



Rotary International District 7780

[Archive](#)

May 17, 2009

[Home](#)

[print this page](#)

District Information

[District Governor](#)
[District Calendar](#)
[DG Official Visits](#)
[Officers & Chairs](#)
[District Secretary](#)
[District Treasurer](#)
[Photo Gallery](#)
[Photo Album \(2007\)](#)
[District Bylaws](#)

Governors Newsletter

[Current](#)
[Archive](#)

District Club Info

[Links to Clubs](#)
[Make Up Opportunities](#)
[Club Fundraisers/Events](#)
[Speakers Bureau](#)
[World Community](#)

District Events/Forums

[District Assembly](#)
[District Changeover](#)
[District Conference](#)
[Foundation Seminar](#)
[Interact Conference](#)
[Intl Convention](#)
[Membership Seminar](#)
[Mid-Term Assembly](#)
[NE Multi-District PETS](#)
[RLI Course Dates](#)
[United Nations Day](#)
[W.U.P.D.](#)

District History

[Historian](#)
[Past Governors](#)

Foundation

[The Chair](#)
[Alumni Directory](#)
[Annual Giving](#)
[Foundation Grants](#)
[Group Study Exchange](#)
[Polio Plus](#)
[Foundation Scholarships](#)

Literacy

[Literacy Chair Message](#)
[Literacy Awards 2009-10](#)
[Literacy PR Release](#)
[4 Way Test Contest](#)
[Read Across America](#)
[Literacy Resources](#)

Membership

[Chair Message](#)
[Committee](#)
[Membership Tools](#)

District Governor's Newsletter District 7780



Message from District 7780 Governor Brad Jett

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Our group study exchange with Poland has hit the ground running – thank you foundation dollars for allowing this program to continue each Rotary year. Team leader Carolyn Johnson with team members Emily Mack, Jeff McLean and Kate Morkeski are in their last week of the exchange in Poland and are eager to see you at our district conference to share their experiences and adventures.

Inbound team arrives!



About 20 District 7780 GSE Team Greeters were on hand at the Portland Airport at 10:30 PM waiting the arrival of our Inbound Team

Resources

Health & Hunger
 Public Relations
 Water

Youth Programs

Interact
 RYLA
 Youth Exchange

Service Above Self
 Forms & Documents
 RI Links/Contacts

Contact Us



The smiles say it all, the team was very surprised and appreciative at the number of Rotarians at that time of night who were here to greet them

Administration Login

We welcomed our inbound Poland team with open arms as they arrived late Thursday night, May 7th to a crowd of enthusiastic Rotary greeters at the Portland International Airport and we truly are blessed with a diverse, educated team who are excited to be here, to learn more about their vocation and our way of life and to share the history and culture of their country.



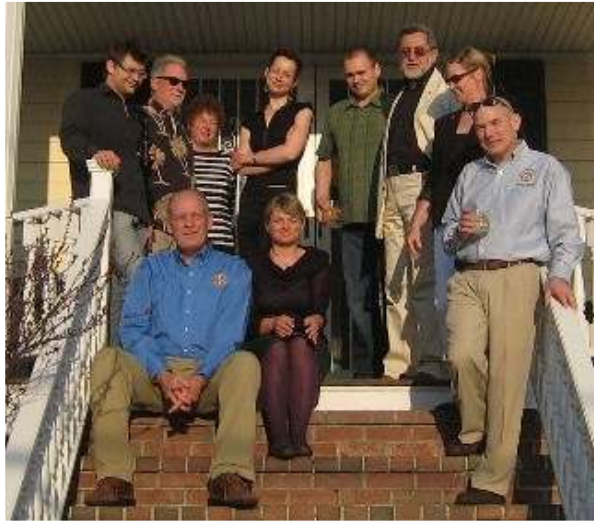
After a long 18 hour trip the day before, the team enjoys some fellowship with GSE Chair Karen Wendell at Billy Hobb's house in Wells, Maine where they were hosted for the first couple of days. (Left to Right) Greg, Tom, Josephine, Joanna, Team Leader Tom and GSE Chair Karen Wendell



The GSE Team and a few guests were treated to a gourmet meal at the hands of Rotarian Billy Hobbs. What a wonderfully prepared meal we enjoyed



Dinner with the Poland team and a traditional vodka toast with a little wine to wash it down



A Group photo before dinner, the GSE Team, Foundation Chair PDG Peter Johnson, Karen and husband Doyle, First Lady Penny and DG Brad



The first presentation to a club was at the Rotary Club of Hampton. Craig Kelleher (second from left) is the area coordinator for the seacoast and DG Brad (on the far right)



Our GSE Outbound Team poses in Poland at the little mermaid statue, a symbol of Warsaw
Team leader Carolyn Johnson with team members
Emily Mack, Jeff McLean and Kate Morkeski

Both teams will be our guests at the District Conference, as well as our Youth Exchange students from Germany, Argentina and Turkey and several outbound students. This is a wonderful opportunity for all of

you to see them up close and personal. Listen to their inspiring and emotional stories of their exchanges and learn how all of us in District 7780 have truly made their dreams real this Rotary year.

Our first District wide 4-way test essay and speech contest was held on Wednesday, May 13th – thank you, President Janet and the South Portland-Cape Elizabeth Rotary Club for hosting the event. Rotarians, families and visiting guests were treated to outstanding performances from all of the contestants and we were thoroughly impressed with their speeches, their presentation and demeanor. They all expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to deliver their speech to such a mature and respected audience. You will hear the winner of the 4-way test essay and speech contest, Jenny Sharp, a sophomore from North Yarmouth Academy sponsored by the Rotary Club of Yarmouth recite her essay to all of the attendees at the conference – you will not want to miss her speech!



The Rotary Club of Yarmouth sponsors Jenny Sharp, sophomore from the North Yarmouth Academy, who wins the first District 7780 4-Way Test contest



Portsmouth Rotary Club President Janice Wood-Contarino welcomes Rotary district 7890 to Portsmouth, NH where they held their District Conference in April

We have a wonderful program planned for our own end of year celebration – inspiring and motivating speakers, panel discussions at plenary sessions, entertainment, a House of Friendship filled with club and district displays, wrap-a-smile coloring station, a club project interactive world map, our silent auction filled with wonderful items to bid on, thanks to all the clubs in our district for their generous donations and a venue of spectacular, breathtaking views and amenities that you and your family will not want to miss.

It's not too late to register and join us at our end of year conference at the Samoset Resort in Rockport, Maine as we celebrate "Making Dreams Real" in District 7780 on June 5th, 6th and 7th.

Rotary regards,

DG Brad

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

District Conference

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

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

International Convention

June 21st – 24th, 2009

Birmingham, England

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

District Changeover Dinner

June 30th, 2009

Holiday Inn By the Bay

Portland, ME

District Assembly April 7th

“HATS”

A record crowd of over two hundred District Rotarians registered for the District Assembly for the 2009-2010 year. District Governor Elect Jeff Pelkey introduced Rotary International 2009-2010 President John Kenny's Theme and message. As sometimes happens messages tend to unintentionally reinforce themselves. This year the common denominator was “hats”.



A terrific turnout -a very full hall



DG Brad encouraged everyone to get their registrations in for the District Conference





DGE Jeff worked the crowd pressing Membership Diversity



Hats appeared to illustrate his point

DGE Jeff kicked off the trend by as he emphasized the need for diversity in membership – the crowd sprouted cowboy hats, top hats, and a crown (and a bola – but that is a different story –ask PDGx2 Marie!). Elias Thomas followed up with his NID hat as he stressed the effort need to eradicate polio and 200 million dollar challenge We finished with a strong membership retention message from the “Blues Brothers” who also shared head wear with various spokes-people, including PDG’s Liz and Elias, and DG Brad. David Clifton, PDG of District 7950, and the District 7950 Membership Chair Dietrich Bilger made the trip north from Massachusetts to give us a colorful and different twist to membership. (Despite the “Title” they refrained from putting the message to music).



PDG Elias sported proudly his NID cap as he stressed the importance of the campaign to eradicate polio



The "Blues Brothers" got a lot of mileage out of the red station as they followed up on the membership message, here DG Brad joins the talk



PDG of District 7950, Rotary Club of Sharon MA David Clifton and his friend Dietrich Bilger, Assistant Governor of District 7950, from the Rotary Club of Scituate MA hammed it up as the "Blues Brothers" while conveying the Membership message.

If you get a chance to attend a fund raising talk with DGND Gary and his wife Judy Speers do not pass it up. Judy illustrated their "Decadent Dessert" Fun Fund Raiser talk with two different delectable and decidedly decadent cakes, sending attendees away with smiles and happy taste buds.

The very large gathering filled the York County Community College. Tables were prepared with white and blue table clothes and adorned with spring flowers by Kittery Rotarian Joyce Verville. After the Assembly attendees took home the flowers for a donation, the funds received will go toward the YCCC Library fund

Update on Matching Grants from The Rotary Foundation

Rotary Foundation Matching Grants help Rotary clubs fund humanitarian projects throughout the world. In 2008-09, nine District 7780 clubs committed \$37,815 toward Matching Grants to help support humanitarian projects in developing nations, and thanks to financial matches from the District and The Rotary Foundation, this investment resulted in a whopping \$236,700 going to sanitation, literacy, and health projects in Ghana, Uganda, India, Dominican Republic and Poland. Good for us!

In fiscal 2009-10, the financial match "rules" from both the District and The Rotary Foundation remain the same. (The District will match D-7780 club donations dollar-for-dollar up to \$5000; the Rotary Foundation will match District contributions dollar-for-dollar and club donations 50 cent to the dollar.)

However, due to the downturn in the market, the amount of matching funds available from The Rotary Foundation will be drastically reduced. Therefore, it is imperative that your Matching Grant application be filed as early in the fiscal year as possible! For more information about the match, the funds available, or just how Matching Grants work, please contact Marty Peak Helman, district grants coordinator, grants@walterfoundation.org.



This boy has school books and a pencil thanks to Guatemala Literacy Project

Club News

Rotary Club of Bath

President Annie throws 90th Birthday Party!!!!



Annie & Wilt



Annie, Al, and Mary

Rotary Club of Bath Celebrates it's 90th Birthday Party 1919-2009 at the Kennebec Tavern May 5th. One club is older in the district, The Portland Rotary Club started 4 years earlier in 1915.



Charles & Trippi



PDG Joe Hahn & Mike Todd



Mark & Lee



Mert Ustas & Sandra Drake

We had 5 clubs represented at the party. Guests from Brunswick, Boothbay, Damariscotta-Newcastle, Bath Sunrise & Bath. Also, the clubs exchange student from Turkey, Mert Ustas was there as well as William Shuttleworth the superintendent from RSU1.
Over 60 people attended



Trippi, Annie & Mike

Mike, Annie & William



Will Neilsen & Bill King



City of South Portland Commissions Portable Speed Bumps Donated
 By **The Rotary Club of Breakwater Daybreak**, South Portland – Cape Elizabeth
 May 4, 2009 – City Manager Jim Gailey thanked the Rotary Club of Breakwater Daybreak for donating two portable speed bumps. The speed bumps were commissioned today on Scamman Street after resident Keri Henriksen contacted the Police Department and City Hall expressing concern for the safety of her two young children and their friends in the neighborhood. Rotary Club President Jim Price responded that these speed bumps are a tangible demonstration of our commitment to improving safety for children.

The **Bridgton-Lake Region Rotary Club** is having a Golf Tournament on May 30th at The Highlands Golf Course in Bridgton to raise funds for polio eradication.



We had a Tax Relief Dance on April 18th which was a huge success. Attendees learned the "Lindy Hop" and it was very well attended. Here are some photos from the evening.





In the late 1980's, the **Rotary Club of Durham-Great Bay** was the first organization to approach the NH State Highway department with the idea of roadside trash pick-up. On Saturday, May 2nd, DGB Rotary continued its tradition of a semi-annual day dedicated to cleaning local highways. This year, we were joined by enthusiastic members of UNH's Rotaract Club. Over 73 bags of trash were collected in about 6 miles of roads in Newmarket and Durham. Some observations: Budweiser was the beer of choice this winter, it was a bad year for deer crossings, snakes like to hide under cardboard (the Rotaract girl who discovered this shook it off and continued), styrofoam cups and plastic bags are a nuisance.



Durham-Great Bay advisor to Rotaract Ron Rodgers (L), with Rotaract members and President Ryan Sylvia (R)



Durham-Great Bay Club Members taking a break

The Rotary Club of Hampton continues to be industrious in 2008-2009. On April 18, we held our semi-annual roadside clean-up. Twice per year, club members get together to clean Atlantic Avenue which leads to the beach in North Hampton. The 23 bags of "stuff!" that we pick up always amazes us!

On April 24th, we assisted the American Red Cross in our last blood drive of the year. 5 members per shift on 3 shifts assist with donor registrations, donor setups, and serving hot dogs, cookies, and drinks to the blood donors.

On April 25th, we held our 18th annual 5K Road Race. We have moved the date of this event from September to April, which made achieving its usual results a challenge, but it happened to be the most beautiful day of the spring, so far, and working and running along the beach felt great. A fun time was had by all.

Lastly, along with Governor Brad and First Lady Penny, the Hampton Club looks forward to being the host club at this year's District Conference. It will be our first time. We currently have 29 club members and guests signed up to attend and we look forward to carrying our phenomenal club spirit up to the Samoset. See you there!



Members of the Hampton Club prepare to clean up a roadside headed to North Hampton Beach after a long winter.



Hampton Club members assist in their last Blood Drive of the year.



An early morning set up crew gets the Annual 5K Race participants off and running.



Governor Brad will go out of his way to try and introduce a new member to Rotary!!

The **Rotary Club of Kittery** proudly brought more than two thirds of its membership to the District Assembly. Many members were attending their first District Assembly, even though a family emergency and over-riding work requirements respectively prevented our President and President-elect from being able to attend, the Club had a great turn out to see club member DGE Jeff host his Assembly for the 2009-2010 year. All the other officers and chairs attended along with the majority of our members.



PP Frank Clark, "Obie" O'Brien, Club Treasurer Bill Cutts, Dee Bickmore, and PR Chair Pat Holmes chat before the opening ceremonies.

Rotary Club of Newburyport

Photos of our Chefs Night and the recipients of Paul Harris Fellows

This was a special night as all of the recipients were unaware that this distinction was happening .



Dan Appleton gave his wife Sandy the award



Scott Eaton gave his Father Richie Eaton the award and Richie was truly touched



Gerry Hirsch gave his Dad Al the award which was also special as Al is a fellow Rotarian .

The Rotary Club of Ogunquit



Rotary Club of Ogunquit poses for a picture outside their new meeting place, the Beach House Grill in Ogunquit.



Mary Haines is crowned as 'Queen' (Queen Mary!?) during one of the inspiring talks at the District Assembly recently, given by District Governor Elect Jeff Pelkey. Jeff was emphasizing his point of gathering different people with different ideas for projects in the upcoming Rotary year.



Some of the Revolutionary characters seen about Ogunquit Town on Patriots Day weekend were, (above l to r) 'Commanding Gen. Cogswell' (Gordy) Lewis, Musician Pvt. Peter Woodbury, 'Edmund' (Richard) Littlefield and Recruiting Sgt. George Wilson, all Ogunquit Rotarians and 2 new recruits (front and center).



A pair of smug-looking 'jailers,' Rotarians Paul Breen (l) and Denis Latulippe (r) who have captured a young 'victim' and place her in the stocks at Rotary Park in Perkins Cove in Ogunquit during Patriots Day Weekend

. (Pres. Tracy Smith photos).

The Rotary Club of Rochester



These 5 members were inducted into Rochester Rotary at their Club Assembly on April 20, 2009. L.toR. Peter Terkow, Fred Holdsworth, Matt Beaulieu, Club President Gerry Bisailon, Anthony Ejarque, and Christine Popek.



Newest member Dr. Thom Moon is shown being pinned by his wife Sarah at Rochester Rotary's weekly meeting on May 4th Looking on is Thom's sponsor, Dan Auger.



Rochester Rotary's return speaker, Murph Henderson is shown with charter member Fred Hall on May 4,2009. Murph is a history buff and spoke on World War II, of which Fred was a part of with the invading force in Normandy on D-Day

Topsham Express Rotary Bowls For Kids Sake

Members of the **Rotary Club of Topsham Expresso** joined other community members recently in

supporting the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bath Brunswick by participating in their annual Bowl For Kids Sake. In addition to gathering individual contributions for this fundraiser, the Rotary Club was a proud sponsor of the event. In all, the Club raised approximately \$500 to support mentoring in the Topsham community.

The Rotary Club of Topsham Expresso has supported BBBS as a partner in the school base mentoring program at Mt. Ararat Middle School in Topsham. Several Rotarians mentor kiddos on a weekly basis. In addition, several other Club members serve on the BBBS of Bath Brunswick Board of Directors.



Pictured at this year's event: L to R, Kerri Prescott, President Joel Merry, and Past President Janine Thompson.

Cancer Care Center of York County, Healing Garden: *A Project of the Sanford-Springvale Rotary Club*

On a pleasant Monday evening in late April nine Rotarians met at the York County Cancer Care Center in Sanford to continue work on a project that began last summer, creating a Healing Garden for cancer patients and their caregivers. The purpose of the garden is to provide a soothing, restorative place to walk, pray, meditate, and nourish the spirit of those having to deal with cancer and its treatment.

Last year our Club applied for and received a \$1,500 District Simplified Grant, which we match with \$1,500 in Club funds, and a crew of Club volunteers cut down the excess trees on the site and chipped them. During the winter, our Master Gardener volunteer developed a more detailed site plan and constructed a scale model.

We made arrangements for local vocational technical school students to build a pergola for the entrance to the garden. The latest work party was to deal with trees and branches brought down by last winter's ice storm and to finish cleaning up brush and logs left from last year. The next step will be laying out the pathways and seating areas for five benches, excavating, and laying stone dust. Our Master Gardener has been consulting with a local nursery about native shrubs for the site. Thus project has really motivated Club members to roll up their sleeves and get to work!



Membership Thoughts From the Chair

District Governor Brad has asked that we have a Membership Table at the District Conference. One of the items I want to have available is a Membership Questionnaire provided in one of the Rotary International Club Resource Guides. At this time of year all club's 2009-2010 Boards should be starting to plan their year to insure July will start with a plan of action in place. This is a good time to find out what your members care about. Do not just plan to continue as you have been unless you are confident that your members are well satisfied and there are no new great ideas out there.

I also invite all our clubs to bring any good programs or ideas on Membership and to display them on the District Membership Table to share them with others. District events are always excellent times to gather new ideas and to share the wealth of experience in our District

Keeping your programs fresh keeps members interested and involved; come find out what others are doing and get motivated to try something new. We hope to see a large turnout of our District at the Samoset!

Dave Gooch
District Membership Chair

A reminder from your newsletter editor ~ the District uses Club Wizard. I have been loading the Newsletter into the Club Wizard newsletter format instead of attaching it as a file so you do not have to download the entire file to your computer to read it (given the number of pictures that takes some space). The Club Wizard program does not upload pictures with text, they have to be loaded separately as a jpeg file. I take all of your written input, place it in a draft word file and then copy the word file to the web site ; then upload the pictures separately. If you inbed the picture in text I have to copy the file, print it, scan and crop the picture to a jpeg format, and then upload that separately, clarity suffers in the process.

Please, if at all feasible send two files, one WORD text, one jpeg. Include your Club name in the text or I end up with forty plus files all called "newsletter"(I caught on to that early and have been trying to recognize and rename them when I get them (such as "kitteryMay09) ;-)

Thanks
Dave
Editor

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