

# HOULTON ROTARY NEWSLETTER

CLUB NO. 6364  
DISTRICT NO. 7810  
October 2009



PO BOX 425  
HOULTON, MAINE

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## The President's Address

Where has the time gone.....I can hardly believe that we are over a ¼ of the way into the 09-10 year already. There are many exciting things going on with the Houlton Rotary right now but more importantly I would like to revisit some of the goals I have set for the club this year. First and most importantly is membership. We should **ALL** continue to look for qualified members where they are and not waiting for them to come to us. In order for us to keep the club strong every Rotarian must share the responsibility of bringing new members. If you know of someone who is qualified for membership ask them **“The Future of Rotary is in your Hands”**. Our PR group has put together a very clear and concise brochure that explains what our club does and a small glimpse of Rotary from a global perspective. That brochure is a wonderful marketing tool and answers many questions a membership candidate may have. By the time this is in your hands I will have had the privilege of inducting Tammi Mulvey as the newest Rotarian and also preparing to install John Bishop the new headmaster of the GHCA.

Secondly is the continued commitment to give financially to our community's charitable needs by continuing to give financially as we have in the past and also increasing our giving during these uncertain economic times. The board of directors has approved a very aggressive budget for the 09-10 year and the entire club should be proud of the fact we have increased our giving locally and internationally.

Involvement is the key to getting the most out of your Rotary membership. I challenged every Rotarian at the Annual Dinner to get involved with a committee and make a difference. Lastly my personal goal for each and every Rotarian is to enjoy Rotary as we gather for service projects, our fundraisers and our fellowship events. Make Rotary fun for your fellow members and yourself. I'm truly honored to serve as the 90<sup>th</sup> president of the Houlton Rotary Club and I look forward to what lies ahead for not only myself as president but also the club in the coming months.

John Tribou

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### ***ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE***

Both Tyler Delano and Esther Elmore and their families had a wonderful summer with their exchange students and traveling abroad. They each went to Spain and had a culturally stimulating and successful exchange. The exchange students that spent three weeks in our community touched many lives; Rotarians, friends, and family. That alone makes this program worthy.

The start of a new school year means the start of the annual Rotary youth exchange program. Fred, Tyler, and I will be visiting Houlton High School, Hodgdon High School, and the Greater Christian Academy to introduce our program to their students and get the ball rolling for the 2010 exchange. We hope to receive the applications from prospective students by mid-October and complete the interviews the first week in November. We will be excited to introduce our new exchange students during our annual Auction.

If you are interested in joining the Rotary Youth Exchange committee, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Dana Delano  
Chairman

## **Membership Committee**

On Tuesday October 13<sup>th</sup> the membership committee met to discuss attendance. The topic of attendance brings several conversations to the table:

- 🗣️ What do we do with people who do not meet the 50% attendance requirement?
- 🗣️ What do we do about not meeting the minimum attendance at a meeting to cover the lunch cost?
- 🗣️ Would attendance improve if our weekly meeting was held on a different day?
- 🗣️ Would our recruitment efforts get better if we held our meeting on a different day?

These are a few of the topics brought up during our attendance conversation; however the focus for this meeting was how do we approach current members about their attendance at Rotary if they are not meeting the minimum of 50% attendance. The committee decided on the following:

1. A letter will be sent to members not meeting the attendance requirements
2. Mike Howard will do a follow-up call to each of these members and report back to the committee with the findings

The goal is to maintain/improve membership and if anyone has suggestions please give Mike Howard or John Tribou a call or attend the next membership meeting and be part of the discussion (it can be used as a make-up).

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## **Public Relations Committee**

The Public Relations Committee would like to welcome Ryan Bushey to its ranks. Ryan is working with the Houlton Pioneer Times to communicate Rotary events to local residents through articles and photographs. These articles and photos can be found not only in the newspaper, but also archived on the Houlton Rotary website at [houltonrotary.org](http://houltonrotary.org). Thanks to the hard work of Fred Grant, our website has a fresh look with links to great resources. Hey, Fred! Can local businesses and organizations link to our website?

At last, the membership brochure has made its way into the hands of Rotarians and hopefully has met the eyes of some prospective members. Please feel free to contact Scott Dionne or Mike Howard if you have yet to see the brochure or would like additional copies. This brochure is primarily a membership tool, but will also help us tell the story of Houlton Rotary when soliciting items for the annual auction or when trying to tell our neighbors what Rotary is all about.

The Public Relations Committee would like to reach out to the membership at large to find additional people to work on articles for the newspaper and website. Some speakers and events require extra attention. This extra attention often helps our club gain recognition in the community and beyond. The better we can tell our story, the better we can counter misperceptions about Rotary while highlighting our dedication to service above self.

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## **Rotary Auction**

Well it is getting to be that time of year again that we all as Rotarians enjoy. Auction time!!!

Auction time occurring just before Thanksgiving is very fitting. The Rotary Auction has so many things in common with Thanksgiving. There are family gatherings, long distance phone calls, great food, hard work, donating of time, laughter, kids running around making noise, video cameras, late nights, funny and not so funny jokes, cribbage boards, singing, awkward moments and of course, everyone working together to make the event a great occasion.

This year is headed for being another great year. We have lost some advertisers and gained some advertisers, sometimes in the same week. Many new and interesting items have shown up this year. Everything from custom hand painted works to beanie babies, Black Bear hockey tickets to pickles. Most importantly, Ward Log Homes has once again graciously given us a cabin. Through the hard work of one of our Rotarians, we will be infecting the internet with its availability at our auction. This should give us a higher return on the sale of the cabin as well as giving Ward some much deserved extra advertising.

We have added a piece of new equipment this year to aid in the quality and ease of operation of the audio/video portion of the auction. A new (lightly used) digital video switcher board will be able to pull ads and video right off the computer as well as blending three or four views together on screen at the same time. This should give us a better presentation in the end.

I am always amazed and forever bragging to others about the participation by so many of our Rotary club's membership in our auction efforts. We in the auction committee do appreciate all the work put in by the members soliciting all the great items that generate our funds. The many Rotarian advertisers who advertise in the supplement. The many half hours you put in on phones, auctioneering, pegging and sorting and feeding us all. And last but not least we would like to thank you all in advance for your purchasing of items for more than the value stated.

We look forward to seeing all of you during the auction this year and we thank you again for all the hard work.

Scott White

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## **Member Profile**

Debra Bone-Garibotto is one of the newest members of the Houlton Rotary. Her father a former Rotarian and retired Town Manager, R.Lewis Bone encouraged Debra to join Rotary.

Debra A. Bone-Garibotto is a Maine native married to John J. Garibotto. Jointly they have five children and eight grandchildren.

She and her husband John operated a wine and accessory shop for over 10 years before moving back to Maine in 2005 and bringing their expertise with them.

They purchased the Moody Farm on 535 Ludlow Road. The homestead with its beautiful farmhouse, barn, and milk room has made the ideal setting for her business "No Wine-ing Without Me". The processing and bottling is done in the barrel room while her gift shop occupies the milk room. After banking she bought a dry cleaning plant in the Portland area. Then onto Florida for 10 years returning to summer at their camp on East Grand Lake.

Debra joined the Rotary due to her experience in public service. During her 23 years banking, she was the President of the Chamber of Commerce in South Portland. Headed Spring Point Festival and was the first woman to join South Portland Lions Club.

Debra is looking forward to being an active member of the Houlton Rotary.

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# Upcoming Programs

November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Joe Fitzpatrick
Nov. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Steve Fitzpatrick
Nov. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Walter Goodrich
Nov. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Brenda Brown