

Rotary District 7780

Carolyn Johnson, District Governor

March 3, 2014

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



Make your plans to attend the 2014 7780 DISTRICT CONFERENCE

*At the beautiful Five-Star downtown
Westin Harborview Hotel in Portland
Friday-Sunday, May 16-18*



New entrance
Westin Harborview

The newly refurbished iconic Westin Harborview Hotel (formerly the historic Eastland) is the site of this year's District Conference. You'll see, hear and enjoy notable speakers, meaningful discussions and delicious meals - all in a brand new *gorgeous* environment.

Who should go? All Rotarians! This is an opportunity for all to be inspired by stories of fellow Rotarians who change lives through their engagement in service. It is time for outgoing club officers to celebrate our accomplishments. It is time for fellowship, fun, and renewing friendships. Special prices for accommodations are available if you stay overnight, or you can register for the day with convenient parking available.



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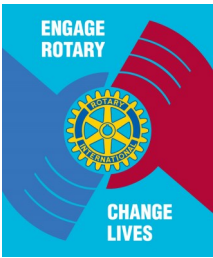
For registration forms and agenda, go to www.Rotary7780.org



Rotarians "Read Across America" on March 3

March 3 is the birthday of Ted Geisel (better known as Dr. Seuss), and in communities throughout our District, Rotarians gathered this week in early childhood education centers to read books to children. What could be more fun than that? Or potentially change more lives? For more fabulous literacy projects, check out the literacy pages on the District website ... and read to a child!





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Newest RLI Graduates

Brand-new graduates of last weekend's Rotary Leadership Training in Wells, ME, include: Joe Boyle (**Ogunquit**); Tracy Gagnon and Larry Marsolais (**Hampton**); Chris Jacques (**Saco Bay**); Heather Matlosz and Barbara Sutcliffe (**Sanford-Springvale**); and Marianne Pinkham and Nancy Stoltz (**Damariscotta-Newcastle**). Here, the new graduates smile for the camera along with RLI facilitators!

On a cold March 1 morning, Rotarians met at York County Community College to participate in a Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) day of learning. Districts represented were from 7780, 7930, 7870 and 7790. Attendees shared with other like-minded individuals and discussed topics ranging from Rotary Opportunities to Insights into Leadership. Students included a newly sworn in member of the **Scarborough** club to a District Governor Nominee-Designate from District 7850. Eleven Rotarians (including eight from our District) finished Part III and are now officially RLI grads! —Marge Barker, District RLI Chair and Governor-designate

District Teams Set to “Engage Rotary” Around the World

In just a few days, the District-sponsored Rotaplast team (including three 7780 Rotarians) will leave for Guatemala and a mission to support corrective surgeries for children born with cleft lip/cleft palate abnormalities. This is just the latest venture in a long-standing relationship between our Rotary District and Rotaplast to change the lives of these children. Similarly, the District Cultural Exchange team to Uganda will be leaving next week on its peace-building mission. Once they are underway, you can follow the Rotaplast team on their blog: <http://rotaplast.typepad.com/missions/>. You can also follow the Cultural Exchange team at the blogsite: <http://martyhelman.wordpress.com/> and via a link from the District website.

RYLA – Visioning Leads Club to Reach out to Youth

In 2013, during **Bridgton-Lake Region's** Visioning Exercise, the club set a goal to send five students to RYLA each year. We also realized we needed to get educated ourselves in order to promote this opportunity. So we hosted Jared Avery, RYLA District Coordinator, and Dru Laduke, Youth Exchange Chairman, for an informational meeting. Their enthusiasm was infectious and we all learned a lot about what RYLA is and isn't! Most important, we learned that RYLA is an “award,” and as such, should be something that teens feel privileged to attend.



Armed with this information, our club's Community Service Committee met with the high school and they welcomed us to a teacher's after-school meeting. We showed the 15 minute video (available on the District website) and explained our goal. We asked for their help in nominating sophomores to help us narrow down our selection. They were pleased to be included in this process and quickly gave us a list of names, ranked in order of who they thought should attend. We made contact with the one student from our high school who attended RYLA last year and asked him to share how the experience impacted his life. Our Interact Club is assisting by putting up a bulletin board with many photos from RYLA camping experiences and some basic information about the camp.

Our next step is to meet with seven students where we can show them the video and explain more about RYLA. We're confident we're on our way to building a foundation for promoting RYLA in the high school and in future years the students will be asking us if they can be considered for RYLA.

—Holly Dvorak, Bridgton-Lake Region Club President