

The Roundtable

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A long strange trip

That was how new member **David Wheaton** described his life's journey during his classification talk Thursday morning. His twenty-five years in the semi-conductor industry led him down several side roads and back streets before he arrived as Regional Human Resources Director for Eastern Maine Healthcare System.

David grew up in West Enfield. His education included attendance at Penobscot Valley High School, EMVTI where he graduated with an Associate Degree in Electronic Technology, and he earned his BS degree from the University of New England. He will graduate from Husson University in May 2018 with an MBA.

David's resume is so diverse that it is difficult to single out one- or a few- accomplishments. He implemented the first fully cross-trained workforce in the Military-Aero industry; worked on guidance systems for the military as the Gulf War approached; moved to manufacturing management in the early 1990's where he introduced the concept of teamwork and "fit" in the work environment; and he became an expert in threat assessment that led to working with Homeland Security on a huge east coast exercise that involved all branches of the service. David designed a glove for space travel that was more dexterous, thus winning NASA's Astronaut Glove Centennial Challenge

His positions involved overseeing many layoffs and factory closings. "My run in semiconductors needed to end," he said. "Nobody quits. You position yourself to get laid off."

He voluntarily got laid off, leaving with a generous severance and benefit package. After years of stress, long days and nights, now the really hard work began.

"I gave myself two-to-three months to sort things out. I was no good to anyone while I was still angry."

David plunged into service to others, joining the board at the Center for Grieving Children in Portland. "I did over



David accepts the coveted Rotary pen

thirty United Way presentations and money asks that raised over \$50,000 for the organization. Many people think that asking for money is very difficult. It's not hard if you believe in what you are raising money for."

One day short of a year into his layoff, Blue Hill Memorial Hospital hired him as a HR director to rebuild their failed HR function. He put the hospital on a 5-year redesign track and succeeded in accomplishing its goals in 3 ½ years.

David's position at EMHS includes responsibilities for Acadia Hospital and C.A. Dean Hospital, the corporate home office and all the for-profit entities under the EHMS umbrella.

David, who lives in Ellsworth with his wife and family, was a member of the Ellsworth Rotary for five years. "The wheelchair trips are a passion," he said. "When you see someone gain mobility for the first time in their lives, it humbles you. If you can find a way to go, I highly recommend it."

He added, "Rotary became a part of what I do by providing real service."

In Other News...

Speaking of the wheelchair project, **Ken Nagle** reported that four area Rotary clubs (Bangor Breakfast, Ellsworth, Old Town and Plymouth, New Hampshire) have contributed \$20,000 (\$3,000 from our club plus a \$2,000 match from the District Conference) for 125 wheelchairs that will be shipped to the Dominican Republic in February.

John Quinn had a sizeable group of Interact members at today's meeting. He said twenty attended their meeting last night. "They have incredible energy!" Plans are for a trip to the Katahdin Woods and Waters this weekend where they will experience Katahdin under the stars. There will be telescopes, and craned necks. May clear skies prevail! John invited any of us to attend the club's regularly Tuesday evening meetings in the Teen Room at the Isaac Farrar Mansion.

The club's Board of Directors met yesterday.

President Doug Townsend said the Board voted to require make-ups for missed meetings to be done within ninety days of the absence. There will be exceptions (vacations, etc.). The Board voted to donate \$100 to toward the District Conference in May. A portion of our dues are used to donate to the Rotary Foundation. To cover that cost more effectively, our membership dues will increase from \$200 to \$250 beginning with the 2018 club year.

The three-month sign-in desk staffing is working well, according to Club secretary **Karen Schaller**. She does need a primary person for the next three months.

The Purple Pinkie project will color fingers (well, pinkies) on Friday, October 13 at several area sites. Chairman Scott Bouchard needs a co-chair and also volunteers for the sites. This is also the same date as the Bangor Noon Rotary Club's Centennial Program at the Cross Center.

Paul Miragliuolo fined **Caroline King** for being interviewed on TV for her recent American Red Cross work in Texas as a result of Hurricane Harvey. Caroline gave a



Kylee Roberts, President of Interact, Bangor

Happy Dollar for being home. **Greg Urban** said his parents, who live in Florida, are okay. “They kind of had fun ‘camping out’,” he said. Paul said his Florida-based sister is fine after the hurricane. He also fined David Wheaton and **Larry Diehl**. The Dynamic Diatonic Duo of **Myers** and **Wahlstrom** serenaded them in honor of their birthdays. **Jeff Plourde** gave a Happy Dollar for the concerts.

Putting the footwork to the pedal: **Ken Kimball** bicycled 100 miles in five hours in a fortitude-testing event. **Pudge Harrison** gave a “Ken is crazy” dollar. Ken announced a meeting of the *All That Jazz* committee at Links Web Design, 5:15 pm Monday. Not to be outdone, **Kristy Kimball** will meet with the Auction Gala committee at the same meeting site on Wednesday, September 20, 4:30 pm.

Les Myers- September 14, 2017

Interact-ing



This way!



Gracie Wiseman, Interact member