

Rotary District 7780

Carolyn Johnson, District Governor

June 22, 2014

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South Portland-Cape Elizabeth Honored by Rotary International

South Portland-Cape Elizabeth Rotary was presented the Significant Achievement Award at their meeting on June 11. The Rotary International award, which recognizes that service begins at home, acknowledges clubs that identify a local need and finds a way to address it. Its purpose is to encourage clubs to find new and meaningful projects that address a local need, to promote awareness of exemplary club efforts, and enhance awareness of Rotary in the local community.



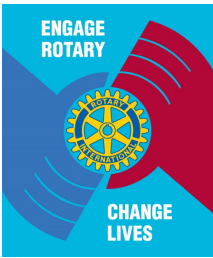
The City of South Portland determined that its parks in the winter were a significant local concern. The SP-CE Rotary addressed the need by partnering with the city to establish a winter festival to introduce or encourage residents to a variety of winter activities, including snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and skating. The centerpiece of the weekend was dedicating a permanent skating rink in one of the parks. More than two-thirds of the club members were directly involved in the project. Rotarians also involved local businesses, the town, and other community organizations in the effort, including Interact and the Lions. The club raised more than \$43,000 for the event, construction and maintenance of the rink. Winterfest, which is anticipated to become an annual occurrence, is an example of how many organizations, ages, and interest groups can celebrate community together. In addition, the completion of the ice rink and other outdoor winter opportunities will contribute to the overall health and wellbeing of the residents. This project assisted the city in transforming previously underutilized open spaces (parks) into safe activity areas during the long Maine winters.

Each District Governor may nominate one club for this recognition. This year, of the more than 32,000 Rotary Clubs, 209 were selected to receive this high honor. Though this was a great example of a fully engaged club, mention must be made of President Ellie Spohr and Project Leader Tony Wagner. Congratulations, South Portland-Cape Elizabeth Rotarians, for Engaging Rotary and making a difference in your community!

One Week Left to Make Your Donation to The Rotary Foundation!



This year, 13 clubs from our District used Rotary Foundation grants to support projects important to their local communities or an international community where they have a special interest. Six Rotarians traveled to Uganda on a cultural exchange — all supported by our previous support of the Foundation. Every Global Grant includes a bit of our individual contributions — dams to provide clean water in India, hearing aids and prosthetic hands in the Dominican, books and teacher training in Guatemala, medical equipment in Mongolia -- and so much more. The dollar amount isn't important; what is important is that we each support our Foundation on a continuing basis because it is our contributions today that determine the resources available for service projects *that we determine* in the future. So go to www.rotary.org and contribute today!



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RYLA Youth Leadership Camp Underway

As we go to press, 120 high school youth are learning leadership skills and teamwork at the Rotary RYLA program ongoing at Boy Scout Camp Hynes in Raymond, Maine.

Want to get in on the excitement? The best time to come is on Tuesday, June 24, late afternoon/early evening for the final campfire. This is when all the leadership groups Tuesday is our final campfire where all of the campers get the opportunity to perform a skit that best describes their experience at RYLA. Following the skits, volunteers are introduced and thanked, and then the youth have the opportunity for more reflection on what they have learned and experienced. To save a place, contact Sarah Leighton, assistant Camp Director, sarah.k.leighton@gmail.com



Peggy Belanger Honored

Assistant Governor Peggy Belanger (**Kennebunk Portside**) has been named Caregiver of the Year by Southern Maine Medical Center. As an Oncology Nurse Navigator, Peggy sits with countless patients making them feel comfortable but also providing the best gift possible when someone is given a cancer diagnosis – HOPE.



Kids Need Shoes

Ken Brunsvold of the **Brunswick Coastal** club (and a member of the Cultural Exchange Team to Uganda) is collecting shoes for kids ages 5 to 13. They will be delivered to the Mbabali school in Uganda, which houses and educates 260 children whose parents died of AIDS. Any sturdy, new or gently used shoes would be a remarkable gift to a child who currently has none. Contact Ken: spiritwindflutes@yahoo.com for info and delivery options.



Bikers Ride to End Polio Now

Six intrepid Rotarians were part of the 2500 Rotarians who “Rode Across Maine” recently to raise money for cancer and to publicize Rotary’s “End Polio Now” campaign. Left to right, they are: Governor-elect Lawrence Furbish (**Sanford-Springvale**), Tracey Merrill and Jim Price (**South Portland Sunrise**), Emma, 13 and Tom Ranello (**Portland**). Kneeling: Michael Nazemetz (**Portland Sunrise**).



Please note: Many other Rotarians rode in the Ride as part of their employee, community, or other groups. Congratulations to all!