

DISTRICT 7780 NEWSLETTER

December
2008



District Governor's Message

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

December is family month in the Rotary world, which makes it the perfect time to express our appreciation and gratitude not only to each and every one of our fellow Rotarians, but to our entire *"Family of Rotary"*. To all of the spouses, partners, children, friends, parents and grandchildren of Rotary members in our clubs throughout our district – to each of our Interact, Rotaract and RYLA students – we thank all of you for your support and understanding in making our successes and continued dreams a reality in this Rotary year. Thank you for assisting us with our endless service projects and fundraisers, for hosting Youth Exchange Students and GSE teams – and the countless other endeavors each individual club supports. Thank you for joining us at our club socials and meetings, our district conference and many other events throughout the year – you are all so important and valuable in our united goals in serving those in need in our very own communities and those throughout the world. Thank you, family of Rotary.

Wishing all of you and your communities a warm, safe and joyful holiday season and a prosperous and healthy new year.

DG Brad



Be Proud To Be A Rotarian

Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club

Boothbay Harbor Recognizes 47 Years of Perfect Attendance

The Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club roasted and toasted long-time member and past president Ken Honey for his half-century of community service and 47 years of perfect attendance recently. The evening was an all-star event, including reminiscences from Ken's family members (including daughter Jayne, past president of 7790's Unity Rotary Club), Ken's business associates and political colleagues from his years in the Maine state legislature and as a county commissioner. The Rotary club presented Ken with his third Paul Harris award, a perfect attendance lapel pin in honor of those 47 years, and various other Rotary paraphernalia.

The evening was a complete surprise for Ken, who only knew "something was up" when he entered the clubhouse bedecked with 47 blue and gold balloons and realized that his entire family as well as life-long friends were in attendance!



Ken Honey cuts his cake (a delicious confection created by Rotarian Judy Speers of the Damariscotta-Newcastle club) while Chip Griffin and Reilly Sullivan, Ken's granddaughter, look on.



Vice president Connie Jones presented Ken with a certificate in honor of his lifetime of service in our Boothbay Region and to our club.



Bethel Rotary Club



Bethel Rotarian Read Dickinson, at left, visits with diners at the Nov. 30 Bethel Rotary Country Breakfast fundraiser, held at Gould Academy. On Dec. 9, the club will host its annual Senior Citizens Luncheon, serving over 100 seniors, followed by two weekends of Bell Ringing at the local Hannaford Store to raise money for Christmas for Children in Bethel.



Bethel Rotarians braved frigid temperatures, wind and snow recently to construct a handicap access ramp at a local residence. Here, in the foreground, Bob Laux positions planks on the ramp.

Rotary Club of Biddeford-Saco

"Steve Jacobsen, Executive Director of the Animal Welfare Society in West Kennebunk, gave an update on the "Buxton Puppy Mill" incident of August 2007.

Hundreds of dogs and puppies were rescued from very deplorable conditions. Most have been adopted and given a second chance for a better life thanks to the AWS and many other agencies that assisted in this State's largest puppy mill seizure. Several weeks prior to the meeting, member Helene Plourde, asked members to bring food and supplies to donate to the AWS. Several boxes full of dog and cat food and toys were collected along with cash donations. Additionally Sergeant at Arms Dawn DeSimone "requested" everyone give a \$1 to the cause.



Steve was very grateful to the Club for our donations especially since with the current economy more people are having to give up their pets."

December is the Family of Rotary Month

A message from D.K. Lee



Dear fellow Rotarians,

As a father of four and grandfather of five, I have been fortunate to have spent many years in the company of children. When raising our own children, my wife, Young, and I worked hard to give them what all children need most: a loving, safe, and stable home. Our children were our first priority, and we made sure that they always had nutritious food, appropriate clothing, quality medical care, and a good education. We knew very well how fortunate we were to be able to do this. We were grateful that we never had to say to our children, “I’m sorry, but there’s nothing to eat tonight,” or “I’m sorry, but we can’t pay your school fees.”

When I was a child, Korea was a poor country, and there were many children who went to bed hungry at night and had no school to go to in the morning. As a Rotarian, I know only too well that there are still far too many children in the world without the absolute essentials: food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and education. And as a Rotarian who is also a father, I consider all of the world’s children to be my responsibility.

When I see my own grandchildren – happy, healthy, and enrolled in good schools – I cannot help but think of the millions of children who do not have so many advantages. I think of the children who have too little to eat and only dirty water to drink. I think of the children who are sick with diseases that could have been prevented and those who will have nowhere safe to sleep tonight. And I think of the children, millions of them every year, who won’t live to see their fifth birthday.

December is Family Month. It is a time to focus on our families, to involve them in our Rotary service, and to challenge ourselves to do even more for those in need. Because there are so many families and so many children waiting for our help, we, as Rotarians, cannot look away. We cannot and will not rest until all children, everywhere, have the chance for a long and healthy life. We will not rest until we *Make Dreams Real* for every child in every home where there is hunger, sickness, and want. As Rotarians, we can do no less.

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



Rotary Club of Bridgton-Lake Region

We worked on a Christmas gift basket project to anonymously drop off baskets to those in need in our area.



Bridgton-Lake Region Rotary went Christmas caroling at the Bridgton Health Care Center on December 12th followed by a holiday supper at the home of one of our Club members. (photo attached from last year's caroling.)



We will be having our 3rd annual Wine Tasting on January 16th. This year it will be held at the Town Hall in Bridgton and will kick off the Winter Carnival in Bridgton. (photo from last year's wine tasting.)

Rotary Club of Casco Bay Sunrise



Casco Bay Sunrise Pumpkin Run/Walk sign up tent at Back Bay in Portland. Members shown to the right of tent our Christine Byrne, Richard Emerson, and Mary Jo Cross Byron.



Right before the start of the race many walkers and runners are getting ready including one of our new members Eric Knudsen (in the red shirt) who turns out to be an avid runner!

RYAN MCDONNELL, KEYNOTE SPEAKER

District 7780 World Understanding & Peace Dinner
Saturday, February 28, 2009 Holiday Inn By the Bay Portland, ME

See firsthand how our Rotary Foundation Dollars are changing & saving lives through Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars. You have the opportunity to meet Ryan McDonnell and listen to his experiences and accomplishments as a recipient of a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship. [See below the article that was published in the July 2007 Rotary World Magazine.](#)

Registration forms will be sent to your Club President by January 10th, 2009

Rotary Scholars Go the Extra Mile for African AIDS Orphans

Fatigue and leg cramps didn't stop four Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholars and one Rotary club sponsored student from trekking more than 1,200 miles through South Africa in December. The hikers were raising money and awareness for Rotarians for Fighting AIDS, a Rotarian Action Group that's helping an estimated 146,000 children orphaned by AIDS in southern Africa. After listening to the group's chair, Marion Bunch, speak passionately about the need to help these orphans, Keegan Kautzky and three other Rotary Scholars attending Johannesburg's University of the Witwatersrand looked for a challenge that would inspire local Rotarians to pitch in. For 20 long days, they walked from Johannesburg to Cape Town, with pit stops at 21 Rotary clubs to rally support to improve the dire living conditions of many AIDS orphans. The five students netted more than US\$7,000 during their hike.

The funds will help Rotarians for Fighting AIDS establish community programs across Africa by training caregivers and providing psychosocial support to AIDS orphans. Kautzky says charity hikes are just a small example of Rotary's efforts to call attention to the plight of these children, who are often abandoned, poor, and malnourished and lack even the most fundamental medical care. "We set out to help Rotarians understand the crisis that exists with AIDS orphans in Africa," explains Kautzky. "Our enthusiasm to help raise funds and awareness for this cause made all the difference in the success of this hike. Hopefully, we provided inspiration for clubs to take action." Bunch says that passion, understanding, and caring motivated both hikers and Rotarians to help the children. "There is a big need for these orphans," she adds. "Getting Rotarians to care about that takes special people. These scholars are shining examples of how inspiration can lead to effective fundraising."

From left: Driver Ruan Koorts and hikers Kelly Lewis, Ryan McDonnell, Keegan Kautzky, Jacob Maboja, and Ikumi Maekawa celebrate in Cape Town, South Africa, after journeying more than 1,200 miles to benefit AIDS orphans.



There's District Money Available ...

How often does a District newsletter article start with those magic words? After all, this article is tucked in amid countless other ones about District club fundraisers. But it's true! There's still District (DDF) money available to support your club's Rotary Foundation Matching Grant to support a project in a developing nation. All you have to do is apply for it.

Rotary Foundation matching grant math can get cumbersome. But as a rule of thumb, for the first \$5000 your club (or a consortium of 7780 clubs) pledges toward a matching grant, the District and International "match" will multiply that figure by 3.5.

For example: If your club (or several 7780 clubs working together) pledge \$3000, after the match you will have \$10,500 for your grant.

If your club (or several 7780 clubs working together) pledge \$5000, after the match you will have \$17,500 for your grant.

Tell that to your stockbroker! That's return on investment!

For more information on how to get started, check out the District website. Click on "Foundation Grants," and scroll down to "Matching Grants." Or email Marty Peak Helman, District grants coordinator, at grants@walterfoundation.org.

Children all over the world benefit from Matching Grants supported by 7780 clubs. This little boy lives in a shantytown in Manila without clean water or basic sanitation.

EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR



District 7780's 4-Way Test Essay & Speech Contest

District 7780 unveils our first district wide 4-Way Test Essay and Public Speaking Contest for high school students in grades 10 & 11 in both public and private schools. I encourage all you to consider running a contest in your club and sponsor your club winner to the District face-off. This is not new to the Rotary world. Let District 7780 join the many other districts that participate in the 4-Way Test Contest and realize the amazing results and benefits that other Rotarians and communities have experienced over the years.

This contest is a great opportunity to expose our area young people to Rotary's 4-Way Test, it can help instill the Rotary philosophy of service and ethics to students throughout our schools, it can promote good citizenship and increase Rotary awareness throughout your community and schools, **but most importantly, this contest will help you and your fellow members connect to this age group and understand better their challenges, viewpoints and pressures.**

The contest is easy! Students simply write a short essay on "How They Can Apply the 4-Way Test to a topic or to their own personal life" and then are asked to recite it in front of a panel of judges at the club level. You (your Rotary club) will sponsor your club winner (\$200) to the district face-off in April 2009, where the four top winners will be selected and have the opportunity to face-off at the District Conference in June 2009. It is my hope to have as many clubs in our district participate. Cash prizes will be awarded at the semi-final level and the finals.

We have all of the rules, guidelines and support you will need to run this event at the club level on the district website www.rotary7780.org

The deadline to submit an application to the district to participate is January 30, 2009.



Rotary Club of Damariscotta–Newcastle

Rotary Club of Damariscotta - Newcastle Gets into the Holiday Spirit

The Rotary Club of Damariscotta–Newcastle hosted a wonderful and talented choir from Lincoln Academy in Newcastle. The appearance of the “Lincolnaires” directed by Beth Preston and singing old world holiday numbers, traditionally kicks off the local Holiday efforts of Rotarians. It gets Rotarians in the spirit for The Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringing campaign and The Holiday Fruit and Nuts fund raiser and makes for an active and joyful time of year.



*The "Lincolnaires" chorus from Lincoln Academy
in Newcastle Kick off the Holiday Season
for Damariscotta-Newcastle Rotary*



Congratulations!!!!

Carolyn Johnson from the Yarmouth Rotary Club
for being selected as this year's
Group Study Exchange Team Leader to Poland



Rotary Club of Durham–Great Bay

November typically begins the Holiday Season and thoughts of giving to others grow. For a member of the Rotary Club of Durham–Great Bay and his wife, the thought of giving to a family in need turned into a wonderful event involving not only Durham–Great Bay, but also other seacoast Rotary Clubs, businesses and communities. Below is a summary of that event by Betsy and Chuck Cressy.

With the help of The Durham–Great Bay Rotary Club, we were able to raise over \$30,000 in donations and services for a family in the process of adopting 5 sibling children. The call for help came just 3 weeks ago, and in that short time, we solicited donations from organizations and businesses, held a week long raffle of several great prizes, advertised, and campaigned. The grand finale was a celebration at our store, Durham Marketplace, consisting of a hamburger/hot dog/chicken barbeque, continued raffle sales, and lots of fun and fellowship.

During the planning stage, we spoke to 5 Rotary Clubs at their meetings...Durham–Great Bay, Portsmouth, Rochester, Somersworth–Berwick, and Dover. We asked for help by spreading the word, participating on the day of the fundraiser, or monetary donation. The response was amazing; truly exemplary of the mission statement of Rotary. The Somersworth–Berwick Club interrupted our talk to briefly confer, and then write a check! Each club and their members were very generous in their donations. The Durham–Great Bay and Portsmouth Clubs asked how they could help with long range plans for the family. And at all the meetings, members came up to us after our talk and gave money.

The actual fundraiser was held on Saturday, November 22. The day dawned sunny and bright....windy and cold with a wind chill in the single digits! Durham–Great Bay Rotarians braved the elements to work the buffet line held outside under the awning of the store. Some of the lucky ones worked at the very busy raffle table which was in the toasty warm store. In all, we served 300 people lunch, and sold countless raffle tickets.

Senator–elect Jeanne Shaheen stopped by to publicly honor the family by recognizing their love, generosity, and dedication. The University of New Hampshire Men's Hockey Team stopped by to mix and mingle....and added an even more festive feel to the celebration.



Rotary Club of Fryeburg Area

The Fryeburg Area Club is very proud of our Interact Club, and is looking forward to working with them as they host this year's District Interact Conference, to be held **Saturday, January 10 at Fryeburg Academy**. We hope to see lots of Interact members, their advisors and as many Rotarians that can come. It promises to be a wonderful day! Rotary club members had some help from a few Interact members as well all took part in the competition of our Pavilion Project, at our local recreation fields. We continue to present a middle school student with a Citizen of the Month award. Donations were made to 2 local organizations that help in our community, especially during this beautiful holiday season. The Brownfield Food Pantry was able to provide turkeys to all the families they service for Thanksgiving, and The Community Giving Tree had provided 133 families with Christmas Gifts thanks to our donations and those of many local businesses and community members. The club once again donated the candy canes to our town's tree lighting, and is proud of our Interact Club for once again providing the hot chocolate and cookies for that festive evening. We're looking forward to our annual Christmas Party and Ornament Exchange. And we'll close out 2008 with a fundraiser to support our fuel assistance program, at Flatbread's pizza. All of our club members wish you all the very best during the holidays and for a Happy New Year!



Our latest Citizen of the Month from our middle school, Dakota Griffin, grandson of Rotarian Prudy Westerberg, here with his Mom Beth Griffin, and President Sarah MacGillivray.



Here are the pictures of our Pavilion Project at our local rec fields called "The Field of Dreams"

Rotary Club of Hampton

The Hampton Club enters this season of Thanksgiving and care by stepping up our work in the community. We have begun our weekly bell ringing for the Salvation Army and our work at the local soup kitchen is going like clockwork. The number of meals being served is up, as you might expect. During this period our club also runs a snowsuit drive for the local Head Start Program. Rockingham County Head Start is a federally funded comprehensive child development program. They serve all children, including children with special needs. Each child is given the opportunity to participate in a variety of education activities. They also receive mental health, medical and dental care, and nutritious meals and snacks. The Hampton Rotary Club provides each of the students with a snow suit each year. This year Rotarians Anne Russell, Karen Kulberg, and Ann Kaiser directed this successful contribution on behalf of the Hampton Club.



Three Hampton Rotarians delivered snowsuits to each of the students at the local Headstart Program. The snowsuits were donated by many members of the Hampton Rotary Club. As you can see from these three pictures, everyone was happy (and warm!) on this day.



Interact



DON'T MISS THIS YEAR'S...
DISTRICT INTERACT CONFERENCE!!
HOSTED BY THE FRYEBURG ACADEMY INTERACT CLUB
JANUARY 10TH
9:00AM TO 3:00PM
IN THE GIBSON GYM, FRYEBURG, ME

Contact for reply and questions;

Diane Reo, Interact Advisor diane@dianereo.com Phone: 207-935-1500

PDG Elias Thomas, Dist. Interact Conference Chair ethomas@metrocast.net

On December 2nd, the Winnacunnet Interact Club delivered 100 poinsettias to the Haven House and Partridge House, the nursing home and assisted living apartments in Hampton, New Hampshire. The thirty Interact members were able to deliver some holiday cheer and a bright red poinsettia to each resident. Attached is a photo of our members on delivery day. Many thanks go out to Dodge's Agway of Hampton Falls and the **Hampton Rotary Club** for their assistance and monetary support. The delivery of these poinsettias would not have been possible without their gracious donations!



Rotary Club of Kennebunk Portside



Kennebunk Portside Rotary is pleased to announce that Karen Andrews and Dennis Gosselin have fulfilled their orientation and have become official new members of the club. Congratulations to Karen and Dennis and we look forward to their commitment and involvement in the club.

Karen Schlegel presents this year's awards to three recipients: Lisa Bodwell, 6th grade teacher at M.S.K. for Book Bingo Program; Tom Battles for his After School Enrichment Program at M. S. K. for a display board to showcase the student's work; and Michele Chadbourne, 3rd grade teacher at Consolidated School for a Jeopard Interactive Program. Portside Rotary is proud of the teachers in our school district and will continue to support our teachers through these grant opportunities.



The neighboring Clubs - Kennebunk Portside Rotary and Kennebunk Rotary honored with Chamber President's Award - Peggy Belanger, President of Portside and Elaine Brady, President of Kennebunk clubs along with Sandy Bisson, Past President of Portside, are presented the Chamber of Commerce President's Award by Brian Strack and Karen Duddy of the Kennebunk-Kennebunkport Chamber of Commerce. This award plaque was presented to **Kennebunk Portside Rotary and Kennebunk Rotary Clubs** for their outstanding accomplishments in the community. Both Rotary Clubs are pleased to receive this award and continues their commitment to the community in their fundraising efforts and events.



Rotary Club of Kennebunk



Santa arrived early in Kennebunk this year when the Kennebunk Rotary Club held their annual holiday luncheon for senior citizens at St. Martha's church hall on December 4th. Over 120 special friends and Kennebunk Rotarians were in attendance enjoying a great turkey dinner with all the fixings. Kennebunk Rotarian, Fuzzy Farnsworth, and his lovely wife Helen added to the festivities with great voice and Christmas songs performed by their band, *Taste of Lace*. Santa overheard our guest say, "the gifts are wonderful" and "the *Rootarians* are so nice to us!"

Rotary Club of Kittery

For the third year Kittery Rotary gave out personalized dictionaries to all of Kittery School's third graders. We enjoyed a chance to talk about the importance of reading, service to our community, and about Rotary and our service in the world community. Rotarian Russ French joins Teacher Judi Sama, Rotarians Marie Williams, Ellen McClure, and Julie Perreault in the presentations. Each dictionary has a bookplate with the student's own name, a touch that lights up the smiles. The school includes the dictionaries as part of the expected school supplies each child will have with them for the next year.



The Rotary Club of Kittery once again served up free hot chocolate and cookies at the end of the Kittery Holiday Parade. Club spouses and children joined in to provide a welcome treat to hundreds of cold but happy marchers. Karol Gooch, Rotarians Bill Cutts, Alan Robinson, Maureen Raynes, and Russ French are joined by Russ's daughter Acadia and our good friend of the club Jeff Furbish who donated the cocoa.



Hello DG Brad,

"I thought you would get a kick out of the attached shot taken by member John Merkle. On Friday at the height of the power outage John and I were on the job with a generator provided by Butch Ricci. We sold a number of trees in an otherwise black environment. Customers were shocked and tickled that we stayed open."

Neal – Rotary Club of Portsmouth

Rotary Club of Oxford Hills

November seems like a quiet month in the Oxford Hills, but looking back, we had three projects that we worked on. We started selling tickets for our 300 Club Raffle and by the end of the month, had sold all 300 of them. We will start drawing the winning tickets at our December meetings, 10 each week for the first three weeks. It's always exciting to see who wins and who sold the winning ticket. We will draw the grand prize of \$1000.00 at our December 17th meeting.

Our second project was Thanksgiving baskets. Last year, we were hard pressed to come up with enough families to help and didn't spend our entire budget. This year, though, we shopped for 21 families, a sign of the times, I guess. Several of us went shopping on Sunday morning, November 23rd, and loaded up 5 shopping carts with 21 of everything ! It was a lot of fun – kind of like that old game show, 'Supermarket Sweep' – at least I think that's what it was called. Joelle Corey put all of the baskets together that morning and we met at her house at 2:00 to deliver them. Everyone we gave a basket to was very, very appreciative. It's a wonderful project to do and in some cases, it can really bring tears to your eyes to see how some people are living these days. Unfortunately, those of us that worked on the baskets were so involved in them, we forgot to take pictures.

Our third project was really an Interact one For those of you who do not know, the Oxford Hills Chamber

of Commerce sponsors a Christmas parade the Saturday after Thanksgiving. I believe it is the largest Christmas

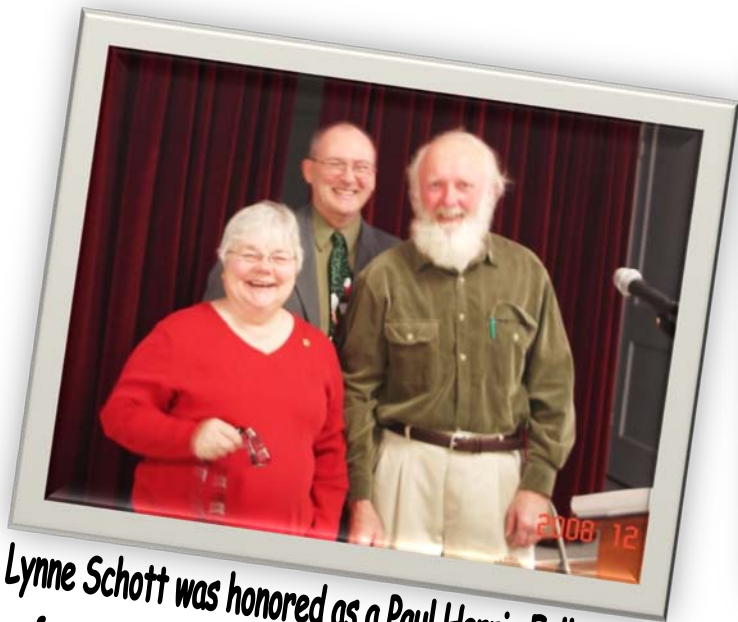
parade in the state. It starts at Moore Park in South Paris and runs to Advertiser Square in Norway, about 2 1/2 miles, taking about 1 1/2 hours from start to finish. Each year, the Interact Club puts a

float together with assistance from Interact advisor Lynne Schott. This year's theme was "The Night Before Christmas." Rotarians Bob Schott and Curtis Cole also helped and thanks to Frank Shorey for allowing the club to use his truck to pull the float.

Looking forward to another great Rotary year in 2009, the Oxford Hills Rotary Club wishes all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Rotary Club of Oxford Hills cont.



Lynne Schott was honored as a Paul Harris Fellow from her hubby Bob and Pres John Griffith.



Oxford Hills Rotarians Beth Abbott, Lynne Schott and Linda Earle collecting Christmas gifts for the Child Healthcare Center annual toy drive for needy children (we participate in every year).

Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth



The day after Thanksgiving saw members and friends of the Rotary Club of South Portland - Cape Elizabeth unloading the first of 3 truckloads of balsam fir Christmas trees and selling trees and wreaths to eager customers. Some folks who come to our tree lot have stories of how they've supported our tree sale for a good 40 years! Our President-Elect Joanie Frustaci is in charge of the sale this year and has even been able to have Santa pay a visit to the lot.

District Membership Committee

Thoughts from the Chair ~ December 2008

December! We are at the midpoint of our Rotary Year and in the holiday season. What a great time to hold a seasonal club social. Invite past members and potential members and just have a good time together. Rotary should be fun, and your fellow Rotarians are friends you want to share the holiday spirit with and translate that energy into building club bonds that strengthen membership.

One of the challenges issued to the District Governor's this year is to stop the end-of-year membership pruning. Every year, after the final membership count is in for the current year and before the start of the new president's year in July, clubs review their attendance and drop their inactive members so they are not counted against the new president's goals. How much better would it have been months before to have taken the time to visit each of those inactive members, to find out why they have not been able to attend, to show interest and concern in them, and to work on retaining them. Our long term goal is the growth of Rotary, not showing a neat report for a 12 month period. Losing a member should be a concern at anytime of the year, and at least (and perhaps more) effort should be put in to retaining a current member as is put into finding new members.

If someone does not show up for a couple of weeks, does anyone in your club make note? Does the Board make sure someone drops in to see them, or calls to say they were missed and to see how they are? Does your contact imply that they have been wrong to miss meetings, or does it convey that you care about them and are concerned? If they are in a long stretch of issues that prevent them from attending (perhaps a family member illness, a lengthy contract negotiation, or business relocation for example) they may feel they have not done their bit for their Rotary team and be hesitant about coming back. You need to reassure them that we all have these busy times, and that they are wanted back with their friends at Rotary as soon as they can manage it.

The Club Membership Committee and the Board should spend as much time thinking about the current club members and their involvement as it does about finding new members. Retention is not only a numerical goal; it is how we demonstrate we are a family of Rotary, friends working together, not just numbers in the attendance book.

Dave Gooch, District Membership Chair 2008-2009



Rotary Club of Portsmouth



Our Club-famous Rotations (above on right) were out in style to celebrate Veterans Day. We hosted 5 soldiers who have recently returned from active duty in Iraq and our speaker was Attorney James Fender (above on left), legal counsel for the Navy Shipyard in Kittery and legal counsel for General Patreas. He shared stories and photos of his time in Iraq with the General and with our soldiers. The Rotations led us in the anthems for each of our military armed services. It was a wonderful and moving celebration of life and success!



Mort Schmidt was the first purchaser of a beautiful cyclamen plant for this year's annual Poinsettia/Cyclamen sale. As is tradition, the Club sold red and white poinsettias, and this year added mixed color cyclamens for those who are not Poinsettia fans. Something for everyone! Under the leadership of Basil Richardson, this sale should make about \$1,200 for the Club. A great way to celebrate National Poinsettia Day on December 12th.



The tradition of offering a collectible historic ornament at the Portsmouth Rotary Club continued this year. Janice Cassidy is holding the Tugboat ornament, a beautiful depiction of all that is Portsmouth.

Rotary Club of Rochester



The Rochester Rotary Club presented the family of city Economic Development Manager Karen Pollard, one of its members, a check for \$9,392.83 at their meeting of November 24th. The money was raised by Rotary, at a benefit for Pollard's 17-year old daughter, Elaine, who is currently battling Ewing's Sarcoma. Pictured, from left, are Rotarians Lisa Stanley, Howard and Kim Seckendorf, Elaine Pollard, Karen Pollard, and Chris Hooper.

EVERY
 ROTARIAN
 EVERY
 YEAR



The Rochester Rotary Club selected sisters, Daphney and Shelvy Caban, as their Rising Stars for the month of November. This award is given monthly to a Spaulding High School student who has displayed a strong effort scholastically. The committee this month could not separate the 2 sisters, and therefore elected to give out 2 awards to honor both girls. In recognition of this award, recipients are invited to attend a Rotary luncheon, and receive a certificate, along with a gift card to Waldenbooks. Pictured from left are Daphney, Mike Hopkins, Rochester Rotarian and School Supt., and Shelvy.

Save the date and please join us at the
 World Understanding and Peace Dinner
 Saturday, February 28, 2009 in Portland
 At the Holiday Inn By The Bay

Rotary Club of Rumford

by Bruce Farrin

DIXFIELD — Althea Fish, who turned 90 last month, is proud of her continuing independence, living in the historic house she was born in. But she admits living alone in the two-story home of 200 years presents a challenge during the long winter, when Althea often has had to make the long trip upstairs, with her cane to steady her, where she can find a warm room.

Reminiscent of stories many of us only remember from parents or grandparents of neighbors helping neighbors, more than 65 volunteers from Operation Heat Saver turned out in impressive numbers to spend a bright but cool Saturday installing donated materials to help winterize close to 36 homes badly in need of this effort. A lot of the work involved sealing windows with

plastic cover, caulking leaking areas where air may be penetrating, applying weatherstrip around doors and providing outlet gaskets where

ly. Among them, besides Rotary and the Dead River Co., were Hamner & Nails, White's Yardworks, American Legion,

volunteers at the Hope Association by Sam's Italian Sandwich Shop. That was much appreciated as many of the teams worked until 4 p.m.

"It's a wonderful thing these people are doing. This is the true meaning of life, to do what we can to help other people," noted Althea.

One of the volunteers at Althea's home was Chris Wing, recently retired after being the longtime art teacher at Mtn. Valley High School.

Asked why she was doing this, she noted "I saw this in the newspaper. I had said that when I retire, I wanted to do something for the community."

One of her tasks was to put weather stripping around one of the doors. It was a bit of trial and error to figure out how to do it, but like

"It's a wonderful thing these people are doing. This is the true meaning of life, to do what we can to help other people."

Althea Fish

needed.

Gary Haines, who co-chaired this Rumford Area Rotary Club event with Patty Duguay, said thanks to repeated newspaper articles, there have been an abundance of organizations which have called to offer their support, financially as well as spiritually and physical-

Rumford Hospital and Brookfield Power.

There were also a dozen high schoolers from the Rotary Club's youth group, Interact, dispersed among the 10 teams set up to get a good start on winterizing three to four homes during the day.

Sandwiches were provided to the

Please see Helping Page 3



Althea Fish stands in her living room as volunteers spent Saturday winterizing her home and 35 others in the area in a Rumford Area Rotary Club event called Operation Heat Saver. (Times photo by Bruce Farrin)

Rotary Club of Saco Bay

Literacy Project goes to Prison

The prison library project is a project that involves cooperation on the part of the York County Sheriff's Dept., Sister Theresa and The Saco Bay Rotary. Sister Theresa is an amazing person who works tirelessly on a number of projects within the prison. These projects focus not only on the prisoners but also their families, especially the children. The prison library is just one project she oversees. She greatly appreciates the support, both financially and in the volunteerism she receives from Saco Bay Rotary. We have donated money for specific needs she has, such as, toys for the kids at Christmas or furnishing a quiet space for the children to spend time while the adults meet in the visitation rooms nearby.



Sister Theresa is the one beating the bushes for donations of books and we have supported her in this way.

As important, if not more so, is the volunteerism we have provided to organize and maintain the prison library. All the books are donated. Usually, Sister Theresa is the one beating the bushes for donations of books although we have supported her in that way as well. The actual work centers around unpacking the donated books and getting them on the shelves in some kind of order so that when a special request is made, the sheriff's deputies who are handing out the books will know where to look. We also put returned books back on the shelves. The prison staff truly appreciates the work we do.



The actual work centers around unpacking the donated books and getting them on the shelves in some kind of order so that when a special request is made, the sheriff's deputies who are handing out the books will know where to look.

The challenge is keeping the books organized. We don't use the Dewey Decimal System. It's more a matter of putting like kind books together. We have quite a collection, which includes self-help, poetry, romance, classic fiction, mysteries, non-fiction, biographies, sports and more.

Why do we do it? I can't speak for Pat Lilly or Kitty Chadbourne (without whom this project doesn't exist), but for myself I'd say that in books there's hope and, dare I say, the chance of escape, if only for a short time. At the very least, no matter what your station in life, you can always find a character in literature that is worse off than you are.

Rotary Club of Saco Bay cont.

The U.S. Marine Toys for Tots program has been supported by the Rotary Club of Saco Bay for a number of years. Con and Pam Crepeau, along with Greg Cloutier and Leo Menard have been coordinating the efforts of countless volunteers this year to insure collection, fund-raising and distribution of toys goes off with a hitch. This year's campaign has celebrated new local businesses participation and those steadfast businesses who are always there for us. This year's distribution will insure over 1500 children will have toys for the Christmas holiday, thanks to the Toys for Tots program and the assistance of the Rotary Club of Saco Bay.



Recently, Rotarians Leo Menard and Pris Guerin along with a team of committed elves, hosted the club's annual holiday party. Participants were not charged for the event but were asked to donate a toy or gift for the Toys for Tots program. Hundreds of items were collected at the evening event. In addition, the club was fortunate to kick-off the holidays with District Governor Brad and Penny Jett, who were in attendance. Along with music and a pot luck dinner, it was the perfect Rotarian way to "Make Dreams Real" and start enjoying the holidays.



This year, under the chairmanship of Rotarian Nancy Kelley, teams of Rotarians from the Biddeford, Saco and Old Orchard Beach areas gave of their time to wish shoppers at their local Wal-Mart "happy holidays" while accepting donations.

Nancy is one of the newer members of her club but was eager to jump-in, take control and participate. "It was a very rewarding day for me and I am sure for all who volunteered their time for the Salvation Army. It was so very cold but worth every minute we were there. It warms my heart to see just how generous folks can be when it comes to giving this time of year."

Rotary Club of South Berwick-Eliot

The Rotary Club of South Berwick – Eliot recently hosted a Thanksgiving Dinner for the Senior Citizens of South Berwick. Held on the Monday before Thanksgiving, the event was attended by over 100 seniors. A full Turkey Dinner with all the fixins was cooked by the Rotarians and friends at the South Berwick Senior Center. The food was great and the fellowship was even better. It provided an excellent opportunity to be of service to our community.

This fall members of the Club helped winterize homes for those in need in the communities of Eliot and South Berwick. With the help of a District Simplified Grant, the Club will be providing dictionaries to every third grade student in the towns of Eliot, South Berwick, Berwick and North Berwick. The Club is also developing a reading mentoring program with the Marshwood Great Works School. Thanks to some successful fundraising projects held so far, the Club has been in a position to assist the less fortunate members of our community, recently donating \$500 to the Table of Plenty Food Pantry. Rotarians from Eliot and South Berwick are active participants in the South Berwick Community Food Pantry, volunteering to run the pantry on the first Thursday of every month.



Don't Procrastinate!!! Don't Be Late!!!

Register Early for the **2009 District Conference** at the Samoset Resort in Rockport, Maine on June 5th, 6th & 7th 2009

All registrations received and paid in full by February 10, 2009 will be entered into a drawing to be held at the World Understanding and Peace Dinner on February 28 at the Holiday Inn by The Bay.

Three Prizes will be drawn:

Two (2) One Night Free Room Accommodations for 2 at the Samoset Resort during the District Conference

One (1) \$50.00 Gift Certificate to spend at the Samoset Gift Shop

Get your Registration Form online at Rotary7780.org

New & exciting assembly & program formats, House of Friendship, Group Study Exchange Teams, Youth Exchange Students, 4-Way Test Student Contest Finals, Infant Literacy Kits (*Hands on Service Project*), Silent Auction, Club Displays, Golf Tournament, Tennis Tournament, Family Activities and so much more.

Join us in a weekend of fellowship & celebration as we share all of your successes in "Making Dreams Real" in the 2008-2009 Rotary year.



Some members of the District Conference committee visit the Samoset Resort. Pictured here, members enjoying lunch and setting up for videos to promote the conference in June.

Stay tuned for upcoming spoofs of the district conference - you won't want to miss them!!!!

Call For Nominations

Please read the following very important notice and give it very serious consideration. It is time to submit the names of candidates for District Governor and for a seat on the District Budget and Finance Committee. Please notify PDG Trisha Hunter, Chair of the 2008-2009 District Nominating Committee, thunter@championnetworks.com or myself if you have any questions relative to the process.

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 Brad prior to January 15, 2009**

Nominations Sought for District Officers

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

District Governor for 2011-2012

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

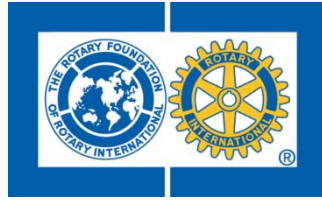
- Must have been a member of one or more Rotary clubs for at least seven years
- Must be a member in good standing of a functioning club in the district with no outstanding indebtedness to RI or to the district.
- Must have full qualifications for such membership in the strict application of the provisions therefore, and the integrity of the Rotarian's classification must be without question
- Must have served as president of a club for a full term or be a charter president of a club having served the full term from the date of charter to 30 June, provided that this period is at least six months
- Must demonstrate willingness, commitment and ability, physically and otherwise, to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the office of governor

Budget & Finance Committee Member for 2009-2012

Division C (Cumberland, Lincoln and Sagadahoc Counties)

Includes Bath, Bath Sunrise, Boothbay Harbor, Breakwater Daybreak, Bridgton-Lake Region, Brunswick, Brunswick Coastal, Casco Bay Sunrise, Damariscotta-Newcastle, Falmouth, Freeport, Portland, Scarborough, Sebago Lake, South Portland-Cape Elizabeth, Topsham Expresso, Westbrook-Gorham, Yarmouth

- Candidate must be willing and able to serve as a member of the committee for the three year term.



MATCHING GRANT APPROVED

On November 6, 2008, The Rotary Foundation announced that Matching Grant 67899 had been approved by the Board of Trustees. This grant is especially unique, in that it was originated by the Rotary Club of Sanford - Springvale in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Delhi - West (India), but also had widespread participation throughout the Rotary world. Not only were funds contributed by four Districts, including District 7780, District 7350, District 5840 and District 5300, but Rotary Clubs from Minnesota, California, Nevada, England and India also contributed to the grant.

The purpose of the grant is to fund the construction of some thirty-five Sanitation Enhancement Facilities (toilet blocks) in Chahalka, a poor Muslim village located about fifty kilometers west of New Delhi. Each block will consist of toilets, showers and sinks. The project is particularly important for the young girls of the village, by providing the means for basic hygiene to them, so they can continue to go to school.

PDG Elias Thomas first traveled to Chahalka in February 2007. While there, he and the rest of his team funded and constructed two washing platforms in the center of the village, where women and young girls could safely wash their clothes, pots, pans and dishes, household linens and the like, and avoid polluting the village's drinking water supply with the wastewater, as had been the case prior to the Rotary team providing the two platforms.

In February 2008, Elias was joined by fifty-four Rotarians and Friends of Rotary, from seven different countries, when they all participated in a National Immunization Day (NID) for polio eradication, as well as converting an old derelict building in the village center into a vocational and computer training center, and a day-care center. The entire project was funded by donations raised and collected by the members of the ROTARY DREAM TEAM - INDIA 2008. Seeing additional needs for sanitation facilities, several of the team members met and decided to apply for the "competitive" Matching Grant from The Rotary Foundation.

Construction of the thirty-five toilet blocks will begin when Elias leads two different teams to India at the beginning of 2009 - again participating in the NIDs nearby, as well as working with local laborers and local Rotarians and Rotaractors to strive to complete the construction before April 2009.



*Thank you for helping
Make Dreams Real
for the children of the world*