

Rotary District 7780

Carolyn Johnson, District Governor

January 23, 2014

www.rotary7780.org ... or friend us on Facebook!

Engage Rotary...

Engage, be involved, make something happen. Rotarians, again, have an opportunity to be involved in their own communities to make a difference for their own neighbors. When visiting clubs last fall, I asked each Rotarian to think about the gears on your own Rotary wheel and how those notches on the wheel imply the powerful things we can accomplish when our gears connect and we work together.

Rotary gears are connecting in our clubs and as a District. The Rotarians who participated in the clean-up day at Camp Sunshine were engaged in a day of service and fellowship. We accomplished so much, making a difference for families of children with life-threatening medical conditions. Most of our clubs got engaged in our outreach to Lac Megantic — a huge undertaking with significant impact, for Rotarians and the community. Now, we have another opportunity to engage our Rotary wheels to help our own communities.

On Saturday, February 22, we will launch our second annual Stuff the Bus. Each club is encouraged to reach out in their own community to collect items for their local food pantry.

This is an important time of year to remember neighbors working through economic difficulties. With the weather as cold as it has been, many families must make hard decisions about how to allocate resources, deciding between sufficient fuel or sufficient food. Each Rotary Club should organize their food drive to be of greatest benefit to their own community and make their contributions to the food pantry or organization of their choice.

At the end of that day, all Rotarians are invited to celebrate our service at a Frugal Feast — our World Understanding and Peace Dinner. It will be held at Woodfords Church (Portland). Cost is \$25 per person and includes a contribution to The Rotary Foundation. Our program will include Ann Lee Hussey with an update on the news that India was declared no longer polio endemic. After dinner, our speakers will address the growing plight of food insecurity among seniors in our communities. Ted Trainer (**Kennebunk Portside** Rotarian and Southern Maine Agency on Aging Director of Healthy Aging), Jen MacDonald (Good Shepherd Food Bank) and Jim Brennen (co-founder of Meals4Others) will enlighten, inspire, and offer a working solution. Once again, entertainment will be provided by the Harbour Singers including our own Peggy Belanger (**Kennebunk Portside**).

Engage Rotary - get involved to help your community.

Change Lives - reach out to your neighbors to show Rotarians care

And Celebrate the good Rotarians do at home and throughout our world.

—District Governor Carolyn Johnson

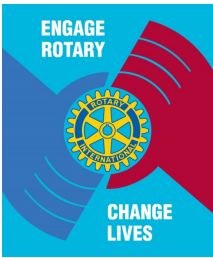


Brunswick Rotarians “stuff the bus” on last year’s World Peace and Understanding Day.



Light Up Rotary!

Rotary International President-elect Gary C.K. Huang chose *Light Up Rotary* as his theme for 2014-15. Huang was inspired by the teachings of Chinese philosopher Confucius who said: "It is better to light a single candle, than to sit and curse the darkness." "There are so many problems in the world," said Huang. "Many people say, 'There's nothing I can do.' So they sit there doing nothing. Meanwhile everything stays dark." Huang spoke to the 537 Governors-elect including our own Lawrence Furbish at the 2014 International Assembly in San Diego last week.



Rotary District 7780

Carolyn Johnson, District Governor

Page 2

Give the Gift of Leadership to a HS Sophomore

It's time for clubs to start thinking about the 15-year-olds to invite to our Rotary District leadership program, RYLA.

You might want to invite last year's RYLA graduates to your club meeting to refresh yourselves on why this program is so important. Additionally, many clubs invite potential RYLA candidates who are sophomores in high school to attend their club meetings to learn about this wonderful program.

Meanwhile, the RYLA staff has been working very hard on improvements in the off season this year and look forward to another great event for the students this coming June.

The District RYLA team has made this year's registration process even easier. On the district website, you will find all the information you need to register your students for this year's event.

Each club can utilize whatever process they choose to select their students. Once students are selected, you can obtain the registration forms online and submit them along with payment using the contact information provided on our website.

RYLA will run from June 22 through 25, 2014 and will be held at Camp Hinds in Raymond, Maine. FMI, contact Jared Avery of the **Scarborough** club; jared.avery@maine.edu

Rotary Youth Exchange Needs You!

If you want something done, ask a Rotarian, right? Here's the ask: In recent years, District 7780 has not been able to adequately promote and support student candidates to participate in Rotary Youth Exchange. If the program is to continue, we need your help. The collective leadership of our District is asking Rotarians interested in participating in reorganizing and reinventing the program within our District to step up and get involved.

For the past three years a small group of committed Rotarians have sustained the program and have made a difference in a number of student lives, but it is time to go from "getting by" to rediscovering new avenues to grow the program's awareness within our 39 clubs of our District.

Five key roles are needed to kick-off the New Rotary Youth Exchange program in our District: (1) Outbound Chair, (2) Inbound Chairs, (1) Compliance Officer and (1) Program Treasurer. If you are an former Youth Exchange student, here is a chance to share that experience. If you have a vocation in compliance or finance, here is an opportunity to serve others. If you are interested in being part of a new spirit within our district, let's "Light up" your Rotary service - Engage Rotary through Youth Exchange.

To learn more, go to www.exchangestudent.org or www.rotary.org. To get involved, contact Lawrence Furbish, Carolyn Johnson, Sheila Rollins or Dru Laduke.

Save the Date!

Monday, January 27—**Mid Year Dinner** for all club presidents, presidents-elect and vice presidents. Registration and details on the District website: www.rotary7780.org

January 31-February 1—**South Portland-Cape Elizabeth** second annual **Winterfest**. FMI: Ellie Speh, ellie-speh@yahoo.com

Wednesday, February 5— **Portland Sunrise's Beer and Wine Tasting Social and Silent Auction** at DiMillo's, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. All proceeds benefit Maine Children's Cancer. FMI: John Hennings, john@jmhfin.net

Saturday, February 8—**South Berwick-Eliot** hosts a **Red Cross blood drive** at the South Berwick Town Hall from 8am to 1pm. Walk-in donors welcome or make a specific appointment by contacting Bonnie Peterman at bonniep75@comcast.net. As Patty Biggs', her husband and many others know, this donation takes a very short time and will save a life.

February 15-16: **Sebago Lakes** welcomes the National Geographic Channel to its annual **Ice Fishing Derby** this year! The production company will be filming a "reality" based program to be aired later this year for "Ice Fishing TV." Come and join the fun — from 1000 to 1500 ice fishers register for this event each year, and Rotarians are invited to come out and fish, or volunteer by contacting Toby Pennels at tobypenn@maine.rr.com. More info on the Derby can be found at icefishingderby.com



Saturday, February 22 — **District-wide "Stuff the Bus" and Frugal Feast**. All clubs are invited to join forces with their local supermarket and collect food and funds for their local food pantry. That night, we'll gather at Woodfords Congregational Church in Portland for a Frugal Feast that will satisfy our inner gourmand AND raise money for The Rotary Foundation. FMI: Marge Barker, mbarker173@yahoo.com

Tuesday, March 1: **Damariscotta-Newcastle** hosts its annual **Karl's Kids Ski Race and Silent Auction** at Sugarloaf. All proceeds help local children participate in athletics. Sugarloaf offers a 10% discount off standard lodging rates. Call 866-865-1019 and reference Karl's Kids. FMI: Lorraine Faherty, townsend13@aol.com

