

January 21, 2008

This Week's Program
Classification Talks – Jeanne Edevold Larson & Karson Otness
Next Week's Program
Club Assembly – Gary Johnson

Important Dates to Remember

Goodwill Conference 2008

February 15-16, 2008, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

District 5580 Conference

May 1-4, 2008, Dickinson, ND

Rotary International Convention

June 15-18, 2008, Los Angeles, CA

Dragon Boat Festival

August 1-2, 2008

Upcoming February Programs

Feb 4	Waterfront Park Project – Scott Turn
Feb 11	A Perspective of Higher Education
Feb 18	Educational Design to Meet Challenging Talent Needs

Welcome New Member

Jill Naylor-Yarger – Director of the Drug Free Coalition of North Central Minnesota

Winnipeg Goodwill Conference

The Winnipeg Goodwill Conference is scheduled for February 15-16. If you would like to attend, contact **Terry Matson** at 751-1510 for travel and hotel information. Passports are not required, only a driver's license or photo ID. Whether a curler or a cheerleader, you are guaranteed a great weekend!

Rotary Round Up

We know that Rotary stretches far and wide in the Bemidji area, but we would like to collect any materials or paraphernalia that's scattered around Bemidji that you've been storing for Rotary over the years. We can now take it off your hands and "coral" it in our spacious storage locker. Either bring it to a Rotary meeting or contact **Gary Johnson** if you need someone to pick it up.

Dragon Boat Festival - *THIRD is the word!*

Save the date, Rotarians! August 1 & 2 2008 will mark the Third Annual Dragon Boat Festival. It's getting bigger and better each year and your help is needed to make it so. Contact **Shelly Geerdes, Amy Saeland** or **Gary Johnson** for more information

about committees. The cost for teams to register before March 1st is \$650, after that date it's \$750. Corporate sponsorships are still available. The festival will be here before you know it!

Gates Foundation \$200 million for PolioPlus

Through a grant of \$100 million US, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has challenged Rotary to raise an additional \$100 over the next three years.

According to Dr Bob Scott, Rotary Foundation chair, "this will provide us with much needed funds to realize our 1985 promise of a polio free world." Additionally the President of Nigeria, one of the last endemic countries, has promised his government's support at a recent NIDs and project fair in his country.

The Nigerian goal is to have no new cases there before the 1st anniversary of the current president's election, 5-29-08, what a turn around in support from just two years ago in Nigeria!

What can we do as Rotarians?

Our district has already allocated additional funds, clubs can make a donation, which would satisfy the international portion of their presidential citation, new members who have not yet been involved should be given the opportunity to participate in this world changing effort and lastly those of us that have should consider doing more.

We've made a huge effort over the last 22 years to rid the world of a dreaded disease, one that has been around for most of recorded history, it would be truly a waste of our world stature and money if we fall short of our goal.

Gary Nolte, PDG, 5580 Polio Plus Chair

Cycling against AIDS in South Africa

The Rotary Club of Claremont, South Africa, raised US\$288,000 for African children suffering from AIS in the annual Cape Argus Pick 'n Pay Cycle Tour in March. Since 1982, the club has been a major organizer of the tour, which is the largest timed cycle race in the world. This year, Claremont members recruited 26 other Rotary clubs from all over South Africa to race. Proceeds went to their Kidzpositive project, which supports 100 mothers needing AIDS care for their children.