



Rotary International District 7780

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District Governor's Newsletter District Governor Brad Jett 2008~2009



From District Governor Brad Jett

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of the members of each of our forty-one clubs for your ongoing commitment and dedication for service. We were challenged in 2008-2009 by Rotary International President Dong Kurn Lee to focus on reducing preventable child mortality in the areas of water, health, hunger and literacy. Rotarians throughout our district and all over the world welcomed this challenge with heartfelt passion. We learned that most children die needlessly in developing countries and we continued this past year to invest our money, experience and time in our international water & sanitation projects, immunizing & providing health care to the needy and disabled, educating the illiterate and feeding the hungry in so many areas of the world. But, I think one of the most rewarding accomplishments of D.K. Lee's challenge to us in Rotary District 7780 are the number of projects that were implemented throughout our local communities.

You took his challenge very seriously - you met with other organizations, hospitals, schools, fire and safety officials – you educated child caregivers, you held community seminars on bike & helmet safety, car seat safety, school safety, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, you reinforced with your projects, the importance of literacy as the opportunity for every child in the future to climb out of poverty - your projects have and will continue to save the lives of children right here in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. So, thank you for all of your effort in making dreams real this past Rotary year for our children right here at home and for children everywhere.

I hope that you enjoy this last issue of the District Newsletter in this "Make Dreams Real" Rotary year - that you savor all of the memories, experiences and accomplishments that we created and shared together over the past twelve months. I cannot thank you all enough for your warm and generous hospitality during my official visits over the first four months. You made both Penny and I feel extremely welcomed

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and special - we enjoyed your fellowship, learning more about you and your fellow members, your projects and fundraisers, as well as your club's unique history.

Our Rotary Youth Exchange program was up and running early in the year thanks to a dedicated committee of volunteers. Our membership and foundation committees worked hard at providing interesting and valuable programming at the foundation/membership seminar in late October. We had a great turnout of Rotarians from District 7780 attending "Rotary at the United Nations" Day in early November. Penny & I continued to attend club fundraising and fellowship events, holiday parties, and charter anniversary celebrations over the next several months. We were delighted to have been a part of the Interact conference in January hosted by the Fryeburg Academy Interact club and we congratulate both the Scarborough and Sanford-Springvale Rotary clubs for sponsoring new interact clubs this past year.

The GSE committee interviewed and selected our GSE team members (Kate Morkeski, Jeff McLean and Emily Mack) and team leader (Carolyn Johnson) to represent our district in Poland and what a great job they did! We held our mid-year President's dinner at the beginning of February and many of us gathered at the end of the month to celebrate our international involvement and commitment at the World Understanding and Peace dinner in Portland, Maine. We had a fair amount of Rotarians representing this district at the Rotary Leadership Institute in early March at the York County Community College and a few of us even flew down to Baltimore to attend the presidential membership conference a few weeks later.

We bade farewell to our outbound GSE team just days after hundreds of us attended incoming governor Jeff Pelkey's District Assembly. We welcomed our incoming Polish group study exchange team at the Portland International Airport late in the evening in early May & over the next 4 weeks we hosted and became attached to our new found friends from Poland. We held our first district wide 4- way test essay and speaking contest in May. Congratulations to the Rotary club of Yarmouth for sponsoring the 1st place winner!

Our RYLA committee continues to work overtime in anticipation of the arrival of local high school students participating in the year- end leadership program. Our District Conference was held on June 5th, 6th and 7th and we were honored to have Past President of Great Britain and Ireland, Mike Webb and his wife Alison representing RI President Dong Kurn Lee and Young Ya at our District Conference, as well as our inbound & outbound GSE teams and youth exchange students and host families in attendance throughout the weekend.

I hope that you enjoyed the Conference and made new Rotary friends - our team of committee members worked hard to make this a memorable experience for all of you and I appreciate all of their effort and to the many volunteers throughout the district that stepped up to make the conference so successful!

Please join Governor-elect Jeff Pelkey and myself at the District Leadership Changeover celebration on Tuesday, June 30th. DGE Jeff has planned a fun, memorable event for you and your entire family to enjoy in Portland at the Holiday Inn by the Bay. Let us rejoice in "Making Dreams Real" and remember that the "Future of Rotary is in Your Hands."

Yours in Rotary service,

DG Brad Jett

District Conference 2008-2009



Great views!

Several hundred Rotarians and family members joined District Governor Brad Jett and First Lady Penny at the Samoset resort in Rockport Maine June 5-7th. We were honored to have as the Rotary International President's Representative Mike Webb with his wife Alison. Mike was the President of RIBI (Rotary International Great Britain and Ireland) 2005-2006 and treasurer to the 2008 Presidential Membership Conference. He is Chairman of the 2009 RI Institute and was appointed to the RI Finance Committee 2009/2012. Supporting their fellow members DG Brad and Penny, the Rotary Club of Hampton had 28 members in attendance this weekend.



Barbecue on the Patio Friday Noon



Starting with an outdoor barbecue lunch overlooking the ocean we continued with a great presentation on District Simplified Grants and the Polio Challenge. We are making progress on the Challenge but there is a long way to go, Internationally Rotary has raised about \$78 million toward the Matching Grant. In District 7780 we have raised \$57,250. To meet the Bill & Melinda Gates Challenge we need to do a lot more.



Panel on District Simplified Grants

Map showing all the District International Projects



The second Friday Plenary session



Conference Chair George Rice



Checking where our District is helping



"House of Friendship"





Scenes from the excellant "House of Friendship"



The sign says it all!



Reconnecting with friends



PIHCINTU Maine Children's Chorus



A Very Happy International Birthday Wish

The Friday night Grand Opening was highlighted by a very moving video program compiled through the efforts of Dan Mooers, which climaxed with the live appearance of the PIHCINTU Maine Children's Chorus, more about them further in the Newsletter. DG Brad, Literacy Chair Carolyn Johnson and RI President's Representative Mike Webb then presented the District Literacy Awards (Successful completion of five items) and the Zone Literacy (successful completion of at least 10 items) Awards.



Literacy Award presentations



Pat Torpie, Founder of Amigos de Santa Cruz

The guest speaker Friday night was Pat Torpie of "Amigos de Santa Cruz". For the past eleven years she has been helping the people of Santa Cruz de Laguna in Guatemala improve their education, health, and economy. A township on the side of the mountains reachable only by boat across a lake, she is proof that one person can make dreams real for so many. A compelling presentation, she was a dramatic example of what one person can do.



Panel on Working with Partners



Panel on use of Matching Grants



Saturday started with a very thorough coverage of how Clubs have used Matching Grants. Lessons included the determination and patience that have led to success as well as lessons on partnering with other NGO's. Later in a very full morning we got to meet the current Youth Exchange Students. We also met the incoming Group Study Exchange (GSE) team from Poland with team leader Tomasz Wicentowicz, from District 2230 and the outgoing GSE team headed by Carolyn Johnson.

After lunch completed Saturday we had the great pleasure of hearing Jenny Sharp, Four-Way Test Contest winner, from North Yarmouth Academy. Jenny's presentation was outstanding and it was a great articulation of the basic tenets of Rotary. After Jenny's presentation, DG Brad, with the assistance of RI President's Representative Mike Webb and Membership Chair Dave Gooch presented Membership Awards. Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Bridgton-Lakes Region for Highest Growth in Membership Development, the Rotary Club of Freeport for the Highest Retention Rate, and the Rotary Club of Rochester for the Most New Members (they have 18 and reportedly are planning on two more before the end of June). Despite many clubs not able to achieve a net one growth, with efforts like these the District has grown this year.



Jenny Sharp ~ Four -Way Test Essay Winner

Saturday afternoon was free time used by many to enjoy a golf tournament in the beautiful golf course that wraps around the resort. The sunny weather provided great views across the bay.



RI President's Representative Mike Webb



DG Brad Jett

Saturday night after Dinner RI President's Representative Mike Webb gave his speech emphasizing the Rotarian's obligations to maintain a high standard of ethics in their vocation. Dru LaDuke, whose great team on the silent Auction had done a fantastic job, announced the Auction winners; over \$6000 was raised by the auction.



Saturday Dinner



Great Auction



Bobby Darling Show



Wild Rotary Women!

And then things got really crazy~ the Bobby Darling Show was a mixture of great music, slap stick fun, musical jokes and side ripping laughs. At one point we had Rotarian dancers snaking around the hall, dancing in between the tables. Sunday culminated in a very moving memorial to Rotarians who have past away this year, put together by PRIVP Mike McGovern and attended by a record capacity crowd.

District Changeover Dinner will be Tuesday June 30th at the Holiday Inn by the Sea in Portland Maine; registrations need to be in by June 19th. This changeover dinner will be very family friendly and all District Rotarians are encouraged to come, bring the family members and any friends who would like to join you. DGE Jeff promises it will be short on talk and long on fun

Next year's District Conference will be May 14-16 at the Sheraton Inn in Portsmouth. Once again the event will have activities for children and be family friendly. A large number of the District's members are within an hour's drive, and for those overnighing DGE Jeff is working at keeping costs down. We are looking for a record turnout, so save the date.

From District Governor - Elect Jeff Pelkey

It was great seeing so many of you at the District Conference in Rockland, at The Samoset.. Governor Brad and the conference committee really offered a great opportunity for some Rotary education, fellowship and family fun time.

I hope you are all planning to bring a big group of members to the District Changeover Dinner on June 30th at the Holiday Inn by The Bay in Portland. This evening promises to be a fun evening for the whole family, all ages, games for the kids with fun prizes for them to take home, some great family picnic food, fun entertainment and a short program. We should all be home early! See the District web site for sign up info. You should take the lead in getting other club *Families* interested in coming- the club registration form is on the district website. It is also an awesome opportunity to invite some Interact, Rotaract, and earlyactors to join us, you may even consider funding a couple of them, to offer a great evening with other clubs from around the District. Reserve a table or two or three and make it a fun fellowship evening.

Below you will find some important information from our Foundation Chair PDG Liz Cullen on GRANTS- as you can see time is very important!!!! Don't miss out on this great chance for all clubs to take advantage of the money you have given to fund our Foundation.

*** District Simplified Grants (\$ for your OWN CLUB'S community projects)**

- A. These grants are HOT and competition is stiff.
- B. Funds are limited
- C. Deadline: July 31
- D. No extensions
- E. Questions, suggestions, help!

Sandy Bison: sandmarcfarm@metrocast.net

• Matching Grants (\$ for International Projects)

- A. These grants are HOT and competition is stiff
- B. Funds are limited
- C. Deadline: Time is of the essence. No kidding! Today is not too soon.
- D. The District Foundation Committee wants all of our clubs to have an equal opportunity to receive a Matching Grant. Our district's funds (approx.\$60,000) are guaranteed but the Rotary Foundation's match is going to be more or less on a first come, first served basis since they will be receiving proposals from over

530 districts.

E. Questions, suggestions, help!

Marty Peak Helman: grants@walterfoundation.org

You can also contact me at: lizgcullen@yahoo.com

cell: 978-681-2357

home: 978-948-7345

work: 978-465-2231

Julie, Justin and I are looking forward to being with all of you this coming Rotary year. You have chosen wonderful leaders for your clubs, making our District and the organization we all enjoy a stronger, more effective and fun experience for us all!

Peace-

Jeffrey

Jeffrey S. Pelkey DGE
District Governor 2009-2010
Rotary International
District 7780

125 Old Post Road
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PIHCINTU



One of the many gems that we were introduced to at the 2008-2009 District Conference was the PIHCINTU Children's Chorus of Maine. Pihcintu is a Passamaquoddy word meaning "When she sings her voice carries far" Based in Portland Maine the group strives to bring together as many first generation immigrant children as possible as a bonding and learning experience. (Check them out, and hear them again at www.pihcintu.org) Represented in the group of about 40 young people are Russia, Vietnam, China, Thailand, Antigua, Congo, Sudan, India, Philippines, USA, Zambia, Cambodia, Canada, and Jamaica.

Their mission is "To connect children ages 9-14 from diverse ethnic backgrounds and to celebrate and share that connection through song, while guided by a philosophy of giving back to native homelands by making contributions to the schools, orphanages, and villages from which the children originally came." A powerful message and purpose; and an excellent addition to the Conference.

Nigerian School Named for Ann Lee Hussey



Ann Lee Hussey, our District Governor nominee, has dedicated her life to stop the spread of polio and to help polio survivor's live better lives. Her work as a speaker, fundraiser and activist has been widely praised in Rotary circles. And now, she has been honored in Nigeria, one of the countries in which the polio virus is still endemic, in an incredible way: A school has been named for her!



The Ann Lee Nomadic School in Fulani, Nigeria, serves youngsters, whose families still follow the herds at least part of the year, thus making it difficult for them to attend traditional school. Ann Lee visited the school and met with the children on a recent visit to northern Nigeria.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

Club News

Rotary Club of Bath



PE Shuree Emery, Exchange Student from Turkey Mert Ustas, President Annie Merry and AG Wilt Jone enjoying the District Conference

Local High School Graduates Guests of Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club



Boothbay Region High School seniors kicked off graduation week with dinner at the Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club. Special guest speaker that night was John Heyl, a long-time member of the Club who recently celebrated his 103rd birthday.



John, who talked about the changes he has witnessed during his remarkable life, is pictured here with his son Tony.

The Club also feted seniors Danica Ramsey-Brimberg and Morgan Mitchell for their leadership of the Boothbay Region Interact club. This spring, the Interact club raised a cool \$1000 via a spaghetti supper and a car wash and voted to use the money to help fight child abuse. Not only are the girls great Interactors, they

are also serious scholars and achieved the rank of valedictorian and salutarian, respectively, of their class.



They are shown here with "little sister" Chelsie Graves, granddaughter of club Rotarians Debbie and Daren Graves.

The Rotary Club of Bethel



The Group Study Exchange team from District 2230 in Poland Belarus and Ukraine visited the Rotary Club of Bethel in late May. They were among the spectators at Bethel's annual Memorial Day parade on Main Street. Pictured here are, from left: Tomasz Wicentowicz, mechanical engineer (Team Leader), Grzegorz Butkiewicz, forester, Jozefina Bartyzel, philosopher/theater director, Tomasz Pater, architect, and Joanna Podciechowska, MD, oncologist. At right is Bethel Rotarian Ellie Andrews.

Young Meets Old At Breakwater Daybreak BBQ for Poland GSE Team

The **Rotary Club of Breakwater Daybreak** hosted the Group Study Exchange Team from Poland on Wednesday 20 May 2009 at a Club BBQ at Member Mary Friesel's home. Shown below is Jozefina Bartyzel meeting Rotarian Michael Hulsey's youngest son at the BBQ following their vocational day activities in the Portland area. This was the first opportunity that Breakwater Daybreak had to participate in GSE. The Members were very excited about meeting our visitors from Poland and hosting them overnight. This experience will help the Club promote GSE opportunities for young professionals in District 7780.



The Rotary Club of Bridgton Lake Region



We had the privilege of hosting the GSE team as they moved westward in Maine. Here is a photo of the group heading out for a walking tour of Bridgton. What an amazing group; we really enjoyed our time with them.



Our first Golf Tournament was a success the clouds broke just in time for a beautiful, sunny day.

Rotary Cub of Damariscotta – Newcastle Timely Tool Team Tackles Thrift Tune Up

The Rotary Club of Damariscotta-Newcastle Tool Team broke out the power toys and tackled a spring community service rehab project on the Sea Thrift Cottage at the Lincoln Home Assisted Living Facility in Newcastle Maine. Led by committee top tool men Bill Covington and Craig Wilson the team was rounded out with tool teammates Jim Erskine and Gary Speers and photographer Judy Speers. This year's project was a much needed exterior spruce up of the shop which provides low cost clothing and household items for sale. All of the income generated at Sea Thrift Cottage goes into a fund to provide assistance to residents of the Lincoln Home.



Tool Team Gary Speers, Craig Wilson,
Jim Erskine, Bill Covington



We will figure this out, Rotarians!



Sea Thrift Cottage All Set!

The **Rotary Club of Durham-Great Bay** recently celebrated Awards Night at the Three Chimney's Inn in Durham. Club members, spouses, awardees and numerous guests made the event a lot of fun. A Special Achievement Award was presented to Dennis Harrington, who has guided Moharimet Elementary School as Principal since its opening twenty years ago. In Dennis' name, a check for \$250 was delivered to Oyster River Womenade.

The Citizen of the Year Award was presented to Durham resident Julian Smith, recognizing his exceptional service to the community through land conservation, developing hiking trails and memorial parks, and serving on town Council and numerous committees. In Julian's name, a check for \$250 was delivered to Habitat for Humanity.

A very special reason for fundraising efforts each year is to be able to present scholarships to our communities' graduating seniors. This year, the scholarship committee met a formidable challenge. Normally presenting four awards annually, six applicants were so impressive that it was decided that all should receive awards. It was humbling to hear not only what these six seniors had accomplished academically, but also what extraordinary service they have given to local and international communities by working in food pantries, running an elementary after school program, volunteering with the Red Cross/Red Crescent and UN AIDS in Mexico, working in Tanzania with homeless children, teaching English in Haiti, working with Toys for Tots and building homes with Habitat for Humanity. Each received \$1000 toward their continued education.

What a great way to close a great year!



Special Achievement Awardee Dennis Harrington, Scholarship Awardee Jamie Beaver, President DGB Rotary John Belcher, Scholarship Awardees Emily Tong, Lauren Banker, Ella Nimmo and Citizen of the Year Julian Smith

The **Rotary Club of Hampton** is ending the 2008-2009 Rotary Year by granting 3 scholarship awards to our local graduating high school seniors for their academic and community service achievements. We are also concluding by receiving awards for our own community service, by completing that high level of service work, and, lastly, by repeatedly celebrating a very productive year.



President Rick Neville proudly presents a scholarship to Seacoast School of Technology student, Megan Lemire, and wishes her well in college

For many years, the Rotary Club of Hampton has been giving two \$4000 scholarships and one \$1000 scholarship to local graduating seniors. This year's recipients, Noelle Brouillard, Conor Cullinane, and Megan Lemire have each excelled in their academic paths and have shown remarkable service to their communities and/or to their schools. Past Presidents of our club consistently say that bestowing these scholarships is a highlight of the Hampton Club's Presidential Year and current President Rick Neville agrees. He says that the club had a large group of phenomenal candidates this year and that we could not be more proud of our selections. Upon review of their work, our future, and theirs, looks very bright!



PP Dan Dolan, President Rick, and PE Joan Correll pose with the children of the Seabrook Head Start program after receiving an award for the Hampton Club's assistance to them this past year.

On 6/4/09, the Hampton Club celebrated a year of assisting the Seabrook Head Start Program by attending their end of the year breakfast buffet. We were bestowed with a handsome certificate of award and serenaded with some great singing by the kids. We assisted them throughout 2008-2009 with weekly reading to the children and donations of books, winter wear, and hands-on learning material. Our membership really enjoys this relationship with the children and this is the kind of endeavor that makes our Rotary work very worthwhile.



Members of the Hampton Club happily take a break from finishing a spring clean-up of the Rotary Park in the middle of town

On 6/13/09, we finished our last community service project of the year by cleaning our local park. Many members raked, clipped branches, pushed around bark mulch, and provided a general clean-up for a centrally located kid's park in the town. It was a beautiful, sunny morning and the members made quick, but thorough, work of the chores.



Incoming Hampton Club President Joan Correll and incoming

President Elect Dave Reid reflect on Rotary ahead, and enjoy the surroundings of the Samoset, at the District Conference.

Lastly, 28 members and spouses from the Rotary Club of Hampton attended the annual District Conference at the Samoset Resort. In celebration of a fabulous year, a great time was had by all. In his welcome address, President Rick stated that he could not be more proud of all that the club had accomplished this past year, and of all the diligence and the dedication to Rotary that District Governor Brad and his wife Penny have represented us with. He was proud to accept both the District and the Zone Literacy Awards on behalf of the club and says that we look forward to continuing our heavy celebration of a great year with the annual awards celebrations, at our Club, and with the District later this month! We also look forward to a great 2009-2010!

Kennebunk Rotary Club proudly awarded five Paul Harris Fellows to two members and three community individuals who all exemplify "Service Above Self."



Seen in the photo from left to right is Chris Labbe with his father, Norm Labbe, Kennebunk Rotarian, who both will be going back next week to Guatemala to assist again with a vital water purification project.

In the middle is Phillip Taschereau of Arundel, a local Boy Scout leader who has selflessly devoted his life to helping boys reach their potential through scouting. Next to him is David Brown, the past President of the Kennebunk Interact Club who just completed his first year of college. David was in Interact at Kennebunk High School for all four years and helped with many local projects as well as traveling to Zihautanejo, Mexico to help with construction at the Netza School. He spearheaded the project which today continues to pay the annual \$400 tuition for a worthy student. And finally on the far right is Steve Adams, a Kennebunk Rotarian since 1981, who helps to make the annual children's Christmas party a joyful success each year (ho-ho-ho) and inspires all with his patriotism and remembrance of our veterans every Memorial Day. The Kennebunk community is enriched by them all!

Kennebunk Portside Rotary – United Way – Day of Caring – Kennebunk Portside Rotary club members rolled up their sleeves and pitched in at the York County Shelter in Alfred on Wednesday, June 3rd for United Way's Day of Caring. Portside members along with a group from UNUM assisted in various projects around the grounds at the Shelter. One working group scraped, sanded and painted the exterior of the Bakery Shop and another group organized boxes and bags of donated goods in the supply attic. A satisfying and rewarding day to look back and see the progress made on these projects around the Shelter.



Pictured above: Harvey Flashen, Kathy Emmons, Melissa Loisel, Don Curry, Ki Leffler, Karen Schlegel, Sue Gessing and Paul Rothman.



The paint crew – Peggy, Harvey, Don, Kathy and Melissa



The attic crew – Mary, Karen, Sue and Ki.

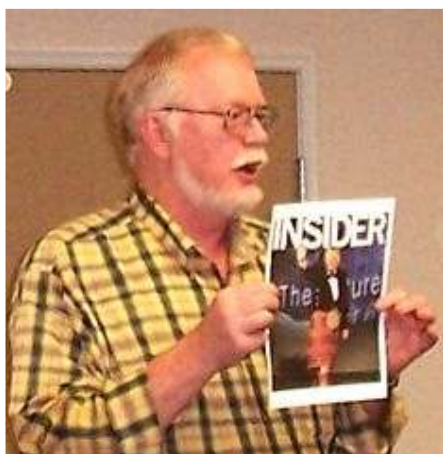
The **Rotary Club of Kittery** kicked off May with our second major fundraiser of the year, our 6th Annual Taste of Kittery. While Ray DeMarco entertained at the keyboard our guests tasted the offerings of fifteen local eateries and took in the Silent Auction. Kyle Wolfe of "The Clown" of York served a great selection of wines next to a selection of very fine chocolates from Byrne and Carlson. Anneke Jans served a nice thick "Spring Onion" soup in champagne flutes topped with tiny shrimp, and also Herb Goat Cheese Blini's. Robert's Maine Grill served steamed Mussel's A La Howard, while The "Meat House" served chicken and steak tips barbecued fresh on site throughout the evening.





A few of our great many offerings at the Taste of Kittery provided by our great area eateries

Dave Gooch noted in last month's copy of the Rotarian that 2009-2010 Rotary International President John Kenny was pictured standing in front of a sign which clearly says "The Future of Rotary..." while wearing his kilt. We told DGE Jeff that he was thoroughly mistaken about the District Governor's "formal dress" for the upcoming year, the black jacket was only half the story! The proper gear was then assembled to add color to the outfit.



"I read it in the Rotarian"



"Get with the program Jeff!"

Our last meeting in May showcased our community youth. Our meeting attendance was swelled over 100% with students, family members and teachers. We donated \$250 to Camp P.O.S.T.C.A.R.D. to fund a camper, we donated \$1000 to help continue the Kittery D.A.R.E. program, and we hosted the Rotary Students of the Month from Traip Academy and Shapleigh Middle School and the five Senior Class winners of Kittery Rotary Scholarships. The Happy/Sad dollars from the day also go to youth as they will fund our 3rd Grade Dictionary project



Students of the Month



Scholarship Winners.

Pictures from the **Rotary Club of Ogunquit**



Ogunquit president Tracy Smith and DG Brad in greeting at the Conference.



PP Ben Oliver and PDG Liz Cullen get warm get re-acquainted



Group at the Conference: (Seated, from left) Pres. Dan Colby of Saco Bay, Ogunquit PE Lisa Greenlaw, AGCoordinator John Rainone; (Standing) PP Ben Oliver, Pres. Tracy and Les Lafond



Ogunquit President Tracy arrives at the District Conference and measures the 'Big Wheel'



Rotary Club of Ogunquit group at Ogunquit 'PolioPlayhouse' night on June 3. Actually they were auditioning for Chorus Line, the musical that night, and helping to raise money for PolioPlus.

The **Rotary Club of Oxford Hills** turned out in force to support District Conference Chair George Rice at the District Conference.



Oxford Hills looking good!



Making very good use of Digital Frames to augment the display



Interact and Rotaract was also well displayed



Beth caught working to set up the house of Friendship



President John Griffith and his wife Shelly bidding high and often at the auction

The Rortary Club of Saco Bay takes the Rotary Gear on parade

Dru LaDuke shows he can do more then put on a great district Silent Auction:





Membership Thoughts from the Chair

This is the end of our 2008-2009 year. Hopefully all of your clubs are starting plans for Membership for the new Rotary year. Hopefully those plans include an active Membership Committee and Membership Chair.

I had one potential Rotarian recently talk to me about his view of a Rotary club he had attended "All they seem to focus on is raising money". I bet that club does not see themselves that way, they see the projects and the needs that they want to address and it may be that the constant fundraising chatter has become background noise. However to a new visitor that may be the first (and perhaps the most lasting) impression they get.

Someone or some committee in your club needs to try to see the club as non-board members and potential members might view it. Are you about people and projects, about fun and a sense of community; or are your members getting tennis elbow from hauling out their wallets?.

At the end of our 2008-2009 year have fun, celebrate the things you have done together and let the community know you are doing great things and enjoying doing them.

A great big thank you to my committee from the very first when at the 2008 District Assembly they put together a great membership program while my wife and I had to be down in Virginia for the birth of a grandchild. Thanks for a great year Grace Connolly, Marion Cheney, Gary Berenson, Rich Cantz, Jay Spenciner, Gary Speers, and Susan Gesing.

Wishing you all a great 2009-2010 year
Dave Gooch
Chair
2008-2009 District Membership Committee

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