

DISTRICT 7780 NEWSLETTER

January
2009



District Governor's Message

January is Rotary Awareness Month

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Jonathan Magiyabe, Past RI President and Trustee Chair of The Rotary Foundation states, "I'm convinced we would be inundated with contributions and prospective members, if the general public were aware of half of the good work our Rotary Foundation does." He is right on target, but as important as it is to educate the general public about Rotary (and each and every club should and can strive at a minimum to meet this challenge through effective PR, inviting community members to weekly programs, etc), we must be diligent in providing ongoing education to our existing members. **It is our existing members that are the key to the growth of each of our clubs and are instrumental in creating awareness within our communities.** I honestly don't believe that once any member fully understands and appreciates the work and contributions of over 1.2 million Rotarians or the countless humanitarian and educational programs that are carried out each year and supported & funded by The Rotary Foundation, could simply just walk away from this organization. In addition to being proud of being a member of a Rotary club, when we understand the power and magnitude of the organization that we belong to, we can't help but want to share that with co-workers, clients, friends, family and our community. Our current members are the best sales force we have in recruiting new members and as club leaders we must not forget that. Rotary Awareness starts right at the club level and needs to be ongoing to our current members. It's as simple as requesting program speakers that are available to all clubs in this district. (speakers on The Rotary Foundation, Annual Giving, EREY, Polio, Membership, Literacy, GSE, Youth Exchange or any facet of Rotary International) We here in District 7780 are passionate about Rotary and given the opportunity to share our experience, our knowledge, what excites us about Rotary can only increase the passion among the members of each and every one of our clubs. Rotary Awareness will transcend into retaining more members, recruiting more members and increasing the amount of money we as individuals and clubs contribute to The Rotary Foundation. **I am convinced of that.**

See you all at the World Understanding and Peace Dinner,

DG Brad

Who will you invite into Rotary next month?

Register Early

District Conference 2009

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 www.rotary7780.org

RLI is the perfect way to educate our members about Rotary!

ATTN: CLUB PRESIDENTS, FUTURE PRESIDENTS,

BOARD MEMBERS & ALL ROTARIANS

Rotary Leadership Institute

March 7, 2009

York Community College

Wells, Maine

Sessions 1,2,3 & Graduate Course

Cost \$65.00 per person

8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Registration starts 7:45 a.m.



<http://rlinea.com/>

Bethel Rotary Club



Cynthia and Bob Laux of the Bethel Rotary Club braved cold temperatures at Christmas time for the club's annual "Bell Ringing" donation collection on behalf of the Christmas for Children fundraiser. The fund provides Christmas presents for area children who otherwise might have none. In addition to individual and business contributions, the annual "Santa Sunday" ski day at Sunday River Ski Resort donates proceeds from the event to Christmas for Children.

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

Please submit application for your club
to participate by January 30, 2009

For more information contact
Judy Speers at Judyspeers@aol.com



**Get
your club
involved**



Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club



Jim and Annette Stormont relax after the hard work of preparing for the dance.

Boothbay Harbor's Holiday Dance a Fun- and Fundraising Success

Twinkling lights and festive spirits transformed our usually-mundane American Legion Hall into a winter wonderland for the Boothbay Harbor club's first Warm Winter's Night dance during the Holiday season. While Rotarians and friends danced to the beat of the Big Chiefs band, the decorations and all the trimmings testified to the terrific work done by the dance committee. Meanwhile, Interactors passed the refreshments and sorta gawked at the sight of middle agers enjoying themselves so wholeheartedly. Everyone agreed it was a wonderful evening - with all proceeds going to our community's home heating oil fund!



The Interact club act as waiters and find time to get in some dancing as well.



Sam Morris and Vice President Connie Jones enjoy the moment.

January is Rotary Awareness Month

A message from D.K. Lee

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

January marks the beginning of the second half of the Rotary year. It's a time to look back on what we've accomplished so far, to assess our progress, and to renew our determination to achieve our goals in the months remaining. It's a time to discuss and evaluate the goals of our clubs as well as the goals we've set for ourselves as Rotarians. January is also Rotary Awareness Month, a time for us to consider how our Rotary values – and our own actions – influence public perceptions of Rotary. Our strategic plan outlines five core values that define and guide us as we chart a course into our second century of service.

Service is our first value, as it should be. Our focus on service is reflected in our primary motto, Service Above Self. Through our clubs and districts, we have the potential to create better, safer, and healthier communities, one project at a time.

Fellowship is the reason Rotary was founded over 100 years ago. The friendship, the camaraderie, and the wonderful sense of doing something good together is what keeps us all looking forward to our Rotary meetings week after week.

Diversity is an aspect of Rotary that becomes more important with every passing year. We have just welcomed to Rotary the Republic of Kiribati, which joins the more than 200 countries and geographical areas already on the Rotary map. I look forward with all Rotarians to a day when there is a Rotary club in every community in the world.

Integrity is fundamental to our organization's identity. Every Rotarian is a guardian of the reputation that generations of Rotarians have worked to build. When we maintain the highest ethical standards in all of our dealings, we strengthen the trust that allows us to serve more effectively.

But it will only happen if we show *leadership*, the fifth, and final, core value. Each of us must remember, with our every action, that we are Rotarians. When we are chosen to become Rotarians, and when we choose to accept that honor, we take it upon ourselves to become representatives of the entire organization.

When we are known as Rotarians, then everything we do reflects upon us all. By living by our core values and committing to Service Above Self, we build a stronger Rotary and a better world for all.

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



Rotary Club of Breakwater Daybreak

Bringing Cheer to Children in the Barbara Bush Children's Center

Members of Breakwater Daybreak of South Portland - Cape Elizabeth enjoyed a pre-Christmas craft session with 8 children in the Barbara Bush Children's Center at Maine Medical in Portland.

The children, ranging from 4 to 8 years of age, selected from a variety of wooden ornaments which they colored and finished with a touch of glitter.



Assistant Governor Shirley Mooers, Ilse Yanis, Lynn Simon (spouse of Rotarian Bartley Cardon) pose for a photo during the craft session



Breakwater Daybreak makes contribution to annual Polio Plus Fund

Rotary Club of Breakwater Daybreak President Jim Price submitted a \$1,000 check to the Polio Plus Fund as our Club's contribution to meet the Gates' Challenge for 2008.

District Polio Plus Chair Joan Correll provided our Club with an overview of the progress made to eradicate Polio. She described the unique challenges that remain in Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Nigeria, and emphasized that children in any part of the world remain at risk until this disease is eradicated. The Club recognizes the work required to continue funding this challenge in 2009 and 2010.



Who will you invite into Rotary next month?

Rotary Club of Bridgton-Lake Region



In December the Bridgton-Lake Region Rotary Club prepared 10 Gift Baskets for ten families in the Lakes Region. These contained the "makings" for a complete Christmas dinner and were anonymously delivered to the recipients.



We look forward to honoring our Students of the Month; shown here is our latest student, his father and our President, Sheila Rollins.



We welcomed new member Skip Sullivan this month; our latest member to our growing Club!



The Lakes Region High School has a very active Interact Club. They participated in the Interact Day in Fryeburg on Saturday, January 10th. Shown are some of the members along with their very hungry Interact Coordinator, Mody Botros!

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.](#)

Register with your Club President or download form at

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

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.



District 7780 Clubs Change Lives Through Matching Grants



The extent of Matching Grants currently underway, spearheaded by Clubs in this District, is truly remarkable. Programs to increase literacy, provide clean water, protect against childhood diseases and make life more livable for the disabled are all happening thanks to the dreams and hard work of 7780 Rotarians. If your club would like to get involved in a Rotary Foundation matching grant, check out

the District website www.rotary7780.org or ask Marty Helman, district grants coordinator (grants@walterfoundation.org) how to get started. There's still matching funds available at both the District and International level. But the deadline for grants is the end of March! So don't wait.

Your Foundation Contributions at Work

<i>Lead 7780 club</i>	<i>Other Clubs Involved</i>	<i>Grant Description</i>	<i>Total \$</i>	<i>Country</i>
2008-09				
Wells	none	Water wells	\$25,000	Ghana
Sanford-Springvale	Several others, not in 7780	Toilet block	\$103,000	India
Brunswick Coastal	none	Coffee plantation	16,100	Uganda
Portland	none	Hearing aids	17,650	Dominican Republic
2007-08				
York	none	Clean water	25,000	Ghana
Bridgton-Lakes	none	Musical instruments to school	14,000	Poland
Bridgton-Lakes	none	Bridgton public library	13,500	"reverse grant"
Saco Bay	none	Technical training	14,640	Ecuador
Yarmouth	Bridgton-Lakes, other non-7780	Teacher training, textbooks	59,500	Guatemala
Portsmouth	D-N, Fryeburg, S. Berwick, Oxford, Dover, CE-SP, Scarboro, Bethel, Hampton, Bridgton-Lakes	Clean water	62,600	Haiti
Brunswick Coastal	Kennebunk Portside	Teaching aids	15,280	South Africa
Casco Bay Sunrise	none	Educational materials	17,000	Poland
Kennebunk Portside	Brunswick Coastal	Clean water	66,760	South Africa
Rumford	BBH, Bath Sunrise, other non-7780	Playground	57,600	Guatemala
Boothbay Harbor	Bath Sunrise, other non-7780	School supplies	18,400	"reverse grant" for Louisiana

Rotary Club of Brunswick Coastal

The Brunswick Coastal Rotary Club has been hard at work, in cooperation with the Rotary Club of Kajjansi, Uganda, on a Matching Grant project that is nearing completion. The grant provides three water tanks and a toilet block for rural schools in the Rakai district of Uganda, which has been hard hit by the AIDS epidemic. It also provided a filtration system to protect springs which will provide water to the rural village of Jjongoza.

The project includes an urban component, providing toilets for a slum in Kajjansi, which is located just outside of Kampala. This neighborhood has previously had outbreaks of cholera, due to lack of sanitation facilities.

All of these improvements in the quality of life - for slightly over \$16,000!



As noteworthy as the projects are, the evolution of relationships between people of the two cultures is of equal or greater importance. In May 2008, Margaret Lonsdale and Mary Tennant, Clinical Social Workers and members of Brunswick Coastal Rotary, traveled to Uganda on a VSG. While in Uganda they stayed on the campus of the University at the Kisubi Brothers' Center where Dr. Fr. Aloysius Bukenya, the primary contact for this project, serves as Academic Dean. The Director of the University, an accredited satellite of Walsh College in Canton, Ohio, is Dr. Br. Francis Blouin, a lifelong Rotarian and Maine native. Relationships with them and other Ugandans, together with a growing partnership with the Rotary Club of Kajjansi, have formed the basis of an expanding bond between Brunswick Coastal Rotary and the



people of Uganda. The relationship has spread even beyond Rotary with students at St. John's School in Brunswick undertaking a jewelry-making project and donating their former school uniforms to benefit children in Uganda! A Brunswick church has formed a Sister Parish relationship with the Kisubi Brothers' Center and has now contributed to all four of BCR's Matching Grant projects in Uganda.

Future plans include a MG which has been filed to fund a cooperative coffee growing project in a rural village,

fundraising for an AIDS orphanage and working with Fr. Bukenya on his development of a community organizing program in a neighborhood near the Kisubi campus; providing teaching, research and training opportunities in community organizing to the students and faculty of the University. The possibilities are exciting and limitless!

Rotary Club of Durham Greatbay

At our January 14th meeting, we contributed \$300 to the non-profit organization, **On-Belay**, whose mission is to provide unconventional, adventure oriented therapy to children whose parent/s are terminal cancer victims. Ruth Abelman, Director, received our contribution and provided information about her organization as well as their winter event at the Dover Accent Center, Jan 23rd. All are welcome.

A Club forum at that meeting reviewed what the Club has done this year as a club and as individuals, as well as goals for the rest of the year. One can easily lose track of all that is being done, and as President, I was impressed and humbled. Our mid-year accomplishments include:

- Roadside cleanup
- July Fourth fireworks (major event raising over \$50,000.)
- Boot and Shoe Fund with the local Middle and Elementary schools (provides boots and shoes to needy families through the school nurses)
- Turkeys for Christmas food baskets in our four communities (220 turkeys distributed)
- Daigle family fundraiser - raised over \$38K and fund is still growing
- Light-up Durham: A Christmas festival with bonfire and spaghetti dinner
- Forest cleanup work for Camp Sunshine (a non-profit that provides psycho/socio-therapy to terminally ill children and their families)
- Scholarships to eight ORHS and Newmarket HS graduates (\$12,000)
- Contributions to the canned and non-perishable food drive for local pantries
- Collected goods & supplies for members of the armed services stationed in Iraq (care packages were over 300 lbs)
- Polio Plus fund support
- Built a storage shed for the Durham Public Library
- Paid off multi-year pledge to the Hyder House of Seacoast Hospice
- Worked closely with Rotaract and Interact on fundraisers and various club activities

The Rotary Club of Durham-Great Bay is a vibrant, innovative and vital contributor to the community. Today we have a member in Cairo, Egypt, working with a local Rotary Club to develop a plan to help outfit a pediatric hospital in the poverty section of the city.

As the second half of my year begins, I am proud of what we have done and will do.

Make Dreams Real!

President John Belcher

Who will you invite into Rotary next month?

Rotary Club of Fryeburg Area

The Fryeburg Area Rotary Club has had a busy month! Once the holidays were behind us, we hosted a very successful fundraiser at our local Flatbreads restaurant. Our Mt. Washington Valley was full of visitors, and Rotarians that just had to have their fabulous pizza, all while raising money for our fuel assistance program. Our own Jayne Britton made connections with the past president of the Reading, MA club, where she is going to speak about her experience with Rotoplast; and they are sharing their success stories with electronics recycling program. The connections we make through Rotary are wonderful!

Our club continues to award a middle school student with our Citizen of the Month award. And we had the pleasure of inducting another new member! David Chaffee joins our ranks, and even before his induction was a huge help at our Flatbreads fundraiser. We are most proud though, of the news from our Interact Club. They were the hosts this year of the Interact District Conference, held at Fryeburg Academy on Saturday, January 10. A little over 125 people were in attendance including Interactors and Rotarians. It was a huge success, and we are so proud of every one of our club members. They were there to set up for the conference the night before, many arrived early the day of the conference for last minute changes, the Interact Club Board members worked so hard on all the planning, and of course the Interact Advisors who dedicate so much time to this wonderful group of kids...THANKS TO THEM ALL!



Ali Price, Joli Wesley, Zala Samuel and Diane Reo



Interact Liaison Diane Reo, First Lady Penny and DG Brad



Interactors Katie Russell, Megan MacGillivray and Rynne Johnson



Rotarian Jayne Britton and President Sarah MacGillivray.

Rotary Club of Hampton

December was a busy month for the Rotary Club of Hampton! We worked 4 Saturdays ringing the bell for the Salvation Army at the local Walmart in Seabrook, NH. This is an activity that the club has been undertaking for years. Not only is it rewarding, knowing that the proceeds are going to a good cause, but it helps to build club fellowship as different members pair-up for two-hour shifts at "the pot."



Secondly, we continued our work in the community. Every other Monday, 8-12 different members of the club (and, in many cases, their non-member spouses and friends) set tables, prepare and serve a meal, and clean-up at the local soup kitchen. With the current economy, the number of meals being served has been increasing. This activity also builds some great fellowship.



Rotary Club of Hampton cont.

Lastly, we partied at our annual Christmas Party held at the Ashworth By The Sea Hotel on Hampton Beach. The party included great food, some terrific gospel singing performed by a quartet out of Portsmouth, NH, the award of a handsomely accumulated 50/50 raffle, the announcement of next year's Club Administration Team and its newly elected Board of Directors, and a rollicking Yankee Swap.

What a terrific month for the club!



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

Who will you invite into Rotary next month?

Group Study Exchange

Team Selected for Study Tour to Poland

The results are in: Carolyn Johnson, president elect of the Yarmouth Club, will lead our District's Group Study Exchange team to Poland in April. The team will comprise three young professionals:

Emily Mack, sponsored by the Damariscotta–Newcastle club, who is a charter broker with Ed Hamilton in New Harbor, ME. Kate Morkeski, sponsored by the Boothbay Harbor club, who is a research assistant in Woods Hole, MA, and does extensive field research each year in the Newburyport watershed. And Jeff McLean, sponsored by the Portsmouth Club, who is an IT professional and board member of Friends Forever in Portsmouth.

Congratulations to Yarmouth, Damariscotta–Newcastle, Boothbay Harbor and Portsmouth for seeking out and sponsoring these applicants!

Rotary's yearly Group Study Exchange program is designed to offer men and women in the early stages of their professional career the opportunity to travel abroad and enjoy cultural and in-depth, person-to-person conversations and contact. The D-7780 team will be heading for Poland in late April for a month-long study tour, and in return, our District will sponsor a team of young Polish professionals a few weeks later.

In fact, more than 500 of these exchanges take place between paired Rotary districts around the world each year, advancing Rotary International's goal of promoting international understanding and goodwill and changing the world one life at a time. Last year, the D-7780 exchange was with Quezon City, in the Philippines, and next year Governor-elect Jeff Pelkey is planning an exchange with India.



Clubs that would like to help host the inbound team are invited to let District GSE Coordinator Karen Wendell know of their interest (email: karen.wendell@comcast.net). And all clubs are encouraged to start thinking about how they can make a difference in their home community by sponsoring a young professional on next year's exchange team.

Rotary Club of Kennebunk Portside

Portside Rotary President, Peggy Belanger and Kennebunk Rotary President, Elaine Brady proudly present the final check to Dave Creech, MSAD71 School Administrator, proceeds for the emergency communications systems. This check was awarded from a simplified grant that the 2 local Rotary clubs applied for through the larger rotary district organization. Rotary District 7780 felt this cause was worthy of the grant and congratulated the combined efforts of both Rotary Clubs for one common cause – MSAD71 School District. Back in February 2008, Rotary raised \$5000 from a fundraising dance – Rotary has contributed \$7000.00 in all to the School District for the equipment purchase – GREAT JOB!!



Portside Rotary member Reggie Sargent and President Peggy Belanger present a check to Christina Batchelder from the Sophia Memorial Fund (formerly the Jason Program).

Christina's daughter, Sophia, passed away at the young age of 13 months. Christina's determination and commitment to provide a comfortable life for her daughter has continued through her efforts in raising funds to support the Sophia Memorial Fund. Christina is committed to help connect families in need with the support services, medical services and networking for bereaved families. Rotary's heartfelt thoughts are with those families struggling through those difficult times and Rotary realized the benefit and need of an organization



like the Sophia Memorial Fund and are pleased to present a contribution to their efforts.

Portside Rotary President Peggy Belanger gladly presents a check to Joan Sylvester from York County Shelter Programs, Inc, in Alfred, Maine. Portside Rotary supports the Shelter in various ways and applauds the Shelter for all they do for the homeless in York County. The York County Shelter Programs is the front door to all other agency services and its primary goal is meeting urgent basic needs and developing a detailed assessment. There are 63 beds, servicing both individuals and families. Counseling and other self-help services are available. The Shelter also operates 16 housing programs with Case Management support to help clients maintain independence. Rotary's contribution will help provide Christmas gifts and food baskets for families at the Shelter in their time of need.



Rotary Club of Ogunquit



The Rotary Club of Ogunquit changed its meeting location from Jonathan's Restaurant to the Beach House Grill, Rte. 1, Ogunquit, pictured here. The Club will continue its 12:15 Wednesday luncheon meeting time.

Gathering for lunch at the head table at our new location at Beach House Grill in Ogunquit, is, left to right, club member Dr. Lawrence 'Joe' Boyle; guest speaker for the day Richard d'Abate of the Maine Historical Society; and Ogunquit Rotary President Tracy Smith. This venue starts a new chapter for Ogunquit which had been at Jonathan's Restaurant for a number of years.

*Ogunquit Rotary Club
has a new home*



Rotary Club of Oxford Hills

It's been fairly quiet in the Oxford Hills this month. We concluded our '300 Club' raffle which was a complete success. We sold all 300 tickets during October and November and drew the 30 winning tickets in December, just in time for Christmas shopping. It's a very easy fundraiser and we netted \$3750 for our treasury.

Invitations are going out this weekend to all of the clubs in the district for our 25th Anniversary Dinner to be held at the Hilton Garden Inn at Great Falls Plaza in Auburn, ME on Saturday, February 14th. We are planning a special evening with great entertainment and would love to see all of you there. Be sure to see your invitations with all the details.

Lastly, we have all had AG Patty Rice in our thoughts this month as she recuperates from her surgery. We are looking forward to seeing her out and about again very soon."



Interact



We had a great DISTRICT INTERACT CONFERENCE!!

HOSTED BY THE FRYEBURG ACADEMY INTERACT CLUB

A huge thank you goes to the Fryeburg Academy Interact Club, their advisors, all the members of the Fryeburg Rotary Club and PDG Elias Thomas (District Youth Program Chair) for all their hard work and commitment in making this a wonderful 2009 Interact Conference.



District Membership Committee

Thoughts from the Chair ~ January 2009

January is the first month of the new calendar year, and midway through our current Rotary year. How many Club Membership Committee members have checked out the club membership tools on the District website?

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

There are some exciting District opportunities coming up. The World Peace and Understanding Dinner is a chance to expose some of our newer members to the global impact of Rotary. The Rotary Leadership Institute at the York County Community College is an opportunity to revitalize long term members and develop ideas and commitment in newer members. Member development is vital to member retention.

President's-elect, congratulations as you get ready for your year. Start thinking about where you would like to go with membership in your year. It all starts with members. Without members we have neither the hands nor the resources to make a difference. When you get to PETS you will have a wonderful opportunity to share ideas with hundreds of clubs from around the northeast, drink long and deep from the well of experience and bring back ideas to share with the District.

The District Midyear President's dinner brings current presidents, presidents-elect, and the presidents for the following year together ~ long term membership development should be part of the planning process you discuss. Every aspect of club goals and programs affects the ability to attract and hold onto members.

January and February are the depths of winter in the northeast. The frantic pace of the Holiday season is passed and now is a good time for a party! Plan a social, invite family members, have your members invite friends. While sitting together in front of a cozy fire talk about your successes so far, and what you plan to do by the end of the year. Enjoy your club and allow others to enjoy it with you. For those who are not current members, as they depart into the night, you can mention what you are going to do at the next club meeting and invite them to attend.

The key is, you need to have a planned, well organized program to invite people to; guests need to see that a club is having fun and has a purpose. Do not let your club get stale. If a key officer has problems or distractions, then the rest of the board needs to step up and keep the energy going. Everyone has problems at some point, one of the great things about Rotary is that is full of people who can step up and fill the gaps when needed to keep the energy alive.

Keep the fun in Rotary!

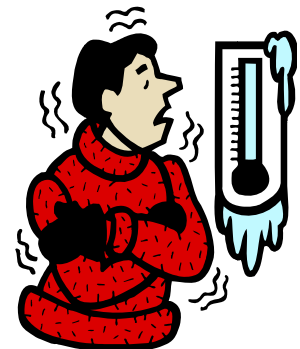
Dave Gooch, District Membership Chair 2008-2009



Who will you invite into Rotary next month?

Rotary Club of Portsmouth

On Saturday, January 10th, fourteen brave souls plunged into the cold waters of New Castle, NH, in support of Portsmouth Rotary's 6th Annual Polar Bear Swim. Swimmers included Rotarians, friends and Interact members . . . many following Past President Karen Wendell's lead by joining in with the Pirate theme of this year's event! Deb Rourke, who recently passed her one year Rotary anniversary, chaired the fundraising event and was mentored by past chair, Peter Billipp. Visit www.YouTube.com and search "Portsmouth Rotary Club's Polar Bear Swim" for a video of the event.



Rotary Club of Portsmouth Sunrise

On December 24th, some members of the Rotary Club of Portsmouth Sunrise visited the Edgewood Centre, a provider of long-term care, located in Portsmouth, NH. The Rotarians waited on the residents and their families while they enjoyed their Christmas buffet. Unfortunately, the scheduled entertainment didn't show up, however, not to worry, our not so shy members filled in and sang Christmas Carols!

The follow Rotarians and their families attended; Rick Wallis along with his teenagers, Rick Luff and his wife & children, Pat Lyons, Joan Nickell, Chris McMahon, Tom Grella, Cindy Boyd and her daughter, Denis Dillon, and Midge Nelson.



Please consider joining DG Brad
at the
Presidential
Membership Conference
Baltimore, MD
March 27-28, 2009



For more information and Registration [click here](#)

Rotary Club of Rochester



Rochester Rotary President, Gerry Bisailon, delivers food and supplies to the Homeless Shelter. Pictured with Gerry, is Executive Director of the shelter, Jan Walsh-Grande. \$450 of gift cards and many, many boxes of food were delivered, all donations from the attendees of our holiday party. The Shelter also received a surprise delivery of a new refrigerator from Rotary in time for Christmas.

Rochester Rotary donated \$500 to the local Toy Bank for Christmas. Pictured L to R are:

FD Capt. Burns, Asst Chief Dick Giguere, FD Secretary Cindy Potts, Rochester Rotary President Gerry Bisailon, and Rochester Rotarian Brenda Harrington.



Rochester Rotary PP and Former Secretary, Leo Couture, was honored on December 15th, with a lifetime Honorary Membership and a cake to celebrate his 90th birthday. Pictured with Leo, is club president Gerry Bisailon. Leo joined Rochester Rotary in 1966 and served as secretary for 28 years.

Rotary Club of Saco Bay

Celebrating the mid-point of "Making Dreams Real", Club President, Dan Colby and his club are counting their blessing and celebrating their success at this juncture. Two memorial items stand out as the most impressive: New member participation and reconnecting with our sister club from Quito, Ecuador.

For a club of its size, approximately 65–70 members annually, inducting six new members is a big deal for this active club. What is most impressive is how each new member has "stepped-up" to serve the club and community with commitment and enthusiasm that would make any Rotarian proud. One new member took on being the advisor to the University of New England's Rotaract club; another lead his scruffy crew of Rotarians, sponsored by a District Simplified Grant, in building a huge 44-step public access staircase for the City of Saco residents.

Another new go-getter chaired our annual participation in the Salvation Army bell ringing program, providing a day of service and spreading goodwill during the holiday season. Last but not least, our newest member became a instrumental supporter of the U.S. Marines Toys for Tots program that our club sponsors annually by hosting a special toy drive/fund raiser as well as becoming a new collection site for the program.

As with any new year, we reflect on the friendships we have created over the years and cherish most. Club members were honored and delighted to welcome visiting Rotarians from Quito, Ecuador that we have supported and worked with for the last three years. After world wind of activities that encompassed a day of shopping, an afternoon of service and meeting Maine's Governor and Attorney General, Past club President, Brenda Chapman and her husband Adam hosted a gathering in their honor. Celebrating past memories and future projects.

Noted guests were club President from Quito, Lorena Vice and Past President, Rosalia Arteaga, as well as other leadership members of the Ecuadorian club. Ms. Arteaga is a noted figure in Ecuadorian history, being the first female President, serving only two days in 1977 – after the residing president was declared unfit to govern by Congress. Later Arteaga challenged congressional and army supported, Fabian Alarcon, and later lost her fight to keep her presidential position. She now is a journalist and champions Rainforest restoration projects.

The Rotary Club of Saco Bay is proud to have assisted the Quito club with stocking adult education centers with supplies and equipment to teach trades and life skills and are considering a clean water project for future participation.

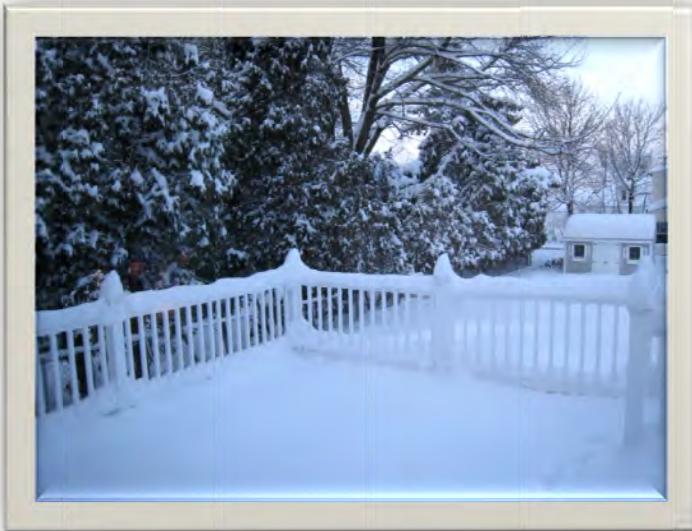
Recently the club kicked-off their solicitation campaign for their 20th Annual Television Auction with the Biddeford–Saco club scheduled for Sunday, March 29. The culmination of months of planning and hundreds of solicitations, the one-day event is anticipated to yield approximately \$50,000 for the clubs to apply to next year's charitable giving and scholarship programs.

Making Dreams Real on a daily basis, we'll see you at the upcoming World Peace and Understanding Dinner in February!

Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Scarborough for chartering their new Scarborough High School Interact Club



*Need a Speaker for your club?
Check out the Speakers Bureau on the District website at
<http://www.rotary7780.org/SpeakersBureau.cfm>*



"That's it from here, now I have to go shovel the deck"

DG Brad



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