

# District 7780 Newsletter



YOU ARE  
THE MISSING PIECE.



SERVICE Above Self

Mon Feb 04, 2013

Home

## Mark Your Calendar

Friendship Exchange to New Orleans Feb 09, 2013 - Feb 16, 2013
World Peace and Understanding Day - Frugal Feast Woodfords Congregational Church Feb 23, 2013 06:00 PM
Presidents-elect Training Seminar 2013 Mar 07, 2013 - Mar 09, 2013
"Early Bird" District Conference Deadline Mar 14, 2013
Grants Management Seminar Mar 20, 2013 04:00 PM - 08:00 PM
Interact Conference Mar 23, 2013
Portsmouth Club's 90th Anniversary! Andrew Jarvis Centre Mar 30, 2013
Grants Management Seminar Mar 30, 2013 08:00 AM - 12:00 PM
District Assembly 2013 Apr 06, 2013
District 4-Way Test Contest Falmouth High School Apr 08, 2013 05:30 PM - 09:00 PM
District Service Tour to Guatemala Apr 13, 2013 - Apr 21, 2013
Final Deadline - Conference registration Apr 15, 2013
Rotary Generations & Long-Haulers - rescheduled May 10, 2013 12:15 PM - 02:00 PM
Newburyport Club's 90th Anniversary! May 11, 2013
District Conference Spruce Point Inn May 17, 2013 09:00 AM - May 18, 2013 10:30 PM
Visioning Facilitators Workshop May 30, 2013 06:00 PM - 08:00 PM
New Members Luncheon Jun 08, 2013
RYLA Conference Jun 23, 2013 - Jun 26, 2013
2013 International Convention Jun 23, 2013 - Jun 26, 2013
RYLA Conference Jun 23, 2013 - Jun 26, 2013

## Governor Marty's Message

Think Local, Act Global



Serious readers of the *Rotarian* magazine could be forgiven if they got the unfortunate impression that service doesn't "count" unless it involves an airplane trip to a developing nation. Yes, international service opportunities get all the press – and that should come as no surprise: The trips invariably prove so meaningful to the Rotarians who participate as well as to the local people they are meant to serve that the Rotarians just need to shout it out. How many times has a club member come back from someplace exotic having done something humanitarian and told you how much the trip changed THEIR life? But without diminishing the humanitarian needs of the developing world – which of course are huge – or the efforts of Rotarians across the globe – which are equally huge -- it should never be forgotten that service starts at home. If we don't have peace in our families, we cannot have peace in our

neighborhoods. Without peace in our communities, we cannot have peace between nations. And the essence of service for many Rotarians – probably for most Rotarians – involves bringing laughter to a child, or a smile to an elder, right in their own community. And I say, Amen to that.

This month, February 23, Rotarians across the globe will celebrate our organization's 108<sup>th</sup> birthday. And I can't think of a better way to celebrate the holiday that Rotarians call World Peace and Understanding Day than by providing a special service to our neighbors right here at home – while also raising a few dollars to benefit our neighbors worldwide.

That morning, Saturday February 23, I am challenging clubs to do something tangible for the local food pantry. We have partnered with Shaw's Supermarkets for a "Stuff the Bus" event. Your Shaw's manager has all the details and is waiting to hear from you, but basically: Clubs borrow a bus, van, or other sizeable vehicle, place it prominently in the parking lot, and club members ask shoppers on their way in to purchase food items for their food pantry. Then they collect those items as the shoppers come out, and "Stuff the Bus!"

No Shaw's in your community? Then talk to your IGA or Hannaford's manager – or do a food drive on your own. The "how" is less important than the result – to restock your community food pantry during February – when the need is great and shelves are historically depleted.

As enticement, the District will honor the club that provides the most food and funds to its food pantry during the month of February. The District will also honor a smaller club that provides the most food and funds per capita to its pantry during the same period.

There's more: That evening, Saturday February 23, we will all come together for a District dinner – a dinner with a twist: This Frugal Feast will highlight the need to share resources and tread lightly on the planet. We will all enjoy a simple but gourmet banquet, and a portion of the \$25 dinner cost will go to The Rotary Foundation to help our neighbors worldwide. This means that all Rotarians who register will be "Every Rotarian Every Year" donors. Our

[Governor's Council/Changeover](#)

Jul 07, 2013

[2013 Zone 24-32 meeting](#)

Sep 19, 2013 - Sep 21, 2013

[Northeast Link - Networking - Training - Resource](#)

Holiday Inn, Boxborough, MA

Sep 28, 2013 08:30 AM - 09:30 PM

[Zone New Generation Assembly](#)

Dec 14, 2013

[Northeast PETS training](#)

Mar 06, 2014 - Mar 08, 2014

[2014 District Conference](#)

May 16, 2014 - May 17, 2014

[2014 International Convention](#)

Jun 01, 2014 - Jun 04, 2014

own Mike McGovern, Rotary Trustee and past RI vice president, will keynote the dinner, and a few other special presentations will be in the mix.

I challenge all District Rotarians to join me at one or both of these events. Specifics and registration details are on the District website – and your local food pantry is right down the street. So put together a club service project to help that community resource – then come out for fellowship and a catered dinner at the Frugal Feast!

You'll be celebrating World Peace and Understanding Day by helping to build peace both here at home and abroad. You'll be celebrating World Peace and Understanding Day by contributing to The Rotary Foundation, the engine that underwrites all the good work that Rotarians do. You'll be celebrating World Peace and Understanding Day with a service project to support our less-fortunate neighbors right in your own community. You'll be celebrating World Peace and Understanding Day by doing what it is that we Rotarians do best.

And all this without any jet lag.

--*Marty Peak Helman, District Governor*

### Mike McGovern Elected to New Position



Rotary Foundation Trustee Mike McGovern will assume the newly elected position of vice-chair of The Rotary Foundation Board of Trustees commencing July 1st. A member of the South Portland-Cape Elizabeth Rotary Club since 1986, he has served RI as vice president, director, committee chair, Rotarian Action Group chair, moderator of membership coordinator training, international training leader, and Permanent Fund national adviser. He is a Rotary Foundation Major Donor and Bequest Society Member and has received the Rotary Foundation Citation of Meritorious Service.

### The Rotary Leadership Institute Coming In March



Register today for the March 2nd RLI

### District News

#### [District Nominates Governor For 2015-16](#)

Posted by Penny Jett



The district nominating committee, chaired by PDG Liz Cullen convened on Thursday, January 31st performing their annual duties of interviewing candidates for governor and one (1) finance committee position. Sheila Rollins, current assistant governor and member of the Bridgton-Lake Region Club has been selected as the district's nominee to serve as governor in the 2015-16 Rotary year.

Sheila joined Rotary in 2006 and served as club president in 2008-09. This is her third year as assistant governor serving the clubs of Bethel, Bridgton-Lake Region, Fryeburg Area, Oxford Hills and River Valley. She is also representing our district this Rotary year as chair of Group Study Exchange (GSE), leading a team of professionals working with special needs individuals headed to Nigeria later this spring.

[Read more...](#)

#### [District 7780 Rotarian Receives RI Service Above Self Award](#)

Posted by Penny Jett



Terry Hodskins, newly named recipient of the Service Above Self award will be honored later this year at the Wells Club's Charter Night celebration for her work with Wrap A Smile. Terry founded this quilt project back in 2001 in response to Rotary International's Rotaplast missions. Rotaplast is committed to changing lives by offering free corrective surgery to children born with cleft lips and palates in developing countries.

[Read more...](#)

#### [Celebrating WUPD With A Frugal Feast & Stocking Our Food Pantries](#)

Posted by Peggy Belanger



"Since 1905, Rotary clubs have worked locally and internationally to make the world a better and more peaceful place one person, one family, one community at a time," said Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar, chair of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.

Clubs throughout District 7780 will do just that on World Peace & Understanding Day (WPUD), Saturday, February 23rd, by supporting their community-based food pantries. The District will be presenting an award to those clubs that contribute the most food and funds to their local food pantry in February. The collection can be done anytime February, and your local Shaw's manager is waiting to hear from you about collecting on Saturday February 23.

courses to be held at York County Community College in Wells. It's a whole, new revamped curriculum and sure to create enthused discussion and participation in the facilitated courses offered to new Rotarians, experienced ones and your club's future leaders. Learn about the Foundation Grants Program that is new to all of us and enjoy the exercises and fellowship that only the Rotary Leadership Institute can offer our members.

Every club should encourage at least a few members each year to attend RLI. This continuing education helps build better and more dynamic leaders in your club. RLI can ignite their passion and motivate them to bring new and fresh ideas back to your club. Parts I, II, III and Graduate are being offered this coming March, so don't hesitate, sign up today, invest in the future of your club and the promise of a better tomorrow.

[RLI Registration](#)

### Interact Conference March 23rd



Calling all Interactors from District 7780! Don't let your Interact Club members miss out on this incredible one day experience where hundreds of Interact students flock to their own Rotary District 7780 conference. This year it will be held at the Lake Region High School in Naples, Maine on Saturday, March 23rd from 9 am - 3 pm.

We are planning to have Interact Clubs share information on their fundraisers, community and international projects with one another, learn more about ethics, RYLA camp, the District 7780 4-way Test Contest, Rotaract and so much more. Registration details forthcoming on the district website. Need more information, contact District Interact Chair, Sarah MacGillvray at [smacgillvray@fryeburgacademy.org](mailto:smacgillvray@fryeburgacademy.org)

### District 4-Way Test Contest Club Competitions Are Underway

[Read more...](#)



### District Announces 2013-14 Foundation Grant Allocations

Posted by Peter Johnson

Over 125 of our members attended the district Foundation Seminar last fall where they were presented with an interesting problem to solve. There they learned that the Foundation Trustees were implementing a new model for distributing Foundation grant money. They were reminded that the amount of Foundation money we have to use in the first place is a direct reflection (as in 50%) of the amount contributed throughout our district three years earlier, the other 50% being used to fund such things as the world peace scholars and the matching portion of grants.

[Read more...](#)



### Grants Management Seminars - Be sure Your Club Can Access Grants Next Year

Posted by Carolyn Johnson

There is tremendous opportunity for Rotarians, clubs and districts to impact lives through foundation dollars with the new grants structure debuting July 1st. But, with expanded opportunities and options comes a greater need and expectation for local oversight and stewardship of funds. As supporters of The Rotary Foundation, we expect nothing less. We expect that our contributions are used wisely, effectively, and efficiently to support the quality of projects that is a hallmark of Rotary. This stewardship is necessary at the local, district, and international levels.

[Read more...](#)



### Engage Rotary, Change Lives

Posted by Carolyn Johnson

One of the aspects of Rotary that keeps the organization nimble is the aspect that each July all the officers change - new club presidents, new governors, and a new international president. This may a lot of change, to switch gears annually, but it can work to our advantage as a means for Rotary to be innovative and responsive.

I was privileged to represent our district at International Assembly in January. This is a gathering of all the incoming district governors from around the world to meet and learn more about Rotary and more about successfully leading one's district. It is an intense week - sessions began at 8 each morning and seldom were we free before 9 each evening. But it was an amazing experience, difficult to explain and capture in words.

[Read more...](#)



### Invest in the Future - Support Our Youth Through RYLA

Posted by Jared Avery

Once again the calendar has turned to a new year and that means it's time to start thinking about recruiting students for RYLA! We are poised to have another great year at camp but we can't do it without your support. RYLA is one of this district's most popular and beneficial programs. If your club is not participating, you are really missing out. Getting students signed up is easy. All of the required information is on our website which you can get to by following the link on the district homepage (Programs/Youth Services/RYLA). Additionally, you can always reach out to the program director whose contact information is on the same page. This is a highly competitive program so we encourage all clubs to get their selections made as soon as possible. The



If you haven't started the process already, now is the time to reach out to your local high schools, private or public and share with students, teachers and faculty the importance of Rotary's Four-Way Test. It's a yardstick that helps all of us to measure our decisionmaking in both our personal and professional lives and it is incumbent upon us as Rotarians to share the importance of this test. Invite students to participate in a club contest of which the winner can be sponsored to the district speakoff to be held in Falmouth, Maine. 1st place winner will receive \$500 cash. It's ultimately about sharing the importance of making ethical decisions, but it is also about connecting to this generation of young adults, and listening to them as they communicate to us their opinions, concerns, beliefs and passion about different topical issues.

All of the rules are in the contest handbook [4-Way Test Contest Rules](#) and should be strictly adhered to by student and club. The district speakoff will be held Monday, April 8th. If you need assistance or have any questions, please contact Mary Rennie at [dmrennie7@aol.com](mailto:dmrennie7@aol.com)

deadline for submissions this year is May 1, 2013. Don't miss out!

[Read more...](#)



### [The Rotary Foundation: Rotary In Our Own Backyard](#)

Posted by Ann Lee Hussey

Your contributions to our Rotary Foundation DO return to our own country and our local communities here in D7780. To many of us, an "international project" usually describes activities taking place in developing countries, beyond our national boundaries. However, to Rotarians who don't live in North America, international projects take place right here, in our own backyards. Rotary is such an amazing organization, and it's thanks to our global network that communities in North America benefit from Rotary Foundation grants through the generosity of Rotarians around the world.

[Read more...](#)



### [Multiply the Magic](#)

Posted by Martha Helman

The speakers are confirmed, the agenda is taking shape, great Rotary camaraderie is foretold, and the *Farmer's Almanac* promises sunny weather the whole weekend. Everything is falling into place for a great District Conference to celebrate the hard work and magic that clubs throughout the District will have created this Rotary year.

So even though it's still winter, now is the time to start registering for the District Conference, which will take place May 17-18 at historic Spruce Point Inn in Boothbay Harbor, ME.

[Read more...](#)



### [District Marks Membership Gains](#)

Posted by Martha Helman

Latest figures from Rotary International show that in the six months from July 1 to the end of December, our District 7780 grew by 32 members. Leading the growth in our District are the clubs of Portsmouth, which marked an eight member net increase in the six month period, and South Portland-Cape Elizabeth, which marked a seven member net increase. Among our smaller clubs, Sebago Lake, Portland Sunrise and Breakwater-Daybreak all gained a net of two members during the first six months of this Rotary year. Congratulations to all!

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### [Grab Your Hat and Read With The Cat](#)

Posted by Mary Rennie

MARK YOUR CALENDARS ROTARIANS! March 1st, 2013 is READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY. Grab your Hat and Read with the Cat. Celebrate the joy of reading across our nation. In celebration of Dr. Seuss' Birthday, District 7780 Rotarians are challenged to participate once again in Read Across America Day. Don't let your club miss out on the opportunity to enrich the lives of children in our communities. Contact your local schools and volunteer your time to read.

[Read more...](#)

## District 7780 Trivia



### AND WE HAVE ANOTHER NEW WINNER!!!

Peter Goffin, Past President of the Rotary Club of Portland sent me the correct answers on January 2, 2013 at 1:41PM! Congratulations, Peter! For the answer to last month's trivia

question, click on the [Trivia Page](#) link.

Check out this month's trivia question.

**What types of Scholars have been sponsored by District 7780 Rotary Clubs and how many of each have been sent out?** If you can find the answer in the District Website's Yearbook page, send it to me at [mawilliamsdpd@comcast.net](mailto:mawilliamsdpd@comcast.net). The answer will be in next month's news bulletin along with the name of the first person to give me the correct answer along with their club name.

Marie A. Williams

District Historian

## District Member Roster



Looking

for contact info for a Rotarian in another club? Put the rolodex aside. The information you need is just a few clicks away. Visit our district website. [www.rotary7780.org](http://www.rotary7780.org) (we love it when you do)

Go to the drop-down tab at the top labeled "About District 7780," click on either "Members by Club" or "Members by Last Name" and follow the prompts to get through the firewall and to the listings. If your listing is incomplete or out-of-date, please ask your club president or secretary to update it. You can also get help from our District webmaster, Scott Irving: [scott@irvings.name](mailto:scott@irvings.name)

## Speakers Bureau



Looking for a program speaker? Our district team members are prepared and excited about the opportunity to speak at your club and share their passion and expertise about various Rotary programs, projects, our Foundation and so much more.

Check out who is available on our new 'Rotary Speakers Bureau' site page.

[Speakers Bureau Page](#)



## Who Is That Bald Guy & Why Is He Visiting Our Club?

Posted by Lawrence Furbish

I'm sure that many of you are dying to know just what a District Governor Nominee does. (I hope you know I'm joking!) Anyway, I thought I would briefly describe some of my activities since being selected to follow Marty and Carolyn on the path to District Governorship. Over the last two months, my major focus has been to identify and meet Rotarians who have been selected by their clubs to be vice presidents, and who will thus be presidents in 2014-15 when I am district governor. To date, I have identified 31 clubs with vice presidents, meaning 8 clubs are still working on it.

[Read more...](#)



## Update on the Visioning Team

Posted by Sue Gesing

The 7780 District Vision Facilitation team met on January 23<sup>rd</sup> with DGE Carolyn Johnson who offered continuing support of the program for the 2013-2014 Rotary year. Dick Hall has become a member the team and will join current members Jim Price, Tony Wagner, Vic Taylor, and Sue Gesing on next year's committee.

[Read more...](#)



## Celebrating the Roaring Twenties – Rotary Style

Posted by Martha Helman

It was 1923. Charlie Chaplin was box office gold; Babe Ruth won his league's MVP award, Calvin Coolidge became president on the death of Warren Harding. And in northern New England, Rotarians were on the move. Newburyport, Portsmouth and Sanford-Springvale were all chartered in 1923, and they are all celebrating their 90<sup>th</sup> anniversaries in the next few months. In fact, here in this district, only Portland, which was chartered in 1915 and will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in two years, is older.

[Read more...](#)



## Join the Rotary Cycling Team – End Polio Now

Posted by Ilse Yanis

Are you interested in joining the 2013 Rotary Cycling Team for the 3-day *Trek Across Maine*, June 14-16? The event is sponsored by the American Lung Association, yet provides awareness for our Rotary Team. [www.Biketreknewengland.org](http://www.Biketreknewengland.org)

Recruit your friends, relatives, neighbors or colleagues and let's grow our Rotary Team. Our team Name is *End Polio Now*.

[Read more...](#)



## District Gears Up to Send Third Shipment of Crutches to Africa

Posted by Dennis Robillard on Jan 10, 2013

One-Two-Three! The District is about half-way toward filling a third container of mobility devices to send to Africa, and the plan is to be ready for the shipment in the May/June time period. Gently-used crutches, walkers and canes provide mobility and dignity to recipients in Africa, and sending them there keeps them out of our landfills! For more on Crutches-4-Africa, contact Dennis Robillard, [dennis@risc-now.com](mailto:dennis@risc-now.com).

[Read more...](#)

## District Facebook



How many of your fellow club Rotarians are on facebook? Let's get 100% of all members who are on facebook to like our 'District 7780 Facebook Page'. The district facebook page is where clubs can post what's happening in their own club and share it with members throughout the district. The opportunity to communicate information from Newburyport to Boothbay Harbor and everything in between is just a few keystrokes away.

Click on the link below and like our Rotary District 7780 facebook page today

## Portland Rotary Reaches Out to Asylum Seekers

Portland Rotary is unique in the District because of its continuously changing population throughout the city in the recent past. There had been a dramatic increase in new residents from both Africa and Asia. They come as immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. There are few ways to interact with them as a group. The club started with the Burundi community of some 400 asylum seekers by providing free tickets to a performance of the Royal Burundi Drummers St City who were touring the country at City hall. It was a great success for all those involved.



Asylum seekers are not always able to work as they are so stressed in their daily living. This was followed up with a meeting program with 2 Burundi speakers and one from the Immigrant Legal Assistance program to more clearly outline the difficult issues they face. In addition we had 10 Burundis at each of our tables to provide members with a more direct introduction to these new neighbors. Burundi is the smallest country in Africa who has had an on going political crisis resulting in many deaths of those that oppose anything of the existing regime. These asylum seekers are all here to avoid persecution at home.

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## District Nominates Governor For 2015-16

### Penny Jett



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Sheila joined Rotary in 2006 and served as club president in 2008-09. This is her third year as assistant governor serving the clubs of Bethel, Bridgton-Lake Region, Fryeburg Area, Oxford Hills and River Valley. She is also representing our district this Rotary year as chair of Group Study Exchange (GSE), leading a team of professionals working with special needs individuals headed to Nigeria later this spring.

Sheila owns and operates a catering business, *A Fine Kettle of Fish* and is currently completing her masters degree in mental health counseling.



They also selected Aileen Dugan of the Portsmouth Club to be a member of the District Finance Committee, representing the New Hampshire Clubs for a three year term beginning July 2013. Aileen is a long time Rotarian and past president of the club. She is an insurance agent in the seacoast area and brings solid financial experience and credentials to the District Budget and Finance Committee.

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## District 7780 Rotarian Receives RI Service Above Self Award

Penny Jett



Terry Hodskins, newly named recipient of the Service Above Self award will be honored later this year at the Wells Club's Charter Night celebration for her work with Wrap A Smile. Terry founded this quilt project back in 2001 in response to Rotary International's Rotaplast missions. Rotaplast is committed to changing lives by offering free corrective surgery to children born with cleft lips and palates in developing countries.

When Terry learned that after surgery the children were wrapped in plastic or paper sheets, she contacted quilting groups asking for donations of small quilts. To date, over 18,400 quilts from all 50 states and three foreign countries have been made and sent along with the Rotaplast missions. Enough quilts to cover 5 football fields. Congratulations to Terry Hodskins from the Wells Rotary Club as the most recent recipient of RI's Service Above Self Award!



### RI Service Above Self Recipients

Rotary's highest honor for an individual Rotarian is the Service Above Self award. The award recognizes Rotarians who have rendered exemplary humanitarian service with an emphasis on personal volunteer efforts.

[District 7780](#)

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Terry Hodskins 2012-2013 Wells

John Dennen 2011-2012 Brunswick Coastal

Elias Thomas III 2009-2010 Sanford-Springvale

Carolyn Johnson 2008-2009 Yarmouth

Ann Lee Hussey 2004-2005 South Berwick

Daniel Mooers 2003-2004 South Portland-Cape Elizabeth

Brenda Thibodeau 1999-2000 Fryeburg Area

William Skinner 1995-1996 Durham-Great Bay

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## Invest in the Future - Support Our Youth Through RYLA

Jared Avery



Once again the calendar has turned to a new year and that means it's time to start thinking about recruiting students for RYLA! We are poised to have another great year at camp but we can't do it without your support. RYLA is one of this district's most popular and beneficial programs. If your club is not participating, you are really missing out.

Getting students signed up is easy. All of the required information is on our website which you can get to by following the link on the district homepage (Programs/Youth Services/RYLA). Additionally, you can always reach out to the program director whose contact information is on the same page. This is a highly competitive program so we encourage all clubs to get their selections made as soon as possible. The deadline for submissions this year is May 1, 2013. Don't miss out!



For those who need a refresher on what our program is all about, the Rotary youth leadership awards (RYLA) conference is an intensive 4-day program for community youth leaders from across the Rotary district. It is a program for high school sophomores who have exhibited leadership in the home, school, and community.

Its objective is to help develop the leadership skills of promising young people for the long-term betterment of their home communities. Its method is to introduce the students to leadership ideas and concepts in the context of a rigorous outdoor living and leadership experience. Although this experience

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is within a group, which we call a LEG -- a Leadership Experience Group -- the focus is on the individual. Learning is through activities introduced by staff and facilitators, run by the students, and reflected upon with the guidance of the facilitators.



The program includes a high ropes course, a canoe challenge, intergroup leadership and team-building activities, and a variety of physical and mental initiatives. Wrapped around the activities is living in the outdoors where the responsibility is mostly placed on the individuals, under the supervision of the facilitators.

Each facilitator team is made up of two former RYLA students. Although chosen for their leadership skills and capabilities, these people also benefit from RYLA as a leadership learning experience. This is also true for the staff, which is made up of Rotarians and former RYLA students. This means that the objective is met not only by returning to our communities better leaders for the rising junior class but RYLA also returns to the community better leaders for the senior class, for the Rotary clubs, and for universities & colleges.

For more information on RYLA, click here. [RYLA Info](#)

Photos Credited to Tim Byrne Photography

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## The Rotary Foundation: Rotary In Our Own Backyard

Ann Lee Hussey



Your contributions to our Rotary Foundation DO return to our own country and our local communities here in D7780. To many of us, an “international project” usually describes activities taking place in developing countries, beyond our national boundaries.

However, to Rotarians who don't live in North America, international projects take place right here, in our own backyards. Rotary is such an amazing organization, and it's thanks to our global network that communities in North America benefit from Rotary Foundation grants through the generosity of Rotarians around the world.

Working with clubs and districts from outside of North America, our Foundation's programs have enabled Rotarians from around the world to enhance the lives of our fellow countrymen and women.

One example of such a project occurred in West Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Rotarians from Canada partnered with the Rotary Club of Taipei Fu-Jung, Taiwan to help provide an after-school program for inner-city children at the Hastings-Tillicum Community School Society in Vancouver. There was over US\$18,000 committed internationally to that project. Another fantastic project highlighted in our “[Doing Good in the World Videos](#)” shows a Matching Grant project following the disastrous effects of Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana, USA. The project was supported by multiple countries and further exemplifies the local impact from partnerships through our Foundation.

And even closer to home, the Matching Grant to assist in the recovery relief efforts in the Vermont counties worst hit by the devastation of Hurricane Irene. International Rotarians responded to the need with contributions from districts and clubs totaling \$17,500 resulting in a combined total of \$23,250 with the TRF match.

Are you curious to know the magnitude of funding and assistance that we as North Americans have received from other countries as we celebrate our Foundation? Over US\$2 million has been contributed over the last 10 years by 66 countries to the United States and Canada alone. Below is a chart that shows the amount of funds and the regions that have supported these matching and global grant projects in the US and Canada:

It is staggering to see the wonderful partnerships and support we have received over the years. As we

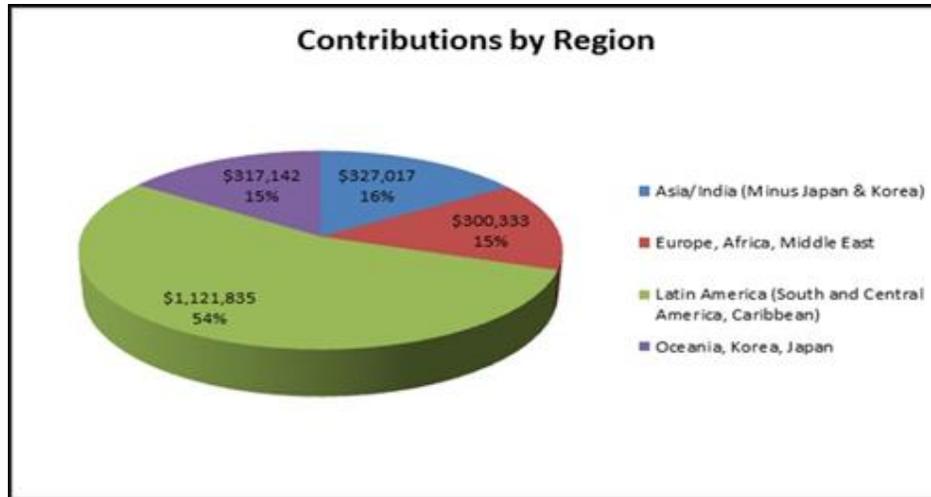
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share The Rotary Foundation this month and throughout the years to come, let's remember that the term "international" depends on where you are from! Feel free to share this information with Rotarians, friends and family showing how much support we have received....not just how much we have given outside of North America!



Thank you again for all you do for Rotary and our Foundation.

Ann Lee Hussey

Annual Giving Chair

P.S. Hurricane Sandy: Rotarians are currently involved in relief efforts following the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy. As your District 7780 looks at ways to use district funds, please remember that you can help with these recovery efforts. Because of our Foundation's unique funding cycle, the generosity in giving three years ago can be used to support projects for victims of Sandy today. If your District 7780 is interested in utilizing District Grant or District Simplified Grant funds please reach out to your Foundation Grants Staff Coordinator for assistance and approval.

Local Rotarians: have put additional information on their [website](http://nynjrotary.org/disaster-relief):  
<http://nynjrotary.org/disaster-relief>

[>> Story Detail](#)

## Multiply the Magic

Martha Helman



The speakers are confirmed, the agenda is taking shape, great Rotary camaraderie is foretold, and the *Farmer's Almanac* promises sunny weather the whole weekend. Everything is falling into place for a great District Conference to celebrate the hard work and magic that clubs throughout the District will have created this Rotary year.

So even though it's still winter, now is the time to start registering for the District Conference, which will take place May 17-18 at historic Spruce Point Inn in Boothbay Harbor, ME.



President's rep Anne Matthews, a member of the Board of Rotary International, leads a lineup of speakers each of whom is changing lives and striving for peace through service both at home and abroad. They are:

RI Director Anne Matthews, former Trustee, Service Above Self awardee, popular trainer at International events and one of the most-sought-after speakers on the Rotary circuit.

Rotary Peace Fellow Rochelle Arms, who is working in the area of peace and reconciliation in New York City

Rachel Williams, Rotarian from Ipswich, MA, who believes that education is the key

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to peace both at home and abroad

DG Tony Gilmore, from Concord, NH, who is working to bring clean water to Haiti.

PDG Deb Walters, from Unity, ME, who has been instrumental in the continued success of Safe Passage, which is making it possible for the poorest of the poor in Guatemala to attend school.

Our own PDG Anne Lee Hussey, who is working via advocacy and personal action to wipe away the scourge of polio.



Rooms at historic Spruce Point Inn are part of the Conference package, and are strictly first come, first served. In other words: The first 30 signups will be assigned the suites with ocean view! No extra charge!

For a complete agenda, check out the link [Conference Agenda](#), for registration materials and more, check out the minisite on the District website: go to [www.rotary7780.org](http://www.rotary7780.org) and check out the link or simply click here for all up to date conference information. [2013 Conference](#)

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## District Marks Membership Gains

Martha Helman



Latest figures from Rotary International show that in the six months from July 1 to the end of December, our District 7780 grew by 32 members. Leading the growth in our District are the clubs of Portsmouth, which marked an eight member net increase in the six month period, and South Portland-Cape Elizabeth, which marked a seven member net increase. Among our smaller clubs, Sebago Lake, Portland Sunrise and Breakwater-Daybreak all gained a net of two members during the first six months of this Rotary year. Congratulations to all!

Unfortunately, our District's slight membership growth was not mirrored across the US Northeast. The numbers were negatively affected by losses and disruptions that can be partly attributed to Hurricane Sandy, of course, but overall, our Zone experienced a decrease of 94 members during the six-month period, from 35,105 Rotarians last July to 34,363 at the end of December. And of the eight Rotary Districts here in New England, four (including us!) experienced net increases, while four marked membership losses. Total membership numbers were just about even here in New England over the six-month period.



Rotary International asks all of us to think about membership as we would customer service. It's more critical to *attract* members to Rotary than to *recruit* them, and if we work to *engage* our members, *retention* will take care of itself.

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## Grab Your Hat and Read With The Cat

Mary Rennie



MARK YOUR CALENDARS ROTARIANS! March 1st, 2013 is READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY. Grab your Hat and Read with the Cat. Celebrate the joy of reading across our nation. In celebration of Dr. Seuss' Birthday, District 7780 Rotarians are challenged to participate once again in Read Across America Day. Don't let your club miss out on the opportunity to enrich the lives of children in our communities. Contact your local schools and volunteer your time to read.



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## Who Is That Bald Guy & Why Is He Visiting Our Club?

Lawrence Furbish



I'm sure that many of you are dying to know just what a District Governor Nominee does. (I hope you know I'm joking!) Anyway, I thought I would briefly describe some of my activities since being selected to follow Marty and Carolyn on the path to District Governorship. Over the last two months, my major focus has been to identify and meet Rotarians who have been selected by their clubs to be vice presidents, and who will thus be presidents in 2014-15 when I am district governor. To date, I have identified 31 clubs with vice presidents, meaning 8 clubs are still working on it.

I have also wanted to get out and visit clubs so I can get to know members and they will begin to have some idea of who I am. Being last year's Group Study Exchange team leader gave me a chance to attend a number of club meetings but there are still clubs that I have never been to. I love visiting clubs because although we are all Rotarians and exist within a uniform structure, every club is different and has its own culture and way of doing things. I always learn something when I visit another club - plus I get to meet lots of new and interesting people as well as catching up with old friends that I've met at district events.

Visiting has its challenges, like the time I failed to check ahead and showed up only to find that the club wasn't meeting that day, or when I attended a meeting and found that the vice president wasn't in town that week. I've learned to check ahead. And then there were the two times I walked in the door and was immediately asked to be the speaker that day. I'd been warned about that during my DG interview, but when it happens, it does raise your adrenaline level.

We all know how important communication is, and although email has made things easier and faster, it isn't flawless. I've been collecting email addresses and phone numbers for vice presidents and it's not always as simple as you might think. Club rosters are on our District Website ([www.rotary7780.org](http://www.rotary7780.org)) but sometimes they haven't been updated and then one has to look elsewhere. When you are typing an email address into your contact list, you only need to get one letter or number wrong and then the email doesn't go through. Sometimes it's bounced back by the system and you know it didn't go through, and other times not. When a recipient doesn't reply to your message, you don't know if it's because they didn't get it or because they are just slow to respond. It's a good thing that I shave my head, otherwise, there were days when I'd have been pulling my hair out.

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Next time, I'll bring you another fascinating and compelling account of other DGN activities.



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## Update on the Visioning Team

### Sue Gesing



The 7780 District Vision Facilitation team met on January 23<sup>rd</sup> with DGE Carolyn Johnson who offered continuing support of the program for the 2013-2014 Rotary year. Dick Hall has become a member the team and will join current members Jim Price, Tony Wagner, Vic Taylor, and Sue Gesing on next year's committee.



The District Assembly in April will feature a workshop to help a club develop and implement a long-term plan based on its vision and statement of purpose. There will be an opportunity to share ideas on what has worked and to hear how some clubs have managed the "vision to plan" process. Club Vision Champions, VPs, 2nd VPs, members of the club's Presidents Development Team or its equivalent, and others interested in the development process are welcome to attend and participate.

Save the date! A spring workshop for Vision Facilitators and Club Champions will be held in the Portland area on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 6-8 PM. More information will follow. Please contact the District Vision Committee if your Club has been visioned, and if you need support for your long term planning process.

If you are interested in becoming trained as a District Vision Facilitator, please contact Tony Wagner at [tony.bellner@gmail.com](mailto:tony.bellner@gmail.com) or 207-799-7997.

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## Celebrating the Roaring Twenties – Rotary Style

Martha Helman



It was 1923. Charlie Chaplin was box office gold; Babe Ruth won his league's MVP award, Calvin Coolidge became president on the death of Warren Harding. And in northern New England, Rotarians were on the move. Newburyport, Portsmouth and Sanford-Springvale were all chartered in 1923, and they are all celebrating their 90<sup>th</sup> anniversaries in the next few months. In fact, here in this district, only Portland, which was chartered in 1915 and will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in two years, is older.



Sanford-Springvale was the first to celebrate in 2013, and threw a 20s-themed party in January. Members of the club and special Rotary guests drew on "Downton Abbey" for costume inspiration, danced the Charleston (and more modern numbers) , and generally enjoyed the Rotary camaraderie.

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## Join the Rotary Cycling Team – End Polio Now

Ilse Yanis



Are you interested in joining the 2013 Rotary Cycling Team for the 3-day *Trek Across Maine*, June 14-16? The event is sponsored by the American Lung Association, yet provides awareness for our Rotary Team. [www.Biketreknewengland.org](http://www.Biketreknewengland.org)

Recruit your friends, relatives, neighbors or colleagues and let's grow our Rotary Team. Our team Name is *End Polio Now*.

Cycling is a great sport for many reasons: as family activity, enjoying nature, staying fit, joining a cycling team, and promoting Rotary End Polio Now by wearing the cycling jersey.

Join Rotary cyclists by ordering and wearing your jersey/and shorts. Check out ordering information, sizing chart, cost per item (tax and shipping included), and ordering deadline on <http://www.rotary7780.org/>, home page, left bottom. Click on *Rotary Gear* to access ordering form.



FMI on the Trek Across Maine contact:

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Team Captain Michael Nazemetz, [mnazemetz@yahoo.com](mailto:mnazemetz@yahoo.com) or mobile 603-767-1771

FMI on the cycling outfit contact:

Team Manager Ilse Yanis, [ilseyanis@mac.com](mailto:ilseyanis@mac.com) or mobile 207-712-2514

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## District Gears Up to Send Third Shipment of Crutches to Africa

Dennis Robillard

Jan 10, 2013



One-Two-Three! The District is about half-way toward filling a third container of mobility devices to send to Africa, and the plan is to be ready for the shipment in the May/June time period. Gently-used crutches, walkers and canes provide mobility and dignity to recipients in Africa, and sending them there keeps them out of our landfills! For more on Crutches-4-Africa, contact Dennis Robillard, [dennis@risc-now.com](mailto:dennis@risc-now.com).



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