Soup Bowl Supper.



Rotarians Seth and Ann Hedgcock enjoy a good meal and a great community gathering.

Breakwater Daybreak kicks off Friends of Rotary

District Assemblies offer new ideas, helpful suggestions, and boost enthusiasm for our weekly Rotary tasks and goals.

This happened to Gary Berenson and Ilse Yanis who had attended the workshop on **Friends of Rotary** given by the **Sebago Lake Rotary Club**. The idea germinated and the project was kicked off in January of 2009



Gary Berenson, Southeast Recruiters, Jim Price, Club President,
and Mark Duval ,Duval's Service Center

Our effort of reaching out to the business community is bringing results. To date, we have welcomed six (6) **Friends of Rotary**. They are invited to our breakfast meeting and are presented with a framed certificate.

To learn more about **Friends of Rotary**, please visit www.breakwater-rotary.org

Rotary Club of Damariscotta – Newcastle Cosponsors Local Children’s Literacy Effort

The Rotary Club of Damariscotta-Newcastle has teamed up with Skidompha Library in Damariscotta Maine to provide free children’s books to the local ecumenical food pantry. Rotary Past President Wilt Jones coordinated obtaining a new mobile book cart from Rotary local grant funds. The cart is housed at the Second Congregational Church in Newcastle site of the Damariscotta-Newcastle Area Food Pantry. Rotary Club members bring children’s books to each Rotary meeting and the books are affixed with a Rotary sticker and placed in the mobile book cart. Children of families utilizing the food pantry are encouraged to select a book to keep as their very own from the cart. The response to date has been overwhelming and local merchants have now joined with the Library and our Rotarians as providers of the popular books.



Skidompha Library Executive Director Pam Gormley and
Damariscotta-Newcastle Rotary Past President Wilt Jones
promote the Area Food Pantry Children’s Mobile Book Cart

Rotary Club of Durham-Great Bay Celebrates Charter Night



President John Belcher, members and guests listen to charter member, Amos Townsend, introduce the evening's guest speaker

On Friday evening, March 20, the **Rotary Club of Durham-Great Bay** and guests celebrated the 22nd anniversary of its Charter with a wonderful dinner hosted by the Flag Hill Winery in Lee, NH. The evening began with a tasting of several splendid wines produced by Flag Hill, hors d'oeuvres and lots of conversation. It was an honor to have District Governor Brad Jett and his wife, Penny, join us. The Pledge was led by 21-year club member and Purple Heart recipient, Dick Burkholder, with the invocation given by Past President, Bill Drapeau. After a superb dinner prepared by renowned Chef Ted McCormack, President John Belcher reviewed the sequence of events leading to the Club's Charter and the ensuing first couple years, a history provided by former charter member, past president and Past District Governor, Bill Skinner. District Governor Brad Jett presented a letter of recognition to President John celebrating the club's Charter and all the varied services it has provided over the last 22 years.

Charter member and program chair, Amos Townsend, introduced our guest speaker, Lorraine Stuart Merrill, NH Commissioner of Agriculture, who provided a very interesting talk about the state of agriculture in New Hampshire and its future. Closing out the evening were recognizing three charter members in attendance, Amos Townsend and Past Presidents Brian Burke and Arthur Bradbury, and the auction of a rustic blue-bird birdhouse made by Past President Bill Drapeau. Winning a bidding battle and the birdhouse was Governor Brad Jett. The auction's proceeds were added to the Club's Polio Plus funds. The evening was a great success and celebrated the Club and its membership for exemplifying Rotary's motto of "Service above Self".



At a recent Club breakfast, President John Belcher presents a check for \$750 to Elliott Moore (L) and Roni Pekins (C) of Oyster River Womenade

For the third consecutive year, the **Durham-Great Bay Rotary Club** is a proud to be a key sponsor of Oyster River Womenade's primary fundraiser, QuackFest. On May 16, a thousand rubber ducks will be dumped into the Oyster River for a "race" to the finish line. QuackFest has become a wonderful annual community celebration at the Durham Landing that includes music, cookout, games, and of course the "race". QuackFest raises money for distribution to families in need without the red tape and bureaucracy associated with federal and state aid reserved for those who require long-term assistance. **100%** of all money raised is distributed to area families. Womenade has this year helped reduce family medical expenses, transportation costs and oil bills among many other things. As Elliott Moore, QuackFest Coordinator for Womenade, says, "We work hard to lift up members of our community who need help staying on their feet during these difficult economic times. When we come together as a community to raise each other up, we all benefit."

The Hampton Rotary Club was again a very active club this past month. Some of the highlights started with a donation of a new “Play Kitchen” to our local Head Start program. This is the program where different members of our club volunteer to read to the students every week. It always feels good to help the students and the teachers there.



Past President Dan and President Rick present a donation to the local Head Start Program

We also held our club’s 40th Anniversary Party on March 21st at the Sheraton Harborside Inn in Portsmouth, NH. President Rick Neville explained that there were 4 very strong reasons to celebrate 40 years. Those reasons included honoring all the past members who have been a part of our club’s success. Secondly, to honor all the Past Presidents for their leadership (a program/booklet was passed out all attendees and it included the Past President’s pictures, the Rotary Theme the year of their Presidency, and a write up of their Special Rotary Memory, if one could be obtained). Thirdly, to honor the fact that, for the first time ever, this year we had a District Governor presiding over the District from our club, and that he and his wife Penny are doing a “phenomenal” job. And lastly, that we were gathering to honor our 2 remaining Charter Members, Bruce “Doc” Noel and Harold Eames. Thank you to all our past members, to our Past Presidents, to District Governor Brad, and to Doc and Harold for your time and your dedication to our club and to Rotary International.



At our Anniversary Party, District Governor Brad presented the club with a framed copy of our new Charter Document. Our original had been misplaced and the new one now hangs in our local library. Hopefully, we should be able to hold on to it there!



Club members enjoying the dancing at our 40th Anniversary Party

Lastly, on 3/31/09, our club inducted 3 new members. During the course of the year, we had lost 7 members of our membership for various reasons but, with these 3 new inductees, we had gained a total of 8 new members. We were happy that our membership was a net plus 1 for the year and we believe that this is a testament to the attractiveness of our club's contribution to the community, its fellowship, and its devotion to Rotary ideals.

Kennebunk Portside Rotary – “AMANZI” Art Exhibit – On April 9th, Portside Rotary sponsored the AMANZI Art Exhibit Opening Reception at the Kennebunk Free Library to display photos taken by Berri Kramer of Portside Rotary on her visit to South Africa. The exhibit “AMANZI”, the worth of water in South Africa, featured numerous photos



Children jumping for joy that the water pump construction has begun



Play Pump system
(similar to a merry-go-round)

Description of South African trip in Berri's words:

"There are few vehicles on the roads in Greytown, South Africa. Women carry wood and children haul water. There is silence and beauty that keeps you in the moment, but there is no escape from the hard reality of life in the third world. I visit St. Mary's Hospital every time I return to South Africa. In the palliative care ward, I take photographs of loved ones and give them copies as soon as I'm able to get them printed. For many, it is the only photograph they will ever have to pass on to their families.

The women of Jabulani welcome me into their lives and if I have never been gone. I work in their sewing rooms and bake bread with them to spend time in their presence. They are sisters in another world. Our language is in our eyes. Their strength and gracefulness humble me everyday since I met them."

Kennebunk Portside Rotary partnered with Play Pumps of South Africa to bring water to three schools in Greytown. This was made possible with a matching grant from Rotary International. The students were so excited the day the bore holes were dug, they had to call school off for the rest of the day. These pumps will serve over 2000 children and their families. The reliability of clean water is not only a huge health benefit, but allows girls to go to school, rather than fetch water all day. It is incredible to think that such a contribution could so dramatically change the way of life for so many people.

Portside Rotary contributed in the water pump project in South Africa with contributions from our local club in spearheading this global project through Rotary International and contributions from **Brunswick Coastal** – a great accomplishment for Portside Rotary and huge humanitarian effort to support such a serious health concern in our world. Thank you Rotary!!



Portside Rotarians pitch in for the Art Exhibit (included in photo: Alan Shepard, Sandy Bisson, Karen Schlegel, Ted Trainer, President Peggy Belanger, Berri Kramer, Sue Gesing, Cornelia Stockman, and Paul Rothman

Rotary Club of Kittery

For some people St. Patrick's day is the best holiday of the year. Kittery Rotarian Joyce Verville is one of those believers. Joyce turned her place into an Irish Pub and invited the Kittery Rotary Club and her sister Penny and brother-in-law DG Brad to celebrate the day with a full Irish boiled dinner. The great evening

will long be remembered for the display of green pancake tossing. DG Brad is an artist at catching pancakes with a pair of tongs, while DGE Jeff displayed some fancy leg work



DG Brad is a mean catcher with a pair of tongs!
One green pancake being snatched in mid air



DGE Jeff showed some fancy footwork when he was on the receiving end!
Here he demonstrates true determination

On March 22nd the Kittery Rotary Club put on its annual free dinner for seniors. Originally held as a Holiday Season event, the evening had been shut down this year by the December ice storm. March proved an excellent alternative time for the event as attendance almost doubled. The evening includes a spaghetti dinner, entertainment, and party favors. Over 70 people signed up for the event this year. Rotarians, their spouses, children, and grandchildren turned out to cook and serve.



Matt and Peter have have dishing out what dad Alan has been serving for years at our annual free dinner for seniors

Matt and Peter Robinson, shown with Rotarian Pat Holmes waiting to serve plates of spaghetti, have been joining their dad Alan and the Club for many years. Pat's husband Gary is also a regular family supporter. Not shown is another family member, Jackson Yeaton, who also has been helping for almost a decade. He always helps his grandmother Dee Meredith make the salads.



The dinner filled the Recreation Center

Rotary Club of Portsmouth



City Manager and Portsmouth Rotarian, John Bohenko
Portsmouth School Superintendent, Dr. Bob Lister

City Manager and Portsmouth Rotarian John Bohenko gave an upbeat assessment for the city even as we seem to be dogged by the bad news out of Wall Street and Washington these days. The city has a strong bond rating and is poised for the next phase of growth and resurgence in consumer exuberance. Bob Lister, Portsmouth's school superintendent was equally upbeat in his report of the city's school operations, quoting the adage that "there is no better advertisement for a community than its schools." He noted the high rates of graduation and pursuit of higher education by the city's 2,612 young residents.

 On April 9, 2009, the **Portsmouth Sunrise Rotary Club** welcomed two new members to our club. Inducted was Nathaniel Meyer, Program Director for The Chase Homes in Portsmouth. The Chase Home is a provider of residential treatment services to male and female adolescents who, for a variety of reasons, can not live at home. Also inducted was John Faggiano, Director of Business Development, Daystar Computer Services in Newington. Daystar Computer Services is a technology provider of website, custom programming and computer & network services.



: (From left to right) Tom Grella, Nathaniel Meyer, John Faggiano, President Pat Lyons, and Jim Verra. Sitting in the foreground are Bill Cronin and our guest speaker John Roberts, Commander of the USCG Station in New Castle.

 Saco, Maine - **The Biddeford-Saco Rotary Club** and the **Rotary Club of Saco Bay** are proud to announce the success of their 20th Annual Rotary Television Auction held on Sunday, March 29 at the Martin Center in Biddeford, Maine. The event, which takes 6-months of planning, brings together the talents of two thriving clubs in District 7780, resulting in over \$40,000 in net proceeds. Hosted by Time Warner Cable, the anticipated event pulls in viewers from around southern Maine bidding on everything from pizza and service gift certificates to scooters and professional sport team tickets



Bid Takers -Our Phone Bank of Volunteers



Dan Cote, Rotary Club of Saco Bay Rotary & Dennis Eli, Biddeford-Saco Rotary



Master of Ceremonies Teams

Ken Farley, Biddeford-Saco Rotary & Tony Blanc, Rotary Club of Saco Bay



Time Warner Cable crew members

This year Chris Jacques (Saco Bay Board member) brought the "family of Rotary" concept literally to the auction project. Along with soliciting a number of donors himself, Chris' wife, Susan, chimed-in again by donating three framed pieces of original artwork. Adding to the family participation, Noah, Chris and Susan's 10-year old son, wanted to support his father's hard work that he does in the name of Rotary. Unknown to his father, Noah solicited a neighbor for over two weeks to convince them to donate a set of tickets to one of the Boston Bruins home games. "Noah really worked our neighbor on the idea of donating the tickets. He even asked for a copy of our solicitation letter to convince the neighbor it was all legitimate. Noah knows, from auctions in the past, that sports tickets were always a big deal. But who would have thought? "And not to be left out, 9-year old, Molly was at her father's side throughout set-up day helping prep for the big day.



Molly, Chris, Noah, and Susan Jacques

For nine consecutive hours, two local Interact clubs from Biddeford and Saco, students from University of New England Rotaract club as well as many other volunteers took bids from callers. Bid high, bid often was the mantra for the day which generated funds that will go towards next year's scholarships and community projects.

Great job, Rotarians!

 On April 4 members of the **Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth** joined forces with members of the **Cape Elizabeth High School Interact Club**, the National Honor Society, and the Service Club for a town wide food drive. The beneficiaries were the St. John's & Holy Cross Food Cupboard, run by our own Sybil Riemensnider, and the South Portland Congregational Church Pantry. Joe Conroy, the coordinator from our club, estimates that at least 2,000 pounds of food products were collected and distributed.



Rotarians Joe Conroy (L) and Jim Russell (R) kept things moving

District Membership Committee - Thoughts from the Chair

We are in the last quarter of the Rotary year and this is a time when our attention to Membership can really suffer. Next year's club leaders are starting to pull their teams together; this year's team has got their numbers in and is writing reports.

As congratulations for the years accomplishments flow out be sure to include those who may be in the shadows and on the periphery, let them know that they helped make a difference and their support was valuable. It is important to thank the club's hardest workers but they could not do all they do if the rest of the club was not behind them. As the new team prepares to work on new membership ideas, it is important that the current team not loose members by neglect.

There are a lot of great ideas for club service, club meetings, and Club socials in the pages of information within this District Newsletter. Because of all the great things that are included I have had Rotarians tell me they just skim it or never get to the end.

This is actually a great resource for the clubs looking for new ideas and new approaches. The Newsletter should be mined, checked through for ideas which can be borrowed – opportunities to expand each and all of the opportunities in the four avenues of club service.

Most of our Clubs are getting the word out into the media about what they do and have done. As you start to finish off your club year take plenty of time to strut your stuff. Next year's membership efforts will be easier if the people in your community can all say "I know about our Rotary Club, they do so many wonderful things". And please, keep your websites updated, you would not buy a newspaper if it was full of last month's news, keep it current and fresh, it reflects your club.

Dave Gooch, District Membership Chair 2008-2009

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