

Rotary District 7780

Carolyn Johnson, District Governor

November 20, 2013

The Rotary Foundation Paul Harris Fellowship — Unwrapped!

We've all been to a Rotary meeting when a Paul Harris Fellowship — complete with pin and certificate — was announced. Typically the recipient personally gave \$1000 to The Rotary Foundation, but sometimes he/she is being honored through "points" representing a donation by someone else. There's a lot of hoopla surrounding Paul Harris Fellowships, but they didn't exist until the mid '50s. Here's the story:



The Rotary Foundation was established in 1917, but it didn't get much traction in its early years. In 1947, Paul Harris died, and Rotarians wanted to do something to celebrate his legacy. Donations to The Foundation poured in from around the world for a few years, and then inevitably slowed. The Foundation Trustees, looking for a way to reinvigorate donations, came up with the concept of a "Paul Harris Fellow," a recognition for any Rotarian who gave \$1,000 or more (about \$4,000 in today's dollars).

Over time, enhancements to the program were made: A donor who is already a Paul Harris Fellow might want to give the next recognition to someone who is not a Fellow. Or, if the financial gift was made by a club (as opposed to an individual) it made sense for the club to be able to use the gift to recognize the individual of its choice. Thus, the concept of Paul Harris credits — transferrable to any individual — was born.

Another need became clear: To recognize those who were working toward their Paul Harris Fellow in smaller increments. This led to the "Sustaining Member," someone who gives \$100 each year.

The need never ends, and \$1000 can't purchase what it could 60 years ago. Thus "Multiple Paul Harris" and "Major Donors" (\$10,000 lifetime) and higher recognition levels have been established, which recognize the reality that the work of our Foundation can only be sustained through ongoing club and personal contributions. For that reason, I urge you — whatever the size of your donation — to make it a regular part of your Rotary experience. The easiest method is electronic contributions: go to www.rotary.org/contributions to learn more. I'm proud to be a Rotarian, and prouder to support The Rotary Foundation.

—District Foundation Chair Peter Johnson

Reminder: Lac Megantic

By Dec. 7, please deliver unwrapped gifts to 95 Industrial Park Road, Saco, OR make check out for the amount pledged to **SPCE Charitable Fund** and mail to John LoBosco, 21 Fessenden Road, Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107. Rsvp for the Dec 13-15 road trip to Paul Deschambault, PHD@maine.rr.com. Stay in a lodge (sleeps 12) or in B&Bs.

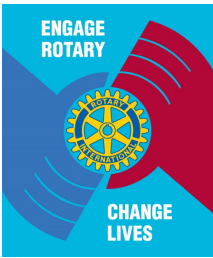
Reminder: Typhoon Haiyan

A ShelterBox will house a family and the kits cost \$1000 apiece. To help a family in the Philippines, please write your check in any amount made out to **Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club Foundation** and send to PDG Marty Helman, 88 Appalachian Road, Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538.



Community Grant Helps Bath "Adopt" a Village in Cambodia

Rich Cromwell, a member of Bath Rotary, has spent the past month in Cambodia. Rich is a project manager, and he has traveled to Cambodia multiple times over the past four years, determined to help this country that so recently ended its long-running civil war. Based on a needs analysis and supported by a Rotary Foundation community grant, this year's trip saw vast changes as the villagers — including children — pitched in to help improve infrastructure in their own village. Projects ran the gamut from basic sanitation to building and equipping a soccer field. A lot of time was spent running sewer pipe for the hygiene project, and in addition, a community chicken coop was built. Here, the youngsters are putting the finishing touches on the coop. Rich also spent time in the village school, where the children take classes in art and music as well as English and vocational topics.



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Call for Nominations

The District Nominating Committee announces that nominations for the positions of District Governor (2016-17) and member of the District Budget and Finance Committee (Area B: A member of a Rotary Club in York or Oxford Counties, ME) are open. All nominations must be received by the District Governor by January 10, 2014.



Qualifications for governor-nominee include:

- ◆ be a Rotarian in good standing as a member of a functioning Rotary Club in District 7780;
- ◆ have served a full term as president of a Rotary Club;
- ◆ demonstrate willingness, commitment, and ability to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of governor.

Qualifications for member of the Budget and Finance committee (three-year term) include:

- ◆ served as club president or treasurer; and/or
- ◆ accounting or finance as a component of the nominee's vocation or profession.

Serving on the B&F committee is an excellent opportunity to be involved with other district leaders to help oversee the fiscal responsibilities of our district. The committee is made up of the three immediate past district governors, Governor, governor-elect, District treasurer, and three additional Rotarians who each serve for three-year terms.

Serving as Governor for our District is a great honor and responsibility. Clearly, a passion for Rotary and an ability for leadership are of primary importance. The opportunities that accompany this role are incredible; the opportunity to work with Rotarians who want to make a difference in their communities and internationally, the opportunity to meet Rotarians from all over the world, the opportunity to help clubs and individuals grow and develop their potential for service. If you are interested in knowing more about the expectations of Governor, call one of our past governors and have a conversation. We need good leaders in Rotary — could that be you?

Application forms for governor-nominee and budget committee are on the district website. For more information, contact Brad Jett, Chair of the Nominating Committee, bradjett@comcast.net.

Clubs Plan Rotary Foundation Grants

School Desks in India

Kennebunk Portside Rotary is developing a Global Grant to provide desks for students in Bikaner, India, and surrounding villages. The Rotary Foundation Global Grant, in partnership with the Bikaner Rotary Club, will provide desks for students in as many as 12 schools. A place to learn will allow the children to attend better to instruction, to maintain better attendance, and to improve scholastically.

Kennebunk Portside's Cornelia Stockman visited Bikaner last February and learned that the local Rotary Club is very excited about this project. The desks are made of steel and wood, fabricated in a nearby town with local craftsmen, and appear sturdy and effective. She watched as the children excitedly sat in the enclosed school yard on their new desks, three or four to a seat. The children seemed to enjoy this new addition to their life, providing a perfect place to do math, reading, science and history in relative comfort.

Any club wishing to donate is invited to participate — and perhaps visit Bikaner in 2015 to see the results of this simple but important project. Cornelia welcomes the opportunity to speak to your club about the possibilities. Contact her at 207-468-4586 or cornstock@gwi.net.

Hearts, Hands & Hearing in Dominican Republic

Portland Club is again — in association with **South Portland Sunrise** and clubs in Calais, ME, and Florida — planning a multifaceted Global Grant for La Romana, Dominican Republic. A team of Rotarians from these clubs and beyond will travel to the D.R. in April where they will provide:



- ◆ Solar-powered hearing aids (team led by Roger Fagan)
- ◆ Prosthetic LN-4 hands (team led by John Curran)
- ◆ Sanitation/toilet facilities (team led by Bob Chagrasulis of the Calais club in District 7790).

The Portland clubs recently partnered with Southern Maine Community College to host a Dominican Cultural Festival and Benefit to raise funds for the project. Shown above, club presidents Tracey Merrill and John Curran accept the check for the project from SMCC's Darla Jewett.