

January 28, 2008

This Week's Program
Club Assembly (Annual Meeting & Elections) – Gary Johnson
Next Week's Program
Waterfront Project – Scott Turn

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 11	A Perspective of Higher Education
Feb 18	Educational Design to Meet Challenging Talent Needs
Feb 25	Classification Talks

Proposed New Member

Nancy Vyskocil – NWMF President
– proposed by **Lori Paris**

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. Whether a curler or a cheerleader, you are guaranteed a great weekend!

District #5580 Conference

If you are interested in attending the District 5580 Conference held in Dickinson, ND, this year on May 1-4, contact **Amy Saeland** for room reservation information.

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!

Meeting Cancellation Policy

If the Bemidji School District has closed school for the day due to weather conditions and it falls on a Monday, the Bemidji Rotary noon meeting will be cancelled.

Rotary Playhouse 2008

This year the Rotary Playhouse will take a different twist. **Scott Turn** is working with a local builder to build the playhouse for us. Keep your eyes and ears open for donated materials to specialize our playhouse. We will promote it at the Home, Sport and Travel show this spring, sell tickets through the summer and give it away during the Dragon Boat Festival in August. **Scott** will keep us updated with what's needed when.

Membership Moment

What is your elevator speech?

If you met a non-Rotarian in an elevator, she noticed the wheel on your lapel and asked "What is Rotary anyway" how would you answer?

Can you describe Rotary in 30 seconds? Have you given it a try?

For me it is "Rotary is life changing. Don't worry, it isn't a cult and there are no secret handshakes. It's based on service, but it is also based on fellowship.

"Why don't you come to our next meeting as my guest. We meet at 7 on Thursday mornings at ... I'll be there this week to introduce you if you would be interested."

What is YOUR "elevator speech?"

Tom Riley, District Membership Chair

Rotary Around the World

Rotarians of Villa Morra, Paraguay, established a program that helps reduce avoidable blindness among the indigenous Toba Qom, who have limited access to health care due to widespread poverty. The club sponsors eye missions with Vision Foundation, a local nonprofit organization that performs cataract surgeries for just under US\$100. Club members raise all the money to pay for the surgeries. "It is a rewarding experience to save the sight of people who would never have dreamed of seeing again," says Brigitte Fuzellier, 2006-07 president of the Rotary Club of Villa Morra.