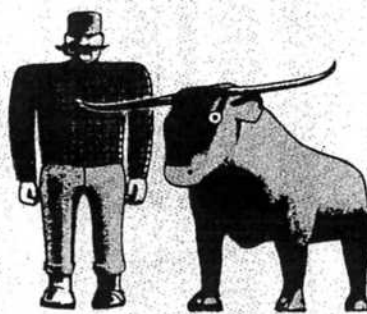




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Club No. 3790

Chartered May 6, 1935

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BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

December 2, 2002

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM
African Trip – Rotary Sponsored Students

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM

BHS Choir – Conducted by Chris Fettig

(Guests Invited – Please Inform the Secretary in advance)

Important Dates to Remember

Brisbane, Australia – Rotary International Conference

June 1-4, 2003

Proposed for Membership

Sandy Nelson, C.P.A.

Miller, McDonald, Erickson & Moller

December Birthdays

James Lowth	December 1
Dan Posner	December 8
James Walker	December 10
Allison Barta	December 16
Sue Doeden	December 16
Kevin Williamson	December 20
Martin Graefe	December 23
Deb McGregor-Pflegger	December 26

Playhouse Update

Playhouse Project Chair Sue Doeden reports that construction is scheduled to begin Saturday, January 18. "Right now, we're gathering building materials," she says. When completed, the playhouse will be raffled off as a fund raising project. If you are able to assist with this project, contact Sue.

New Member Mini-Profile

Ron Koetter

Originally from: Freeport, MN

Education: St. John's Preparatory School, Collegeville, Bemidji State University

Business: Firefighting – 27 years; Tree Farm Operations – 20 years

About your work: Responsible for management of fire suppression and fire prevention activities and operations of the fire department and personnel.

Family: Spouse: Christine R. Weir-Koeter (25 years of marriage), employee with MN DNR – Parks. She spends a lot of time with prairie restoration. Children: Soren (age 21) at electrician school, Tanner (age 9) 4th grade at St. Philips.

Interests away from Work: Enjoy carpentry projects, elk hunting, tree farm work with small equipment.

Rotary Basics

The District Conference –

A district conference is for *all* club members and their spouses, not just for club officers and committee members.

The purpose of a district conference is for fellowship, good fun, inspirational speakers and discussion of matters that make one's Rotary membership more meaningful. Every person who attends a district conference finds that being a Rotarian becomes even more rewarding because of the new experiences, insights and acquaintances developed at the conference. Those who attend a conference enjoy going back, year after year.

Every one of Rotary's more than 525 districts has a conference annually. These meetings are considered so important that the Rotary International president selects a knowledgeable Rotarian as his personal representative to attend and address each conference. The program always includes several outstanding entertainment features, interesting discussions and inspirational programs.

Rotary Around the World

The new Rotary Club of Hayward Sunset, California, traces its origin to a spontaneous reaching out between members of the San Francisco Bay area's 60,000 strong Afghan community – the largest in the United States – and their neighbors after the September 11 attacks.

As residents tried to make sense of the tragic events, Sophia Omar, who would become the club's charter president spent many hours discussing the return of peace in post-Taliban Afghanistan with patrons in her restaurant, among them Bill Stone, a Rotarian.

"He told me the things we aimed to do in Afghanistan through De Solay Daywa (Peace Torch), a nonprofit I founded, sounded like a laundry list of Rotary projects, and he suggested that I should join a Rotary club," she said. Through Stone, Omar met Rotarians Bill Mayhood and Jim Mealy, who together introduced her to several area clubs.

These contacts soon led to a decision to form a new Rotary club. Sponsored by the Rotary clubs of Hayward and Hayward South, the Rotary Club of Hayward Sunset was chartered in May 2002. With 41 members – more than 90 percent of them Afghans – the club is now a dynamo of community and international service.

The Hayward Sunset club sponsors a free weekly clinic run by Rotarian doctors in the Fremont, California, area for Afghan immigrants without medical insurance. In addition, the club is working the nonprofits CARE and Women of Hope to establish several services in Kabul, Afghanistan, including an outpatient clinic, a 20-bed hospital, a garment-making shop, and a secretarial training school to serve orphans, widows, and the jobless.