



ROTARY DISTRICT 7780 NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2008



GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Dear 7780 Rotarians,

Another month has slipped away and Penny & I have journeyed through the district visiting another seventeen clubs, including Rumford, the Fryeburg Area, Dover, Saco Bay, Exeter, Somersworth, Durham-Great Bay, Casco Bay Sunrise, Portland, Yarmouth, Rochester, Scarborough, Bridgton-Lake Region, Falmouth, Westbrook-Gorham, Oxford Hills, and Biddeford Saco. We have enjoyed visiting your clubs and sharing in your traditional weekly club meeting, presenting Paul Harris Fellows, inducting new members, – we have listened to your club humorists, your “Rotary Minute” speakers and have thoroughly enjoyed each and every one. We have appreciated your warm hospitality, you have even opened your homes to us and have made us feel like we are at home – yes, we have been treated to lobster (cooked in raised beds with seaweed and boiled eggs, you have indulged us with salmon and oysters, homemade ice cream of assorted flavors, and lasagna, cheeseburgers, grilled kabobs, corn on the cob, wines and crackers & cheese, pates, pies, soups & salads of every creation and even the most tastiest bear and venison roast that we have ever had the pleasure of consuming. You have made us feel very special, when you have shared your clubs, your homes, your food, your board meetings, membership orientations, your conversation and so much more. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to get to know you just a little bit better these past thirty days. We applaud your kindness, your warm fellowship, and the privilege of having you all as Rotary friends. You are dedicated, professional and determined Rotarians in making your communities and those around the world a better place to live!

We will “*Make Dreams Real*” together!

DG Brad

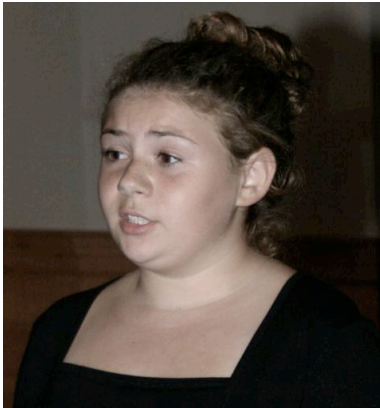
BOOTHBAY HARBOR

How One Club Has Responded to 9/11

"What if," former Boothbay Harbor Rotarian Bob Walter asked, "what if we lost a local first responder in the line of duty, and that tragedy was heightened when we realized that we had never said thank you to that professional for always working to keep us safe?"

Out of that concern grew the Boothbay Region's annual Hometown Heroes banquet and awards ceremony, which takes place every year in September and is cosponsored by the Rotary Club and the Spruce Point Inn resort.

On that special evening, all of the Boothbay Region's first responder and emergency personnel – fire, police, communications, ambulance, Coast Guard -- are feted for their day-to-day work throughout the year. Because honorary Rotarian **Angelo diGiulian** of the Spruce Point Inn "comps" the room, food and labor each year, all proceeds from the dinner go into a special fund that the Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club manages and which the chiefs can tap for special, unbudgeted needs.



Rotarian daughter **Ashley diGiulian** traditionally starts the Hometown Heroes festivities off with her full-throated rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner"



Master of ceremonies Rotarian **Daren Graves** (at right) presents much-deserved awards to our neighbors who are there for us each and every day.

BREAKWATER DAYBREAK

The Rotary Club of Breakwater Daybreak, South Portland-Cape Elizabeth, recently served food to the public at two different events in South Portland on the same day!

The first event was the annual 'Art in the Park,' which was a fun day for families and children. Artists from NE states and beyond showed and sold their work. The second event was the first Maine All Women's Triathlon, 'Tri for a Cure,' which was staged at the Southern Maine Community College Campus at Spring Point, and raised over \$220,000 for the Maine Cancer Foundation to benefit cancer research and patient support programs. A number of the participating athletes were cancer survivors or had experienced cancer with a family member.

The Rotary Club of Breakwater Daybreak shared the work for these two fundraisers with Rotarians from the Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth and with Interact students from South Portland High School.

The Club hit a record for the amount it had ever earned in a single day, and learned many lessons from both events. We expect to work with the SP-CE Rotary Club and the South Portland Interact Club again on future projects.

Travels With the Governor

District Governor Brad and his wife Penny are continuing their Official Visits to each of the clubs in the District. Here is the latest installment of their travel pictures.

DG Brad visits his sister Deb at her home club of Oxford Hills



President Jerry Reese, DG Brad and AG Dave Dubois pose for a quick picture at the Dover Rotary Club

President John Griffith of the Oxford Hills club presents Paul Harris Fellows to two non-Rotarians, Midge Leighton and Gloria Sawyer (not shown) for their endless contributions to their club, their church and their community.



Members of the Oxford Hills club enjoy fellowship on the eve of the district Governor's visit.

Travels With the Governor (cont.)

More time on the road with DG Brad and First Lady Penny.



District Governor Brad presents Judith Reidman of the Westbrook-Gorham Club with a Paul Harris Fellow.



Assistant governor Shirley Mooers, President Karen Wright of the Falmouth Rotary Club and District Governor Brad Jett take a moment to pose for the camera after the Governor's official visit.



District Governor Brad and President Frank Gooding of the Biddeford – Saco Club award multiple Paul Harris Fellows to Roland Gagne and Phil Denison



First Lady Penny, President Sheila of the Bridgton – Lake Region Club, DG Brad and AG Patty after the Governor's official visit.

BRIDGTON - LAKES REGION



The Bridgton-Lake Region Club recently held a Sunset Wine Cruise. Approximately 150 people were on board, helping to make the event a financial success.

Governor Brad was on hand to induct in the two newest members of the Bridgton-Lake Region Club. Pictured left to right are sponsor Faye Daley with Mody Boteos, sponsor Edna Fadden with Kristine Karlsson, President Sheila Rollins and Governor Brad.



President Shelia Rollins is busy serving up her home made ice cream to Bridgton - Lake Region members and DG Brad at their social the evening before the Official Visit.

DAMARISCOTTA - NEWCASTLE

The Rotary Club of Damariscotta-Newcastle truly went to the dogs this summer! A record 59 canines of all sizes and heritages competed in the Family Fun Dog Show as part of the "Woofstock 2008" Fundraiser.

Over 200 furry friends took part in the day of doggy performance demonstrations and educational exhibits before an estimated crowd of 1000 under the big top tents at the Lincoln Home in Newcastle Maine. Among the Family Fun categories were prizes for best "Canine Kisser" and "Best of Show" won by a very talented pup rescued from a shelter just hours before being put down! Talk about "Making Dreams Real"!



Damariscotta-Newcastle Rotary Master of Ceremonies Jim Cosgrove (PP) presides over the Family Fun Dog Show Competition.

DURHAM - GREAT BAY

NH Disaster Relief Fund

The Rotary Club of Durham-Great Bay helped the Durham Marketplace celebrate their anniversary on August 22 while holding a mid-day cookout to benefit victims of recent natural disasters. Hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad and drinks were eagerly consumed by townspeople and early returning University students alike. This is a festive affair that has grown each year. This year's efforts grossed \$1,683 for the NH Disaster Relief Fund, which was established by the State of NH to help victims of last month's tornadoes.

Workday at Camp Sunshine

Five members of the Rotary Club of Durham-Great Bay recently went to Camp Sunshine in Casco, Me for a club work project. Members included Bill Drapeau (Camp Sunshine Board member), his brother-in-law Frank Healey, Ric Erickson, Jud Porter, Henry Brackett and Richard Whitney.

Five members of the Rotary Club of Durham-Great Bay recently went to Camp Sunshine in Casco, Me for a club work project. Members included Bill Drapeau (Camp Sunshine Board member), his brother-in-law Frank Healey, Ric Erickson, Jud Porter, Henry Brackett and Richard Whitney.

Camp Sunshine is a retreat for children with life-threatening illness and their families. There is no cost for the families to attend.

The Rotary team spent all day at the Camp Sunshine challenge course feeding a wood chipper with 3-4 years of accumulated brush. Ric Erickson, who had participated in the District 7780 September 1997 Camp Sunshine construction weekend, said, "I've never seen so many piles of brush."

Despite numerous scratches and bruises, all of the team members agreed that Camp Sunshine is 'magic' and said they wanted to return. If any club is interested in volunteering its services at this wonderful facility, please contact Camp Sunshine directly or contact Durham-Great Bay Rotary Club.

Rotary Around the World

GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE



"I wanted to have an in-depth cultural experience. I had been to other countries but only for a short time and in hotels – GSE host families were a wonderful way to really experience the culture. Yes, the exchange met my expectations (and then some)."

"My reasons for participating were to step out of my cultural comfort zone, have an adventure, and learn about a new culture. I had never thought to travel to the Philippines and never would have had the opportunity to without a program like GSE. I have travelled in the past, but never had such a wonderful opportunity to be so immersed in a different culture. Rotary provided the structure, support, contacts and security for me to spend a month getting to know a culture that is the most different from my own culture. . . I feel the GSE program lives up to its mission to improve the world "one person at a time" – Thank you!"

These are just a few comments from the participants in last year's Group Study Exchange to the Philippines. The GSE Team spent four weeks in Manila, living with host families and learning about the Filipino culture. Most importantly, the Team also learned about their own professions through the vocational days organized by the Rotary clubs in Manila.

This year, the GSE program will be sending a group of young professionals, led by a Rotarian Team Leader, to Poland. Our GSE Team will be hosted by District 2230, which spans the countries of Poland, Ukraine and Belarus. This District is only ten years old and is the first Rotary District in the world created in a post-communist environment. The exchange is slated to take place in May of 2009.

Prior GSE teams traveled all over Poland, from Krakow to Gdansk to the Baltic coast and saw cities, castles and cathedrals over 1,000 years old. This year's exchange promises to be just as exciting and we are now accepting applications for Team Leader and Team Members.

Team Leaders should be experienced Rotarians in good standing and able to lead the Team for the 4 to 6 week period. Team Members should be non-Rotarian young professionals, ages 25 to 40, currently employed and U.S. citizens. Costs for the trip are minimal as The Rotary Foundation pays for the airfare and the host Rotary clubs provide food, lodging, and in-country travel. Members of the GSE team are responsible for their own incidental expenses, such as souvenirs, etc.

For more information, follow this link to the District website:

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

or contact Karen Wendell, GSE Chair, at karen.wendell@comcast.net or at (603) 427-0200.

EXETER

EXETER ROTARY SUPPORTS LOCAL TEENS

Working for peace and mutual understanding at local camps for diversity.

“When do we go kayaking?” “Can we splash each other when in swimming?” “Do we get to use real bows and arrows for archery?” Twenty-eight local middle and high school-age American, refugee and immigrant classmates from 18 different cultures from Africa, Asia and North America asked these questions and many others as they spent an August weekend together at YMCA Camp Lincoln in Kingston, New Hampshire.

They were there to form cross-cultural friendships at a camp pilot called “Friendship: The Route to Peace”. The project was initiated by Exeter Rotarian Marilyn Fellows Kellogg and assisted by The Southern District YMCA and the Exeter and Manchester Rotary Clubs.



Activities as diverse as Tae Kwon Do and African drumming were led by different campers as a way to share their cultures. Campers prepared a broad range of cultural meals that included Korean and Puerto Rican-Ecuadorian breakfasts, an Albanian-Bosnian lunch and a supper of several African countries. Various activities represented the campers' countries of origin as they taught each other their cultural customs, traditions, songs and music. Swimming, kayaking, archery, a ropes course, soccer, basketball and other more traditional camp activities were also popular.



Each cabin had a trained pair of counselors, one American and one refugee, immigrant or international, who guided their campers in ways to form new friendships across cultures and gain greater inter-cultural understandings through open, frank dialogs and role modeling.

Campers were sad to leave and are making plans to return next year. Several counselors called it “a life-altering experience” and all of them plan to return next summer.

More information and photos can be seen online at <http://campsfordiversity.multiply.com/>



FRYEBURG



Governor Brad explains how the Foundation works at a social event with the Fryeburg Area Club the night before his official visit.



Bob Mallon and President Sarah MacGillivray of the Fryeburg Area Club model their new Rotary shirts.

HAMPTON

The Rotary Club of Hampton, NH has just completed two of its four major fundraisers that are held in the months of September and October. In early September, we held our 5K road race which helps to grow our scholarship fund. Also on that weekend, we assisted the Hampton Chamber of Commerce at the Seafood Festival and weathered the remnants of Hurricane Hannah. Both events were very successful for the club's charitable accounts. We look forward to our golf tournament, assisting at a Games of Chance event, and a visit from the District Governor in October.



Paul Bourbeau, Director of the Hampton Rotary 5K fund raiser officially starts the race.



A lively group of Hampton Rotarians arrives early at the Seafood Festival site on Sunday morning to cleanup after Hurricane Hannah!

More Travels With the DG

District Governor Brad, President Mae Bradshaw of the Exeter club (wearing her Rotary colors) and Assistant Governor John Pappas smile for the photographer.



Penny Jett, President Russ Burleigh, DG Brad and PDG Bob Patten at the Portland Rotary Club.

DG Brad presents Lisa Stanley, Jerry Waldron and Claire Bisailon with multiple Paul Harris Fellows at the Rochester club.



SPEAKING OF GRANTS...

VSG Grants

Q: What do audiologist (and Portland Rotarian) Roger Fagan and clinical social worker (and Brunswick Coastal Rotarian) Mary Tennant have in common?

A: They have both traveled on multiple **Volunteer Service Grants**, using their vocational skills to provide needed services in developing countries!

Each year for the past few years, a handful of enterprising D-7780 Rotarians have successfully applied for Rotary Foundation Volunteer Service Grants. The grants offer a stipend to help cover air fare and board & room, making it all the more possible for Rotarians to travel to provide needed services half-way around the globe.

Volunteer Service Grants are open to all Rotarians, and they can be used for either direct service or to plan a future service project, as described here:

Direct Service: The VSG applicant must be able to provide a humanitarian service that directly benefits a specific community and that host country Rotarians are unable to provide. *Example: provide medical/dental services to people in need or instruct teachers (train the trainer) in new methods or skills.*

Project Planning: The VSG applicant must be traveling to plan a specific humanitarian project for future implementation by the Rotary sponsors. *Example: plan a new international humanitarian project OR the next phase of an existing project.*

If you think one of these grants is for you, go to the District website, click on "Foundation Grants," and scroll down to the "Volunteer Service" page to learn more. Then talk to District grants coordinator Marty Peak Helman (grants@walterfoundation.org) or Mary Tennant (maryetennant@verizon.net) about whether a Volunteer Service Grant can help you carry out your mission of service above self!

Humanitarian Matching Grants

This year our District has roughly \$100,000 in Foundation monies available to distribute toward Rotary Foundation projects. (For our newer readers, the \$100,000 is a direct result – 50%-of the total contributions made to the Rotary Foundation by each of us by individual members and individual clubs three years ago.) The more money we give, the more we have to spend!

Of that total, the Foundation Committee (**council of Governors? Who?**) has committed \$15,000 to support Rotary's polio efforts, Ambassadorial Scholars from low-income countries, and World Peace Scholarships.

Another \$20,000 has just been awarded to 16 clubs via District Simplified Grants.

That leaves \$65,000 to apply toward humanitarian Matching Grants supported by clubs in this District. The Foundation Committee is set to match D-7780 club funds up to \$5000 per grant, which means the District can fund 13 (or maybe even more) grants this fiscal year. As we publish this newsletter, only two such grant requests have been approved at the District level, although a half-dozen more are in the hopper.

Congratulations to the Portland and Sanford clubs on their projects, and to the other clubs on their applications, and please take note: There is more money to be spent! This is your notice to all 7780 clubs to take advantage of this opportunity and apply to fund that project that has been lingering in your club's plans! Gov. Brad's goal is to end this Rotary year with a balance of \$0 in unspent Foundation monies, but the District can't support the projects until you come up with them.

Questions?

Contact Marty Peak Helman (District Grants Coordinator, grants@walterfoundation.org; or Peter Johnson (District Foundation Chair), peter.johnson@ubs.com.

OXFORD HILLS

The Oxford Hills Rotary Club had a busy August. On the 16th, we held our annual Lobster and Clam Bake. It was very successful as we sold out – 450 lobsters, 6 bushels of clams and an untold number of french fries and corn on the cob. Although this requires a lot of planning and two full days of work, it is our second largest fund raising event. A lot of people in the community look forward to it every year.



On Sunday, August 17th, we held a 'road toll' to raise money for Polio Plus. In the course of about 3 ½ hours, we raised almost \$1,500! The toll was not intrusive. People had the option to pass by or stop and contribute if they wanted. Almost everyone was supportive. In fact, one woman who did not have any money on her when she drove by, went home and returned with a contribution.



On August 26th, we held a social at Paul & Dawne Thornfeldt's house for Governor Brad and his wife, Penny. We had several pans of lasagna, salads and desserts. The weather cooperated and we had a great time.



The next morning, Governor Brad and Penny made their official visit. With the assistance of Governor Brad, it was with great pleasure that we presented Marilyn 'Midge' Leighton and her sister, Gloria Sawyer, with Paul Harris Fellow awards. Midge and Gloria have been helping to cook our breakfast every Wednesday for the last 13 years, but that is only a small part of what they do and have done in our community for many years and we wanted to recognize them.

PORTSMOUTH



Tais (Tah) Cunha, our newly arrived foreign exchange student from Brazil, is shown with our Youth Exchange Chairperson, Rick Page. Tah arrived in the middle of August and this was her first visit to her American Rotary Club. She will be staying the full school year, living with two local host families, and attending Portsmouth High School.



Past President Neal Ouellet and Crossroads House Director, Chris Sterndale. Our Club presented a check for \$25,000 to the Crossroads House Shelter to help fund an addition to the Shelter. It is an extremely worthy organization and exemplifies the true humanitarian spirit of Rotary.

ROCHESTER

ROCHESTER ROTARY "BACK TO SCHOOL CLOTHING GIVE-AWAY"

Past President Lisa Stanley gives the okay to open the doors to the public for the first ever "Back to School Clothing Give-a-Way" that was held at the Rochester Community Center on August 23, 2008. Lisa initiated this event, which was a huge success.



Some people waited in line for over 2 hours to be admitted for free clothing, shoe vouchers, backpacks, and school supplies. There was a (1) large bag limit per person, excluding outerwear, and over 1,000 bags were given out. Well over 200 families were served, involving over 500 children. Many Rotarians helped. The first hour was for foster families only. The rest of the day was open to the general public. It was a great feeling to see so many needy families excited about this opportunity. Rochester Rotary hopes to do something similar next year.

REACH OUT TO AFRICA



Following the RI International Convention in June, Ann Lee Hussey, DGN (2010-2011) was invited by President Wilfrid Wilkenson and President-elect D.K. Lee of Rotary International to serve as a Functional Coordinator for Health Initiatives of the Reach Out to Africa Service Associates Subcommittee for a term commencing July 1, 2008 and ending on June 30, 2010. Ann Lee was selected for this appointment because of her experience and knowledge of Rotary and its programs.

The terms of reference for this committee are to enhance Rotary in Africa with an emphasis on service project development, needs assessments, “hands-on” participation, partnerships with Rotary clubs in other countries, utilization of RI and TRF resources, and involvement in youth programs. This committee will work during three Rotary years, under the leadership of three RI Presidents, led by an Executive Committee that will report to the Board and guide the activities of five subcommittees: Eastern Africa, Western Africa, Northern Africa, Southern Africa and Partner Countries. It is the hope of all that this joint effort by the leadership to focus attention on Rotary in Africa will provide unprecedented opportunities for continuity. During Ann Lee’s term, she is being asked to also support the membership goals of the 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 Rotary years. While the role of the Reach Out to Africa committee is an important one, supporting membership is equally important, as Rotary always needs more members to accomplish its goals.

For more information on the Reach Out to Africa initiative please visit www.reachouttoafrika.org. This is a new website still in the preliminary stages and changes will be occurring frequently.

RUMFORD

The Rotary Club of Rumford was delighted to be selected to receive a District Grant of \$2,064 for its winterization project. These funds will greatly enhance the club's ability to assist more people than originally was thought. Patty Duguay did an excellent job in writing the grant for the Club and kudos go out to club Vice President Gary Haines for heading up the project. The project has received excellent media coverage to date, and several other organizations and businesses have indicated their willingness to help, either with financial assistance, materials and/or physical "hands-on" help. The project is on schedule and the funds from the grant are anticipated to arrive well within the timeframe planned for its completion. More news will be issued as the project continues.



Rumford Club members were delighted to host District Governor Brad Jett and his wife Penny. We enjoyed a great time of fellowship and food at the cookout hosted by Tim and Gladys Placey at their home on Worthley Pond. A grand time was had by all who were able to attend. Also with us during his visit was our AG Patty Rice and her husband PDG George. It is always a delight to have these good folks with us.



The Club was honored to donate \$100 to the Foundation in Governor Jett's name as a gift to him.



SAVE THE DATE!!!!!! **Foundation/Membership Seminar**

Saturday, October 25th

York County Community College Wells, Me

\$20.00 per member

Includes continental Breakfast and Lunch

SACO BAY

BON APPETIT

It may take a village to raise a child but it takes a great club like the Rotary Club of Saco Bay to keep feeding those in need. Club President Dan Colby recently presented a check for \$1500 to Bon Appetit Director Jane Maloney, further demonstrating the club's commitment to community service.

Created by Rotarians Con and Pam Crepeau over 25 years ago, Bon Appetit in Biddeford, Maine has fed thousands of hungry citizens from a number of locations throughout the years. In recent years, the program has returned to its original location at the Second Congressional Church. For years the club has not only supported the soup kitchen financially but has also committed to a day of service every second Friday of each month. It is not uncommon to see Rotarian, Interact and Rotaract members and all their guests there to volunteer in cooking, serving and cleaning-up.

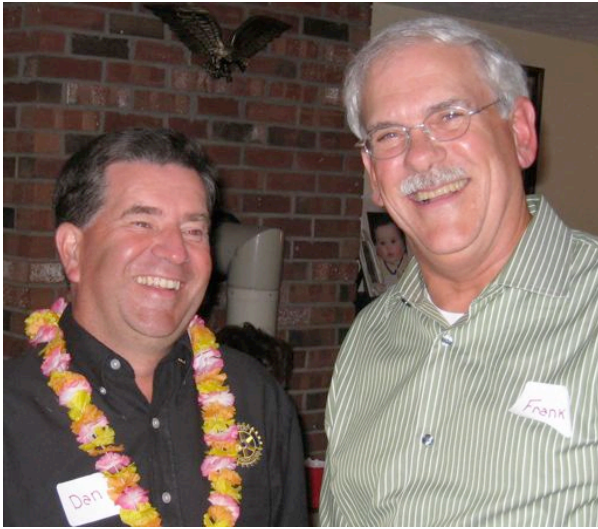


Outgoing Bon Appetit Director Jane Maloney accepts a check from Club President Dan Colby.

Reminiscing about his years of involvement, longtime Rotarian, David Green noted that "if it were not for Roger Coulombe the program would have failed years ago!" David worked with Roger and was impressed with his dedication and passion for the program. Roger, a Rotarian at heart, worked tirelessly with local church and community leaders to fund and organize the program for over 10 years until his death. He was so successful with the program that, for a number of years, Roger was often asked to speak at campaign time for the United Way of York County.

Carrying on the tradition of service, present chairman Ed Bouchard inspires other Rotarians like Bob Bouchard (no relation) to cook for the program on a regular basis, feeding groups from 30 - 100 and inspiring countless others to serve their less fortunate neighbors. The Rotary Club of Saco Bay is proud to continue its support, both financially and in service, and will continue to do so in Roger's honor.

Still More Travels With the DG



LEFT: President Dan Colby and AG Frank Butterworth enjoy fellowship at the Saco Bay club's social the evening prior to the DG's visit.



RIGHT: Dennis Robillard of the Saco Bay club wasn't going to let a little rain stop him from preparing the most scrumptious kabobs for the District governor's visit.



ABOVE: The Saco Bay rotary Club takes their annual lobster bake very seriously – waking up at the crack of dawn to start the needed preparations and an ongoing vigil by many members throughout the day.

President Dan of the Saco Bay club assured Governor Brad that there would be a Rotary sign on the side of the road where he needed to turn..... He wasn't kidding!



SACO BAY

At a recent visit to the Rotary Club of Saco Bay, Governor and Penny Jett were asked by Dru Laduke to accept a \$650 check on behalf of the Philippine District 3780 Rotaract club's Nutrition Program and complete one chapter in what hopes to be a long story. The ambassadorial idea was born from the recent GSE team visit in May 2008 and a chance meeting with RI Representatives George and Carol Chafey at last year's District Conference, hosted by 2007-2008 District Governor, Liz Cullen.

It all started when Carol Chafey participated in a break-out session on fund raising, where then club President of the Rotary Club of Saco Bay, Deb Cote and Dru Laduke spoke about how they were supporting another club's fund raising goals while promoting their own literacy objectives. Dru told the group that the Fairborn, Ohio Rotary club had a wonderful book for sale titled "Andy and Elmer's Apple Dumpling Adventure" <http://www.andyandelmer.com/> featuring a story using the 4-Way test as its basis. The Saco Bay club presented local school libraries with copies of the Andy and Elmer book and bookmarks to further extend the education of Rotary's 4-Way Test. (and support Fairborn's fund raiser)

RI Representative Chaffey had not heard of the book and was impressed with how the club was using it to promote literacy within their community. He was so taken, he and Carol asked for a copy of the book to take back to their Lamorinda Sunrise club in California. In parting, Mr. Chaffey handed Dru a \$20 bill to pay for the book but as persistent as Dru was that it was not necessary, George insisted on taking the money. "Do something special with this money. Make it grow." he said, as he pressed the bill into Dru's hand. Those words would ring in Dru's ears and would motivate him "Make Dreams Real".



As part of the story, weeks prior to the District Conference the Rotary club of Saco Bay was honored to host the GSE Team from District 3780 Quezon City, Philippines. Philippine Rotarian, Joe Baradi, and his team of "angels" were engaging, outgoing, informative and perfect guests. While attending the District Conference, Dru met Maria "Tet" Atanacio from the GSE Team. She's the Assist to a Councilman in Quezon City and also the Advisor to the Rotaract Club of Timog. As she was sharing with Dru and others, stories of how her club promotes literacy and nutrition, Dru started to hear George's words ringing in his ears. Dru shared with "Tet" of his plan to support her Rotaract club with this special \$20 bill as an act of diplomacy between the two cultures. Just like the infamous whisper "If you build it - they will come" Dru took George's \$20 bill to his Board and asked them to consider supporting the Philippine Rotaract club as a gesture of goodwill and support President DK Lee's initiative to reduce children mortality. The response was overwhelming! After an announcement and a very successful solicitation at one of the club's breakfast meetings, Club President, Dan Colby, designate all "happy dollars" and fines from the month of July 2008 to go toward the Philippine Rotaract's nutrition program.

All this from the simple request to "do something special" with a simple \$20 bill resulted in Brad and Penny accepting a check that will feed hundreds of needy children and continue to spread goodwill throughout the world.



TOPSHAM EXPRESSO

On Monday, August 18, 2008 the Topsham Expresso Rotary Club hosted a meeting with members of the visiting Rotary Club of La Romana, Dominican Republic. The Good Samaritan Hospital in La Romana has been the recipient of Rotarian kindness and efforts over the past 15 years to install a water filtration system, which was a prerequisite to their acquiring a dialysis machine for their hospital and community. This effort was initially sponsored by the Bridgton Rotary Club, and then joined over the years by other Maine Rotary clubs working with La Romana, including Calais, Ogunquit and Topsham Expresso.



La Romana members were hosted throughout Maine and New England as they attended meetings, dinners and gatherings in their honor to celebrate the relationship between their club and the community, and Rotarians from Maine and New England.



Pictured with Topsham Expresso President, Joel Merry, are Moises Sifren, left, hospital administrator from the good Samaritan Hospital in La Romana, and Cecilio De La Rosa, Assistant Governor from the La Romana Rotary, and Rosa Elvia Cruz Robles, a Rotarian from La Romana.



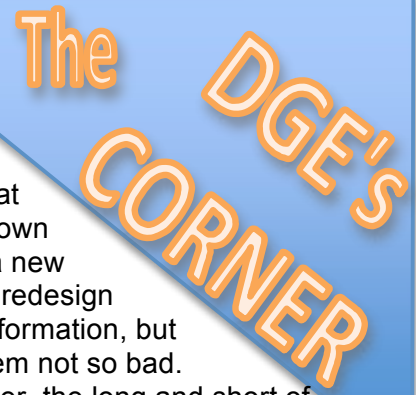
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The DGE'S CORNER

I recently spent a week in Philadelphia, PA, at the Rotary International Zone 31 and 32 Zone Institute, surrounded by current, past, and future District Governors and many other past, present and future Rotary leaders from around the world. It occurred to me as I took in the history of our cradle of democracy, that it was a bittersweet reunion of district, zone and world wide leaders, the last that would wholly include our own current Zone 31. For sadly enough, our own Zone will be fractioned up into pieces and joined with others to make a new Zone 32. Just as the signers of our Constitution met in Philadelphia to redesign our fledgling Nation, we too as an organization are undergoing a transformation, but of a different nature. Now I know that this alone does at face value seem not so bad. Realignment zones and freshening up the mix is not always bad. However, the long and short of it is that this dramatic action is being undertaken because we in North America, and in specific, Zone 31, have lost so many members that it no longer makes sense to have us remain a Zone.

What a sad commentary that such an incredible organization with so much to offer is growing in such leaps and bounds in other countries that their membership is carrying our current membership total at 1.2 million, the same number we had several years ago. Several things that I left with after spending an entire week learning just how incredible an organization we have, is that we still remain the oldest and most effective world wide service organization, that we offer opportunities for individuals to pursue their passions at a level unsurpassed by any other organization, and that in order to remain effective and impact so many people around the world we need to grow. People all over the world are working to make the place we all share a better place to live, some do it all alone and some work with organizations that help further their cause. We as a District here in our own little corner of the earth really do some amazing things for so many around the globe. It's time we share our good work with those around us, help them find their passion and show them how Rotary can become a partner in their cause, by making them members and working together to further all of our commitment to "Make Dreams Real".

Enough of the "what" and "why," and on to the "how." We all know that membership is an important ingredient in a healthy club, and we know how important it is to bring new members in. But let me just for a moment urge you to also look closely at those wonderful members you already have! As important as it is to get new, it is equally important to retain the existing. Challenge your current members, and keep them involved in the club operations and future plans, and don't forget your past presidents. We trained them and they ran our clubs. They are real assets, so now let's keep them moving forward. Our own District Governor Brad has a wonderful Membership Chair in Dave Gooch, who can be contacted at dbgkcg@aol.com. He can help you with all of your membership concerns. Both he and I have wonderful collections of club assessment tools specifically designed to see just how your club is doing.

We also need to let others know the secret we already know about Rotary and the good works we already do. Let's not continue to keep Rotary the world's "Best Kept Secret". District Governor Brad also has a wonderful Public Relations Chair, Lin Maria Riotto, linmaria@prexar.com. She also has some wonderful ideas and resources to help your public relations efforts, and can show you that it really does not take a lot to be very effective!

In closing, all of us can be reached at the above email addresses or by going to the District Web Site. As always, I can be reached at pelkeyfuneral@aol.com or by calling 207.252.3065.

Yours Truly in Rotary Service;

Jeff

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

And Finally.....

Here are the last of Governor Brad's travels for this issue.



PDG Elias Thomas congratulates Mark Gagnon, president of our district's newest chartered club, the South Berwick-Eliot club, at the charter celebration on August 18th. Rotarians from all over the District attended the evening's celebration to support President Mark and all of the charter members.



President Pat Powers of the Yarmouth club prepares an extraordinary meal of wild game cuisine in honor of the Governor's visit, while Carolyn Johnson assists with the finishing touches.

Membership Matters – We Must Act Now!

We must be persistent in reaching out to qualified potential new members to join our Rotary clubs. Everyone in this district should take some time to consider who would be a good candidate for membership and invite that person to your club as your guest. Share the gift of Rotary with friends, neighbors, family, business associates and community leaders. They'll be glad that you did.



Membership sponsor pins (**RI President D.K. Lee's new edition**) are now available to any Rotarian who sponsors a new member inducted into his/her own club. Each and every time you sponsor a new member during the 2008-2009 Rotary year, you receive another pin. **(What a great way to collect spare Rotary Pins!!!)**

The individual Rotarian who sponsors the most new members inducted into his/her club in this Rotary year (**July 1, 2008 through May 31, 2009**) will be **awarded a Paul Harris Fellow at the District Conference** by Governor Brad.

Let's get to work!

Some Final Thoughts on Membership

One of our District Committee members, Rich Cantz, had a great observation. When non-Rotarian guests show up for the first time do we just say hello, or do we put them at ease by explaining what to expect at the start of the meeting? Do we introduce them to others in the room, or do we let them stand in a corner? In our club at the ringing of the bell we say the pledge, give the four way test, have an invocation and a song, and then head out to the breakfast buffet in the next room. A guest is much more at ease if they know what to expect, and when. Remember that the impression at that first meeting makes all the difference in whether they will be interested in coming again, so put them at ease.

Make sure you routinely check our District Website for Membership Tools, and if you have something effective that your club has developed, or that you see in a club you visited, let the Membership Committee know so we can share it with others. I was first introduced to the R.O.A.R concepts by 2006-2007 District Membership Committee Chair (now AG) Wilt Jones. The one page primer on Rotary Membership is in "Membership Tools" on the web site. It's a good item for Club Membership Chairs and Presidents to review and discuss

Have you given thought to your newer members lately? Are they getting involved? Have they been included in event planning? Do not wait too long before checking to make sure they are well integrated. It is far better to have a quiet chat early about how it is going and how they are enjoying the club rather than have it at an exit interview where you find out there were things they did not understand, felt left out of, or felt ignored. Make sure you encourage them to participate in District events. One of the great aspects of Rotary is the commitment and ideas from clubs all over the District (and the world).

October 25th is the joint Foundation and Membership Seminar. Plan on having as many club members attend as possible. This is a great opportunity to share ideas, to take your club to the next level, to broaden the view of your officers and members, and to share your successes with other clubs in the District. The programs are all more valuable with all our clubs, and as many club members, in attendance as practicable.

Dave

Dave Gooch
District Membership Chair 2008-2009