



Rotary International District 7780

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District Governor's Newsletter 2009 -2010 District Governor Jeff Pelkey

District Governor's Message

Meeting the President of Rotary International is a thrilling experience for any District Governor, but I have had the unusual experience of meeting with RI President John Kenny and his wife June no less than five times, and twice within the first three weeks of my year of service!

RI President John and June were recently in Boxborough, MA to help the Rotary Club of Boston celebrate its 100th anniversary and Rotarians from all of New England's districts attended. RI President John gave the key note address and he spoke about the importance of membership, especially here in the Northeast. He urged clubs to consider lowering the age expectation of prospective members and to not be afraid to make the changes necessary for attracting and keeping new younger members.

Then Eileen O'Connell, the President of the Boston Club, spoke and she talked about the challenges her club is facing. The Boston Club was the seventh Rotary club chartered and even though it has reached the century mark, it also is facing membership issues. President Eileen shared with us how, as her Presidential year got closer, she would wake up in the middle of the night thinking about Rotary and her club and all the things that needed to be done. And then, in the wee hours of the creaking night, her mind would invariably turn towards her aging home and all the things that needed to be done to spruce it up and add some curb appeal. One night, she realized that her 100-year-old club was like her house – it too needed sprucing up! Adding new members and fund raisers would certainly increase its “curb appeal.”

Basically, what RI President John and President Eileen were both saying is that no matter how young or old your club is, we all need to address these issues and make sure that Rotary lasts through the next 100 years. One of RI President John's specific recommendations is that control be returned to the clubs at the club level and that all clubs be encouraged to make whatever changes they need to increase their membership and their fund-raising abilities.

This is a wonderful change. Of course, the big question is: how do we get started? Well, as any aficionado of home improvement TV knows, frequently the best way to add value and increase curb appeal involves simple improvements that take a short amount of time and just a little bit of money. And the home owner rarely, if ever, sees what needs to be done -- it usually takes a fresh pair of eyes and a new way of looking at things to envision how a few simple changes can make so big a difference.

Our clubs are very much like the homes featured on Home and Garden television. They contain some of our most precious assets, our greatest ideas, and our strongest resources. The challenge is that many of our clubs are aging -- no, I am not referring to our members! Our clubs are aging in the sense that they have been in service for years without the benefit of an update or renovation.

It's all too easy to fall into the trap of being comfortable. It's easy to invite in only new members who

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think like we do and who like to do the things we are doing. It can be hard to bring in a new member who has a fresh point of view, a new set of eyes, and maybe some new ideas to boot. And even when we do bring in such a new member, sometimes they don't stay in the club because they are frustrated with the lack of willingness to make changes.

We need to increase our "curb appeal" and here are several ideas to think about. Let's freshen up our websites and highlight our club activities -- after all, our websites are really like our mailboxes and first impressions do count! Let's update our newsletters so prospective new members will be able to learn more about us. Let's make sure there is a prominent sign outside our meeting location, proudly stating when and where Rotary meets. And let's make sure that we take advantage of all the opportunities offered by the local media -- it's not always easy to get media time or space but we really need to go after it and show off Rotary at its best!

In my travels about our district, I have seen a number of clubs in action at fund raisers and community service projects and the most impressive are those clubs that are aware of the importance of "curb appeal". For example, members of the Boothbay Harbor club each don a yellow and blue smart-looking polo shirt with the Rotary emblem and their name handsomely embroidered or a sharp-looking blue tee shirt with the Rotary emblem on it as well. Like a fresh coat of paint, these uniforms are a neat and welcoming look and an easy and inexpensive way to make a good impression in our communities!

These are just some ideas to consider -- increasing our "curb appeal" can't all be done at once, and you have to consider the interior space as well as the exterior appearance. Our next newsletter will focus on how small changes can reap large rewards for clubs.

In the meantime, use the resources you have at your disposal to help spruce up your club's curb appeal -- you would be surprised at the resources available in our District! You have some ready and willing clubs in your own area that you can use as examples, and each and every Assistant District Governor is eager to offer their support and guidance. In addition, our District is blessed with some outstanding Past District Governors, and of course I would be delighted as your District Governor to visit and offer your club a "curb appeal" evaluation. In other words, we have lots of set of eyes and fresh perspectives ready, willing and eager to help you get started on building for the next 100 years!

Be ready to welcome new ideas, try them on for size, and make changes. After all, as in any home improvement project, you can always repaint if the color isn't quite right!

My friends, the future of Rotary is truly in your hands, and I know they are capable and willing hands. I look forward to our year together as we build our Rotary house.

Yours Truly in Rotary Service and Peace,
Jeffrey S. Pelkey
District Governor 2009-2010

District Calendar

District Simplified Grants Deadline
July 31, 2009
See article below

Youth Exchange Host Parent Training
August 4, 2009 7-9:30 pm
Etz Chaim Synagogue, 36 Bacon Street, Biddeford

GSE Deadline
August 31, 2009
See Article below

MEMBERSHIP

Fellow Rotarians,

July is a new beginning in Rotary each year – we need to take this opportunity in our clubs to assess and re-energize our focus on membership. President John Kenny has given us a wonderful theme in 2009-10 with "The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands" and its significance can't be any more meaningful than our individual and collective responsibility to membership growth.

We have forty-one individual clubs in our district today and forty-one membership chairs. But, one Rotarian in each club does not make a membership committee. It is my goal this year for every club to have a membership committee consisting of fellow Rotarians of experience, well respected and dedicated to the continued strength and growth of our clubs. If, together we can focus on every aspect of membership, valuing & appreciating our existing members, and inviting and inducting sought after members of our community to join our organization, then we will grow each and every month!

We are wise to listen to President John Kenny's philosophy on membership as stated in this month's issue of the Rotarian magazine. 'His priority for membership is quality, not quantity. We must all look at retention and to do that we must bring in the right people, not just look at numbers. We must keep advocating the need for high ethical standards in business and private life. He firmly believes that if you invite a respected person from the community to join Rotary, then other respected people will follow. All of us as Rotarians must be advocates for maintaining high standards of behavior, be involved in our service projects, fundraisers and at our weekly club meetings and ultimately good, future Rotarians will be joining our club.'

So, if you haven't already, select your membership committee, dust off that classification list, identify well respected people in your community and formulate a plan to make them members of your Rotary club this year! Remember, the future of Rotary is indeed in your hands!

Yours in Rotary service,

Brad Jett, PDG

District 7780 Membership Chair 2009- 2010



District Grants

District 7780 Clubs Support their Communities through District Simplified Grants

Seventeen 7780 clubs funded service projects in their home communities last year through the Rotary Foundation's District Simplified Grant program. The service projects the clubs accomplished ran the gamut from literacy initiatives, to building community structures, to supporting special programs at local non-profits.

It's not too late for your club to plan a District Simplified Grant this current fiscal year. Information and the application are available on the "Foundation Grants" page of the District website ... <http://www.rotary7780.org/DSG.cfm> ... but don't wait!

These grants are competitive and your application must be received by Sandy Bisson, sandmarcfarm@metrocast.net, by July 31 (final!). For help and more information, email Marty Helman, grants@walterfoundation.org.



Brunswick Coastal Rotarians take a break from packaging an educational DVD for hospice patients and their families that was filmed and funded through a District Simplified Grant. The grant also makes it possible for dying parents to create a personal video memoir for their children.

- 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

PDG Liz Cullen District Foundation Chair

GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE WITH DISTRICT 3030 IN INDIA: AN OPPORTUNITY TO INVOLVE YOUR CLUB AND COMMUNITY IN A UNIQUE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Do you know any enthusiastic, motivated and articulate young professional or business persons between the ages of 25 and 40, who would like an all expenses paid, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to spend four weeks in India, courtesy of The Rotary Foundation and local Rotary Clubs in India? Four lucky non-Rotarians will be selected from District 7780 to participate, along with a Rotarian team leader, as members of a Group Study Exchange ("GSE") team to District 3030 in India in January and February of 2010. Every club within the District is eligible to propose qualified men and women from their communities as applicants for the GSE program, at no financial cost to the club! The GSE program is a great way to promote Rotary and your local club within your community and to recruit potential new members!

This coming year's exchange with District 3030 will be an especially exciting and enriching adventure to an increasingly important country, politically and economically, that most of us from Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine have only read about. Rotary was established in India in 1920, with the Rotary Club of Calcutta as the first club, at a time when none of the initial members were Indians. Since that time Rotary has grown significantly in India and District 3030 is comprised of 81 clubs and over 3,200 Rotarians. District 3030 is situated in the state of Maharashtra and encompasses a region of nearly 700 kilometers from the city of Nasik in the west to Bhandara in the east. The District is well developed industrially and agriculturally, with sugar factories, cotton mills, orange orchards and vineyards. It is also renowned for its beautiful wild life sanctuaries and the world heritage sites of Ajanta and the Ellora Caves.

The application deadline is **August 31, 2009** for team members, as well as for Rotarians who may be interested in participating as a team leader. The eligibility requirements and applications may be found on the District 7780 website, as well as on the RI website. All applications must be submitted initially through a local

Rotary club and have the signature of the club president before they are forwarded to the District Selection Committee for review. After receiving club endorsement, applications, signed by the applicant and club president, should be forwarded to Grace Connolly, GSE Committee Chair, at P.O. Box 332, Newburyport, MA 01950.

Grace Connolly, GSE Committee Chair

grace.connolly@verizon.net

978-462-2251 (office)

978-465-3331 (home)



Literacy Enables Doors to Unlock and Rotarians Can Provide the Keys!

We have the power to change the lives of so many through our literacy efforts each and every day. The statistics of the illiterate in this world are staggering with more than eight hundred million men & women who still cannot read or write in any language. Although most of them live in developing countries and 3/5 of the illiterate are women, the United States is still reported to have more than four million adults who cannot read or sign their own name or perform simple mathematics. There are another thirty million U.S. adults who can read or write only minimally and another forty million people who do not possess the basic skills necessary to keep up with advancing technology. It is no wonder that Rotary International has made **LITERACY** one of its major emphases since 1986.

We need to remain steadfast in implementing even more literacy projects and remind ourselves that no project is too small or insignificant. Nor is any one individual not worth us providing an opportunity to read or write – to give one the means to make educated and reasonable choices – the opportunity to walk through that door.

Over the next several weeks, we are compiling a database of literacy projects both locally and internationally that you and your fellow club members are or have been involved in and I need your assistance. Please send me as much detailed information, pictures, contact person, etc. of all of the ways that you promote literacy at pennyjett@comcast.net

Thanks to all of you, the compilation of projects in which we support and promote literacy will be documented and shared as a resource to all clubs in our district over the next few months. So, whether it's dictionary projects, scholarships, providing books and school supplies, mentoring and tutoring, reading programs, 4 way test contests or whatever program you support, let me know today!

We must never forget that in order to survive we must provide clean and safe water, and as humanitarians we must feed the hungry, immunize the children and provide health care to the sick and the disabled, but it is through the literacy component, it is through education that we will not only achieve and sustain all of these efforts, but we will one day achieve world understanding and peace.

The future of literacy is in your hands!

Penny Jett

District Literacy Resource Coordinator

2009-2010

pennyjett@comcast.net

M: 603-944-5861

B: 603-926-4459

Donations to the Annual Giving Program

In these hard financial times, we are all being challenged more and more to give. Every day we receive phone calls and letters in the mail asking for donations. The Rotary Foundation is no different when it comes to its Annual Giving Program.

What can spur us on to give to the Rotary Foundation in these Challenging Times?

- Think about what is important to you personally about Rotary.
- Has Rotary had an impact on your life?
- What has been your proudest accomplishment in Rotary and why?
- What has been your most meaningful experience in Rotary and why?
- What is your role in furthering world understanding, goodwill and peace?
- How has the Rotary Foundation strengthened Rotary and you?
- Why is making a difference to people in the world important to you?
- What is your part in ensuring the Rotary Foundation's impact?
- If you had \$1 million dollars to give to the Rotary Foundation's programs, what would you do with it and what would that do for you?

These are all questions that former District 5450's Foundation Chair Bill Eck recommends asking yourself.

Do you know what your club's Annual Giving Goal is? How are you going to help accomplish it?

Rotary's Annual Giving Program means something different to everyone. I hope you will be willing to share your thoughts and allow me to anonymously share them with everyone via the newsletter. Your thoughts may help someone else understand what Rotary is about and why they should give. For example, your contribution of \$100 can fund one year of tuition and books for two children in Kenya. Think about how those two children's lives will be changed because of you!

Remember *The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands!*

PDG Marie Williams
 Annual Giving Chair 2009-10
mawilliamspdg@comcast.net
 (H) & (F) 207.439.3761

The Fifth of July... A Pledge for Independence and Freedom

Yesterday, throughout the United States of America, we gathered to mark the two hundred and thirty-third anniversary of our country's independence. Some raised a new flag. Some attended parades in their cities and towns. Some played patriotic music. Some attended baseball games – another symbol of America. Some ate apple pie! Some stood in line for hours for their turn to ascend the 354 steps of the Statue of Liberty to view the altered skyline of Manhattan. Finally, others watched and listened as orchestras and bands played, accompanied by the cacophony of booms and whistles as displays, large and small, lit the skies at night.

Symbols of America... Symbols of freedom... Symbols of independence...

Although I have mentioned only a handful of the symbols which represent America and its strength, I am confident that each one of us has the ability to conjure up dozens, if not hundreds more, right down to the slamming of a wood-framed screen door or the image of a child lapping a dripping ice cream cone.

For a few minutes, I took the time to print out and read a copy of our Declaration of Independence, signed in Philadelphia in 1776, by fifty-six courageous and committed men, from varying backgrounds. These men pondered over and debated each and every word of this document which has stood the test of time. In America, we tend to remember only a few phrases of this declaration: ***When in the course of human events or we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness...*** but how many of us remember the final words: ***we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor...***

During the rest of the day, and through the evening, I was bothered by an elusive thought, one which I could not

pin down, until the total quiet of a nearly full-moonlit night. Something kept niggling away at me. Finally, after falling asleep, these thoughts began to crystallize and at about two o'clock this morning, I awoke with a greater understanding of freedom and independence.

More than twenty years ago, Rotary International and its members throughout the world also pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. At an international convention in Philadelphia, they made a commitment to the entire world to eradicate polio from the face of the earth, and at that time, Rotarians helped to raise awareness about this insidious disease, as well as to raise several millions of dollars to fund this global campaign. During the ensuing years, Rotarians have continued to raise funds, to participate in National Immunization Days in polio-endemic countries, saving the lives of literally tens of millions of children from the suffering of paralysis and oftentimes death.

As Americans, we have a duty to preserve freedom and independence for the peoples of our great nation. As Rotarians, we have a greater responsibility. We must not rest upon the accomplishment of the fact that we have been involved in the immunization of well over two billion children. We must not be content that we have aided in the eradication of polio from all but four countries – India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria. We must keep the images of “street creepers” or of children teetering on ill-sized crutches, or the heavy iron braces or calipers that assist in the straightening and strengthening of crippled legs ever before us until the very last case of polio has been diagnosed.

As Rotarians, I would hope that we realize that our efforts are not so different from those of the American colonists of two hundred and thirty-three years ago – the fight for independence, the fight for freedom, and yes, the fight for life. We must redouble our efforts in our campaign to provide LIFE, LIBERTY and the PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS to all, regardless of race, of national origin or of religious beliefs. We must on this the Fifth of July, pledge once more our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor to provide to all people of the world freedom from paralysis and death. We must MAKE DREAMS REAL through the eradication of polio, because the FUTURE OF ROTARY (and yes, the Future of the World) IS IN OUR HANDS.

PDG Elias Thomas III



PDG Elias Thomas as he addressed us on the RI Commitment to eradicate Polio at the District Assembly earlier this year

District 7780 Leadership Changeover June 30, 2009

The District 7780 Changeover was a very different evening. We had a great “Indoor Picnic” complete with candy cotton, popcorn and shaved ice. There were games to be played by Rotary family members of all ages. District Governor Elect (now District Governor) Jeff wanted a family friendly event that involved all ages in a relaxed evening together. The District members responded with the largest turnout ever. Coordinating closely with District Governor Brad the two planned a fun changeover event in which children were free to enjoy the games in the back of the room during what speeches there were - the sound of youthful laughter adding to the picnic atmosphere created by the fried chicken and corn on the cob served on red checked tablecloths. DGN Gary Speers served as Master of Ceremonies and PRIVP Mike McGovern swore in our new District Governor.





Cotton Candy

Popcorn -over 150 quarts of it were made!



Shaved ice



Lots of future Rotarians



A real family occasion



Many kinds of games



In the hole!



DGE (Soon to be DG) Jeff sets the beat



A new Rotary challenge



All kinds of picnic attire appeared



It doesn't get better then this!



The band kept it lively



A safe play area was available



Some even joined the band



Corn, Chicken, & Biscuits - a real picnic



Roasting marshmallows over the candle



DG Brad (soon to be PDG) remembers what was achieved Making Dreams Real



DG Brad thanking his AG's for their support



The swearing in by PRIVP Mike McGovern



Serious determination from the new DG





A message of Continuity was clear

It's now really official! The Flamingos are passed!

Greetings from your **District Governor Nominee (DGN) for 2011-12, Gary Speers.**

I have had the wonderful opportunity to meet many of you, but I'll share a bit about my background. I was born July 27, 1945 in El Paso and grew up in Miner and Gibson City, Illinois, graduating from Gibson City High School in 1963 and receiving a Bachelor of Science from Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois in 1987.

I am a 1991 Graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy 165th Session.

While at Illinois State University, I met Judy Moses, who came from Tiskilwa, Illinois. We were married in 1966. We have one married Russian foster daughter, Julia, and one foster granddaughter. Judy and I live in Newcastle, Maine in the middle of eight acres of woods. Rotarian Judy is a semi-retired educator with her Doctorate degree in Education Administration.

My classification is Law Enforcement. I started my career with the Normal Police Department in 1967 where I advanced through the ranks to the position of Assistant Chief of Police and Chief of Detectives and retired after 34 of service. I was the Founder and Coordinator of the Normal Police Department Citizen Police Academy and the Normal Police Department "Goodwill Ambassador" Program for local sports and public events. I served as group leader for International Law Enforcement Educational Exchanges with The Norfolk Constabulary (England) and the Russian Interior Ministry (Vladimir, Moscow and St. Petersburg Russia). I conducted law enforcement training in Community Policing at Police Training facilities in the Kent Constabulary, England and in Vladimir, Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia. I served on the Regional Advisory Committee of the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center- South East and currently serve as a consultant to the National Institute of Justice.

First joining the Normal (Illinois) Rotary Club in 2002, I retired to Maine in 2003 and joined the Rotary Club of Damariscotta-Newcastle. I served as President in 2006-2007 and as the District 7780 Family of Rotary Resource Staff member and on the District Membership, Nomination and Conference committees. I am currently the club's Publicity Chairperson and edit the weekly newsletter and news releases and web site. Club President-Elect spouse Judy and I are frequent presenters on The Family of Rotary, Membership, and Fun Fund Raisers at District Assemblies and Conferences. I am a Paul Harris Fellow.

Rotary activities dear to my heart in addition to many local service projects are the GSE Exchange and the Rotary Partners project with Friends Forever USA. Literacy, education and youth at risk projects will always be on my agenda after over thirty years of working with at risk populations. I truly believe that service to our local and international community should always contain an element of fun, especially when working with the wonderful volunteers in District 7780!

In addition to Rotary, I enjoy travel, especially to England, Germany and Russia. I also enjoy camping, showing classic cars and training Keeshond dogs.



DGN Gary MC'd the Changeover Picnic

From the District Youth Coordinator:

EarlyAct is in full swing at Sanford Junior High School

Just before the end of the school year, members of the **EarlyAct Club in Sanford**, concluded a project which involved the teachers and students throughout their school – Care Packages for Our Troops.



Begun during the later winter, the EarlyAct members challenged their fellow students and faculty and staff members to a contest – each homeroom would collect various prescribed items to be counted and then sent to troops serving in Afghanistan. The winning homeroom would be treated to an after-school pizza party, paid for by the members of EarlyAct. Literally hundreds of pounds of items were collected, including toiletries, food, candy, games, playing cards, and more. Even owners of several Dunkin' Donut franchises throughout New England joined in the effort by contributing pounds of ground coffee for each package, as well as nylon back-pack bags, summer coffee travel cups and other items.



When all was collected, sorted and packed, the EarlyAct members were proud to mail out forty-four Care Packages. They sent them to Anthony Carll, who is serving with the 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum. The units serve as Fire Support Specialists. The students are hoping to hear back from Anthony and his fellow soldiers, so they can prepare other care packages when they return to school in September.

The EarlyAct Club is sponsored by the **Rotary Club of Sanford-Springvale**. The club's Rotary advisor is **District Youth Coordinator, PDG Elias Thomas**. Any Rotary Clubs interested in the possibility of starting an EarlyAct Club at local Middle Schools or Junior High Schools should contact Elias.

Your District Governor Elect's Corner

Happy Summer and Best Wishes for a Successful and Productive New Rotary Year!

Let me begin by thanking all of the clubs and individuals who have taken the time to send me get well wishes via phone, email or snail mail. Your thoughtfulness has made my days brighter and is greatly appreciated. I am recovering well from polio reconstructive surgery on my left foot. Though I realize it will be a long process I look forward to a successful and beneficial outcome.

Another Rotary year has begun and there is so much we can all do as Rotarians, Rotary Clubs and a District to continue to reach out our hands to others locally and around the globe through water, literacy and health and hunger projects. As new Club Presidents outline their goals and aspirations for the year, I trust clubs will respond with an eagerness to allow new ideas to flow into their clubs and with a willingness to accept change. Tried and true fundraisers and projects can be strengthened and tired and unproductive fundraisers and projects substituted for. Club Presidents should be congratulated for taking on new responsibilities. It is what each year brings to keep a club active and vibrant that will build our individual club membership. It is the responsibility of every single member to make this happen. I look forward to more clubs working cooperatively both locally and globally. We need to stretch the available Foundation dollars for the 2009-2010 Rotary year. We can all work together with other clubs and other Districts and still create grants. I encourage more creativity for the challenge to use our available District Designated Funds to make our projects happen even when TRF has appropriated the matching funds available for 2009-2010.

Michael and I had the pleasure of attending the International Convention in Birmingham, England. It was great to reconnect with friends from all over the world and to make new ones as we visited the Friendship House and attended the plenary and breakout sessions. Mia Farrow spoke briefly on her life and polio eradication but her main message was her concern for the world apathy on the happenings in Darfur. Jane Goodall reminded us of how everyone and everything on our planet is dependant upon one another. Deepa Willingham, my classmate, spoke of the eradication of poverty through education, especially focusing on the girl child. PRIP Dong Kurn Lee, RIP John Kenny and RIPE Ray Klinginsmith all gave inspirational comments regarding the effects of Rotary work worldwide. Each and every speaker had a resounding similar message – RESPONSIBILITY. It is the responsibility of each of us to do all we can and not look the other way because of sights and events that make us uncomfortable. Indecision is a decision to do nothing. A lack of action is a lack of responsibility. Every Rotarian can make a difference.

I urge you to join us at the International Convention in Montreal June 20-23, 2010 and New Orleans May 22-25, 2011. It will be a life changing experience you will not forget. Mark your calendars!!

For those of you who had the pleasure of meeting Ayuba Gufwan, from Jos, Nigeria he sends greetings and warm regards for the experiences and memories made while visiting D7780. His vivid life story as a polio survivor in the heart of the endemic polio region of Nigeria and his ability to overcome and help others moved many clubs to assist with matching grants for his bicycle wheelchair shop. I wish to update you that the second grant has also been sent to RI and includes 8 Districts and 21 Clubs representing 4 countries, Taipei, Hong Kong, Nigeria and USA (7 states). Seven clubs from D7780 are involved as were three clubs from D7780 in the first grant. Future opportunities will be available.

Congratulations and best wishes at the start of this Rotary year and good luck to us all as we face the challenges and joys that Rotary brings. I wish you a fantastic Rotary year and look forward to hearing your stories.

Club Secretaries; please add my email to the distribution list of your newsletter – annlee001@yahoo.com

Club Presidents for 2010-2011, please contact me if you haven't already.

Your District Governor for 2010-2011,
DGE Ann Lee Hussey



Club News

The **Rotary Club of Bethel** recently held its annual summer Auction and Yard Sale at Telstar Regional High School. One of the club's largest fundraisers, the event provides financing for many local club projects, including scholarships and donations to other local nonprofits.



Here, Rotarian Larry Engdahl makes change for a customer, and President Scott Hynek takes a break on a yard sale couch.

Sun Shines on Boothbay Harbor Golf Tourney

The weather gods provided a rare morning of sunshine for the **Rotary Club of Boothbay Harbor's** annual Golf Tourney, which the club holds in conjunction with the Lions Club each June. Club vice president Jim Stormont and Rotarian Annette Stormont were members of the foursome that brought home the First Place Net award, and later, at the not-so-silent auction, incoming president Vic Taylor showed off his auctioneering skills.



Here, Past President Bill Bailey demonstrates his golfing style.

The Rotary Club of Bridgton Lakes Region



The Great Bridgton Duck Race again took place on July 4th at Steven's Brook. This annual fundraiser is very popular with tourists and locals alike

Rotary Cub of Damariscotta – Newcastle Celebrates at The Garden

The Rotary Club of **Damariscotta-Newcastle** transitioned to the new Rotary year on the road with the annual Changing of the Gavel ceremony at the beautiful Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay. Rotary District 7780 Governor Jeff Pelky of Kittery, and son Justin introduced the 2009-2010 Rotary Theme of “The Future of Rotary Is In Your Hands”.

During the changeover ceremony traditionally held jointly with the **Rotary Club of Boothbay Harbor**, outgoing President Phil Congdon of Round Pond turned the Club Gavel over to the incoming President Karen Filler of Walpole.

President Filler then introduced the 2009-2010 club officers, President-Elect Judy Speers of Newcastle, Vice-President Mike Warren of Damariscotta, Secretary Dirk Poole of Newcastle and Co-Treasurers Pete Blanton and Don McClure of Damariscotta.

Steve Burton of Damariscotta continues as Sgt. at Arms and the members of the incoming Board of Directors are Dave Bragg of Newcastle, Clete Baltes of Nobleboro, Bill Covington of South Bristol, John Atwood of Newcastle, Pat Musser of Damariscotta, Joe Kindred of Pemaquid, and Carol Ransom of Bremen.

Karen Filler
President, The Rotary Club of Damariscotta-Newcastle



Outgoing President Phil Congdon hands the badge of office to President Karen Filler



Governor Jeff's son, Justin celebrates at the Garden with his own cake!

The **Rotary Club of Kittery** will hold its [August Club Assembly Meeting -Tuesday August 18 at 7:30 AM at the Portsmouth Masonic Hall](#). We will be discussing use of the facility for a fundraiser, visitors are of course always welcome but need to note the change in venue for the day.

Surprise Presentation at the **Kittery** Adult Education Graduation June 17th



Ashley Waddell, mother of two girls age 7 and 2 with her Kittery Rotary Scholarship of \$900. Ashley will attend NH Community College to study Radiology

School Superintendent and **Rotary Club of Kittery** member Larry Littlefield had just left the stage after presenting a \$900 Kittery Rotary Scholarship to Adult Education Graduate Ashley Waddell when he stood up again and interrupted the program to invite members of the **Kittery Rotary Club**, the Town Council, School Board and Adult Ed Advisory Committee members forward. Astonished Adult Education Director Pauli Rines was then presented a **Paul Harris Fellow** in recognition of her huge effort to develop a program that addresses both adult literacy, world understanding, and also provides a very large range of value to the community. Pauli was cited as a classic example of serving the community through her vocation



Pauli Rines addressing the Club

Pauli appeared at the Tuesday morning Kittery Rotary Club meeting to thank the Club. She was amazed to find out about all the work Rotary International was doing around the world. She reported that while she was working toward a Masters she had gone to Guatemala on both a water project and literacy project, activities she has subsequently discovered that Rotary is very involved with.

Rotary Club of Portsmouth



Tigist, a Rotaract member from Addis Ababa Ethiopia

Tigist, a Rotaract member from Addis Ababa Ethiopia, received a check for her club's sanctuary project, which supports children (often with no parents) needing basic meals and education opportunities. Their team takes

youngsters from little hope (“I want to be a taxi driver”) to aspiration (“I want to be a doctor”). The contribution was designated and presented by the William Cash Committee



Youth Exchange Student Tah Cunha, President Janice and Youth Exchange Chair, Rick Page

Portsmouth Rotary Club’s exchange student from Brazil, Tah Cunha, presented the summary of her year here in Portsmouth at a recent meeting. The conclusions were all the same – she had a great time and lots of fun!! After a trip to California with fellow exchange students, Tah will be returning home to Brazil with mixed emotions. Safe travels Tah!

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[News from around the world:](#)

[2009 World Affairs Seminar a Success](#)

After a one-year hiatus, the World Affairs Seminar returned in June with some significant changes, yet retained the spirit and critical edge that has made it such an impactful event for over thirty years. About 300 students from over 20 countries explored the issue of world hunger. They experienced a “hunger banquet” first hand, and worked through scripted emergency crisis simulations.

“We found a terrific venue at Carroll University,” said Tom Plantenberg, Executive Director. “Another key was the depth of our academic team, led by Dr. Rob Ricigliano and Susan Yelich Biniecki of the Institute of World Affairs at UW-Milwaukee.”

“This year’s curriculum was rich in content,” Plantenberg said. “It included a mix of small group activities, skills training, insightful speakers, films, public policy exposure and issue analysis.” Keynote speakers Faith D’Aluisio and Peter Menzel kicked off the Seminar with a terrific presentation. Other speakers who got high marks were Will Allen of Growing Power, and Dr. Robert Spitzer, Food for Peace coordinator under President Gerald Ford.

A good mix of recreational activities rounded out the week. Included were physical sports such as tennis, soccer, volleyball, basketball, yoga and a farewell dance. One of the most popular events was a talent show. Everything from singing, musical instruments, original compositions and cultural dance to martial arts demonstrations, poetry and comedic impersonations found their way to the stage.

Many points of light came together to contribute to a successful outcome according to Plantenberg. Dina Wolf, Dean of Students, recruited an incredible team of counselors, senior counselors and two outstanding nurses. Her depth of knowledge about the Seminar made an important difference. Executive Assistant Amber Lindh worked many months to ensure each participant’s application was in order and all income was accounted for appropriately. She kept many balls in the air throughout the ramp-up and during the Seminar. Carol LePien and a strong crew of helpers from Carroll University, along with Chartwell’s nutritional services rounded out the team. “It was definitely a team effort,” he said. “From outstanding academics to terrific organization and excellent facilities and food, everything came together.”

Of course, what really made the 2009 World Affairs Seminar a success were the enthusiastic, committed students from around the world. “They came from as far away as Nigeria and Sweden,” Plantenberg said, “from the Caribbean, Brazil, Chile, Germany and Canada. Within a few short days they not only were friends, but had created an intellectual fellowship to face the challenges of world hunger. I expect some of those relationships will endure for many years to come.”

The 2010 World Affairs Seminar promises to be just as edifying as the 2009 Seminar. It will again be held at Carroll University, June 26 through July 2, 2010. The theme will be “The Global Fresh Water Challenge.” Be sure to keep updated on the 2010 Seminar by visiting www.worldaffairsseminar.org.

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