August 13, 2007

This Week's Program

French Group Study Exchange (GSE) Report – Erica Breneman

Next Week's Program

To Be Announced

Important Dates to Remember
District 5580 Conference
May 1-4, 2008, Dickinson, ND
Rotary International Convention
June 15-18, 2008, Los Angeles, CA

Upcoming August & September Programs

August 27	Classification Talks
Sept 3	***No Meeting – Labor Day***
Sept 10	Dept of Employment/Economic Development – *Dan McElroy*

Recent Rotarian Visitors
Gene Gordon, Dubuque, IA
Mike Costanzo, Sioux Falls, SD

Meeting Location
PLEASE NOTE: The August 20th and 27th meetings will be held at the Bemidji Boys and Girls Club. (Back in the old High School Building)

Rotary Donations
$800 to support the Voyageurs Region of Boy Scouts (2 years)
$100 to the Rotary Foundation in honor of the District Governor
NOTE: The Bemidji Rotary Club has donated more than $150,000 to the Bemidji Community in the past five years.

Team Leaders for Group Study Exchange
If you are interested in leading a GSE Team of young professionals to Sweden for five weeks next spring, contact **Larry Young**.

Dragon Boat Race Huge Success
The Dragon Boat Races were all the talk around town before, during and after the race and festivities. The weather cooperated and brought out a large, enthusiastic crowd for the races and post race celebration, plus a story-book finish with a local team from Peak Performance winning, kept the momentum going.

Special recognition goes to the organizers of the event:
Gary Johnson and **Shelly Geerdes**, Co-Chairs
Lori Paris, Scott Turn and **Amy Saeland**, Committee Chairs

And a special tip of the hat goes to the over 100 volunteers who helped make the event a huge success. Also, the involvement of the Concordia Language Village added a unique atmosphere to the day.

The overall financial results are still being assessed, but if the beer tent results are any indication, we should exceed quite handily the 2006 first year results:

Beer tent:	2006 – Gross $ 9,700	Net $ 6,600
	2007 – Gross $17,158	Net $14,089

People are already talking about "next year", and it appears The Dragon Boat Races will become a regular Bemidji event.

Playhouse Winner Announced
The winning ticket for this year's playhouse was held by ***Loren Lusignan*** of Grygla, MN and will make some grandchildren very happy. The ticket was purchased at the Beltrami County Fair. Financial results of the ticket sales will be announced, but appear to be approximately $15,000-$16,000. Kudos to **Scott Turn**, who chaired this project, and the many volunteers who assisted in everything from building, to promoting and selling tickets.

Cinema Benefits Brain Research
French Rotarians marked their national Rotary Action Day on January 23rd by inviting their fellow citizens to the movies. Rotarians reaped US$795,000 in ticket sales from a sneak preview of an upcoming motion picture, which was shown in nearly 300 theaters across France. As a special bonus, the nearly 60,000 spectators got to see a short film about Rotary International before the main attraction. The proceeds from the screenings will support research on neurological disorders, which according to a recent United Nations report, affect one-sixth of the world's population.