

August 13, 2007

**This Week's Program**  
***French Group Study Exchange (GSE) Report – Erica Breneman***  
**Next Week's Program**  
***To Be Announced***

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**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
<b>Sept 3</b>	<b>No Meeting – Labor Day</b>
Sept 10	Dept of Employment/Economic Development – <i>Dan McElroy</i>

**Recent Rotarian Visitors**

*Gene Gordon*, Dubuque, IA

*Mike Costanzo*, Sioux Falls, SD

**Meeting Location**

**PLEASE NOTE: The August 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.