

Rotary District 7780

Carolyn Johnson, District Governor

January 5, 2014

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January is Rotary Awareness Month: Share *Your* Rotary Story

Think of that time when you were involved with Rotary and you thought, "Wow, I am so proud to be a Rotarian!" It might have been when you were delivering Christmas baskets to elderly neighbors and someone told you how much they appreciated your visit and your remembering them. Maybe that time came as you read a story to a pre-schooler and one of the kids gave you a hug and told you it was the best story she ever heard. We take pride in the construction of check-dams in India — the brainchild of a D7780 Rotarian — to provide water for irrigation and raised the water tables to replenish town wells — a powerful story of Rotarians making a difference. Certainly the collective effort of Rotarians around the world to eradicate polio is an accomplishment of which we are all proud.

We each have our own Rotary story. Some are moments we shared with others in our club and others are very personal, but each story reminds us why we are Rotarians. These moments of pride, moments that make us a little teary-eyed and a lot appreciative of who we are as Rotarians, connect us as people and reinforce what Rotary means to each one of us.

When I visited your club last fall, I explained how each Rotarian's story sets our wheel in motion. How is your wheel turning? The answer to that depends on two things. First, are you engaged in Rotary? What is your involvement in the service projects of your club, or our district, or with other Rotarians? Second, do you share your story with others? *Doing* and *sharing* is what creates the energy, the momentum to turn our Rotary wheels.

We can create all sorts of PR campaigns and promotions about Rotary, but the best way to create awareness and interest in all the good things Rotary has to offer and Rotarians do is to be involved and share your story. Share it with another Rotarian, tell it to one of your colleagues or a neighbor. Tell your story to your family. We have a lot to be proud of as Rotarians. Let's each be involved in raising awareness of Rotary by sharing our own stories and keeping those Rotary wheels turning so Rotary can continue to do good in our communities and around the world.

—Carolyn Johnson, District Governor

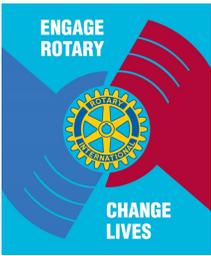


Many clubs in our District came together to help bring Christmas — and teddy bears — to the children of Lac Megantic, in a project that will create both smiles and pride that last well beyond the holiday season.

Robert Raiche, Founder of Friends Forever, Dies



Robert Raiche, the **Portsmouth** Rotarian who founded Friends Forever, died on January 1 at age 85. Bob famously believed that you don't truly know someone until you spend time with that person in a liferaft and in 1986 he brought together a group of Protestant and Catholic teens from Northern Ireland — teens who had been taught from birth to hate one another — and placed them in a "liferaft" program for several weeks where they soon learned that they had more in common than they had previously thought. Bob's legacy is the hundreds of young people who have gone through the Friends Forever program in the years since to learn peace, and his story proves that one person can truly make a difference. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Robert Raiche Fund at Friends Forever, 31 Raines Ave #10, Portsmouth, NH 03801. A Celebration of Life Service for Bob is scheduled at 11:00 a.m. on January 11 at the Danvers Port Yacht Club, Danvers, MA.



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Last Call for Nominations

Nominations for the positions of District Governor (2016-17) and member of the District Budget and Finance Committee (Area B: member of a Rotary Club in York or Oxford Counties, ME) are open — for just a few more days. 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.

Sometimes the Stars Just Align

During last spring’s District trip to Guatemala, we met young men receiving vocational training in woodworking. They were each building a box for their tools — but they had no tools nor any means to acquire them. Rotarians from the seven clubs represented on the trip (**Boothbay Harbor, Dover, Kittery, Sanford-Springvale, South Portland-Cape Elizabeth, Wells, and York**) decided to send the funds to Guatemala to purchase a basic set of woodworking tools to be given out at graduation.

Last month, I revisited Guatemala to plan a project focusing on organic and sustainable agriculture. Amazingly, the vocational training graduation took place during the time of our visit, and I was privileged to present the tools to the 17 young men graduating from the program. The looks of pride and pleasure on their faces was wonderful to behold.



After the graduation, I saw several of them kneeling around the boxes and excitedly going through the tools they had just been given. We don’t always get to experience the results of Rotarian generosity and this was a memorable experience that I will long cherish.

—Governor-elect Lawrence Furbish

Call for Leadership Mid-Year Dinner!

Governor Carolyn, Governor-elect Lawrence and Governor-nominee Sheila invite all current club presidents, presidents elect (class of 2014-15) and vice presidents (class of 2015-16) to the Mid-Year Leadership Dinner on Monday, January 27 at the Fireside Inn in Westbrook, ME.

This is the chance for sitting presidents to reassess their accomplishments and plan for the rest of their term, for presidents-elect to start their planning in earnest, and for vice presidents to meet one another and their Governor. Cost is \$32, and registration information is on the District website — www.rotary7780.org.

