

The Roundtable

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The Color Purple

Scott Boucher reprised his Purple Pinky presentation for the club today. As Maine's ambassador for spreading the word about Rotary's Polio Plus campaign, he reviewed and updated the worldwide status of the disease.

In addition to noting World Polio Day was October 24, his statistics revealed that, unlike smallpox eradication, work remains to eliminate polio.

"The Purple Pinky Project is unique to our area," he said. The purple dye was first used to indicate children who had received the polio vaccination to prevent double inoculations. The indicator helped spread the word about Polio Plus.



"I was in Best Buy and I had purple on my pinky," Scott said. "The 19-year-old clerk who asked me about it gave me a chance to tell her about Polio Plus. She pulled out her wallet and made a donation."

Among other sources, the polio virus is found in sewage. Children can contract it by playing in water. The spread of polio "is just a plane ride away" when families travel.

The Bangor Breakfast, Bangor Noon – of which Scott is a member – and the Old Town Rotary clubs work collaboratively to promote Polio Plus. Scott congratulated the Breakfast Rotary for contributing the most money in the district last year to the project. He praised the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for its 2:1 matching dollar funding.

In third world countries, vaccination resistance prevents children from getting the needed polio protection, but Rotary has helped immunize more than 2.5 billion children against polio in 122 countries. A child can be protected against this crippling disease for life for as little as \$0.60.

There have been some false alarms about polio cases. Scott mentioned a Minnesota case of acute flaccid myelitis, a rare condition that affects the nerves in the spinal cord. Like polio, it can cause sudden weakness in the arms or legs and other symptoms. It tends to happen mainly in children. The condition may have various causes. Infection with

viruses such as adenovirus, poliovirus, other enteroviruses and West Nile virus may precede it. Acute flaccid myelitis may be treated by doctors trained in nervous system conditions. According to the Mayo Clinic, therapies specifically for acute flaccid myelitis aren't available, but doctors may suggest physical and occupational therapy to help improve weakness in the arms and legs. To prevent acute flaccid myelitis, it may help to get a child vaccinated against poliovirus.

“We’re at 99 percent in eliminating polio,” Scott said.
“That’s not good enough.”



Announcements and Pronouncements

President June Kontio was not fined for her mixing up the order of worship, so to speak, and the meeting stayed on track. She announced that we are invited to the Zone 9 dinner gathering on November 8, sponsored by the Breakfast, Noon and Old Town Rotary Clubs at the Elks Lodge in Old Town, 6 pm. Cost is \$15.

She warned us of a scam operation that involves impersonations of Rotary executives requesting money. They will seek your personal information in these calls. Avoid!

Caroline King ordered us to sign up now for the annual Dinner/Auction. There is plenty of room, as only eight people have registered so far. At that rate, there will be LOTS of food and probably low prices on auction items. **Robert Woods** said booths and wine are needed for the event.

Speaking of lots of food, **Kendra Speed** said the Veterans Day Pancake Breakfast (#11!) needs some volunteers. She will be at Jeff’s Catering on Sunday, November 11 at 3 pm to begin the set-up and can use help. Breakfast starts at 7 am on November 12.

One birthday celebration: **Paul Miragliuolo** fined “Just Mike” Townsend for his birthday. All the people present raised their voices in the birthday song.

Pudge Harrison thanked the club for its donations last week to his Tibet trip. He leaves next week. **Jennifer Khavari** has been cooking up a storm for tonight’s Persian dinner that was offered as an auction item last year. Paul, **Doug Townsend** and **Karen Schaller** were the winning bidders and will be served the cuisine extraordinaire this evening. Jen thanked the club for its generous financial support for EMCC scholarships

Bon appétit!

Les Myers- October 25, 2018

