

***THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM***  
**Bemidji Community Arts Center – Suzie Rhae**

***NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM***  
**Classification Talk – Cliff Tweedale,**  
**Headwaters Regional Development Commission**

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**Important Dates to Remember**

**Rotary International Conference**

- San Antonio, Texas, USA  
June 24-27, 2001
- Barcelona, Spain – June 23-26, 2002

**Donation**

The Board approved a \$500 donation to the Bemidji  
Gymnastics Club.

**Visiting Rotarians**

Pete Reeder, Snohomish Valley, Washington

**Bemidji Rotary Exceeds Foundation Average**

From: President Marilyn

Today in the mail, I received a report from Dave Fihn, District 5580 Chair for the Rotary Foundation. As of now, our club is #4 in the district in terms of average giving. As you will recall, District Governor Jack Rutter set a goal of an average of \$70 per member for this year. We've happily exceeded that. Here are the current totals:

Nipigon - \$131

Brainerd - \$113 (Jack's own club)

Fargo West - \$108 (current president is Dan Durkin,  
formerly of our club)

**BEMIDJI** - \$103

Whapeton - \$98

Perham - \$88

Walker - \$75

Last year, our average gift was \$34.38 . . . so we have come a long ways! THANKS to everyone who has become a Sustainer, a Paul Harris Fellow, a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, or is working on one of these categories. You're STARS of the district!!

**PolioPlus – A Success Story**

From RI President Frank Devlyn

Launched in 1985, the PolioPlus Program remains the highest priority of Rotary International and the Rotary Foundation. We have achieved so many successes, which makes me especially proud to be a Rotarian. By

the year 2005, Rotary's contributions to the global polio eradication effort will be approximately a half billion dollars. Just as important, millions of dollars of "in-kind" and personal contributions have been made by Rotarians, local Rotary clubs and districts. Rotarians have also been instrumental in recruiting thousands of volunteers at the local level to publicize the effort, deliver vaccine and provide support at clinics – even in the most remote areas.

Our partners in the eradication effort – the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and national governments around the world – have been most impressed by the commitment and level of support shown by Rotarians. This effort has paved the way for other public/private partnerships for years to come. In fact, the unprecedented partnership formed to eradicate polio was recognized by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan as a model for addressing other health issues in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The story of PolioPlus is dramatic: Thanks to the effort of Rotary and its partners, more than two billion children have been immunized against polio during National Immunization Days in the last five years – including 147 million children in a single day in India. The number of polio-endemic countries has dropped from 125 in 1985 to only 30 at the beginning of this year. Rotary's unprecedented role in mobilizing ordinary citizens to help with this effort has resulted in 10 million volunteers coming on board each year. While it is impossible to quantify the value of their work, PolioPlus has proven that volunteers play a critical role in public health initiatives.

Soon, we will be celebrating the death of a disease that has plagued humanity for centuries. Rotarians can take pride in this historic accomplishment – only the second time in history that a disease has been eradicated. (Smallpox was the first.)